



Survey on Medicaid, SNAP Benefits and EITC – NATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE –

Field Dates: April 4-9, 2025

Sample Size: 1,195 Adults Nationally

Confidence Interval: National Sample: +/- 3.1%

Samples Provided by: Multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege. Sample collection and quality control was managed by QuantifyAI under the direction of the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation.

[Language—Respondents are allowed to change the language of the survey by clicking the “en español” button on the far upper left part of the screen]

To take the survey in English, please click Next.

Para realizar la encuesta en español, haga clic en el botón de idioma de la esquina superior derecha.

[Note: Headings in [brackets] were not presented to respondents. They simply indicate topics and provide programming instructions. Single lines indicate respondents were presented questions/text on a new screen. Footnotes denote sources, but were not presented to the respondent]

Welcome!

This survey is going to address policies about government assistance programs for low-income people. You will be provided with background information, as well as arguments for and against each policy. This survey will take about 20 minutes to answer. Your answers will remain completely anonymous.

Today we are going to explore what the U.S. government should do about poverty in the United States. We'll start by briefing you on how the federal government defines poverty and how many people are poor. We'll then look at some major Federal programs for addressing poverty and Americans with low incomes.

You will be able to make your recommendations about those programs – whether they should continue as they are or whether they should be changed, and if so, how.

The federal government defines poverty as total cash income per year below a certain level, depending on household size, counting adults and children. This is called the “poverty line.” This income does not include the value of government benefits, such as food stamps or Medicaid, that the household may receive. Here is the current poverty line for some types of households.

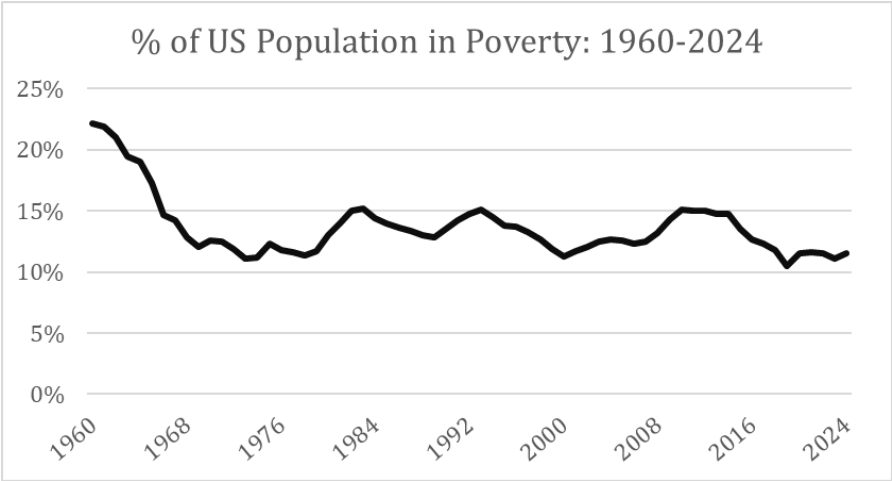
Size of household	Poverty line
One adult living alone	\$15,650 or less
Single parent with one child	\$21,150 or less
A couple with two children	\$32,150 or less

Q1. Thinking about how you define poverty, would you set the poverty line:

	A lot lower	Somewhat lower	A little lower	Lower	Keep it where it is	Higher	A little higher	Somewhat higher	A lot higher	Ref/DK
National	6%	5%	11%	22%	26%	52%	20%	15%	17%	0%
GOP	5%	5%	11%	21%	29%	50%	22%	14%	14%	0%
Dem.	5%	5%	11%	21%	23%	56%	18%	17%	20%	0%
Indep.	13%	4%	8%	24%	27%	48%	21%	12%	16%	0%

According to the most recent Census report, 37 million Americans currently live under the poverty line—about 11% of the population. About a third of them are children (under the age of 18).

While some people live under the poverty line for extended periods, for many people it is shorter. Over half of Americans will live under the poverty line at some point in their lives. Here is how the rate of poverty has changed since 1960.



Q2. Is the number of people living under the poverty line:

	Less than you expected	About the same as you expected	More than you expected	Ref/ DK
National	25%	44%	31%	0%
GOP	22%	46%	32%	0%
Dem.	27%	42%	30%	0%
Indep.	25%	45%	30%	0%

People under the poverty line vary in terms of work status, age, and disability.

The largest group of people in poverty are **working-age adults, aged 18-64**, of which there are about 20 million.

Among them, about 7 million are currently working, full-time or part-time.

Another 4 million are not working because they have a serious disability that prohibits them from working.

Another 9 million are able to work but are not currently. In nearly all cases they are:

- looking for work and have not yet found a job
- taking care of a child, or an ill or disabled family member
- going to school

The next largest group of people in poverty are **children** (under 18), of which there are 11 million.

Lastly, there are people **aged 65 or older**, of whom about 7 million are in poverty.

[SNAP]

One of the largest poverty programs helps people in low-income households purchase food. It’s called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP--more commonly known as ‘food stamps.’

In 2024, spending on SNAP benefits was \$94 billion, with about 23 million households receiving benefits, including about 13 million children and about 5 million older adults (65+) living alone.¹

To become eligible for SNAP benefits, the federal government has established several guidelines. The Federal guidelines for each household are:

- **Total household income:** Must be no more than 30% above the federal poverty line. For example, a single person can not make more than \$20,300 a year, and a couple with two children can not make more than \$41,800.
- **Total household savings:** Must be less than \$3,000. If there is a person in the household over 60 years old with a disability, savings must be less than \$4,500.
- **Work requirements:** Adults aged 18-54 without a disability must register with their state’s employment office and work at least 20 hours a week, be part of a work training program, or actively seeking work. This is all monitored by their state employment office.

Q3. Do you think these eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits (food stamps) are tighter, looser, or about the same as you expected?

	Much tighter	Somewhat tighter	Tighter	About the same as you expected	Looser	Somewhat looser	Much looser	Ref/DK
National	11%	25%	36%	49%	15%	11%	4%	0%
GOP	10%	24%	34%	49%	16%	13%	3%	0%
Dem.	13%	26%	39%	48%	13%	10%	3%	0%
Indep.	8%	26%	34%	51%	16%	8%	8%	0%

Benefits vary on a sliding scale depending on household income. As income goes up, benefits go down, and then stop entirely when income is 30% above the poverty line.

Here are some examples of average SNAP benefits:

- About half of all SNAP recipients are living alone. Their average monthly income is \$860. And at that income level they receive benefits worth \$170 a month.
- Another major group of SNAP recipients are single mothers. Their average household income is \$1,150 a month. At that level they receive benefits worth \$530 a month.

Currently, there is some debate about whether these SNAP benefit levels should be increased, decreased or kept the same.

Here is an **argument in favor** of increasing benefits

¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture. SNAP Data for FY 2024

Q4. The people getting SNAP make very little and only get, on average, about \$6 a day in benefits. That's clearly not enough. Many want to earn more, but can't find a job or a better paying job. Many are disabled or very old. Food is a basic human need, and it is simply wrong to keep people on the edge of hunger with benefits so low.

How convincing or unconvincing do you find this argument?

Q4	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	41%	42%	83%	10%	4%	14%	4%
GOP	38%	41%	79%	15%	4%	19%	2%
Dem.	48%	41%	89%	5%	2%	7%	3%
Indep.	28%	49%	76%	10%	5%	15%	9%

Here is an argument for decreasing benefits:

Q5. The amount the government spends on SNAP is a lot of money – \$94 billion dollars last year. It should not be increased. The government should instead be encouraging people to get out there and try harder to get a job, or new skills to get higher income. The government shouldn't be making it easier for people not to make the effort.

How convincing or unconvincing do you find this argument?

Q5	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	20%	35%	54%	24%	22%	46%	0%
GOP	27%	40%	67%	21%	13%	33%	0%
Dem.	16%	28%	43%	26%	31%	57%	0%
Indep.	10%	38%	48%	27%	26%	52%	0%

Now, we would like to know what you think average monthly SNAP benefits should be.

Q6. As mentioned, for people living alone and earning the average of \$860 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$170 a month. What do you think this amount should be?

	Median	Percent that chose to increase over current
National	\$250	86%
GOP	\$250	82%
Dem.	\$270	92%
Indep.	\$250	79%

Q7. For a single mother earning the average of \$1,150 a month, current SNAP benefits are about \$530 a month. What do you think this amount should be?

	Median	Percent that chose to increase over current
National	\$600	70%
GOP	\$600	68%
Dem.	\$650	76%

Indep.	\$600	58%
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Currently for people to be eligible for SNAP, their household savings must be under \$3,000. If a member of the household is over 60 years old or has a serious disability, the limit is \$4,500.

There is debate about whether this limit should be raised, lowered, or kept the same.

Here is an **argument in favor** of lowering the current limit.

Q8. We should ensure that people receiving government assistance are truly in need. Taxpayer dollars should only help people who have exhausted all other means. If someone loses their job but has substantial money in the bank, they should not qualify for SNAP. It is not the government's responsibility to ensure that people can maintain their bank accounts.

Q8	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	24%	39%	62%	21%	14%	36%	2%
GOP	30%	42%	72%	18%	8%	27%	2%
Dem.	18%	36%	53%	24%	20%	44%	2%
Indep.	20%	38%	58%	23%	16%	39%	3%

Here is an argument in favor of raising the limit.

Q9. Kicking people off of food stamps when they save up some money does the opposite of what the government should be encouraging people to do. It makes it nearly impossible for people to save up enough to pay for education or skills that would get them a better job with more pay, and get off welfare. It discourages them from saving money to face an unexpected cost, so they don't end up in debt or homeless.

Q9	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	35%	45%	80%	15%	6%	20%	0%
GOP	32%	47%	79%	16%	6%	21%	0%
Dem.	41%	43%	84%	11%	4%	16%	0%
Indep.	26%	43%	68%	21%	11%	32%	0%

As mentioned, in order to be eligible for SNAP benefits, a household is not allowed to have more than \$3,000 in savings, or \$4,500 for households with a member over 60 or with a disability.

Q10. What do you recommend the government do?

Q10	Raise the level of allowed savings	Keep the current level of allowed savings	Lower the level of allowed savings	Ref/ DK	Raise or Keep current level
National	49%	39%	12%	0%	88%
GOP	44%	45%	12%	0%	88%
Dem.	55%	32%	12%	0%	88%
Indep.	46%	39%	15%	0%	85%
Demographics					

White	49%	39%	12%	0%	88%
Black	49%	38%	13%	0%	87%
Hispanic	48%	37%	15%	0%	85%
Men	48%	40%	12%	0%	88%
Women	49%	37%	13%	0%	87%
18-34	49%	40%	11%	0%	88%
35-44	51%	37%	11%	0%	89%
45-54	44%	43%	13%	0%	87%
55-64	50%	36%	14%	0%	86%
65+	49%	38%	13%	0%	87%
< \$30k	43%	38%	19%	0%	81%
\$30k-50k	49%	36%	15%	0%	85%
\$50k-75,000k	48%	41%	10%	1%	90%
\$75k-100k	50%	39%	10%	1%	90%
\$100k-150k	45%	46%	9%	0%	91%
> \$150k	56%	34%	10%	0%	90%
High School or less	46%	40%	14%	0%	86%
Some college	47%	39%	14%	0%	86%
Bachelor's degree	52%	40%	8%	1%	92%
Post grad degree	57%	31%	12%	0%	88%

[What Can You Buy with SNAP Benefits]

As you may know, there has been a debate over whether some kinds of food people can buy with SNAP benefits should be restricted. Currently, SNAP cannot be used for alcoholic beverages, and usually not for hot ready-to-eat food. One proposal is to extend these limits to other food items with little nutritional value, such as sweetened sodas, candy, cookies, cakes, ice cream and chips.

Here is an argument in favor of restricting SNAP eligible foods:

Q11. Helping needy people meet their nutritional needs is one thing, but taxpayer dollars should not go to purchase junk food with no nutritional value. We should not encourage people to waste money on food that can damage their health. The rise in obesity and diabetes from eating fatty and sugary foods is a serious strain on America's healthcare system, which also costs the government money.

Q11	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	36%	36%	72%	16%	11%	27%	2%
GOP	44%	34%	78%	12%	9%	21%	1%
Dem.	29%	39%	69%	18%	12%	30%	2%
Indep.	27%	33%	60%	21%	17%	38%	2%

Here is an argument against:

Q12. Just because people are poor does not mean the federal government should tell them what to eat. Furthermore, this requires setting up a government bureaucracy to decide what products count as sugary

sodas or cookies. There are tens of thousands of products. Is a low-fat high-fiber oatmeal cookie unhealthy? This will cost a lot of money, and is not worth it just to get poor people to drink fewer sodas.

Q12	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	33%	35%	68%	21%	11%	32%	0%
GOP	32%	32%	64%	22%	14%	36%	0%
Dem.	35%	39%	74%	19%	7%	26%	0%
Indep.	30%	31%	61%	24%	15%	38%	1%

Q13: Now, please select whether you think SNAP credits (food stamps) should be allowed or not allowed for buying the following items.

Q13a. Sweetened sodas

	Should be allowed	Should <u>NOT</u> be allowed	Ref/DK
National	57%	43%	0%
GOP	54%	46%	0%
Dem.	62%	38%	0%
Indep.	52%	48%	0%
Demographics			
White	51%	49%	0%
Black	79%	21%	0%
Hispanic	67%	33%	0%
Men	58%	42%	0%
Women	56%	44%	0%
18-34	72%	28%	0%
35-44	68%	32%	0%
45-54	65%	35%	0%
55-64	44%	56%	0%
65+	33%	67%	0%
< \$30k	71%	29%	0%
\$30k-50k	54%	46%	0%
\$50k-75,000k	50%	50%	0%
\$75k-100k	56%	44%	0%
\$100k-150k	55%	46%	0%
> \$150k	53%	47%	0%
High School or less	64%	36%	0%
Some college	55%	45%	0%
Bachelor's degree	49%	51%	0%
Post grad degree	54%	46%	0%

Q13b. Candy

	Should be allowed	Should <u>NOT</u> be allowed	Ref/DK
National	53%	47%	0%
GOP	48%	52%	0%

Dem.	59%	41%	0%
Indep.	48%	51%	1%
Demographics			
White	47%	52%	0%
Black	75%	24%	1%
Hispanic	60%	40%	0%
Men	51%	49%	0%
Women	54%	45%	1%
18-34	63%	36%	1%
35-44	64%	36%	0%
45-54	60%	40%	0%
55-64	43%	58%	0%
65+	32%	68%	0%
< \$30k	72%	28%	0%
\$30k-50k	50%	50%	0%
\$50k-75,000k	47%	53%	0%
\$75k-100k	49%	51%	1%
\$100k-150k	50%	49%	1%
> \$150k	45%	55%	0%
High School or less	60%	40%	1%
Some college	50%	50%	0%
Bachelor's degree	46%	54%	0%
Post grad degree	47%	53%	0%

Q13c. Cookies, cakes and doughnuts

	Should be allowed	Should <u>NOT</u> be allowed	Ref/DK
National	68%	32%	1%
GOP	63%	37%	0%
Dem.	74%	26%	0%
Indep.	64%	35%	1%
Demographics			
White	62%	37%	1%
Black	82%	17%	1%
Hispanic	77%	23%	0%
Men	67%	33%	0%
Women	69%	31%	1%
18-34	80%	20%	1%
35-44	79%	21%	0%
45-54	70%	29%	1%
55-64	59%	41%	0%
65+	48%	52%	1%
< \$30k	81%	18%	2%
\$30k-50k	70%	30%	0%
\$50k-75,000k	63%	37%	1%
\$75k-100k	62%	37%	1%
\$100k-150k	65%	35%	0%
> \$150k	63%	37%	0%
High School or less	73%	27%	1%
Some college	66%	34%	1%

Bachelor's degree	60%	39%	0%
Post grad degree	67%	33%	0%

Q13d. Ice cream

	Should be allowed	Should <u>NOT</u> be allowed	Ref/DK
National	71%	28%	0%
GOP	66%	34%	0%
Dem.	79%	21%	0%
Indep.	67%	32%	1%
Demographics			
White	67%	33%	0%
Black	89%	11%	0%
Hispanic	78%	22%	0%
Men	69%	31%	0%
Women	74%	26%	0%
18-34	79%	20%	1%
35-44	77%	23%	0%
45-54	75%	25%	0%
55-64	64%	36%	0%
65+	60%	40%	0%
< \$30k	83%	17%	0%
\$30k-50k	73%	27%	0%
\$50k-75,000k	68%	32%	0%
\$75k-100k	67%	33%	1%
\$100k-150k	69%	30%	1%
> \$150k	67%	33%	0%
High School or less	74%	25%	1%
Some college	71%	29%	0%
Bachelor's degree	68%	32%	0%
Post grad degree	69%	31%	0%

Q13e. Chips

	Should be allowed	Should <u>NOT</u> be allowed	Ref/DK
National	72%	28%	0%
GOP	65%	35%	0%
Dem.	79%	20%	0%
Indep.	69%	30%	1%
Demographics			
White	66%	34%	0%
Black	90%	9%	1%
Hispanic	79%	20%	1%
Men	70%	30%	0%
Women	73%	26%	1%
18-34	85%	14%	1%
35-44	80%	19%	1%
45-54	77%	23%	0%
55-64	62%	38%	0%
65+	50%	50%	0%

< \$30k	82%	19%	0%
\$30k-50k	73%	27%	0%
\$50k-75,000k	67%	32%	1%
\$75k-100k	68%	30%	1%
\$100k-150k	67%	33%	0%
> \$150k	71%	29%	0%
High School or less	76%	24%	1%
Some college	73%	27%	0%
Bachelor's degree	65%	34%	1%
Post grad degree	67%	33%	0%

Another idea that has been considered for the SNAP program is to try to encourage people to eat more healthy food like fruits and vegetables. Research shows that if SNAP recipients are given a discount on fruits and vegetables they are more likely to buy them.

On the one hand, these discounts would be an extra cost for the program. On the other hand, they are likely to have positive health effects, which might produce some savings for government spending on healthcare benefits for SNAP beneficiaries, who are also on Medicaid.

Q14. Do you favor or oppose offering discounts on fruit and vegetables bought using SNAP credits?

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	90%	10%	0%
GOP	86%	14%	0%
Dem.	93%	7%	0%
Indep.	89%	10%	0%
Demographics			
White	88%	12%	0%
Black	93%	5%	1%
Hispanic	92%	8%	0%
Men	90%	10%	0%
Women	89%	11%	0%
18-34	92%	8%	0%
35-44	90%	10%	0%
45-54	88%	12%	0%
55-64	88%	12%	0%
65+	88%	11%	0%
< \$30k	89%	11%	0%
\$30k-50k	91%	9%	0%
\$50k-75,000k	90%	10%	0%
\$75k-100k	92%	8%	0%
\$100k-150k	87%	13%	0%
> \$150k	89%	11%	1%
High School or less	90%	10%	0%
Some college	89%	12%	0%
Bachelor's degree	91%	10%	0%
Post grad degree	89%	10%	1%

[EITC]

Now, we'll explore proposals for helping low-income people who are working, but are still living under or close to the poverty line.

One federal program that helps low-income workers is the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**.

EITC supplements the income of low-wage workers by giving them a credit that reduces their taxes. If they do not owe any Federal taxes, they can get the credit directly.

Currently, nearly all of EITC goes to workers with children. For example, a low-wage household with two children can have their earnings supplemented by a maximum of \$7,000 a year.

Currently workers without children receive a maximum of \$630 a year, and unlike workers with children, it is limited to people who are 25 years or older. The income limit is \$18,500 for single people and \$25,500 for married couples, which is also much lower than the limit for people with children (for workers with two children the income limit is \$63,000).

The EITC raises a few million people above the poverty line every year, but many people who get EITC are still under the poverty line.

Some people propose increasing EITC benefits for workers without children.

Here is an argument in favor of doing so:

Q15. EITC is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs because it encourages people to work by rewarding them for it. But, while it has done a lot to reduce poverty for families with children, it's done little for workers who don't have children. Just because a worker at or near poverty has no children doesn't mean they are unworthy of help. A meaningful EITC benefit for workers without children would encourage more people to enter the labor force and work their way out of poverty.

Q15	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	37%	44%	82%	12%	5%	17%	2%
GOP	37%	43%	80%	13%	6%	18%	2%
Dem.	40%	45%	85%	10%	3%	14%	2%
Indep.	30%	46%	76%	17%	5%	21%	3%

Here is an argument against:

Q16. EITC was originally conceived for families and especially to benefit children. It is not the government's job to supplement the income of able-bodied working people without children. Furthermore, EITC already covers many single workers without children who are under the poverty line. This plan for extending EITC would end up covering people who are above the poverty line. It's an example of mission creep.

Q16	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	22%	39%	61%	26%	13%	39%	0%
GOP	27%	41%	68%	24%	8%	32%	0%
Dem.	19%	38%	56%	28%	15%	43%	0%

Indep.	15%	38%	52%	26%	21%	46%	1%
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Now, you will have the chance to give your recommendations on changes to EITC for workers without children.

Q17. Do you recommend the maximum EITC credit for workers without children:

	Increase to \$1,300	Stay at \$630	Ref/DK
National	69%	31%	0%
GOP	63%	37%	0%
Dem.	75%	25%	0%
Indep.	67%	33%	0%
Demographics			
White	66%	34%	0%
Black	72%	27%	0%
Hispanic	77%	23%	0%
Men	70%	30%	0%
Women	67%	33%	0%
18-34	76%	24%	0%
35-44	74%	26%	0%
45-54	67%	32%	0%
55-64	62%	37%	1%
65 or older	60%	40%	0%
Less than \$30,000	69%	31%	0%
\$30-50,000	69%	31%	0%
\$50-75,000	70%	30%	0%
\$75-100,000	72%	28%	0%
\$100-150,000	68%	32%	0%
More than \$150,000	65%	36%	0%
High School or less	69%	31%	0%
Some college	66%	34%	0%
BA	71%	29%	0%
Post grad	70%	30%	0%

Q18. Do you recommend the maximum amount that workers without children can make and still be eligible for ETIC:

	Increase to \$24,000 for single people and \$33,000 for married couples	Stay at \$18,500 for single people and \$25,500 for married couples	Ref/DK
National	66%	34%	0%
GOP	61%	38%	1%
Dem.	72%	28%	0%
Indep.	60%	40%	1%
Demographics			
White	64%	36%	0%
Black	66%	34%	1%
Hispanic	77%	23%	0%
Men	68%	32%	0%

Women	63%	36%	1%
18-34	70%	30%	0%
35-44	72%	28%	0%
45-54	63%	37%	0%
55-64	64%	35%	1%
65 or older	58%	41%	1%
Less than \$30,000	61%	38%	1%
\$30-50,000	69%	31%	1%
\$50-75,000	68%	31%	1%
\$75-100,000	64%	36%	0%
\$100-150,000	66%	34%	0%
More than \$150,000	66%	34%	0%
High School or less	64%	36%	0%
Some college	65%	35%	0%
BA	65%	35%	1%
Post grad	73%	27%	0%

Q19. Do you recommend the minimum age for eligibility for EITC:

	Be lowered to 18	Be lowered to 21	Stay at 25	Ref/ DK	Lowered to at least 21
National	31%	35%	34%	0%	66%
GOP	26%	34%	40%	0%	59%
Dem.	37%	37%	26%	0%	73%
Indep.	31%	34%	36%	0%	64%
Demographics					
White	26%	35%	39%	0%	61%
Black	39%	36%	24%	1%	75%
Hispanic	42%	32%	26%	0%	74%
Men	31%	37%	32%	0%	68%
Women	31%	33%	36%	1%	64%
18-34	40%	36%	24%	0%	76%
35-44	36%	33%	30%	2%	69%
45-54	28%	30%	42%	0%	58%
55-64	25%	36%	39%	0%	61%
65 or older	22%	37%	41%	0%	59%
Less than \$30,000	36%	29%	34%	1%	65%
\$30-50,000	33%	34%	33%	0%	67%
\$50-75,000	33%	34%	33%	0%	67%
\$75-100,000	31%	42%	27%	0%	73%
\$100-150,000	26%	36%	38%	0%	62%
More than \$150,000	28%	36%	37%	0%	64%
High School or less	33%	32%	34%	1%	65%
Some college	32%	36%	32%	0%	68%
BA	30%	38%	33%	0%	67%
Post grad	25%	36%	39%	0%	61%

[Medicaid]

Now let's turn to Medicaid - the government health insurance program that mainly serves low-income people, including children.

There has been a debate over whether the Federal government should decrease or increase spending on Medicaid, or keep it the same.

Here is some more information about Medicaid

Currently, about 71 million people are covered by Medicaid, which is about one fifth of the US population.

People can apply for Medicaid if their income is below a certain level. Here is the cutoff level in most states:

- **For a single person: income must be below \$20,000**
- **For a couple with two children: income must be below \$43,000**

Children whose parents have slightly higher incomes can also get Medicaid coverage. And some people with slightly higher incomes can get on Medicaid if they are pregnant, disabled, or in need of long-term health care.

In ten states, the income cutoffs are lower.

The largest group of people on Medicaid is children (18 or younger). There are about 30 million children covered by Medicaid, which is about four in ten children in the US.

The Federal government covers about two thirds of the cost of Medicaid and states cover about one third. Last year, the Federal government spent about \$608 billion on Medicaid, or about 10% of the Federal budget.

First, you will evaluate the idea of reducing Federal spending on Medicaid.

Here is an argument in favor of reducing Federal spending on Medicaid:

Q20. The government has allowed the national debt to grow massively. Cuts need to be made somewhere. Programs like Medicaid are a major contributor to the deficit. Medicaid makes too many people—a quarter of the population—reliant on the government.

Q20	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	21%	35%	56%	21%	22%	43%	1%
GOP	28%	37%	66%	21%	13%	33%	1%
Dem.	15%	32%	47%	22%	30%	52%	1%
Indep.	15%	37%	52%	21%	25%	46%	2%

Here is a counter argument:

Q21. Cutting Medicaid will throw millions of families off health insurance, including millions of children, elderly and disabled people. Without healthcare many will get sicker and even die. It will also lead to healthcare workers being laid off and hospitals shutting down, especially in poor and rural areas.

Q21	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	45%	36%	82%	14%	5%	18%	0%
GOP	41%	37%	78%	17%	5%	22%	0%
Dem.	53%	35%	88%	7%	4%	11%	1%

Indep.	37%	35%	72%	22%	7%	29%	0%
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Now, let's look at the idea of increasing Federal spending on Medicaid. This would make it possible for Medicaid to"

- cover more people by raising the income cutoff, and
- cover some medical services not now covered.

Here is an argument in favor of increasing Federal spending on Medicaid:

Q22. Giving more people access to healthcare is a good investment. It increases people's health and productivity, and reduces suffering from illness. Many households currently can not get Medicaid because they make just a little more than the limit, yet they are still too poor to afford healthcare. So they forego rent or food, or go into bankruptcy – causing them to stay poor for longer. An investment in Medicaid benefits everyone.

Q22	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	43%	39%	81%	14%	4%	18%	1%
GOP	38%	39%	77%	18%	4%	22%	0%
Dem.	50%	38%	88%	8%	3%	11%	1%
Indep.	33%	41%	74%	18%	7%	25%	2%

Here is a counter argument:

Q23. The Federal government already spends an enormous amount on Medicaid - it is one of the largest government programs, taking up 10% of the budget. The Federal government should be encouraging more people to take care of themselves, not rely on the government. Furthermore, if states want to cover more people they can do so. The Federal government doesn't have to be responsible for everything.

Q23	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat Unconvincing	Very Unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref / DK
National	20%	35%	55%	25%	20%	45%	0%
GOP	26%	39%	65%	22%	13%	35%	0%
Dem.	15%	29%	44%	28%	28%	56%	0%
Indep.	17%	37%	54%	29%	18%	46%	0%

Q24. In conclusion, when it comes to Federal spending on Medicaid, which option do you recommend:

	Reduce a lot	Reduce somewhat	Reduce a little	Reduce	Keep the same	Increase	Increase a little	Increase somewhat	Increase a lot	Ref/ DK	Keep Same or Increase
National	5%	6%	8%	19%	25%	55%	18%	19%	18%	0%	81%
GOP	7%	8%	10%	24%	27%	49%	20%	16%	13%	0%	75%
Dem.	3%	4%	6%	14%	21%	65%	18%	23%	24%	0%	86%
Indep.	6%	5%	9%	20%	36%	45%	14%	14%	17%	0%	80%
Demographics											
White	5%	7%	7%	19%	26%	55%	19%	20%	16%	0%	80%
Black	8%	5%	11%	24%	25%	52%	16%	11%	26%	0%	77%
Hispanic	6%	4%	20%	29%	22%	61%	18%	20%	24%	0%	83%
Men	5%	6%	19%	30%	24%	56%	20%	19%	17%	0%	80%

Women	5%	6%	19%	30%	27%	54%	17%	19%	19%	0%	81%
18-34	5%	6%	18%	29%	24%	57%	20%	18%	19%	0%	81%
35-44	7%	5%	16%	28%	25%	56%	17%	16%	22%	0%	81%
45-54	6%	6%	19%	31%	29%	52%	15%	19%	17%	0%	81%
55-64	7%	3%	19%	29%	25%	57%	14%	19%	24%	0%	81%
65 or older	4%	9%	21%	34%	26%	53%	23%	21%	10%	0%	79%
Less than \$30,000	10%	5%	16%	30%	27%	52%	15%	16%	21%	0%	79%
\$30-50,000	5%	5%	24%	33%	18%	65%	20%	24%	21%	0%	83%
\$50-75,000	5%	7%	21%	33%	27%	52%	14%	21%	17%	1%	79%
\$75-100,000	2%	6%	20%	28%	24%	55%	20%	20%	15%	1%	79%
\$100-150,000	3%	9%	11%	23%	31%	52%	25%	11%	17%	0%	83%
More than \$150,000	6%	6%	22%	33%	24%	56%	18%	22%	17%	0%	81%
High School or less	7%	7%	15%	29%	27%	53%	18%	15%	20%	0%	80%
Some college	3%	5%	24%	32%	25%	58%	19%	24%	15%	0%	82%
BA	5%	6%	18%	29%	27%	54%	19%	18%	18%	0%	81%
Post grad	6%	6%	18%	30%	21%	56%	17%	18%	21%	0%	77%

[Medicaid Expansion]

As you may know, the Federal government has a program to help states pay for expanding Medicaid to more people – those earning a little above the Federal poverty line – but only if states agree.

Here is how this works:

For states that choose to expand Medicaid, the Federal government pays 90% of the cost, and the state government pays for the other 10%.

So far, 40 states have agreed to this expansion. Depending on their size, states pay an additional few hundred thousand to a few million extra dollars a year. As a result, 20 million more people have been getting Medicaid coverage in those states, or about 8% of their populations on average.

Ten states have declined the option to expand Medicaid.

[Respondent in: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming]

Your state government is one of the ten states that has opted out of the Medicaid expansion program.

Q25a. What is your view? Do you recommend that your state government:

	accept the option to expand Medicaid to more people and pay 10% of the cost of doing so	continue to opt out of the program	Ref/DK
National	75%	25%	0%
GOP	69%	31%	0%
Dem.	82%	18%	0%
Indep.	72%	28%	0%
Demographics			
White	70%	30%	0%
Black	89%	12%	0%
Hispanic	79%	22%	0%
Men	78%	22%	0%
Women	72%	28%	0%

18-34	77%	23%	0%
35-44	84%	17%	0%
45-54	72%	28%	0%
55-64	81%	19%	0%
65 or older	58%	42%	0%
Less than \$30,000	80%	20%	0%
\$30-50,000	67%	33%	0%
\$50-75,000	77%	23%	0%
\$75-100,000	74%	26%	0%
\$100-150,000	76%	24%	0%
More than \$150,000	72%	28%	0%
High School or less	80%	20%	0%
Some college	73%	27%	0%
BA	68%	32%	0%
Post grad	71%	29%	0%

[All other respondents]

Your state government has accepted the option to expand Medicaid.

Q25b. What is your view? Do you recommend that your state government:

	continue to provide Medicaid to people making a little above the poverty line, and pay 10% of those costs	opt out of the program	Ref/DK
National	87%	13%	0%
GOP	83%	17%	0%
Dem.	94%	6%	0%
Indep.	74%	26%	0%
Demographics			
White	86%	14%	0%
Black	91%	8%	1%
Hispanic	92%	8%	0%
Men	87%	13%	0%
Women	86%	14%	0%
18-34	88%	12%	0%
35-44	89%	11%	1%
45-54	90%	10%	0%
55-64	85%	16%	0%
65 or older	84%	16%	0%
Less than \$30,000	90%	11%	0%
\$30-50,000	93%	7%	0%
\$50-75,000	90%	10%	0%
\$75-100,000	87%	13%	0%
\$100-150,000	78%	22%	0%
More than \$150,000	85%	15%	1%
High School or less	89%	11%	0%
Some college	86%	14%	0%
BA	85%	14%	1%
Post grad	85%	15%	0%

Methodology

Fielding and Sample Size

The national survey was fielded to 1,195 adults online April 4-9, 2025 by the Program for Public Consultation (PPC) at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy, with representative non-probability samples obtained from multiple online panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege.

The sample has a confidence interval is +/- 3.1%, calculated using the following formula:

Confidence interval = Square Root ((1+variance of the sample weights)/size of the sample)

The response rate was 7.46%.

Pre-Stratification and Weighting

The sample was pre-stratified and weighted by age, race, ethnicity, gender, education, household income, Census region, marital status, and homeownership, using benchmarks came from the Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey and 2023 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement. The sample was also weighted by partisanship to align with the most recent national distribution.

The average weight was 1.0 (minimum: 0.23; maximum 2.55)

Sample Collection

Sample collection was managed by QuantifyAI with oversight from PPC. Samples were drawn from multiple large online panels, including Cint, Prodege, and Dynata, whose members are recruited using non-probability sampling methods. The selected sample was invited to participate via email invitation, push notification, or SMS for cell phone users. Respondents were offered cash or cash-equivalent incentives to participate in the survey.

Data Collection and Privacy

Survey responses were collected directly on the Qualtrics platform. Only respondents with a provided link could take the survey, using their computer or mobile phone.

Privacy and security measures were taken to ensure that data was collected in adherence to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation policies for data privacy and security, as well as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

Quality Control

Quality control measures in the sample collection process to disqualify duplicate respondents and survey bots included:

- checking respondents' IP addresses to determine if there are duplicate respondents
- employing an "operating system & Web browser check" to determine if there are any cross-panel duplicates
- using hCaptcha to detect and disqualify survey bots.

Quality control measures within the survey to disqualify dishonest or mischievous respondents, as well as survey bots, included:

- an attention-check question, e.g. Select the word that does not belong. [Tuesday]; [Friday]; [April]; [Wednesday]
- an honesty question, e.g. What have you done in the past week? Select all that apply. [Won a gold medal at the Olympics]; [Watched TV]; [Got a license to operate a Class SSGN submarine]; [Read a book]

- a speed limit, which disqualified respondents who moved through the first quarter of the survey at a pace roughly triple the average reading speed.

Lastly, respondents were removed from the sample who answered less than half the substantive questions, or who engaged in straight-lining.