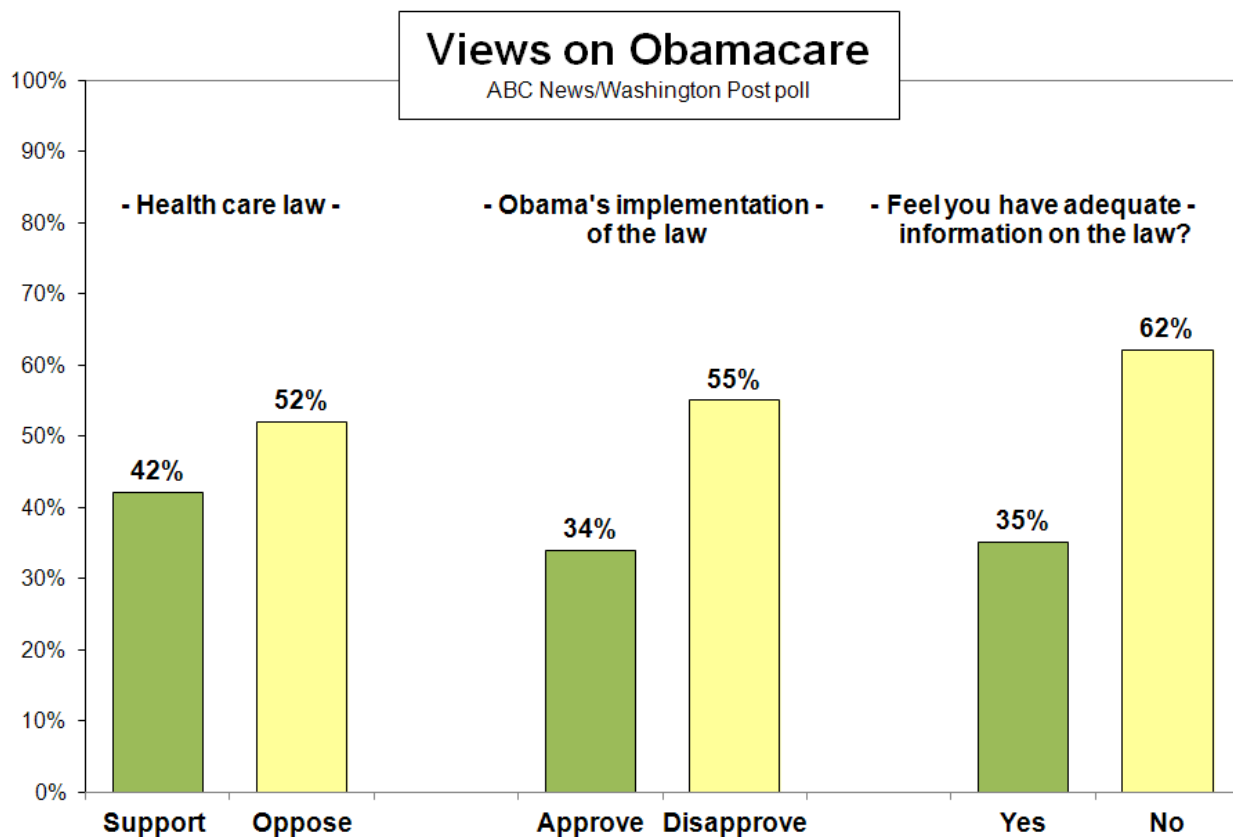


## **Three Years Later, Obamacare Arrives – Little Understood and Not Well-Liked**

More than three years after Obamacare was signed into law and fewer than two weeks before its health insurance exchanges are to launch, many Americans don't know a lot about the pending changes except this: They don't much like them.

Sixty-two percent in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll say they lack the information they need to understand the changes that will take effect as the Affordable Care Act is implemented. Barely one in 10, moreover, thinks the federal government, their state government or the health insurance industry is fully prepared to implement the law.

On the law itself, moreover, 52 percent are opposed, vs. 42 percent in support; in 16 ABC/Post polls since August 2009, it's never received majority support.



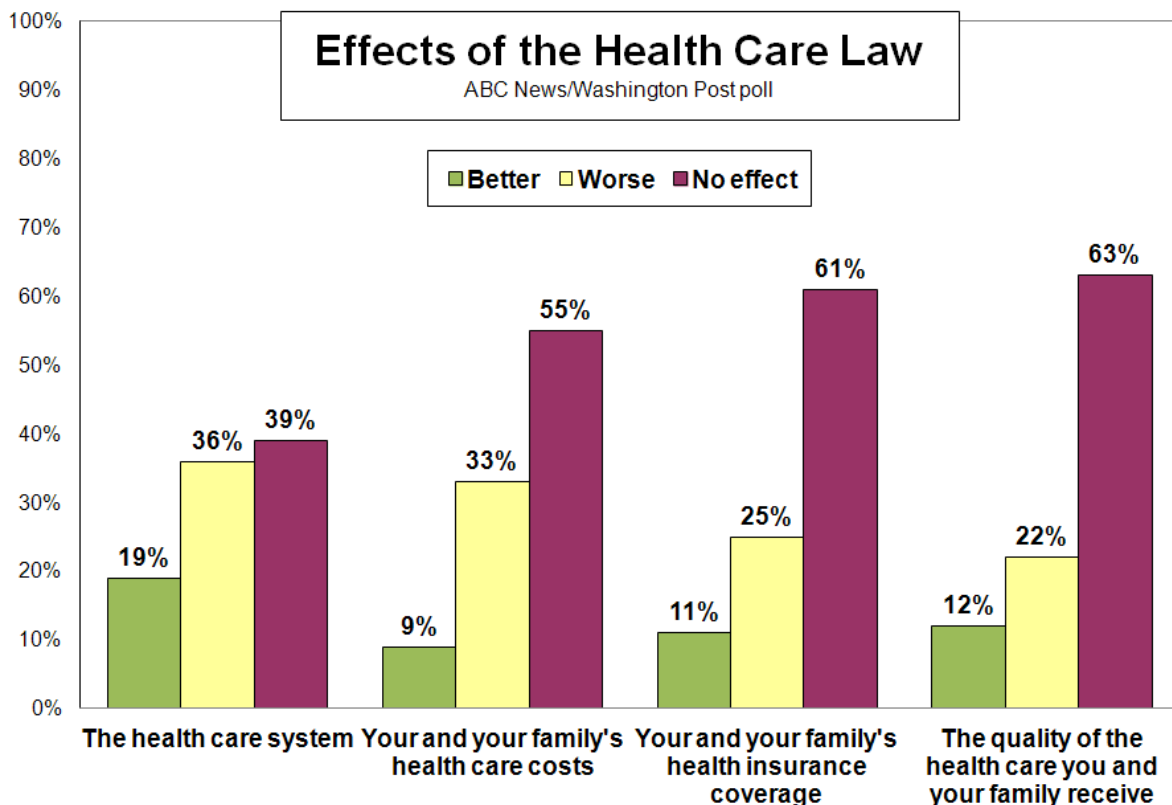
Fifty-five percent, further, disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling implementation of the law, with “strong” disapprovers outnumbering strong approvers by a 23-point margin. And Obama and the Republicans in Congress essentially are tied in trust to handle its implementation, 41-38 percent, respectively, with most of the rest saying they trust neither.

Trust in “neither” is its highest in 10 ABC/Post polls since June 2009 asking about health care reform or its implementation. Trust in Obama is at a new low, while trust in the Republicans matches its lowest in more than three years.

Strong opposition to the law outstrips strong support by 13 percentage points, 39 vs. 26 percent, in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Critics are so fired up that among those who oppose the law, 52 percent say they’d support Congress shutting down the federal government’s major activities in order to block it, as some House Republicans have suggested. (The net support for this idea, among all Americans, is 27 percent.) The House votes today on another proposal, to strip funding for the law’s implementation.

For all that, there is one potentially positive result for proponents of the law: People who are informed about it are 18 points more likely than others to support it. That could mean that learning about the law encourages support; on the other hand, it also could mean that its supporters are more motivated than its critics to learn about it.

IMPACTS – More people say the law has had negative rather than positive effects so far, although many as yet see no impact. Thirty-six percent, for example, say it’s worsened the health care system overall, vs. 19 percent who see improvement. The rest, 39 percent, see no effect.



Many more, about six in 10 Americans (55 to 63 percent), say the law so far has had no effect on them personally – their health care costs, insurance coverage or care experiences. But among those who do report an impact, it's more apt to be negative. Thirty-three percent report negative effects on their costs, 25 percent on their coverage and 22 percent on the quality of their care. Positive impacts, by contrast, are reported by only about one in 10 in each case.

**READY?** – In terms of readiness, majorities think the federal government and their state governments are unprepared for the law, with those saying they are entirely unprepared outnumbering those saying they're fully prepared by more than 2-1. Americans split on the overall readiness of the insurance industry, but again more say it's entirely unprepared (20 percent) than see it as fully prepared (10 percent).

Information interacts with this view as well: Among those who feel informed about the law, perceptions of readiness of these groups rise by 13- to 23-point margins.

**PARTISANSHIP** – As usual, partisanship and ideology factor strongly in these views. Six in 10 Democrats and liberals support the law, but more Republicans and “very” conservatives oppose it, nearly eight in 10 in each group. Half of Republicans overall, and 54 percent of strong conservatives, say they'd support shutting down the government in order to block its implementation. Given their predispositions on the law, Republicans and conservatives also are more likely than others to say it's worsened the health care system overall as well as their own costs, coverage and quality of care.

More independents oppose the law than support it (54-42 percent), and they're closely divided on the idea of trying to block it via a government shutdown.

**OTHER GROUPS** – Support for the law is greater among men than women; while 46 percent of men support, it that drops to 38 percent of women. That's somewhat surprising, in that women are more likely to be Democrats; on the other hand women also are more frequent users of the health care system, so may feel more at risk.

There's also a gap by education, with support for the law 12 points higher among college graduates than among nongraduates. And, by income, support bottoms out at 36 percent among those in the \$50,000-\$100,000 bracket, vs. 54 percent among those with incomes more than \$100,000.

And notably, the law's support is weak even among African-Americans, probably Obama's single most loyal support group. Eighty-seven percent of blacks approve of Obama's job performance overall. But just 48 percent support his signature health care law.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 12-15, 2013, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4 points, including design effect. Partisan divisions are 34-23-34 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Damla Ergun and Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1, 2a-c, 3a-c and 4-21 previously released.

2d. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling implementation of the new health care law? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	34	20	14	55	12	43	11

3d. Who do you trust to do a better job handling implementation of the new health care law - (Obama) or (the Republicans in Congress)?

	Obama	Reps	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/15/13	41	38	1	16	4

22. Overall, do you support or oppose the federal law making changes to the health care system? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	42	26	16	52	13	39	6
7/21/13	42	25	17	49	10	39	9
7/08/12	47	27	20	47	14	33	6
4/8/12	39	23	17	53	13	40	8
3/10/12	41	24	17	52	11	41	7

Compare to: Overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by (Congress) and (the Obama administration)?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/16/11	45	25	20	50	14	36	5
12/12/10	43	22	21	52	14	37	6
10/3/10	47	26	21	48	13	35	5
3/26/10	46	32	13	50	10	40	4
2/8/10*	46	22	25	49	11	38	5
1/15/10	44	22	22	51	12	39	5
12/13/09	44	25	19	51	11	40	5
11/15/09	48	30	18	49	10	39	3
10/18/09	45	26	19	48	12	36	7
9/12/09	46	30	16	48	12	36	6
8/17/09	45	27	18	50	10	40	5

\*2/8/10 and prior: "proposed changes...that are being developed by"

23. (IF OPPOSE HEALTH CARE LAW) Would you support or oppose Congress shutting down major activities of the federal government in order to try to prevent implementation of the health care law? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/15/13	52	34	18	38	16	23	10

22/23 NET:

	----- Oppose health care law -----							
	Support health care law			Support shutting down activities		Oppose shutting down activities	No op.	No op.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	op.	op.
9/15/13	52	42	34	27	20	20	5	6

24. Thinking specifically about [ITEM] - so far has the health care law made this better, made it worse, or had no effect?

9/15/13 - Summary Table

	Better	Worse	No effect	No opinion
a. The health care system overall	19	36	39	6
b. Your and your family's health care costs	9	33	55	2
c. Your and your family's health insurance coverage	11	25	61	3
d. The quality of the health care you and your family receive	12	22	63	2

25. Do you feel that you personally do or do not have the information you need to understand what changes will occur as the new health care law takes effect?

	Do have the information	Do not have the information	No opinion
9/15/13	35	62	2

26. For each group I name, please tell me how prepared you think they are for the new health care law to take effect - fully prepared, somewhat prepared, somewhat unprepared or entirely unprepared. First is [ITEM]?

9/15/13 - Summary Table

	----- Prepared -----			----- Unprepared -----			No
	NET	Fully	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Entirely	op.
a. The federal government	42	10	33	53	26	27	4
b. Your state government	43	9	34	51	28	23	6
c. The health insurance industry	48	10	37	47	26	20	6

\*\*\* END \*\*\*