

## BCMS Public Opinion Poll

During the latter part of 1976, the Communications Committee of Bexar County Medical Society contracted with Stephen L. Tucker, D.B.A., Trinity University, and J. Ronald Carey, Ph.D., University of Texas at San Antonio, to formulate a public opinion poll for the San Antonio area. Earlier this year, the Galloway Field Service contacted 406 citizens of this area in various parts of town, and presented 34 questions to them concerned with the medical profession in San Antonio.

Printed below is a very brief summary of some of the findings of the survey. The complete results of the poll are available to you at the Society office.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overall, Bexar County residents have favorable opinions of San Antonio area physicians. For example:

When given an opportunity to make either a positive statement or negative statement about their doctor, 90 percent chose positive.

Most respondents thought the average doctor was more interested in helping people than in the business aspects of medicine.

More than 80 percent said their doctor spent enough time with them.

Over 90 percent said their doctor acted concerned.

Estimates of physician income by the respondents were below actual.

14 percent of the respondents thought the average doctor's income was below \$30,000.

15 percent thought **their** doctor made less than \$30,000.

Only 13 percent thought their doctor made too much.

Nearly 80 percent said their doctor's fees were about right.

There was evidence of support for more government intervention in medicine. 80 percent of the respondents said they thought doctors should periodically be required to pass tests to renew their licenses.

Lawyers were considered the group most responsible for the current malpractice problem; patients were second. Doctors were named equally with The Courts and less than half as often as Lawyers.

When asked if they cared to give a critique of their medical care, over half the respondents did not choose to. Over one fourth said, "We have good care."

The contributions of Bexar County physicians to the community is not obvious to the majority. Over half could not name an additional civic contribution made by physicians, and over one third said doctors were, "just doing their job, nothing extra."

The news stories they remembered most had to do with cancer related topics, and two issues which had received a lot of publicity at the time of the study: Karen Quinlan and the baboon heart transplant.

The single most frequently named source of medical news was the *Reader's Digest*. The primary medium was newspapers. Doctors ranked third, but when an allowance was made for amount of exposure over a period of time, doctors ranked first.

## MUNICIPAL BONDS - WHYS AND WHEREFORES SEMINAR

Presented By

**BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**

Thursday, January 19, 1978

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