



PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

COVID-19 UPDATE AND POLICY DISCUSSION

ANDREW MACPHERSON
SENIOR ADVISOR

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OUTLINE

1. COVID-19 in America - Where do we stand?
2. COVID-19 and the Presidential Election
3. Relief Package Legislative Update
4. Prognostications and Analysis
5. Discussion



COVID-19 IN AMERICA - WHERE DO WE STAND?

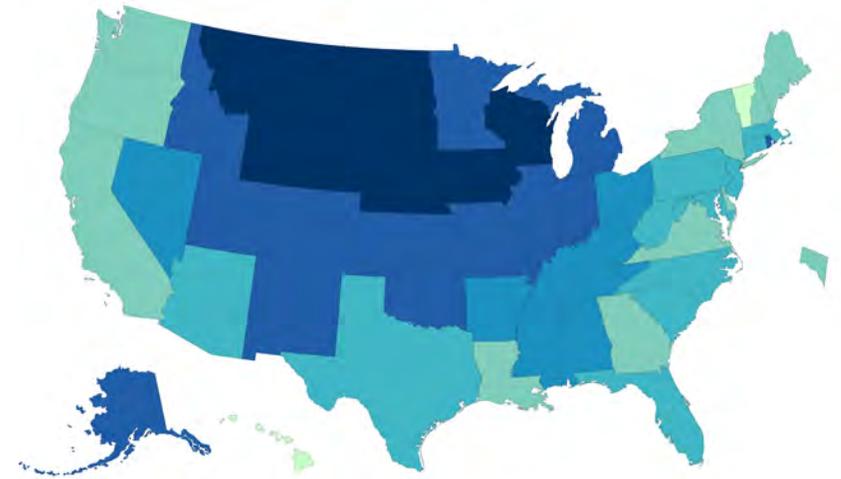
COVID-19 IMPACT: CASE UPDATE

Total Cases in the US: ~**9,975,500**

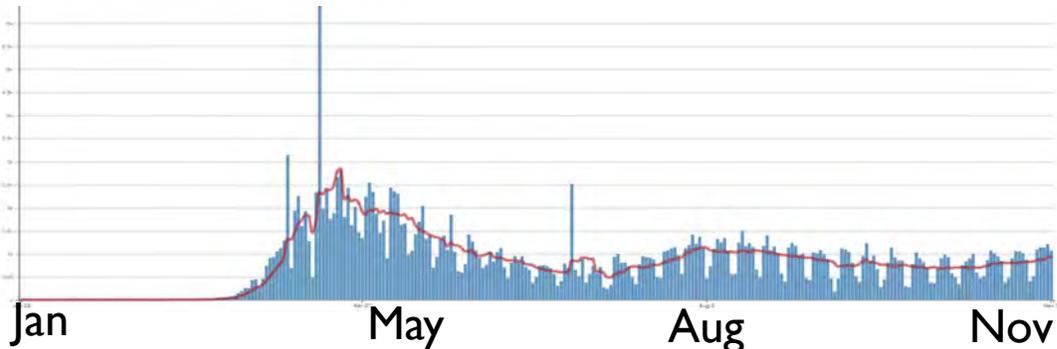
Total Deaths in the US: ~**237,587**

In 4 weeks, CDC predicts ~6500 weekly deaths due to COVID

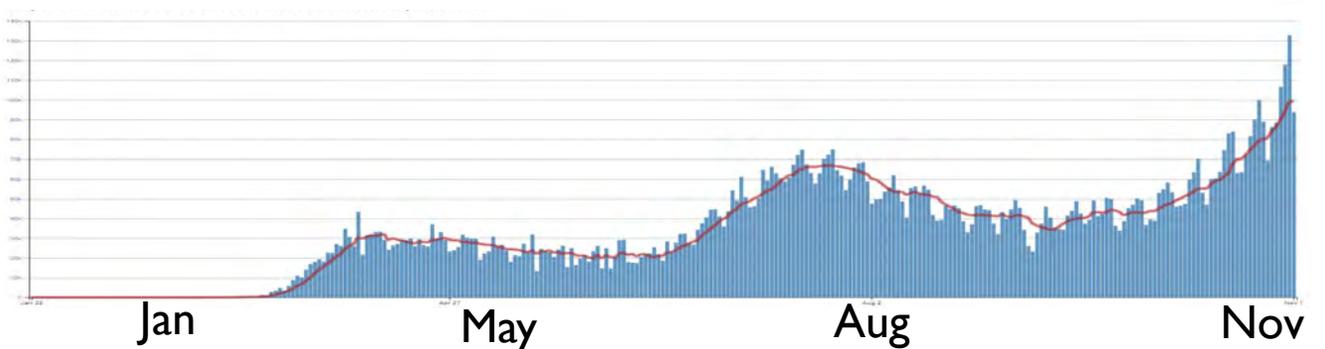
Reported Cases



Daily Trends in COVID-19 Deaths (CDC)



Daily Trends in COVID-19 Cases (CDC)





COVID-19 AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HEALTH CARE'S PRE-ELECTION LANDSCAPE: POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT



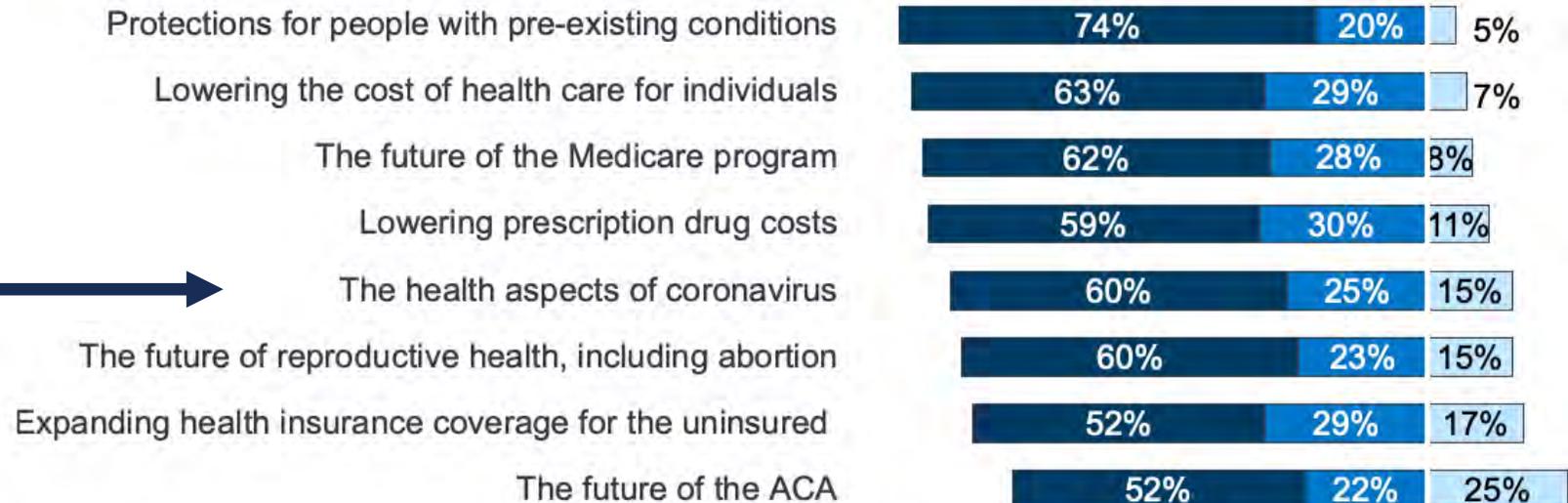
HEALTH CARE'S PRE-ELECTION LANDSCAPE: VOTERS PERSPECTIVES

Figure 8

Majorities Of Voters Say Health Care Issues Are Important In Deciding 2020 Vote Choice

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS: How important will each of the following **health care issues** be in making your decision about who to vote for in this year's presidential election?

■ Very important ■ Somewhat important □ Not too/Not at all important



SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted October 7-12, 2020). See topline for full question wording.

HEALTH CARE'S PRE-ELECTION LANDSCAPE

COVID-19
Funding (PPE,
PPP)

COVID-19
Flexibilities

Telehealth
Flexibilities

COVID-19
Vaccine

Medicare
Extenders

Expiring
Continuing
Resolution

Primary Care
Payment
Models

Rural Health
– CHART
Model

Executive
Orders

Drug Pricing

Surprise
Billing

Coverage -
Pre-Existing
Conditions

EXIT POLLS & HEALTH CARE

Health Care generally ranked 4th following the economy, COVID-19, and racial inequality.

Voters saw health care as an important issue and concerns about health care costs were shared across the political spectrum.

Strong, but mixed views about COVID-19 and related lockdowns also emerged in the results so far.

Voters across the political spectrum have shared concerns about their economic welfare and employment.

Biden supporters tended to be more focused than Trump supporters on the need for government mandates/lockdowns to end the epidemic.

TOP ISSUES FOR AMERICANS IN THE ELECTION VARIED GREATLY



Donald Trump



Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Which one of these five issues mattered most in deciding how you voted for president?

Racial inequality
20% of voters

8

91

The coronavirus pandemic
17%

14

82

The economy
35%

82

17

Crime and safety
11%

71

28

Health care policy
11%

36

63



TOP ISSUES FOR AMERICANS IN THE ELECTION – EXTREME PARTISANSHIP RE: COVID-19

Who would better handle the coronavirus pandemic?

Joe Biden
51% of voters

5

92

Donald Trump
43%

93

7



Donald Trump



Joseph R. Biden Jr.

TOP ISSUES FOR AMERICANS IN THE ELECTION – EXTREME PARTISANSHIP RE: COVID-19

Which is more important?

Containing the coronavirus now, even if it hurts the economy
51% of voters

Trump

18%



Biden

80%



Rebuilding the economy now, even if it hurts efforts to contain the coronavirus
42%

76%



22%



WHAT DOES BIDEN-HARRIS WIN MEAN?

Inherited COVID-19 crisis becomes a management challenge.

Administration change opportunity to build on ACA coverage, but also opens field to broader role for government - and risks to providers

Biden/Harris Win

Support for long-term care services and supports (LTSS) and caregivers.

Lowering prescription drug prices with an expanded role for government.

BIDEN ANNOUNCES COVID-19 TASK FORCE

THIS MORNING

- President-elect Joe Biden on Monday announced a new coronavirus task force as his transition team seeks to fulfill a campaign promise to develop a dramatically different approach than President Donald Trump's to contain the pandemic.
- The 13-member task force is composed largely of doctors and public health experts, who will work with Biden, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and the transition team to map out the public health and economic policies needed to curtail the virus.
- The task force was announced only hours before positive preliminary test results were released of a Covid-19 vaccine being developed by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE indicating it prevented more than 90% of infections.
- In his victory speech Saturday night, Biden said the task force would convert his campaign promises “into an action blueprint that starts on January 20th, 2021,” which is the day he will be inaugurated into office.

BIDEN ANNOUNCES COVID-19 TASK FORCE

WHO IS INVOLVED?

- The team will be led by **former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler, and Marcella Nunez-Smith, a professor of public health at Yale University.**
- It will include about a dozen people, many of whom were already advising Biden and his staff throughout the campaign. Kessler and Murthy, in particular, were deeply involved in shaping the Biden campaign's plans for responding to the virus, and they both regularly briefed the president-elect.
- The task force will also include
 - **Atul Gawande**, a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital
 - **Michael Osterlohm**, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota
 - **Celine Gounder**, a professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at New York University
 - **Ezekiel Emanuel**, a former Obama administration health adviser.
 - Several others...



COVID-19 IN AMERICA – RELIEF PACKAGE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A LOOK BACK - HEROES ACT

- On May 15th, HR 6800 – the HEROES Act, passed the House of Representatives. Among several other provisions, HEROES proposed the following notables:
 - Billions in funding for broadband expansion and several HHS entities, ***among other non-health-related programs/vehicles***
 - Guarantees no cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatment in Medicaid, Medicare (including MA and PDPs), and Private; retroactively mandates COVID-19 testing coverage for private insurance.
 - Creates new SEPs in Medicare and ACA Exchanges
 - Provides full premium subsidy to allow workers to maintain their employer-sponsored coverage if eligible for COBRA

Senate Outlook:

- ❖ HEROES dead upon arrival in the Senate

COVID-19 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- On September 8th, Senate Republicans introduced the Delivering Immediate Relief to America's Families, Schools and Small Businesses Act (also known as the "skinny" relief package) to provide \$500 billion in funding to existing programs that support COVID-19 relief such as enhanced unemployment benefits.
- However, the bill failed to pass a procedural vote in the Senate due to opposition from Senate Democrats.
- On September 21st, House Democrats released the text of a Continuing Resolution (CR) to extend government funding through December 11, 2020.
- The purpose is to give Congress additional time to reach consensus on a broader funding package.
- The CR includes Medicaid extenders such as funding for the Money Follows the Person program and extension of spousal impoverishment protections through December 11, 2020.
- The CR is likely to pass the House but may not pass the Senate due to its lack of Republican policy priorities such as relief for farmers.

COVID-19 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – NEXT STEPS

- **The Biden transition team** plans to play a role through congressional Democrats negotiating an economic-pandemic aid bill.
- Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** reportedly plans to play a more direct role in the discussions that have been largely between House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, plus White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows.
- **Skepticism abound** that agreement will be reached, especially because the president preoccupied with his loss to the Democrats might decide he has no interest reaching legislative compromise with them.
- However, with this morning's positive report by **PFE about its COVID vaccine candidate**, we will be watching to see whether Biden, McConnell and congressional Democrats find it in their mutual interest to provide another \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion bridge to the potential success and distribution of a vaccine.
- **The size of Pelosi's majority will decline in the next Congress** and Meadows, seen as more of a hardliner than Mnuchin against Democratic demands, is probably sidelined at least temporarily by COVID-19. This could make both sides more willing to compromise.



NEXT STEPS, QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

www.healthcareroundtable.org