

Top Line Survey Results
Physician Voter Attitude Survey
Interviews Conducted September 3-20, 2019
Sample Size: 300 Registered Voters

LEHIGH COUNTY RESULTS

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is (YOUR FIRST NAME). I am calling on behalf of Susquehanna Polling and Research, a public opinion research firm. May I speak to (name on list) or another registered voter in your household? (If name on list or other registered voter is not available, TERMINATE CALL).

INTRODUCTION: We are conducting a brief survey of attitudes and opinions concerning some important issues facing your area today. May I have just four to five minutes of your time to complete the survey?

Great, thank you...

F1. To confirm your eligibility, what county are you registered to vote in?

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. If Lehigh | 300 | (100%) PROCEED |
| 2. If Other | -- | TERMINATE |
-

Q1. How satisfied are you with your access to physicians and other providers of health care in your area – would you say very satisfied, satisfied or not at all satisfied?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Very satisfied | 168 | 56% |
| 2. Satisfied | 109 | 36% |
| Total Satisfied: | 277 | 93% |
| 3. Not at all satisfied | 22 | 07% |
| 4. Undecided | 1 | 00% |
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Q2. When it comes to receiving routine medical care for *minor, non-life-threatening medical issues*, what type of medical professional do you trust most? (UNAIDED RESPONSE – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- | | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| 1. Family physician/doctor | 268 | 89% |
| 2. Specialist/surgeon | 9 | 03% |
| 3. Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner | 3 | 01% |
| 4. Physician's assistant | 5 | 02% |
| 5. Other | 8 | 03% |
| 6. Not Sure | 7 | 02% |
-

Q3. When it comes to receiving medical care for a *chronic illness, an illness that isn't improving or other complex medical problems*, what type of medical professional do you trust most? (UNAIDED RESPONSE – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

1. Family physician/doctor	109	36%
2. Specialist/surgeon	152	51%
3. Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner	5	02%
4. Physician's assistant	2	01%
5. Other	12	04%
6. Not Sure	20	07%

Q4. If your child or someone you cared about was sick with an unknown illness, what type of medical professional would you most rely on for a diagnosis and treatment? (UNAIDED RESPONSE – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

1. Family physician/doctor	140	47%
2. Specialist/surgeon	122	41%
3. Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner	3	01%
4. Physician's assistant	0	00%
5. Other	19	06%
6. Not Sure	16	05%

Q5. When thinking about the care you get from a physician, on a scale anywhere from 1 to 10, how confident you are in the ability of a physician to appropriately diagnose and treat your medical issue? (where 1 means you are “not at all” confident and the highest score of 10 means you are “extremely” confident...)

1	5	02%
2	0	00%
3	1	00%
4	4	01%
5	12	04%
6	11	04%
7	36	12%
8	87	29%
9	59	20%
10	81	27%
11 (und)	4	01%

Mean Average: **8.24**

(Rotate Q6-Q7)

Q6. And using this same 1 to 10 scale, how confident are you in the ability of a *nurse practitioner* to appropriately diagnose and treat your medical issue?

1	11	04%
2	6	02%
3	4	01%
4	4	01%
5	33	11%
6	33	11%
7	46	15%
8	62	21%
9	33	11%
10	47	16%
11 (UND)	15	05%
12 (REF)	6	02%

Mean Average: **7.16**

Q7. And using the same 1 to 10 scale, how confident are you in the ability of a *physician's assistant* to appropriately diagnose and treat your medical issue?

1	17	06%
2	7	02%
3	6	02%
4	8	03%
5	43	14%
6	28	09%
7	52	17%
8	68	23%
9	27	09%
10	30	10%
11 (UND)	12	04%
12 (REF)	2	01%

Mean Average: **6.70**

Q8. Which of the following statements best describes your attitude toward physicians, nurses and support staff?

- 69 (23%) I prefer to see a physician for all my medical issues, or...
- 137 (46%) It is OK with me if routine medical issues (such as cold, flu, sprains, cuts) are handled by a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant, but I prefer that more serious or unknown medical issues be handled by a physician, or...
- 83 (28%) As long as I am treated by some type of medical professional for my medical issue, like a physician, a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant, I am happy, or...
- 4 (01%) Something else (Do Not Read)
- 6 (02%) Undecided (Do Not Read)
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Q9. Current law allows nurse practitioners, known as CRNP's, to provide medical care to patients under what's known as a collaborative agreement with a physician. This agreement allows CRNP's to provide care to patients that includes diagnoses, treatment options and prescriptions for medications. The agreement also requires a physician to be immediately available if needed. Should nurse practitioners continue to be required to have these agreements with physicians, or should they be allowed to practice independently?

1. CRNP's should provide care under collaborative agreement/physician	235	78%	(SKIP TO Q11)
2. CRNP's should be allowed to practice independently	47	16%	(PROCEED TO Q10A, THEN SKIP TO Q11)
3. Undecided	16	05%	(PROCEED TO Q10B, THEN SKIP TO Q11)
4. None/other	2	01%	(SKIP TO Q11)

Q10a. Would you still be in favor of allowing CRNP's to practice independently if you knew physicians receive approximately eleven years of formal training and education, while CRNP's need only five years of education, some of which can be completed on the internet?

[N=47]

1. Yes	32	68%
2. No	10	21%
3. Not Sure	5	11%

Q10b. Would you still be undecided on this issue if you knew physicians receive approximately eleven years of formal training and education, while CRNP's need only five years of education, some of which can be completed on the internet?

[N=16]

1. Yes/still undecided	12	75%
2. No/would change my mind and support collaborative agreements with physicians	2	13%
3. No/would change my mind and support allowing CRNP's to be independent	1	06%
4. Decline to answer	1	06%

Q11. If nurse practitioners were allowed to practice independently and without the involvement of physicians, what impact on the quality of care would this have on patients – a positive impact, a negative impact or no impact at all?

1. Positive	49	16%
2. Negative	133	44%
3. No Impact	64	21%
4. Undecided	53	18%
5. Decline to answer	1	00%

Q12. Would you be more likely to vote for a state lawmaker who...? (ROTATE STATEMENTS)

- 212 (71%) Votes to continue to require nurse practitioners to have a collaborative agreement with a physician in order to provide medical care to patients, or....
- 30 (10%) Votes to allow nurse practitioners to practice independently and without the involvement of a physician,
- 47 (16%) No Impact/no difference (Do Not Read)
- 9 (03%) Other/neither (Do Not Read)
- 2 (01%) Decline to answer (Do Not Read)
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Q13. Which statement best describes your current health?

- 183 (61%) I consider myself to be generally in good health and see a physician or other health care provider only on a routine or as-needed basis, or...
- 109 (36%) I have one or more medical conditions that require on-going care and/or regular visits to a physician or other health care provider, or...
- 6 (02%) Both (Do Not Read)
- 2 (01%) Decline to answer (Do Not Read)
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Now, I have a few more demographic questions for statistical purposes and we'll be through...

Q14. What is your age according to the following age brackets – 18 to 29, 30 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64 or 65 and older?

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|-----|
| 1. 18-29 | 42 | 14% |
| 2. 30-44 | 36 | 12% |
| 3. 45-54 | 48 | 16% |
| 4. 55-64 | 83 | 28% |
| 5. 65+ | 87 | 29% |
| 6. Decline to answer | 4 | 01% |
-

Q15. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or something else?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Republican | 105 | 35% |
| 2. Democrat | 139 | 46% |
| 3. Independent | 27 | 09% |
| 4. Other party/Refuse | 29 | 10% |
-

Q16. Would you describe the area you live in as a big or small city, a suburban area, a rural area or a small town or borough?

1. Big city	27	09%
2. Small city	40	13%
3. Suburban area	88	29%
4. Rural area	55	18%
5. Small town or borough	90	30%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY. HAVE A GOOD DAY/EVENING.

Gender (code from observation):

1. Male	148	49%
2. Female	152	51%

Zip Codes Surveyed (from record):

18011, 18015, 18018, 18031, 18032, 18034, 18036, 18037, 18049, 18051, 18052, 18053, 18059, 18062, 18066, 18069, 18078, 18080, 18092, 18101, 18102, 18103, 18104, 18106, 18109

Household Party (from record):

1. Republican	91	30%
2. Democrat	154	51%
3. Independent/other	55	19%

METHODOLOGY, SAMPLE FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This poll is commissioned by the Pennsylvania Medical Society and conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc¹. Interviews were conducted September 2019 with 300 registered voters in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Survey respondents are randomly contacted using random selection procedures, and all telephone interviews are conducted using live telephone agents. The sample frame was compiled using random telephone sequence methods, and includes both landline and cellular households, purchased from a certified list vendor; all households are pre-screened to eliminate household telephone numbers on the federal Do Not Call registry in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Only known registered voters were contacted, compiled from a list of households with prior vote history in 1 of 6 or better general elections (G18, G17, G16, G15, G14 and/or G13). Voters who registered to vote after the 2018 general election are also included and eligible to participate.

Interviews are closely monitored to ensure a representative sample of the county electorate is achieved based on party registration, geography, gender, age and other demographics; results are sometimes statistically weighted to adjust for coverage bias or non-response error.

The margin of error for a sample size of 300 interviews is +/-5.6% at the 95% confidence level.

¹ Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc. is a nationally-recognized polling and focus group company and conducts polling for political, media and corporate clients mainly in PA, NY, IN, FL, NJ, MD, DE, SC, NC and other states. SP&R's polling has been featured on many national platforms, including the Rush Limbaugh Radio Show, FOX News Channel, The O'Reilly Factor, the Bill Maher Show and MSNBC. The internet news service Sunshine State News of Florida referred to SP&R as "*one of the most prominent pollsters in the country*" for its accurate polling in the 2010 Florida Gubernatorial Republican Primary election. WHTM-TV/ABC27 News in Harrisburg recognized SP&R for its accurate polling in the 2016 Presidential Pennsylvania election.