

'Health choices gain focus' study somewhat skewed



JAMES YOHE
STAFF COLUMNIST

On the front page of Sunday's *Las Vegas Review Journal* was an article on health care titled "Health choices gain focus." The article was accompanied by survey results from a poll taken by UNLV's Center for Business and Economic Research.

The results showed overwhelmingly that the people polled favor government involvement in health care. Two questions on the front page showed that these people favor extreme government action on this matter.

The first question, "Government should ensure that everybody has basic health insurance for both doctor and hospital care," had 83 percent of the insured people polled respond yes.

Furthermore, 86 percent of those covered by insurance polled responded yes to the statement, "Government must regulate health care to bring costs under control." Crushing proof that government needs to step in and solve the health care problem?

Not necessarily. Put the questions asked into perspective. What if I polled 10 people in the *Rebel Yell* office on whether someone else should have to pay for their

health care? Just asking them this question, I think I'd get 10 yes answers. This alone would make the measly 83 percent of the respondents to the poll, who answered yes to the government ensuring everyone, have health care at best lackluster support.

To show this I will go through the survey questions and answer them with additional comments.

1. "Nobody should be refused health care which they need just because they can't afford to pay fees."

Of course not, that's horrible what would happen to all those poor, sick people. Those greedy doctors make too much money as it is.

Now let's refer that question to newspaper columns:

1a. "No newspaper or it's readers should be refused the services of a newspaper columnist

just because they can't pay his fees."

That's ridiculous! Why should I waste my time and effort to write a column for newspapers without getting paid. I'm not a millionaire like those dirty

doctors.

2. "Government should ensure that everybody has health insurance for both doctor and hospital care."

Yes, people need health care. It should be a right. I think an amendment should be made to the constitution.

Rephrasing this question:

2a. "You should be forced to pay for the medical care of those who can't afford it by having \$200 ripped out of your pockets on April 15 of every year."

Absolutely not!! I work

hard for my money. Why should someone be able to just come up and steal \$200 from me?

3. "Government must regulate health care to bring costs under control."

Definitely. Health care costs too much. I know someone who was charged \$40 for a tray at the doctor's office.

3a. "Government should regulate newspaper columnists to bring costs under control."

Never! Why should the government tell me how much to charge for my services?

4. "People should be allowed to make a profit in providing health care."

Only a reasonable profit. Doctors and health care companies shouldn't be allowed to gouge their patients. People need health care darnit!

4a. We should implement nationwide socialism starting with the health care industry and eventually work our way to the press? I'm no socialist. What do you mean socialism, nobody is a socialist, didn't you see what happened in the Soviet Union?

The questions in the poll taken were ridiculously broad and should never be used for public policy judgements or decisions. The questions in this poll ask people who "have not" to decide what the "haves" should do with

% Agreeing

	*Uninsured	*Insured	Professionals
1. Nobody should be refused health care on the basis of need.	96.1	91.6	85.7
2. Government should ensure that everyone has basic health care coverage.	92.3	83.3	42.9
3. Nevadans should have health care regardless of their ability to pay.	97.6	94.6	85.7
4. There is no "real" competition among health care providers.	63.7	66.6	0
5. Government must regulate Health Care to bring costs under control.	90.6	85.8	14.3
6. People should be allowed to profit on health care.	58.4	66.6	100

*UNLV POLL

The first two columns were a scientific poll conducted and printed in the R-J. The last column is a non-scientific survey taken of medical professionals at random by James Yohe.

their property.

Property, is their talent, training (12 years worth according to one resident in our poll) and equipment. I took a poll of doctors and health care administrators and asked them six of the same questions asked in the Center for Business and Economic Research poll. The results seemed to turn out completely different on some questions and the same on others.

The results to statement No. 6 were especially interesting. Only 66.6 percent of insured people and 58.4 percent of uninsured people felt people in health care should be allowed to make a profit. Meanwhile, 100 percent of the health care professionals I polled felt people in health care should be allowed to make a profit.

The constitutionality of any government action in health care, including present regulations and laws, should be taken into account. At first, I thought Article VIII of the U.S. Constitution gave the right to free health care to all citizens of these United States, and grants Congress

the power to regulate health care, and seize any property which may be needed to carry out that power.

Then I noticed that there are only seven articles in the constitution and none of them guarantees health care. Maybe it was an amendment, the 28th. Unfortunately, the list of amendments cuts off at No. 27. The constitution, does not give the federal government the power to regulate health care.

Government regulation of health care, will not solve the problem. Clarence C. Manion once said, "The average man that I encounter all over this country regards government as a sort of milk cow, with its head in the clouds eating air, and growing a full teat for everyone on earth." The problem is that in reality government is a rotten pig, eating our worth out of our pockets and spreading it out on those whose support its needs to keep on eating.

James Yohe is a *Rebel Yell* columnist. His column appears every Thursday in the *Perspective* section.

Read, Read, Read, Read!!!!
James Yohe
Every Thursday in Perspective
Like it or not