

Job # I1056  
November 6, 2009

**National Survey of Thoughtleaders about the Health Workforce  
TOPLINE REPORT**

*The study was conducted for Harvard University and the MGH Institute for Health Policy via telephone, mail and online by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from August 13 to October 30, 2009 among a sample of 123 prominent U.S. healthcare thoughtleaders. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting [www.ssrs.com](http://www.ssrs.com).*

1. In your opinion, what are the 2 most important issues for Congress to address in the current term?

	11/06/09
HEALTHCARE (NET)	91
Cost of healthcare	11
Universal healthcare/care for uninsured/ expansion of healthcare	26
Healthcare (unspecified)	8
Healthcare reform	51
Medicare issues (general)	4
General healthcare workforce shortage	7
Quality of healthcare	2
Nursing workforce/training issues	3
Other healthcare	7
ECONOMY (NET)	45
Economy/recession	28
Finance reform	7
National debt	8
Other economy	3
FOREIGN POLICY (NET)	15
War issues	12
Other foreign policy	3
Environmental issues	6
Other issue	9
Don't know	--
Refused	--

2. In your opinion, what are the 2 most important health issues for your organization to address in the next 2 years?

	11/06/09
QUALITY CARE (NET)	20
Maintenance/improvement of quality care	12
Preventive care (general)	5
Other quality care	4
HEALTHCARE COVERAGE (NET)	35
Healthcare reform	6
Universal healthcare/care for uninsured/ expansion of healthcare	22
Ensure affordable healthcare/adequate benefits to employees	3
Medicare (general)	4
Other healthcare coverage	2
PATIENT HEALTH ISSUES (NET)	9
Obesity	3
Other patient health issues	7
STAFFING (NET)	25
Shortage of nurses (general)	6
Improving quality of nursing education (general)	5
Retention of/shortage of nursing faculty	6
Build/develop a workforce (general)	7
Other staffing	7
ADMINISTRATION (NET)	11
Reform/change delivery system	7
Payment/reimbursement reform	5
Other administration	2
Healthcare costs (general)	23
Primary care issues (general)	5
Effectiveness of research	3
EMR/Technology	2
Nothing/no answer	1
Other issue	27
Don't know	--
Refused	5



3. How important do you think **nurses** are to each of the following?

a. Assuring the safety of health care services

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	98	89	9	2	2	--	--	--

b. Assuring that people have access to healthcare services

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	86	50	36	13	11	2	1	--

c. Slowing the growth of health care costs

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	85	46	39	15	11	3	1	--

d. Assuring the overall quality of health services

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	98	82	16	2	2	--	--	--

4. Do you think there is **currently** a shortage of each of the following in the U.S.?

a. Registered nurses

	YES			No shortage	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Yes, very serious shortage	Yes, somewhat serious shortage			
11/06/09	92	46	46	5	3	--

b. Primary care physicians

	YES			No shortage	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Yes, very serious shortage	Yes, somewhat serious shortage			
11/06/09	93	66	28	4	2	--

c. Medical specialist physicians

	YES			No shortage	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Yes, very serious shortage	Yes, somewhat serious shortage			
11/06/09	28	2	26	65	7	--

d. Surgical specialist physicians

	YES			No shortage	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Yes, very serious shortage	Yes, somewhat serious shortage			
11/06/09	33	8	25	59	8	--



5. Considering the many health policy issues our nation has to address in the next 2 years, how would you rank the importance of the *predicted future shortage of nurses* relative to each of the following? Is the predicted shortage of nurses more important, neither more nor less important, or less important than each of the following?

a. The solvency of Medicare

	<b>Nursing issue more important</b>	<b>Neither more nor less important</b>	<b>Nursing issue less important</b>	<b>Refused</b>
11/06/09	12	51	37	--

b. Predicted shortage of primary care MDs

	<b>Nursing issue more important</b>	<b>Neither more nor less important</b>	<b>Nursing issue less important</b>	<b>Refused</b>
11/06/09	27	57	16	--

c. The number of Americans without health insurance

	<b>Nursing issue more important</b>	<b>Neither more nor less important</b>	<b>Nursing issue less important</b>	<b>Refused</b>
11/06/09	12	42	46	--

d. The threat of bioterrorism

	<b>Nursing issue more important</b>	<b>Neither more nor less important</b>	<b>Nursing issue less important</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>
11/06/09	37	40	21	2	--

e. Health care fraud and abuse

	<b>Nursing issue more important</b>	<b>Neither more nor less important</b>	<b>Nursing issue less important</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>
11/06/09	49	43	7	1	--

f. Rising health care costs

	<b>Nursing issue more important</b>	<b>Neither more nor less important</b>	<b>Nursing issue less important</b>	<b>Refused</b>
11/06/09	16	48	36	--



6. How often do you hear information or reports from each of the following about nursing workforce issues?

a. Hospitals

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused
	NET	Frequently	Often			
11/06/09	59	36	24	29	11	--

b. Media

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused
	NET	Frequently	Often			
11/06/09	46	20	26	50	4	--

c. Nursing professional organizations

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused	No Answer
	NET	Frequently	Often				Hard Copy Only
11/06/09	79	50	28	14	7	--	1

d. Physician professional organizations

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused
	NET	Frequently	Often			
11/06/09	11	1	11	46	42	--

e. Private industry representatives

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused	No Answer
	NET	Frequently	Often				Hard Copy Only
11/06/09	11	3	8	41	46	1	1

f. Federal agencies

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused
	NET	Frequently	Often			
11/06/09	31	9	22	58	11	--

g. Foundations

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused
	NET	Frequently	Often			
11/06/09	47	12	35	46	7	--

h. Colleges and universities

	FREQUENTLY/OFTEN			Sometimes	Never	Refused
	NET	Frequently	Often			
11/06/09	40	16	24	44	16	--



7. How effective are each of the following when it comes to putting forth solutions to nursing workforce shortages?

a. Hospitals

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	55	7	49	40	32	8	5	--

b. Nursing professional organizations

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	61	7	54	35	30	5	4	--

c. Medical professional organizations

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	14	2	12	80	38	41	7	--

d. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused	No Answer Hard Copy Only
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all			
11/06/09	58	8	50	34	25	9	7	--	1

e. Private health companies (e.g. device, pharmaceutical, insurance)

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused	No Answer Hard Copy Only
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all			
11/06/09	14	2	11	79	39	40	7	--	1

f. State government

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	50	4	46	43	34	9	7	--

g. The U.S. Congress

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	47	2	45	48	34	14	5	--

h. Think tanks or policy institutes

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	59	7	53	36	26	10	5	--



i. Academic institutions

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	61	7	54	36	28	7	3	--

j. Foundations

	EFFECTIVE			NOT EFFECTIVE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
11/06/09	72	11	62	24	20	4	4	--

8. For each of the following, indicate to what degree you trust the information and analysis it provides about nurse workforce issues in the U.S.?

a. American Nurses Association

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	76	20	55	20	3	2	--

b. American Organization of Nurse Executives

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	69	27	42	15	15	1	--

c. American Hospital Association

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	71	15	55	27	2	--	--



d. American Medical Association

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	37	4	33	46	5	12	--

e. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	66	21	45	24	4	6	--

f. Major newspapers (such as Wall Street Journal, NY Times, USA Today, Washington Post)

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	77	11	66	21	1	1	--

g. Foundations (Kaiser, Robert Wood Johnson)

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	98	70	28	2	-	--	--

h. Bureau of Health Professions

	GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST				Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust	Little or no trust			
11/06/09	89	45	44	4	7	1	--





i. Medical journals

		GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST			Little or no trust	Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust					
11/06/09	69	18	51	20	5	6	--	

j. Health services and policy research journals

		GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST			Little or no trust	Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust					
11/06/09	90	54	37	5	3	2	--	

k. Nursing research journals

		GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST			Little or no trust	Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust					
11/06/09	75	34	41	15	10	1	--	

l. Institute of Medicine

		GREAT DEAL/SOME TRUST			Little or no trust	Do not know enough to have opinion	Not a source of information on nursing issues	Refused
	NET	A great deal of trust	Some trust					
11/06/09	96	71	25	2	2	--	--	



9. Over the past several years, multiple efforts have been made to pass legislation that would provide funds to increase the capacity of nurse education programs. Which of the following are barriers to the passage of this type of legislation?

	11/06/09
Ineffective advocates	57
Issue is not a high priority	60
Insufficient evidence of nurse shortage	16
Strong opposition from other groups	24
Budget/cost barriers	86
Lack of appreciation of role of nurses	2
Failure to recognize importance of nurses to become effective primary caregivers in outpatient services	2
Infighting	7
Other	12
Don't know	2

10. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

- a. The support of nursing organizations is essential to the successful passage of health reform legislation

	AGREE			DISAGREE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
11/06/09	80	37	42	19	13	6	2	--

- b. The support of physician organizations is essential to the successful passage of health reform legislation

	AGREE			DISAGREE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
11/06/09	94	50	44	6	4	2	--	--

- c. If universal health insurance coverage were implemented, the supply of nurses would be adequate for meeting increased demands for health services

	AGREE			DISAGREE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
11/06/09	13	2	11	84	39	45	3	--

- d. If universal health insurance coverage were implemented, the supply of primary care physicians would be adequate for meeting increased demands for health services

	AGREE			DISAGREE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
11/06/09	11	2	8	86	33	54	3	--

- e. The support of nurses is essential to the successful implementation of health reform legislation

	AGREE			DISAGREE			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
11/06/09	83	50	33	16	14	2	1	--



D1. Are you...?

	Male	Female	Refused
11/06/09	43	57	--

D2. Are you...?

	EMPLOYED			Unemployed and looking for work	Retired	Other	Refused	No Answer
	NET	Full time	Part time					Hard Copy Only
11/06/09	91	86	5	--	7	2	--	1

(Asked of respondents who are employed; n = 79)

D3. How long have you worked for your organization/employer?

	11/06/09
<b>Less than 5 years (NET)</b>	31
Less than 1 year	4
1 to 2 years	14
3 to 4 years	13
<b>5 or more years (NET)</b>	69
5 to 9 years	21
10 or more years	47
Refused	--

(Asked of respondents who are employed; n = 79)

D4. Would you describe your primary place of employment as...

	11/06/09
Hospital or other health care delivery organization	8
University or other academic organization	54
Policy institute or think tank	15
Government agency	8
Professional society or trade organization	15
Health plan or other payor	3
Workforce center	3
Not-for-profits	3
Other	4
Refused	--

D5. How old are you?

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Refused
11/06/09	--	11	55	33	--



D6. What educational degrees have you earned (check all that apply)?

	11/06/09
BA or BS	33
MA, MS	25
BSN	24
MSN	21
MBA	2
MPH	2
MPP	11
JD	2
PhD	55
MD	15
Other	5
Refused	--

D7.

a. Have you ever worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide or committee staff?

	Yes	No	Refused
11/06/09	21	79	--

b. Have you ever worked as a lobbyist?

	Yes	No	Refused
11/06/09	21	79	--

c. Have you ever served as a healthcare advisor for a candidate running for state or federal office?

	Yes	No	Refused
11/06/09	36	64	--

d. Have you ever run as a candidate for state or federal office?

	Yes	No	Refused
11/06/09	14	86	--

