

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20009
 (202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1,204 voters nationally
 Dates: April 1-8, 2021

FINAL

Study #12904c
 Arnold Foundation Survey
 April 2021

46 Male
 54 Female
 - Non-binary/
 Other
 [109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

S1b. Are you currently registered to vote?

Registered to vote	100	CONTINUE	
Not registered to vote	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure about registration status	-		

[110]

S2. In politics, are you a ...?

Strong Republican	22	
Leaning Republican	19	[117]
Completely independent	15	
Leaning Democratic	19	
Strong Democrat	25	
Total Republican	41	
Total Democratic	44	

S3ab. Did you vote in the 2020 election for president? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS "YES, VOTED," ASK:) Which candidate did you vote for in the election for president?

Yes, Voted		100	
Joe Biden (Democrat)	51		[118]
Donald Trump (Republican)	47		
Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian)	1		
Howie Hawkins (Green Party)	1		
No, did not vote	-		

S4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed for pay, full time	44	
Employed for pay, part time	9	[120]
Unemployed but looking for work	7	
Student	4	
Stay-at-home mom or dad	5	
Retired	25	
Other	6	

S5. For statistical purposes only, are you...?

Male.....	46	[121]
Female	54	
Non-binary/other.....	-	

S6. Again, for statistical purposes only, please indicate how old you are.

Under 18.....	-	TERMINATE	
18-24	8	CONTINUE	[122-123]
25-29	7		
30-34	9		
35-39	7		
40-44	9		
45-49	8		
50-54	8		
55-59	9		
60-64	11		
65 -69	10		
70-74	8		
75 or older	6		

S7a. Are you from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background? (IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT SAY "YES," ASK:) Please indicate your race.

White	71	[124]
Black/African American	13	
Hispanic/Latino	10	
Asian	4	
Native American	1	
Other	1	

S8. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	[126-127]
Some high school.....	1	
High school graduate	28	
Some college, no degree	17	
Vocational training.....	3	
2-year college degree	10	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	25	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	1	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree	10	
PhD or professional degree (MD, JD, MBA)	4	

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?

Strongly approve	32	[128]
Somewhat approve.....	27	
Somewhat disapprove	11	
Strongly disapprove.....	30	
Total Approve	59	
Total Disapprove	41	

2. Below are some policies that President Biden and the new Congress could make a priority. For each one, please indicate how high a priority you personally feel that policy should be. Use a scale from 0 to 10, on which a 10 means it should be an extremely high priority, a 0 means it should not be a priority, and a 5 is in the middle.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL "8-10"

	Total 8-10	Extremely High Priority		NOT A Priority		
		9-10	7-8	4-6	0-3	
Reduce healthcare costs	67	50	29	15	6	[129-130]
Speed up COVID-19 vaccinations **	64	51	20	18	11	[143-144]
Provide support for small businesses	63	39	41	17	3	[131-132]
Invest in rebuilding America's infrastructure *	54	37	32	22	9	[133-134]
Reduce carbon emissions to fight climate change **	44	28	29	21	22	[141-142]
Reform police departments *	43	27	27	23	23	[139-1140]
Provide low-cost child care to working parents **	43	26	35	26	13	[145-146]
Increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour *	39	27	21	20	32	[137-138]
Pause deportations of undocumented immigrants *	36	25	18	23	34	[135-136]
Forgive a portion of student debt **	35	19	29	19	33	[147-148]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

3a. In general, how easy or difficult do you think it is for most Americans to afford to pay for healthcare?

Very easy.....	5	[149]
Somewhat easy	17	
Somewhat difficult	50	
Very difficult	28	
Total Easy	22	
Total Difficult	78	

3b. How easy or difficult is it for you to afford to pay for healthcare?

Very easy.....	21	[150]
Somewhat easy	38	
Somewhat difficult	26	
Very difficult	15	
Total Easy	59	
Total Difficult	41	

4. Has the COVID-19 pandemic increased or decreased healthcare expenses for you and your family?

Increased expenses	28	[151]
Decreased expenses.....	5	
Has not affected expenses	67	

5 Below you will see a list of healthcare costs. Please rank the three costs that you personally feel are the most important to reduce.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF COMBINED TOP 2

	Combined <u>Top 2</u>	Combined <u>Top 3</u>	
The price of prescription drugs	53	75	[152]
Insurance premiums	49	70	
The prices charged by hospitals	46	66	
Deductibles and co-pays	33	58	
The price of medical devices	17	27	
None of these	1	1	

6. In your opinion, how important is it that Congress take action within the next two years to reduce the price of healthcare?

Very important.....	64	[155]
Fairly important	26	
Just somewhat important	8	
Not that important	2	
Total Very/Fairly Important	90	
Total Just Somewhat/Not That Important	10	

7. If you learned that your member of Congress supported legislation to reduce healthcare prices, how would that affect your view of that member of Congress?

I would feel more favorable toward the member of Congress	68	[156]
It would not affect my view either way	25	
I would feel less favorable toward the member of Congress	7	

7b. What do you think are the main reasons that healthcare costs are often high today? What factors are the main causes of high costs? Who do you think is responsible? [157-167]

Pharmacy/drug companies' greed, want to make too much money, costly prescriptions, drugs	18
Insurance companies are to blame, greedy, they are responsible, raise prices, focused on profits	15
Greed, greed on all parts, greed is the main cause, only care about profits	12
Greedy hospitals/health care providers/doctors charge too much, too costly, overpaid	10
Charge too much, health care should be affordable, a right not a privilege, should be affordable for all	8
Caused by the government, federal, state and local, too much government interference	4
Due to COVID-19, the pandemic	4
Don't know; no response	5%

8. Below are some different groups involved with healthcare. For each one, please indicate how responsible you feel that group is for the problem of high healthcare prices.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY RESPONSIBLE

	Total Very/ Fairly Respon- sible	Total Just Somewhat/ A Little/Not Respon- sible	Very Respon- sible	Fairly Respon- sible	Just Some- what Respon- sible	A Little Respon- sible	Not Respon- sible At All	
Pharmaceutical companies *	88	11	61	27	9	2	1	[172]
Health insurance companies	84	15	54	30	12	3	1	[170]
Wall Street-backed corporations that own physician practices *	78	20	45	33	15	5	2	[174]
Hospitals	78	20	41	37	14	6	2	[169]
The federal government	72	25	44	28	19	6	3	[171]
Medical malpractice lawyers **	68	26	44	24	18	8	6	[175]
Specialists (such as radiologists or surgeons) *	58	35	25	33	24	11	7	[173]
Doctors	51	40	21	30	27	13	9	[168]
Physician practices **	49	45	18	31	30	15	6	[177]
Primary care doctors **	47	42	16	31	28	14	11	[176]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).

9. Here is a list of factors that people may feel are driving up the cost of healthcare today. Which three, if any, do you think do the most to raise healthcare costs?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Health insurance company profits	56	[178-179]
High prices charged by hospitals	50	>
Government regulation of healthcare coverage and providers	32	
High cost of advanced technologies and treatments	32	
Frivolous lawsuits against medical providers	28	
Patients receiving unnecessary tests and procedures	26	
High prices charged by specialists like radiologists or surgeons	24	
High prices charged by doctors	22	
Less competition among hospitals and doctors	11	
None of these	1	

Q.10 AND Q.11 ARE ROTATED.

10. Which of these do you think is the bigger cause of high healthcare costs today?

- A) Excessive prices charged by hospitals, physician practices, and other providers.
- B) The high cost of advanced technologies, tests, and treatments.

A--much more	21	[180]
A--somewhat more	22	
Both equal	34	
B--somewhat more	14	
B--much more	9	
Total Statement A	43	
Total Statement B	23	

11. Overall, who do you feel is generally more responsible for high healthcare prices--A) health insurance companies, or B) healthcare providers, such as hospitals and physician groups?

A--much more.....	26	[208]
A--somewhat more	18	
Both equal	31	
B--somewhat more	15	
B--much more.....	10	
Total Statement A	44	
Total Statement B	25	

12a. As you may know, the Medicare system sets a reimbursement rate for each type of medical service or procedure that patients receive, which is the amount they pay hospitals. From what you know, are Medicare's payments to hospitals generally too low, about right, or too high? *

Payments are too low	20	[209]
Payments are about right	28	
Payments are too high.....	25	
Not sure.....	27	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/B).

12b. As you may know, the Medicare system sets a reimbursement rate for each type of medical service or procedure that patients receive, which is the amount they pay doctors. From what you know, are Medicare's payments to doctors generally too low, about right, or too high? **

Payments are too low	19	[210]
Payments are about right	29	
Payments are too high.....	26	
Not sure.....	26	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS C/D).

12c. As you may know, doctors and hospitals generally receive higher payments for medical services or procedures for patients with private health insurance than they do for Medicare patients. Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion about this difference in payment rates? *

Payment rates to providers for Medicare patients are too low..	19	[211]
Payment rates to providers for patients with private health insurance are too high	58	
The different payment rates are both about right.....	23	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

12d. As you may know, doctors and hospitals generally charge higher prices for medical services or procedures for patients with private health insurance than they do for Medicare patients. Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion about this difference in payment rates? **

Provider prices for Medicare patients are too low.....	8	[212]
Provider prices for patients with private health insurance are too high.....	69	
The different prices are both about right.....	23	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

13. Overall, which concerns you more: that Congress will get too involved in setting healthcare prices, or that Congress won't do enough to limit healthcare prices?

Much more concerned Congress will get too involved in setting prices	18	[213]
Somewhat more concerned Congress will get too involved in setting prices	18	
Somewhat more concerned Congress won't do enough to limit prices	31	
Much more concerned Congress won't do enough to limit prices	33	
Total Will Get Too Involved	36	
Total Won't Do Enough	64	

14. Which party do you think is more likely to have the right approach on the issue of healthcare prices?

The Democrats--a lot more likely	26	[214]
The Democrats--somewhat more likely.....	17	
Both the same.....	23	
The Republicans--somewhat more likely	16	
The Republicans--a lot more likely.....	18	
Total Democrats	43	
Total Republicans	34	

15a. Below you will see proposals related to the issue of healthcare prices that Congress may consider. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT FAVOR

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Strongly Favor	Some-what Favor	Some-what Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	
Require hospitals to publicly disclose the payment rates that they negotiate with health insurance plans.....	88	7	56	32	5	2	5	[218]
Limit the prices that large hospital systems can charge in communities with little competition +	86	7	49	37	5	2	7	[221]
Prevent hospitals from engaging in business tactics that reduce competition among providers and lead to higher prices **	81	11	52	29	7	4	8	[220]
Limit the prices that hospitals can charge for healthcare services to no more than twice the Medicare rate.....	78	10	39	39	7	3	12	[215]
Give Americans age 60 to 64 the option of buying into Medicare.....	74	14	34	40	9	5	12	[217]
Offer all Americans a public health insurance option.....	71	23	39	32	10	13	6	[216]
Offer all Americans a public health insurance option, where the government sets limits on the prices charged by providers and people receive their coverage from a private insurance plan ++	70	20	31	39	9	11	10	[222]
Offer all Americans a public health insurance option where the government sets limits on the prices charged by providers and people receive their coverage from a government insurance plan similar to Medicare *	64	24	33	31	11	13	12	[219]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).
 ** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/D).
 + Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/C).
 ++ Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

15b. Assuming the premiums and out-of-pocket costs to you were similar, would you prefer to receive health insurance from a government plan or a private health insurance plan?

Prefer government insurance plan....	22	[223]
No preference either way	37	
Prefer private insurance plan.....	41	

Next you will see a series of questions about some specific healthcare proposals.

Q.16 SERIES AND Q.17 SERIES ARE ROTATED.

16a. Proposal A would limit what hospitals can charge for healthcare services to no more than twice the price Medicare pays in communities where hospitals face little or no competition. Please indicate whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose Proposal A.

Strongly favor	31	[224]
Somewhat favor.....	43	
Somewhat oppose.....	11	
Strongly oppose.....	4	
Not sure.....	11	
Total Favor	74	
Total Oppose	15	

16b. How much do you think Proposal A, which limits the prices hospitals can charge, would lower healthcare costs for people like you?

Would lower healthcare costs a lot	21	[225]
Would lower healthcare costs some	42	
Would lower healthcare costs just a little	23	
Would not lower healthcare costs at all.....	14	
Total Lower Healthcare Costs A Lot/Some	63	
Total Lower Healthcare Costs A Little/Not At All	37	

16c. Proposal A would limit hospital prices to no more than twice the Medicare rate. In your opinion, is a maximum price of twice the Medicare rate too high, about right, or too low?

Too high	41	[226]
About right	53	
Too low	6	

16d. Below are types of hospitals that price limits could apply to. Please indicate whether you think price limits should apply to each type of hospital.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY SHOULD DEFINITELY OR PROBABLY APPLY

	Total Should Apply	Total Should Not Apply	Should Definitely Apply	Should Probably Apply	Should Probably NOT Apply	Should Definitely NOT Apply	Not Sure	
Hospitals that charge the highest prices in their market.....	82	10	58	24	7	3	8	[228]
Hospitals that face little or no competition	81	12	51	30	9	3	7	[227]
Hospitals that are the largest in their market	80	12	50	30	9	3	8	[230]
Hospitals that are the fastest growing in their market.....	76	13	40	36	10	3	11	[229]

16e. Next you will see two statements about this Proposal A which limits the prices hospitals can charge. Please indicate whether you agree more with the opponents' statement or more with the supporters' statement. *

Opponents say government-mandated price limits will hurt doctors and patients, causing many doctor practices, clinics, and hospitals to close, especially in rural communities. Government price setting will also force rationing of care, increase waiting times for care, and reduce patient choice of doctors.

Supporters say healthcare prices are too often shockingly high and unfair. Some hospitals charge patients with private insurance three times more than patients with Medicare for the same service. Limiting prices will protect consumers from outrageous bills, without hurting doctors and hospitals who charge fair prices.

Agree with opponents--strongly	16	[231]
Agree with opponents--not so strongly	22	
Agree with supporters--not so strongly	29	
Agree with supporters--strongly	33	
Total Agree With Opponents	38	
Total Agree With Supporters	62	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS A/C).

16f. Next you will see two statements about this Proposal A which limits the prices hospitals can charge. Please indicate whether you agree more with the opponents' statement or more with the supporters' statement. **

Opponents say Medicare rates are too low to cover the real cost of care. Hospitals survive by charging higher rates to private insurance patients to make up the difference. If Congress mandates Medicare rates for all care, providers won't have enough revenue to continue operating and providing quality care.

Supporters say hospitals exaggerate their costs by including excessive CEO salaries and the purchase of other hospitals to limit competition. These expenses don't improve patient care, they just inflate costs. Allowing hospitals to charge up to twice the Medicare rate is more than enough to cover the legitimate costs of care.

Agree with opponents--strongly	14	[232]
Agree with opponents--not so strongly	23	
Agree with supporters--not so strongly	28	
Agree with supporters--strongly	35	
Total Agree With Opponents	37	
Total Agree With Supporters	63	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORMS B/D).

FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

F1. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, or liberal?

Very conservative	20	[278]
Somewhat conservative	23	
Moderate	33	
Somewhat liberal	14	
Very liberal	10	
Total Conservative	43	
Total Liberal	24	

F2. How would you describe the area in which you live?

Urban.....	30	[279]
Suburban.....	43	
Small town.....	10	
Rural.....	17	

F3. Are you currently single and never married, unmarried and living with a partner, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Single, never married	28	[280]
Unmarried, living with partner.....	6	
Married	50	
Separated.....	1	
Widowed.....	4	
Divorced	11	

F4. Which of the following best describes your health insurance situation today?

I am not covered by health insurance.....	8	[308]
I am on Medicare.....	21	
I have a private health insurance plan through an employer.....	37	
I have a private health insurance plan purchased on my own.....	9	
I am covered by a government plan, such as Medicaid or VA Tricare..	20	
I have other health insurance	5	

F5. Have you or anyone else in your household been hospitalized in the past five years?

Yes	44	[309]
No.....	56	

F6. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, what would the total be?

\$10,000 or less	4	[310]
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	8	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	11	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	8	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	6	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	19	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	15	
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000.....	17	
\$150,000 or more	12	