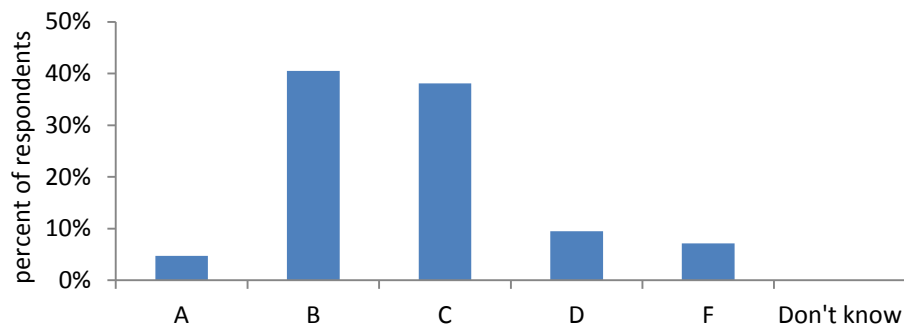


Connecticut moves up to a C+ on health reform

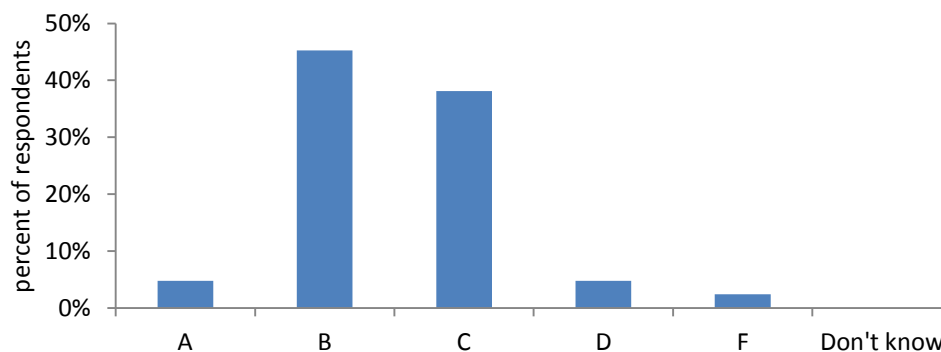
This month Connecticut health care thought leaders give our state a C+ on health reform, up from a C in the March survey. Connecticut again received a slightly better grade, B-/C+, for effort. Medicaid is again the bright spot, earning a B. Health Insurance Market Reform and Data-based Policymaking joined Engaging Consumers in Policymaking in earning D grades. Forty percent more respondents answered Don't Know on one or more issue areas this month, emphasizing the need for better communication and coordination in health policymaking. Asked for suggestions to improve Connecticut's progress toward reform, several themes emerged including

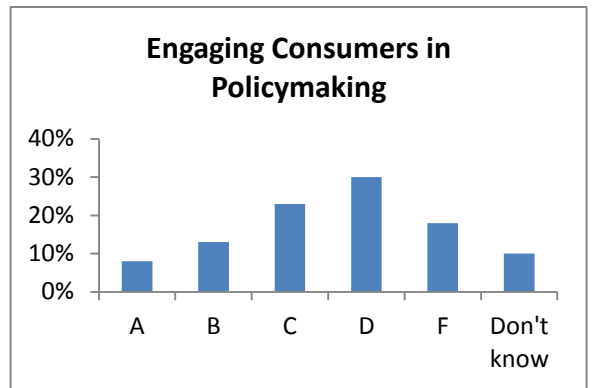
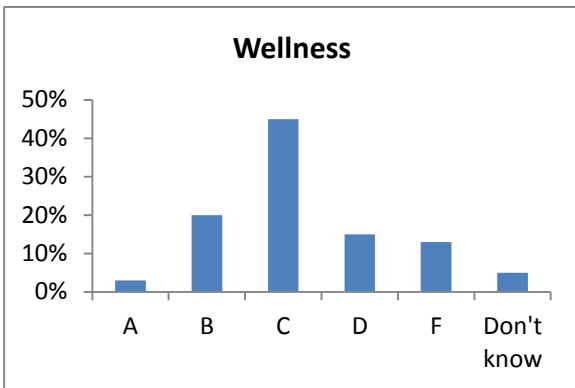
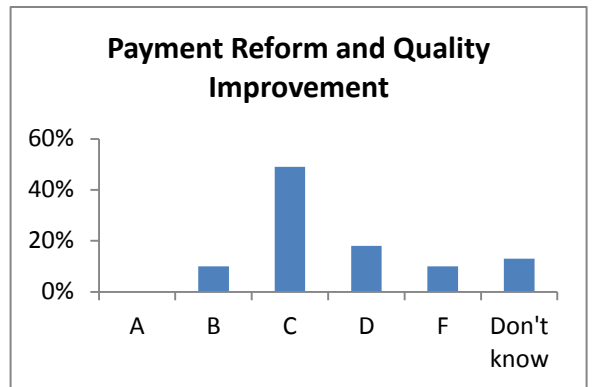
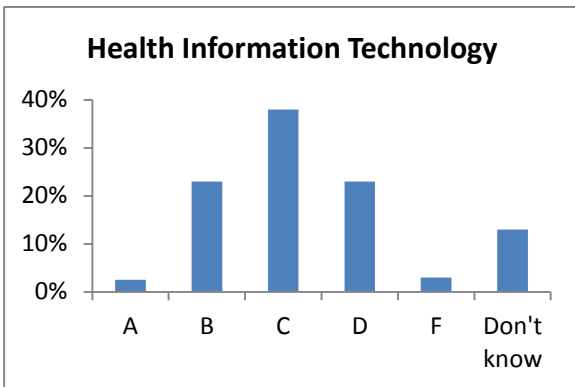
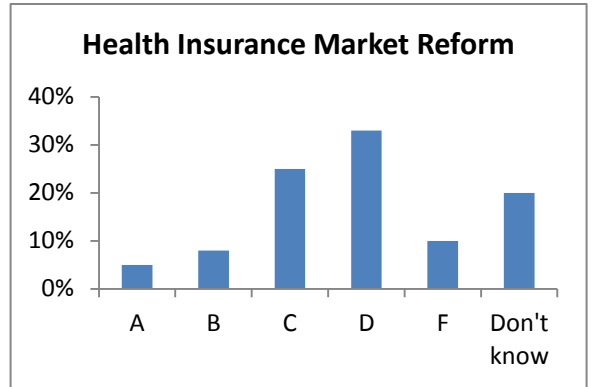
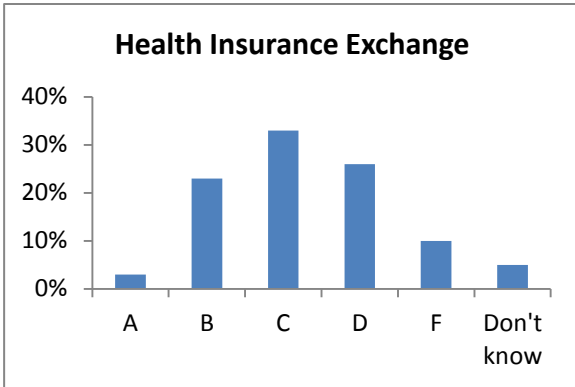
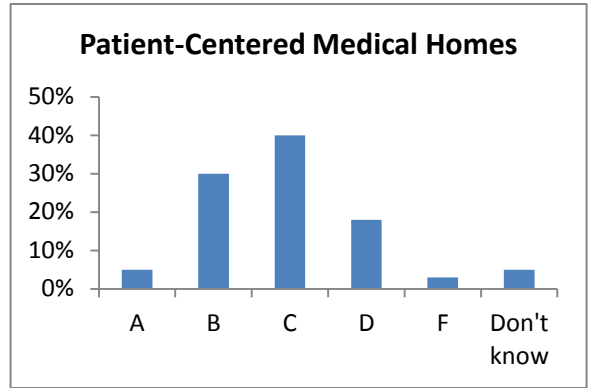
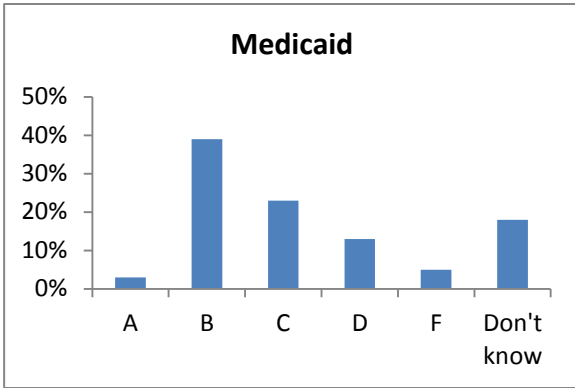
- Engage consumers in policymaking
- Smarter policymaking
- Urgency, move more quickly
- Implement a public option and the SustiNet plan

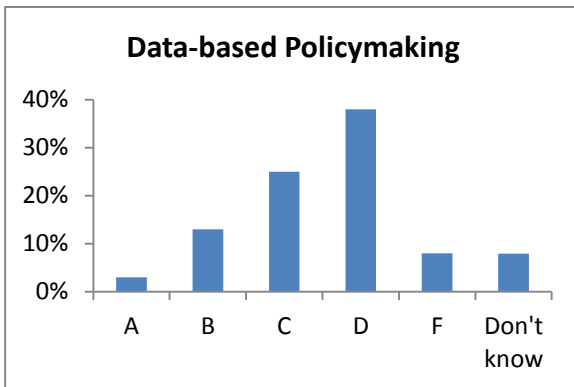
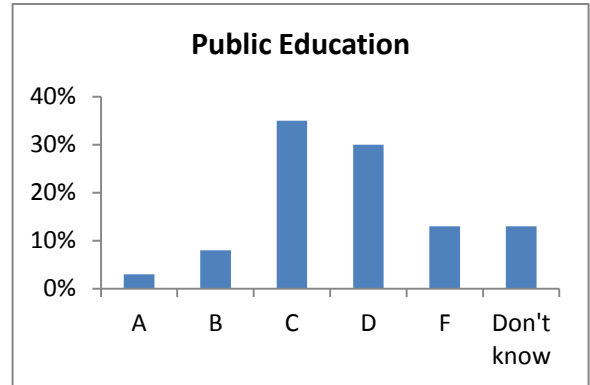
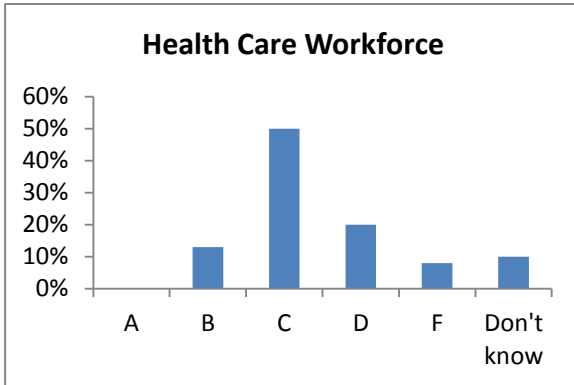
CT health reform grade



CT health reform grade for effort







Themes among respondents' suggestions to improve progress toward health reform in Connecticut:

Engage consumers in policymaking (16 responses)

- Involve consumers in [a] more meaningful way
- Engage consumers in every aspect of policymaking
- Even when we seem like we are having an open dialogue, it does not seem that advocates and those outside of the traditional power structure have any influence at all. . .

Smarter policymaking – use data, best practices, look to other states, and expand expertise of policymakers (14 responses)

- Follow the Massachusetts model
- Look to the experience and activities of other states
- Put subject matter experts in charge
- Health care leaders need to be educated
- Use best practices research in every program

Urgency, move more quickly, motivate policymakers (8 responses)

- Light a fire under legislators
- Continue pressure on the administration
- As quickly as possible begin to formulate operating policy for the exchange

Implement a public option, the SustiNet plan (7 responses)

- Grant universal health care for all as planned by the original SustiNet [plan]

- Combine all publicly funded insurance programs into Sustinet
- Public option

Methodology Forty seven thought leaders across Connecticut's health fields and sectors were surveyed online between March 20 and April 11, 2012. Forty two (89%) responded. The same survey questions were asked of a different list of thought leaders from the March 2012 survey. The invitation list was collected from membership of health-related state councils, board and committees and leadership of health-related organizations. Respondents represented community organizations, foundations, providers, payers, consumer advocates, labor, business people, insurance brokers, and academics. To ensure independent responses, state officials responsible for reform functions were not surveyed.

For full survey results, go to http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/reform/201204_survey_summary.pdf