

April 28, 2009

**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Ben Tulchin and Julie Lein, Tulchin Research  
**Re:** **California voters support expanding community health clinics to help improve and reform the health care system**

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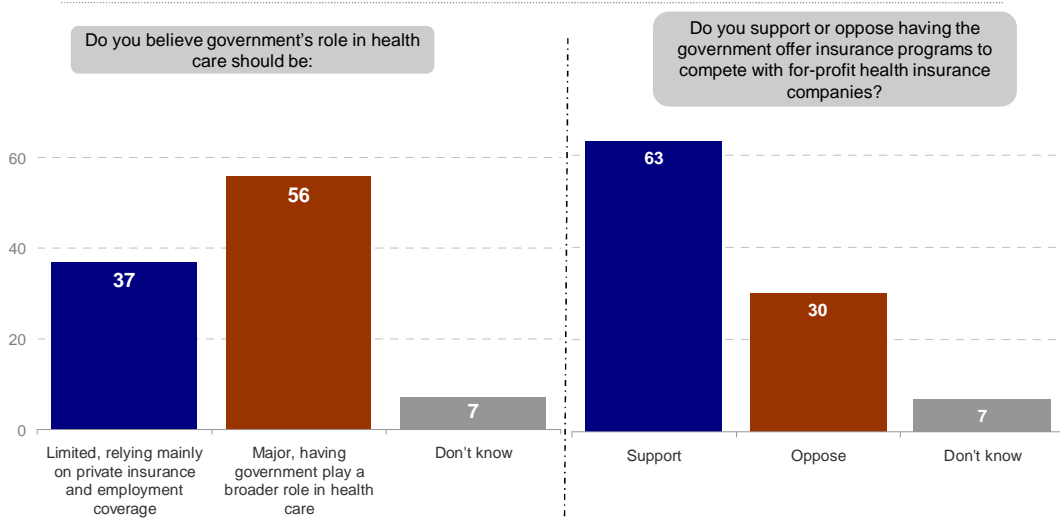
As more Californians struggle with layoffs and unemployment, access to affordable health care has become an increasingly pressing concern for voters. According to a recent statewide survey, California's voters see community health clinics (CHCs) as a viable solution to reforming the health care system, particularly by reducing costs and expanding access to affordable health care. Specifically, voters express a desire to increase the number of community health clinics and expand public funding for CHCs. More specific findings about health care and the role of community health clinics are presented below.

- **Voters rank expanding health care and affordable access as top priorities for health care reform:** Voters were asked to rate a range of health care reforms on a one to ten scale, with ten meaning the reform is a top priority and one meaning it is a low priority. The most popular reforms centered around affordability and access, expanding preventative care and kids' coverage while also reducing costs.

<b>Top Health Care Reform Priorities</b>		
<i>Let me read you a list of health care reforms. After each, please tell me how you rank the reform as a priority on a scale from one to ten, with TEN meaning it is a TOP priority, ONE meaning it is a LOW priority, and FIVE meaning that it is a medium priority.</i>		
	<b>Mean Score (1-10 scale of importance)</b>	<b>% identifying the reform as a top priority</b>
Ensuring all kids have health insurance	8.6	64%
Having access to affordable health care	8.6	57%
Reducing health care costs	8.4	52%
Having access to affordable preventative care	8.4	49%
Keeping health insurance even if you lose your job	8.3	51%
Keeping your ability to choose your doctor	8.0	49%
Making prescription drugs more affordable	8.0	46%
Ensuring everyone has health insurance	7.6	46%

- **California voters believe government should be involved in health care:** Voters envision a broader role for government in reforming health care, voicing support for government involvement generally and offering insurance programs specifically.
  - A majority of voters (56%) believes the government's role in health care should be major, whereas only 37% prefers a limited role that relies on private insurance and employment coverage.
  - When asked if government should offer insurance programs to compete with for-profit health insurance companies, more than three in five voters (63%) were in favor.

### Support for a larger government role in health care



- Sizeable numbers of voters have personally used a community health clinic, with overwhelmingly positive experiences:** Three in ten voters (30%) have personally frequented a community health clinic, and nearly three in five voters (57%) have been or know someone else who has been to a CHC. Among those who have gone to a community health clinic for care, four in five voters (78%) were satisfied with their services and nearly half (46%) were very satisfied, whereas less than one out of five voters (19%) were dissatisfied with their experience and the remaining three percent were not sure. Based on this data among registered voters, community health clinics are already relied upon by a sizeable number of Californians, and as job losses continue, CHCs will likely continue to serve more people.

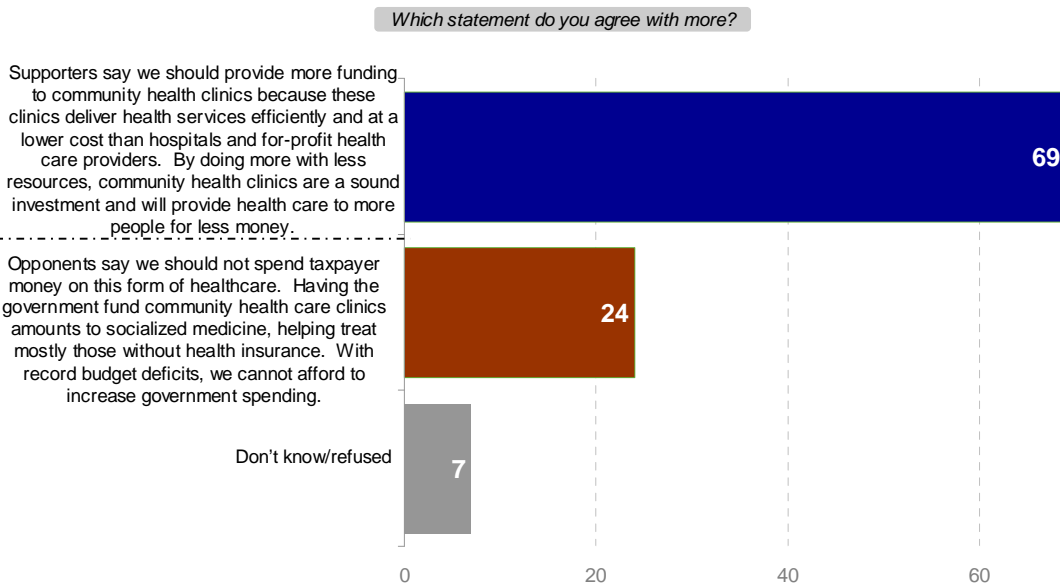
<b>Attendance and satisfaction with CHCs</b>	
<i>Have you or has someone you know ever been to a community health clinic?</i>	
	<b>Total</b>
Yes, self	30%
Yes, know someone else who has	27%
Don't know	5%
<b>Total Yes</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Total No</b>	<b>38%</b>
<i>(IF YES, SELF) Were you satisfied or dissatisfied with your experience at the community health clinic? Is that very (satisfied/ dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/ dissatisfied)?</i>	
Very satisfied	46%
Somewhat satisfied	32%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8%
Very dissatisfied	12%
Don't know	3%
<b>Total Satisfied</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Total Dissatisfied</b>	<b>19%</b>

- Voters support expanding and funding community health centers:** By a seven-to-one margin (71% - 11%), voters believe there should be more community health clinics. Similarly, seven in ten voters (71%) express support for more public funding to CHCs.

<b>Support for expanding and funding CHCs</b>	
<i>Do you believe there should be more or less community health clinics?</i>	
	<b>Total</b>
More health clinics	71%
Less health clinics	11%
Don't know	18%
<i>Should we provide more public funding to community health clinics?</i>	
	<b>Total</b>
Yes	71%
No	20%
Don't know	10%

- Support for community health clinics driven by prevention and affordability:** Underscoring the findings from health care reform priorities, voters emphasize the value of cost and prevention in supporting CHCs. Specifically, 69% of voters favor taxpayer funding of community health centers for their efficiency, low cost, and doing more with less resources. Voters see the clinics as a win-win, helping expand coverage at a lower cost.

### Support for CHCs: Low Cost and High Efficiency



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### Methodology

From April 16 to April 21, 2009, Tulchin Research conducted a statewide telephone survey among 700 registered voters in California. The margin of error is +/- 3.7%.