



Muhlenberg College Public Health Program

2017 Pennsylvania Health Poll

The following report provides findings from the annual Muhlenberg College Public Health Program survey of Pennsylvanians on public health issues. This year's survey examined topics that included the Affordable Care Act, heroin addiction, mental health issues, immunizations, marijuana legalization and the performance of President Trump and Congress in their handling of health care matters. The survey marks the 5th year of this initiative that is a partnership between the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion and the Muhlenberg College Public Health Program

Key Findings

1. While Pennsylvanians remain fairly divided on the future of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) with 49% opposing a repeal of the law and 37% in favor of a repeal, more residents of the Commonwealth have a favorable view (50%) of the law than at any time since 2013.
2. A plurality of Keystone State residents have negative views of President Donald Trump's handling of health care with 47% disapproving of his performance in this area compared with 34% approving of his work on this issue.
3. Although only 20% of Pennsylvanians approve of the way Congress is handling health care, this mark is the highest approval level the national legislature has received on this issue since 2013.
4. By a 2-1 margin Pennsylvanians indicate that the federal government should continue to provide funds to Planned Parenthood.
5. Keystone State residents remain divided in terms of support for a tax on junk food such as soda, chips, and candy, with 51% supporting such a tax and 45% opposing this option.
6. Support for the legalization of recreational marijuana continues to grow among Pennsylvanians with 45% of state residents now supporting legalization compared to only 29% opposed to legalization.
7. An increasing number of Pennsylvanians report knowing someone with a heroin or other opioid addiction with 58% now reporting that they personally know someone with this type of addiction. This marks a 6% increase from 2016 when 52% of state residents reported knowing someone with and opioid addiction.

Methodological Statement

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 417 adults in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between February 19 and March 3, 2017. Respondents were interviewed in English on both land lines (137) and cell phones (280) by the staff of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion (MCIPO) in Allentown, Pennsylvania on the Institute's Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. With a randomly selected sample of 417 respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 6% at a 95% level of confidence. Margins of error for questions with smaller sample size will be larger. In addition to sampling error, one should consider that question wording and other fielding issues could introduce error or bias into survey results. The sample data has been weighted by gender, race, age and educational attainment to reflect those Pennsylvania population characteristics as reported by the United States Census Bureau for 2015. The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above. In order to reach a representative sample of adult Pennsylvanians both land lines and cell phones are called up to 5 times. The response rate for this survey as calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) RRII formula is 10%. Due to rounding the totals provided in the frequency report may not total 100%. The survey instrument (presented in its entirety below) was designed by Dr. Christopher P. Borick of the MCIPO in conjunction with students in the Public Health Program at Muhlenberg College. The survey was funded exclusively by the MCIPO. For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Borick at cborick@muhlenberg.edu.

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Frequency Report

(INTRODUCTION HERE)

Q1: Thank you. In which of the following age categories does your current age fall. READ LIST

18-29.....22%
30-49.....26%
50-65.....28%
Or Over 65....24%

Q2: What county do you currently reside in?
(CODED INTO REGIONS)

Southeast.....32%
Southwest.....19%
Remainder of State.....49%

(HEALTH INSURANCE/GENERAL HEALTH CARE)

Q3: Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Donald Trump is handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve.....34%
2. Disapprove.....47%
3. Not Sure.....20%

Q4: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Congress is handling the issue of health care?

1. Approve.....20%
2. Disapprove.....58%
3. Not Sure.....21%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Approve	14%	8%	9%	12%	20%
Disapprove	75%	80%	80%	75%	58%
Not Sure	11%	12%	12%	14%	21%

Q5: As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable view of this law?

1. Very favorable.....17%
2. Somewhat favorable.....33%
3. Somewhat unfavorable.....17%
4. Very unfavorable.....22%
5. Neither Favorable/Unfavorable (vol)..... 1%
6. Not Sure (vol).....9%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Very Favorable	13%	12%	17%	12%	17%
Somewhat Favorable	31%	27%	23%	31%	33%
Somewhat Unfavorable	13%	18%	17%	21%	17%
Very Unfavorable	28%	29%	25%	16%	22%
Neither Favorable/ Unfavorable	5%	4%	2%	<1%	1%
Not Sure	10%	11%	17%	19%	9%

Q6: Do you think you and your family are better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it has made much difference?

1. Better Off.....27%
2. Worse Off.....25%
3. No Difference.....42%
4. Not Sure (volunteered)..... 7%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Better Off	28%	15%	13%	16%	27%
Worse Off	38%	31%	25%	18%	25%
No Difference	23%	48%	51%	54%	42%
Not Sure	12%	6%	10%	11%	7%

Q7: How about the country as a whole? (READ IF NECESSARY) Is the country better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it has made much difference?

- 1. Better Off.....43%
- 2. Worse Off.....37%
- 3. No Difference.....11%
- 4. Not Sure (volunteered)..... 9%

	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Better Off	39%	32%	31%	36%	43%
Worse Off	44%	40%	40%	31%	37%
No Difference	8%	12%	16%	21%	11%
Not Sure	9%	16%	13%	12%	9%

Q8: Do you think the next Congress should vote to repeal the 2010 health care law, or should they not vote to repeal it?

- 1. Yes Repeal37%
- 2. No Do Not Repeal.....49%
- 3. Not sure14%

(MENTAL HEALTH)

Q9: How much prejudice and discrimination, if any, do you think there is against people who are experiencing depression in the country today? A lot, some, only a little, or none at all?

- 1. A Lot.....29%
- 2. Some.....43%
- 3. Only a Little.....13%
- 4. None At All.....10%
- 5. Not Sure..... 5%

Q10: How about people who are experiencing anxiety?

- 1. A Lot.....27%
- 2. Some.....34%
- 3. Only a Little.....22%
- 4. None At All.....10%
- 5. Not Sure..... 8%

Q11: And how about people who are experiencing addiction to alcohol or drugs?

- 1. A Lot.....46%
- 2. Some.....29%
- 3. Only a Little.....10%
- 4. None At All..... 9%
- 5. Not Sure..... 6%

Q12: Next I have a few questions about your level of comfort with a number of situations. For each question please indicate if you are very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable or not at all comfortable with the situation presented. First, if a close friend or family member was showing signs of mental illness would you be very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable or not comfortable at all in recommending that they seek professional help?

- 1. Very Comfortable.....62%
- 2. Somewhat Comfortable.....28%
- 3. Not Too Comfortable..... 6%
- 4. Not Comfortable at All..... 4%
- 5. Depends on the Person (Vol).....<1%
- 6. Not sure (VOL).....1%

Q13: Next, how comfortable would you be with working with someone who has a significant mental illness such as bipolar disorder or schizophrenia?

- 1. Very Comfortable..... 42%
- 2. Somewhat Comfortable.....34%
- 3. Not Too Comfortable.....10%
- 4. Not Comfortable at All..... 7%
- 5. Depends on the Person (Vol)..... 5%
- 6. Not sure (VOL)..... 2%

Q14: If you were experiencing symptoms of mental illness how comfortable would you be in confiding with family and friends about your condition?

- 1. Very Comfortable.....51%
- 2. Somewhat Comfortable.....32%
- 3. Not Too Comfortable.....10%
- 4. Not Comfortable at All.....3%
- 5. Depends on the Person (Vol).....2%
- 6. Not sure (VOL).....3%

(MARIJUANA AND HEROIN)

Q15: Next, I would like to ask you a few questions about marijuana. First, do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose the complete legalization of the use of marijuana for any purpose?

- Favor.....45%
- Oppose.....29%
- Neither Favor or Oppose....23%
- Not Sure (Vol).....3%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Favor	33%	38%	34%	39%	45%
Oppose	40%	35%	36%	38%	29%
Neither Favor Or Oppose	24%	22%	29%	20%	23%
Not Sure	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%

Q16. Should the regulations of marijuana be more strict than those for alcohol, the same as those for alcohol, or less strict as those for alcohol?

More Strict.....27%
 The Same.....54%
 Less Strict.....16%
 Not Sure (Vol).....2%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
More Strict	28%	33%	31%	24%	27%
The Same	60%	53%	51%	56%	54%
Less Strict	5%	11%	14%	14%	16%
Not Sure	4%	3%	5%	6%	2%

Q17: If the sale and possession of marijuana were made legal, do you think it would lead more people to use more serious drugs such as heroin and cocaine, lead fewer people to use more serious drugs, or have no effect on how many people use more serious drugs?

More Serious Drug Use..... 27%
 Less Serious Drug Use..... 23%
 No Effect.....45%
 Not Sure (Vol).....5%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
More Serious Drug Use	32%	27%
Less Serious Drug Use	15%	23%
No Effect	46%	45%
Not Sure	7%	5%

Q18: How serious of a problem do you think Heroin abuse in America is? (READ LIST)

Very Serious.....87%
 Somewhat Serious.....10%
 Not at all Serious.....1%
 Not sure (VOL).....2%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Very Serious	75%	87%
Somewhat Serious	17%	10%
Not at All Serious	2%	1%
Not Sure	7%	2%

Q19: Thinking about the level of heroin abuse in your community compared to the nation as a whole, would you say that (READ LIST):

Heroin abuse is more of an issue in your community than other places.....33%
 Heroin abuse is about as much of an issue in your community as in other places.....39%
 Heroin abuse is less of an issue in your community than other places.....18%
 Not sure.....10%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
More of an Issue	26%	33%
About as Much of an Issue	38%	39%
Less of an Issue	18%	18%
Not Sure	18%	10%

Q20: To the best of your knowledge is heroin abuse more common among white or black Americans?

White.....35%
 Black.....10%
 About the same (VOL).....32%
 Not Sure (VOL).....23%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
White	32%	35%
Black	6%	10%
About the Same	29%	32%
Not Sure	33%	23%

Q21: Do you personally know anyone who has been addicted to heroin or another opiate?

Yes.....58%
 No.....40%
 Not Sure.....2%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Yes	52%	58%
No	44%	40%
Not Sure	4%	2%

(REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS)

Q22: With respect to the abortion issue would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?

Pro-choice.....52%
 Pro-life.....42%
 Neither/Other (Vol)..... 6%
 Not Sure (Vol)..... 1%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Pro-choice	52%	52%
Pro-life	41%	42%
Neither/Other	4%	6%
Not Sure	3%	1%

Q23: Is your opinion of Planned Parenthood favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it to form an opinion?

Favorable.....52%
 Unfavorable.....28%
 Not Heard Enough.....19%
 Not Sure (Vol).....<1%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Favorable	49%	52%
Unfavorable	15%	28%
Not Heard Enough	32%	19%
Not Sure	5%	<1%

Q24: Currently, the federal government provides some funding to Planned Parenthood. Do you think Planned Parenthood should or should not receive funding from the federal government?

Should fund.....61%
 Should not fund.....31%
 Not Sure (Vol)..... 8%

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Should fund	56%	61%
Should not fund	31%	31%
Not Sure	13%	8%

(OBESITY/NUTRITION)

Q25. Next I would like to ask some questions about the issue of obesity. Some people say obesity is a private issue that people need to deal with on their own. Others say that it is a public health issue that society needs to help solve. Which comes closer to how you feel?

Private.....40%
 Public.....52%
 Not Sure (Vol).....7%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Private	52%	54%	49%	40%
Public	43%	37%	45%	52%
Not Sure	6%	9%	6%	7%

Q26. Now we'd like to ask you some general questions about government policies. Please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each of the following. First, Putting a special tax on junk food—that is things like soda, chips, and candy—and using the money for programs to fight obesity.

Strongly Support.....24%
 Somewhat Support.....27%
 Somewhat Oppose.....19%
 Strongly Oppose.....26%
 Not Sure (Vol).....4%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Strongly Support	21%	25%	22%	24%
Somewhat Support	18%	21%	26%	27%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	22%	23%	19%
Strongly Oppose	46%	30%	26%	26%
Not Sure	2%	2%	2%	4%

Q27. Making a law requiring fast food restaurants to list nutrition information—such as calorie count—for all items on their menus.

Strongly Support.....64%
 Somewhat Support.....21%
 Somewhat Oppose.....5%
 Strongly Oppose.....8%
 Not Sure (Vol).....2%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Strongly Support	53%	58%	61%	64%
Somewhat Support	23%	21%	24%	21%
Somewhat Oppose	7%	8%	6%	5%
Strongly Oppose	15%	11%	7%	8%
Not Sure	2%	1%	3%	2%

Q28. Requiring warning labels on packaged food about the health risks of being overweight, just like there are warning labels on cigarettes about the health risks of smoking.

Strongly Support.....38%
 Somewhat Support.....27%
 Somewhat Oppose.....11%
 Strongly Oppose.....22%
 Not Sure (Vol).....2%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Strongly Support	34%	34%	38%	38%
Somewhat Support	18%	23%	28%	27%
Somewhat Oppose	17%	19%	16%	11%
Strongly Oppose	28%	23%	14%	22%
Not Sure	3%	2%	4%	2%

(IMMUNIZATION)

Q29. Next I have a few questions on immunizations. How much risk to society as a whole do vaccinations pose? Would you say vaccinations pose a major risk, a minor risk or no risk to society?

Major Risks.....8%
 Minor Risks.....34%
 No Risks.....53%
 Not Sure (Vol).....5%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Major Risks	10%	5%	14%	4%	8%
Minor Risks	27%	28%	26%	25%	34%
No Risks	58%	62%	56%	65%	53%
Not Sure	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%

Q30: Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements. First, the chances of a child getting autism are increased if they receive the recommended childhood immunizations.

Strongly Agree.....4%
 Somewhat Agree.....13%
 Somewhat Disagree.....14%
 Strongly Disagree.....48%
 Not Sure (Vol).....21%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Strongly Agree	5%	8%	7%	6%	4%
Somewhat Agree	13%	13%	10%	13%	13%
Somewhat Disagree	22%	21%	22%	16%	14%
Strongly Disagree	35%	39%	48%	51%	48%
Not Sure	26%	19%	12%	14%	21%

Q31: In general, children in the United States receive too many immunizations.

Strongly Agree.....11%
 Somewhat Agree.....15%
 Somewhat Disagree..... 20%
 Strongly Disagree.....47%
 Not Sure (Vol).....7%

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016	Spring 2017
Strongly Agree	8%	12%	10%	11%	11%
Somewhat Agree	9%	10%	13%	11%	15%
Somewhat Disagree	20%	22%	18%	21%	20%
Strongly Disagree	53%	47%	56%	49%	47%
Not Sure	10%	9%	3%	8%	7%

(DEMOGRAPHICS)

Q32. Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. First, what is your current marital status?

	Spring 2017
Single	29%
Married	45%
Separated	2%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	10%
Partnered	4%
Not sure	1%

Q33. What is your highest level of education? Is it (READ LIST)?

	Spring 2017
Less Than High School	3%
High School Graduate	25%
Some College Or Technical School	37%
College Graduate (4 Yr Only)	22%
Graduate Or Professional Degree	14%

Q34. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? (READ LIST)

	Spring 2017
White/Caucasian	74%
African-American	9%
Hispanic	6%
Latino	3%
Asian	1%
Native American	1%
Mixed Race	3%
Or Other	2%

Q35: Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a (READ LIST)?

	Spring 2017
Democrat	40%
Republican	30%
Independent	19%
Other Party	2%
Or Not Registered To Vote In Pennsylvania	6%
Not Sure	3%

Q36. Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

	Spring 2017
Catholic	31%
Protestant	37%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Hindu	<1%
Other Religion (Including Agnostic)	22%
Atheist	6%
Not Sure	2%

Q37. How many children do you have under 18? _____

	Spring 2017
Has Children Under 18	25%
No Children Under 18	75%

Q38: Which of the following best describes your health care insurance status. Are you primarily insured:

	Spring 2017
By A Plan Provided By Your Employer	43%
By A Plan That You Purchase Individually	15%
By Medicaid Coverage	9%
By Medicare Coverage	20%
Uninsured	6%
Other	6%
Not Sure	2%

Q39. Which of the following categories best describes your family income? (READ LIST)

	Spring 2017
Under \$20,000	10%
\$20,000-\$40,000	29%
\$40,000-\$60,000	20%
\$60,000-\$80,000	11%
\$80,000-\$100,000	9%
Over \$100,000	18%
Not Sure	4%

Q40: What is the zip code for your current residence?
(USED FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS)

Q40. Gender of respondent

	Spring 2017
Male	49%
Female	51%