

2013 AARP Survey of 18+ Nebraska Residents on Medicaid Expansion

The AARP Nebraska State Office commissioned a survey to explore the views of its 18+ residents on expanding the Medicaid program in the state.

These results are based on a telephone survey fielded March 1 to March 7, 2013 of 600 18+ Nebraska residents. A total of 600 interviews were completed yielding a margin of error of ± 4.08 percent. The interviews were weighted to reflect the age and gender of the 18+ population in Nebraska. This report is based on 600 weighted responses. An annotated survey of the weighted responses begins on page 3 followed by a description of the methodology.

Survey-In-Brief

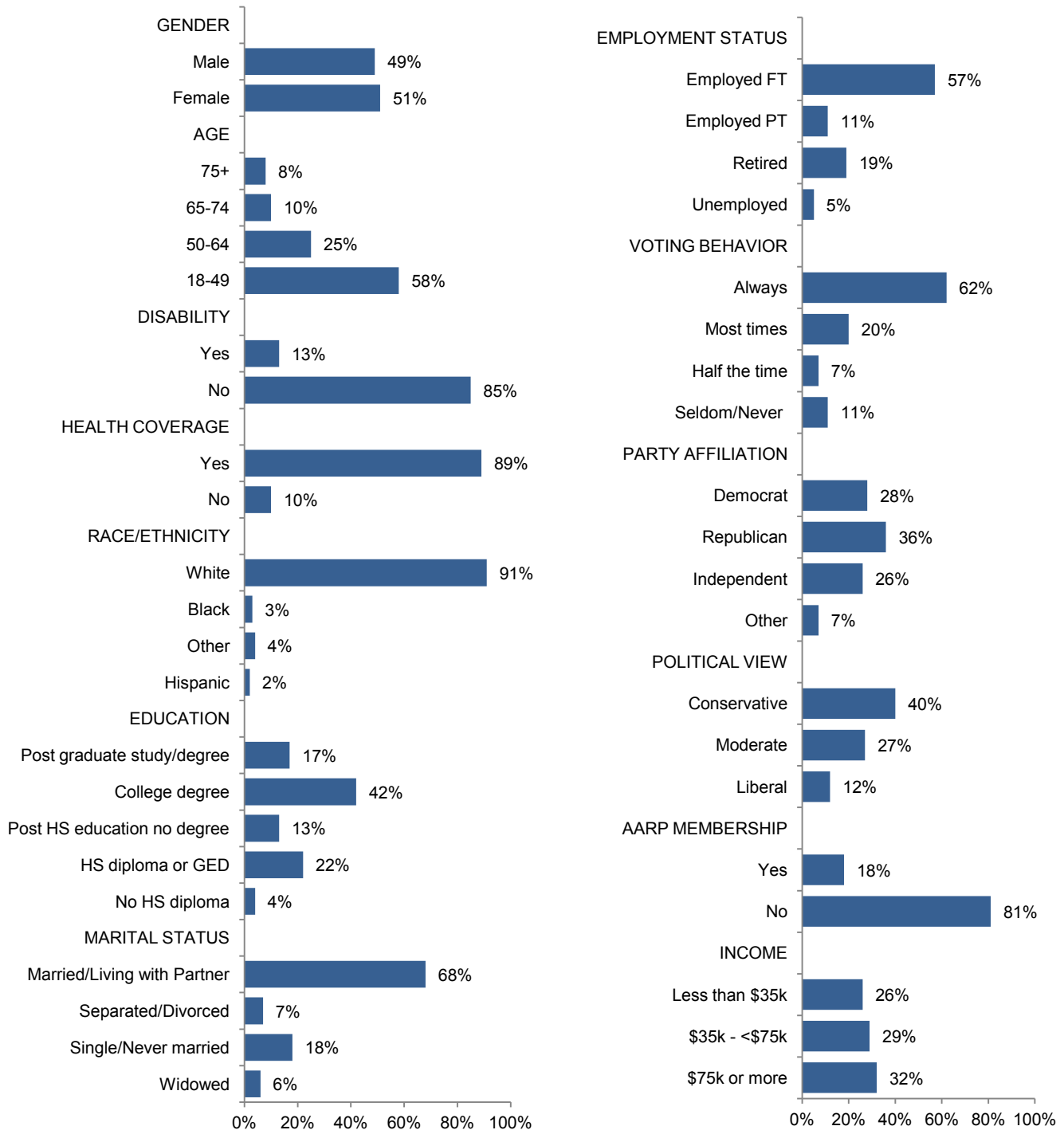
- ❖ **More than half (53%) of 18+ Nebraska residents support expanding Medicaid to cover adults with no dependent children and who earn up to \$15,000 a year.**
 - ✓ 53% strongly or somewhat support the expansion of Medicaid in the state so that adults with no dependent children and earning up to about \$15,000 a year can have health care coverage.
 - ✓ Support remains constant as nearly the same proportion (55%) say they would support Medicaid expansion knowing that adults with no young children and earning \$15,000 a year currently do not qualify for Medicaid benefits.

- ❖ **Many (62%) 18+ Nebraska residents support Medicaid expansion if the cost can be covered by eliminating unnecessary government programs.**
 - ✓ 62% strongly or somewhat support expanding Medicaid in Nebraska if the cost of the expansion can be covered by the elimination of unnecessary government programs.

- ❖ **Many (65%) 18+ Nebraska residents believe that Medicaid is an important government program, and over two in five (45%) believe they or someone they know will need it in the future.**
 - ✓ 65% say Medicaid is extremely or very important compared to other government programs. 23% say Medicaid is somewhat important, and only 8% say that it is not very or not at all important.
 - ✓ 45% say either they or someone they know is extremely or very likely to need Medicaid coverage at some point in the future, and another 22% say this need is somewhat likely.

Demographic Profile of Respondents

- Nearly three in five survey respondents are ages 18-49, a quarter is ages 50-64, one in ten is ages 65-74, and one in twelve is ages 75 or older. About seven in ten are married or living with a partner. Nearly nine in ten respondents have health care coverage, and one in eight has some type of disability. About a third has a high school or post high school education, and over four in ten has a college degree. Nearly three in five are working full time while about two in ten are retired. More than half has an annual household income of less than \$75,000. Over one-third identify their political party as Republican, and more than a quarter as Democrats or Independent. The majority votes always or most of the time. Two in five identify themselves as conservative, over a quarter as moderate, and more than one in ten liberal in their political views. Fewer than one in five says they are an AARP member



**Nebraska Medicaid Expansion Survey of 18+ Residents
Weighted by Age and Gender
(Weighted N=600)**

I'd like to ask you some questions about Medicaid, which is the government program that covers health and long term care for low-income seniors, adults with young children, and disabled persons. Medicaid is jointly funded by the state and federal government.

Core Questions

1. **Based on what you just heard, how important is Medicaid compared to other government programs. Is it extremely important, very, somewhat, not very, or not at all important?**

<u>%</u>	
29	Extremely important
36	Very important
23	Somewhat important
4	Not very important
4	Not at all important
4	Not sure
0	Refused

2. **I'd like to ask you about an issue being talked about by the governor and the state legislature. As a result of the new health care law, states have the option to expand Medicaid to cover adults with no children who earn up to about \$15,000 a year. The federal government will pay one hundred percent of the costs for the first three years, and after that the states will pay ten percent and the federal government will pay ninety percent.**

How strongly do you support or oppose expanding Nebraska's Medicaid program? Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose?

<u>%</u>	
29	Strongly support
24	Somewhat support
13	Neither support or oppose
13	Somewhat oppose
15	Strongly oppose
6	Not sure
<0.5	Refused

3. **Right now, an adult making \$15,000 a year doesn't qualify for Medicaid if they don't have young children. Knowing this, how strongly do you support or oppose expanding Nebraska's Medicaid program? Do you strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose?**

<u>%</u>	
27	Strongly support
28	Somewhat support
9	Neither support or oppose
16	Somewhat oppose
16	Strongly oppose
4	Not sure
<0.5	Refused

4. **How likely do you think it is that you or someone you know may need Medicaid coverage at some point in the future? Do you think that you or someone you know may need Medicaid coverage at some point in the future? Do you think it is extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?**

<u>%</u>	
26	Extremely likely
18	Very likely
22	Somewhat likely
19	Not very likely
12	Not at all likely
2	Not sure
<0.5	Refused

State Specific Questions

1. **Budget analysts have identified a number of state health programs for low-income Nebraskans that will no longer be needed if Medicaid is expanded. If the cost of Medicaid expansion can be covered by eliminating unnecessary government programs, would you support or oppose the Medicaid expansion?**

<u>%</u>	
32	Strongly support
31	Somewhat support
7	Neither support or oppose
11	Somewhat oppose
12	Strongly oppose
7	Not sure
<0.5	Refused

My last few questions are for classification purposes only!

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER

[IF NECESSARY SAY: “To ensure it is recorded accurately, could you please state your gender?]

<u>%</u>	
49	Male
51	Female

D2. What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS]

<u>%</u>	
58	18 – 49 years
25	50 – 64 years
10	65 – 74 years
8	75 + years
0	Refused

D3. Does any disability, handicap or chronic disease keep you from participating fully in work, school, household, or other activities?

<u>%</u>	
13	Yes
85	No
2	Don't Know/Not Sure
1	Refused

D4. Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including employer-provided health insurance, private health insurance, or government plans such as Medicare or Medicaid?

<u>%</u>	
89	Yes
10	No
<.5	Don't Know/Not Sure
1	Refused

D5. What is your marital status? Are you currently.....

<u>%</u>	
67	Married
2	Not married, but living with your partner
<0.5	Separated
7	Divorced
6	Widowed
18	Currently Single <u>and</u> never been married
<0.5	Don't Know
1	Refused

D6. [IF D5 = 1 ASK: "Are you or your spouse currently a member of A-A-R-P?" IF D5 = 2 ASK: "Are you or your partner currently a member of A-A-R-P?" OTHERWISE ASK: "Are you currently a member of A-A-R-P?"]

<u>%</u>	
18	Yes
81	No
1	Don't Know/Not Sure
1	Refused

D7. Thinking about state elections for Nebraska Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior? Would you say you vote...

<u>%</u>	
62	Always
20	Most of the time
7	About half the time
5	Seldom
6	Never vote
<0.5	Don't Know
1	Refused

D8. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a... [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1-3]

<u>%</u>	
36	Republican
28	Democrat
26	Independent
7	Or, something else?
3	Don't Know
1	Refused

D9. How would you characterize your political views? Would you say you are....[READ AND RANDOMIZE EACH ANSWER CATEGORY]?

<u>%</u>	
40	Conservative
27	Moderate
12	Liberal
15	None of the above
5	Not sure
1	Refused

D10. What is the highest level of education that you completed? (READ)

<u>%</u>	
4	0 to 12 th grade, but with no diploma
22	High school graduate or equivalent
13	Post high school education, but with no degree
14	2 year college degree
28	4 year college degree
5	Post-graduate study, but with no degree
13	Graduate professional degree
1	Don't Know
2	Refused

D11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you currently....

<u>%</u>	
12	Self-employed full-time,
3	Self-employed part-time,
46	Employed full-time
8	Employed part-time
19	Retired and not working at all
5	Unemployed, but looking for work
7	Not in the labor force for other reasons?
1	Don't Know
1	Refused

D12. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

<u>%</u>	
2	Yes
97	No
<0.5	Don't Know/Not Sure
1	Refused

D13. And which of the following best describes your race?

<u>%</u>	
91	White/Caucasian
3	Black/African American
1	Asian
1	Native American or Alaskan Native
<0.5	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
1	Or are you some other race? [Specify:]
1	Don't Know
2	Refused

D14. Thinking about who lives in your household, do you currently....[INSERT AND READ ITEMS A THROUGH C BELOW]?

	Yes	No	Not sure	Refused
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
a. Have any children under age 18 living with you	40	59	0	1
b. Have any children over age 18 living with you	15	84	0	1
c. Have any children away at college.....	13	86	1	1

D15. We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask anything specific about your income; I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2012. Was it... [READ]

<u>%</u>	
10	Less than \$15,000
8	\$15,000 to less than \$25,000
8	\$25,000 to less than \$35,000
10	\$35,000 to less than \$50,000
11	\$50,000 to less than \$60,000
8	\$60,000 to less than \$75,000
15	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
9	\$100,000 to less than \$125,000
4	\$125,000 to less than \$150,000
2	\$150,000 to less than \$200,000
3	\$200,000 or more
3	Don't Know/Not Sure
10	Refused

Full Methodology

The 2013 AARP Survey of 18+ Nebraska Residents on Medicaid Expansion was conducted through telephone interviews with a sample of 600 respondents ages 18 and older drawn at random from the state of Nebraska. The interviews were conducted in English by RDD field services from March 1st through March 7th, 2013. The combined 600 interviews from the study were weighted by age and gender for Nebraskans ages 18+. This report is based on 600 weighted responses. The margin of error for the complete set of 600 interviews is $\pm 4.08\%$.

Respondents were screened to insure that they were residents of Nebraska and age 18 or older.

The questionnaire was developed by AARP staff. In order to improve the quality of the data, the questionnaire was pretested with a small number of respondents. The pretest interviews were monitored by RDD and AARP staff.

The response rate for this study was 17.7 percent and was calculated using AAPOR's response rate 3 method. The cooperation rate was 62.8 percent as calculated using AAPOR's cooperation rate 3 method.¹

Throughout the report, statistics representing survey responses are reported in percentages which may not add up to 100 due to rounding and non-response. Also due to rounding, the percentages reported in the text may vary slightly from those in the annotation or in graphs.

¹ Calculated using AAPOR's Outcome Rate Calculator Version 2.1, May 2003

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State Research brings the right knowledge at the right time to our state and national partners in support of their efforts to improve the lives of people age 50+. State Research consultants provide strategic insights and actionable research to attain measurable state and national outcomes. The views expressed herein are for information, debate, and discussion, and do not necessarily represent official policies of AARP.

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Research and Strategic Analysis

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