Summary Report of Findings From the *Critical Insights on Maine™* Survey for the Consumers for Affordable Healthcare

October 2018
Introduction
Background & Methodology

• Each spring and fall, Critical Insights, a division of the Digital Research Group, conducts the Critical Insights on Maine™ tracking survey, a comprehensive, statewide public opinion survey of registered voters that covers a variety of topics of interest to businesses, government, and the general public.

• Critical Insights on Maine™ has been documenting the attitudes, perceptions, and preferences of Maine’s residents for more than 20 years, making it the longest-running consistently-administered tracking survey in the Northeast.
  – In addition to general-interest items (the results of which are released to the media as a public service), the survey also includes a number of proprietary items for sponsoring entities, with results of those items released only to those sponsors.

• This document presents the results of questions included in the fall 2018 wave of the survey on behalf of Consumers for Affordable Healthcare.

• This wave included a total of 600 respondents across the state who were surveyed between October 8 and October 16, 2018.
  – Three-hundred and one Mainers completed the survey online, and 299 participated by landline or cellular telephone.
  – With a total sample of 600 respondents, results presented here have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.
  – All surveys were conducted with registered voters who live in Maine; final data were statistically weighted to reflect the demographics of the state’s population and to give equal weight to phone and online data.
  – On average, the entire survey instrument was 20 minutes in administrative length – including both general-interest items and all proprietary subscriber items.
Proprietary Results
Three out of four surveyed voters in Maine are concerned about the costs of prescription drugs, including 55% who are very or somewhat concerned.

**Concern About Prescription Drug Prices**

- Very Concerned: 34%
- Somewhat Concerned: 21%
- A Little Concerned: 19%
- Not Concerned At All: 25%
- Not Sure: 1%

Total Concerned: 74%

*(n=600)*

How concerned are you about the cost of prescription drugs for yourself and your family?
Very large majorities – three out of four or more – support each of the five tested policies that may help manage the prices of prescription drugs in Maine. At least half strongly support each policy. The most popular proposal tested is requiring drug companies to release information about prices, followed by encouraging usage of lower-cost drugs.

To what extent would you support or oppose the potential policies that are designed to reduce the costs of prescription drugs?

(n=600)
Prescription drug affordability is the most common of six healthcare-related concerns listed in the survey, followed by a lack of access to diagnostic tests. At least half worry about access to dentists, availability of treatment for mental health or substance use issues, access to a local doctor, or having a local health center close.

How concerned are you, personally, about the following in terms of your or your family’s access to health care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Very Concerned</th>
<th>Somewhat Concerned</th>
<th>A Little Concerned</th>
<th>Total Concerned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to afford the prescription drugs or medicine you need</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to get a diagnostic test you might need</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to go to the dentist</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to access mental health or substance use treatment</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not being able to find a doctor close to where you live</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having the nearest hospital or health center close</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concern about many of these issues is particularly high in the second congressional district.
More than half of voters in Maine are concerned about a variety of issues related to health insurance coverage. Affordability and coverage are the most pressing concerns.

Health Insurance Concerns

- Not being able to afford to pay copays, deductibles and coinsurance: 37% Very Concerned, 18% Somewhat Concerned, 13% A Little Concerned, 68% Total Concerned
- Not being able to afford health insurance: 41% Very Concerned, 14% Somewhat Concerned, 12% A Little Concerned, 67% Total Concerned
- That my health insurance won’t cover the essential health care services and prescription drugs I need: 37% Very Concerned, 17% Somewhat Concerned, 11% A Little Concerned, 64% Total Concerned
- Losing my health insurance coverage and becoming uninsured: 34% Very Concerned, 13% Somewhat Concerned, 10% A Little Concerned, 58% Total Concerned
- Remaining uninsured without health insurance coverage: 34% Very Concerned, 9% Somewhat Concerned, 10% A Little Concerned, 53% Total Concerned

Concern about many of these issues is particularly high in the second congressional district.

How concerned are you, personally, about the following in terms of your or your family’s access to health care?