



## U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

2012 SURVEY OF AMERICANS ON THE U.S. ROLE  
IN GLOBAL HEALTH

May 2012



## 2012 SURVEY OF AMERICANS ON THE U.S. ROLE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kaiser Family Foundation *2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health* is the fourth in a series of surveys designed, conducted, and analyzed by the Kaiser Family Foundation in order to shed light on the American public's perceptions, knowledge, and attitudes about the role of the United States in efforts to improve health for people in developing countries. The Foundation's first major survey on this topic was conducted in early 2009, and updates were released in the fall of 2009 and in 2010. This latest survey updates trends from Kaiser's previous work, and explores in greater detail what the public thinks about the U.S. role in the world, perceptions of spending on foreign aid in general and global health in particular, and the extent to which information may change opinions. We also explore new questions in this survey about how the public views U.S. support for global health compared with that of other donor nations, and perceptions about the potential effects of decreased U.S. funding.

Overall, our survey finds a majority of the American public believes the U.S. has a major role to play in the world, though many remain confused about the size and composition of U.S. foreign assistance. We also find that providing people with accurate information has the potential to move opinion significantly. For example, when survey respondents are told that only about one percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid (far less than what most believe when asked to estimate an amount) opinion moves from a majority saying the current level of spending is too high to the public being most likely to say spending is currently too low. And as we've seen in the past, people are also more supportive of foreign aid spending when a specific purpose is mentioned—in this case, improving the health of people in developing countries—than they are of the idea of foreign aid in general. Our analysis also shows that even when controlling for other factors, those who possess more accurate knowledge about how much the U.S. spends on foreign aid are more likely to support an increase in U.S. spending on health in developing countries.

Improving health in developing countries is one of many priorities the public sees as important for the president and Congress to address in world affairs, though security concerns, such as limiting the spread of nuclear weapons and fighting terrorism, rise somewhat above other priorities. Within health, basic needs such as providing clean water and reducing hunger, along with improving children's health, are seen as the top priorities, though every health issue asked about in the survey is seen as important by a large majority of the public.

As has been the case since we began tracking opinion on global health several years ago, most Americans feel that the current level of U.S. spending to improve health in developing countries is either too low or about right. When it comes to the level of U.S. spending, global health appears to be one area where there is more bipartisan consensus than others. For example, while modest partisan differences exist on some aspects of U.S. global health involvement, these differences are much smaller than we find on questions of domestic health care policy and spending. Although Democrats are more likely than Republicans to place a top priority on certain issues within global health, majorities across parties feel that the current level of U.S. spending on health in developing countries is either too low or about right. The lack of deeper partisan divisions may be related to the fact that Americans seem to view global health as a moral issue; while most recognize various potential benefits to the U.S., the top reason people give for the U.S. to engage in efforts to improve health in developing countries is because "it's the right thing to do."

However, the public's support for spending comes with some important caveats. Economic conditions at home make people hesitant to increase spending abroad, with two-thirds saying that given the serious economic problems facing the country and the world right now, the U.S. cannot afford to increase spending on health in developing countries. The public also remains divided on whether more spending will make a meaningful difference in improving health, and is deeply skeptical about how much U.S. money actually reaches people on the ground. Currently, the average American believes that less than a quarter of every U.S. dollar spent on health in developing countries actually reaches those who need it, and that nearly 50 cents of each dollar is lost through corruption.

Most Americans feel that the U.S. is already doing its fair share or more compared to other donor countries, and perhaps related to this, the public prefers multilateral approaches to aid and strongly supports giving through international organizations like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United Nations, and the World Health Organization. Still, most recognize the important role the U.S. plays, and majorities feel that if the president and Congress were to decrease spending on foreign assistance, there would be an increase in illness and death in developing countries, and that other wealthier countries would not step in to fill the gap. More broadly, the

public sees lack of money and resources as a bigger barrier to improving health compared with lack of knowledge about how to treat health conditions in developing countries.

An ongoing challenge for those looking to increase the public's level of interest in and support for U.S. global health efforts is grabbing the public's attention in a competitive news environment. Since 2010, the share of the public saying they have heard any information about U.S. involvement in global health issues, as well as reported attention to health in developing countries generally, have both declined. In an election year and one in which the news continues to be dominated by domestic economic problems, garnering public attention for international health issues is likely to continue to be a struggle. One bright spot is that the public expresses at least some appetite for more coverage of these issues, with just over half saying the news media spends too little time covering health in developing countries, up from four in ten in 2010.

## KEY FINDINGS

### FOREIGN AID AND THE U.S. ROLE IN THE WORLD

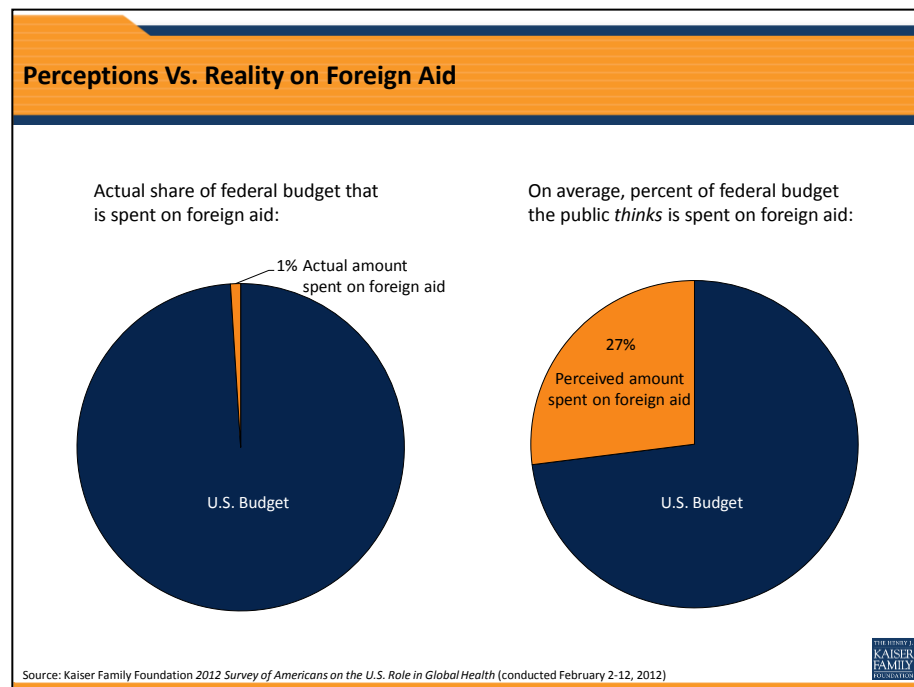
#### MOST SEE A STRONG ROLE FOR THE U.S. IN THE WORLD, BUT CONFUSION ABOUT FOREIGN AID SPENDING PERSISTS

A solid majority of the public (60 percent) want the U.S. to play at least a “major” role in world affairs, but just 17 percent want the U.S. to play the “leading” role. Fewer than four in ten would prefer to see our country play only a minor role (26 percent) or no role at all (11 percent) in solving international problems.

Previous Kaiser surveys have documented the public’s level of misunderstanding when it comes to the amount the U.S. spends on foreign aid. The 2012 survey again finds that the vast majority of the public overestimates the size of the federal budget that is spent on foreign aid, with just five percent correctly saying that foreign aid makes up one percent or less of the federal budget.<sup>1</sup> A majority (57 percent) give answers above 10 percent, including 28 percent who think that foreign aid makes up more than 30 percent of the federal budget. On average, Americans answer that 27 percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid. In reality, this is closer to the amount spent on Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, combined with the interest on the national debt.<sup>2</sup>

WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE U.S. PLAY IN TRYING TO SOLVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS?	
Percent who say the U.S. should take...	
The leading role in world affairs	17%
A major role, but not the leading role	43
A minor role	26
No role at all in world affairs	11
Don’t know/Refused	3

JUST YOUR BEST GUESS, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET IS SPENT ON FOREIGN AID?	
0-1% of the federal budget	5%
2-5%	11
6-10%	13
11-20%	17
21-30%	12
31-40%	10
41-50%	7
51% or more	11
Don’t know/Refused	13



<sup>1</sup> Total spending by the U.S. on foreign aid represents approximately one percent of the federal budget. This spending is made up of economic assistance, including for health and other development projects, as well as international security assistance, which includes foreign military financing and training, peacekeeping, and other activities. See Department of State, *FY 2013 Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations*, March/April 2012, <http://www.state.gov/f/releases/iab/fy2013cbj/index.htm>; and Department of State, *State and USAID – FY 2013 Budget*, February 2012, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/02/183808.htm>

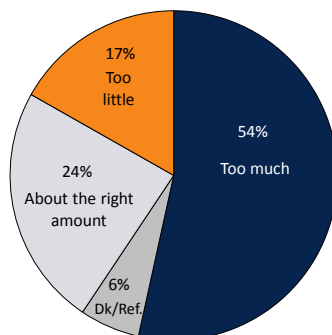
<sup>2</sup> Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Policy Basics: Where Do Our Federal Tax Dollars Go?* <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=1258>

## PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT FOREIGN AID SPENDING HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE VIEWS

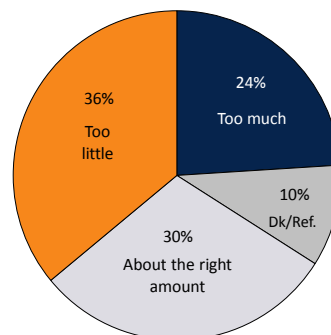
At the same time as they overestimate the amount of foreign aid spending, a majority of the public (54 percent) thinks the U.S. is now spending too much on foreign aid, and just 17 percent say we are spending too little, a finding that is consistent with previous Kaiser surveys. However, in this survey we took the additional step of giving respondents accurate information by telling them that about one percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid, and we found that this information has the potential to shift opinion dramatically. After hearing this information, the share saying the U.S. spends too little on foreign aid more than doubles, from 17 percent to 36 percent, while the share saying we spend too much drops in half, from 54 percent to 24 percent. Another three in ten think that one percent is about the right amount for the U.S. to be spending on foreign aid.<sup>3</sup>

### Information Can Change Perceptions About Amount Spent On Foreign Aid

Do you think the U.S. is now spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on foreign aid?



What if you heard that about one percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid? Would you still think that the U.S. is spending [too much/too little/about the right amount] on foreign aid, or would you now say that the U.S. spends...



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

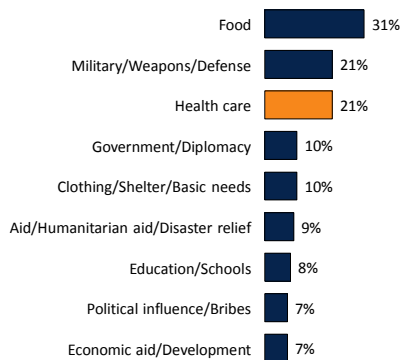


## FRAMING MATTERS IN PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF AID SPENDING, WITH MORE SUPPORT FOR SPENDING ON “IMPROVING HEALTH” VERSUS “FOREIGN AID”

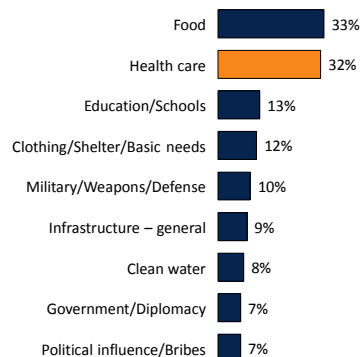
Perceptions—and misperceptions—about the amount of foreign aid spending may also be related to the public’s beliefs about what this money is spent on. When asked to name in their own words the types of things U.S. foreign aid pays for, military support is near the top of the list, tied with health care at 21 percent, and just behind food (31 percent). Other common responses include diplomacy, basic needs such as clothing and shelter, disaster relief, and education. When the question is framed around U.S. spending “to help developing countries” rather than “foreign aid,” food remains at the top, but responses related to health care and education move further up the list, while fewer people mention military aid (10 percent).

### Food, Military Aid, Health Care Top Of Mind Items For U.S. Foreign Aid Spending; Health Care Rises When Developing Countries Mentioned

Thinking about U.S. spending on foreign aid, what types of things do you think this money is spent on? (open-end)



Thinking about U.S. spending to help developing countries, such as those in Asia, Africa and Latin America, what types of things do you think this money is spent on? (open-end)



Note: Questions asked of separate half samples. Only top 9 responses listed.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)



<sup>3</sup> Other Kaiser surveys have asked more specifically about reductions in spending on foreign aid and other areas as a way to reduce the federal budget deficit, and have found that much larger shares of the public would support major reductions in spending on foreign aid compared with other areas. See, for example, *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll April 2011*, <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8180.cfm>

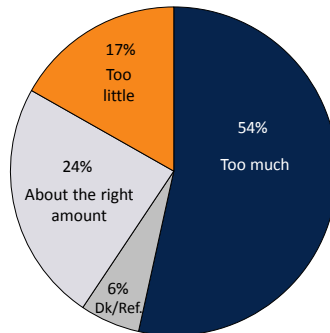


There is some evidence that these top-of-mind perceptions of how aid is spent are tied to people's level of support for foreign aid spending. For example, those who think the U.S. spends too much on foreign aid are less likely to mention things like food and health care, and more likely to mention diplomacy and bribes/using money to gain political influence.

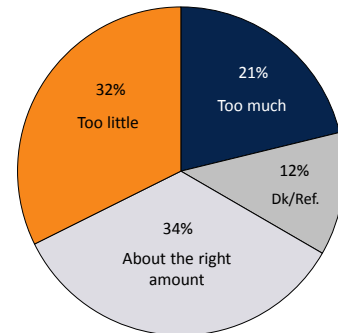
Framing also matters when it comes to how the spending question is asked. Kaiser surveys have consistently found that Americans are more likely to support U.S. spending for global health specifically than they are when asked about foreign aid in general. While most don't possess accurate knowledge about the actual amount of U.S. spending, when asked their own perceptions, a majority of the public says the U.S. is now spending too little (32 percent) or about the right amount (34 percent) on efforts to improve health for people in developing countries, while about one in five (21 percent) say we are spending too much.

### Specificity Matters: More Support For Spending To Improve Health Than Generic "Foreign Aid"

Do you think the U.S. is now spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on foreign aid?



Do you think the U.S. is now spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on efforts to improve health for people in developing countries?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)



## WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT INCREASING THE CURRENT AMOUNT OF U.S. SPENDING ON GLOBAL HEALTH?

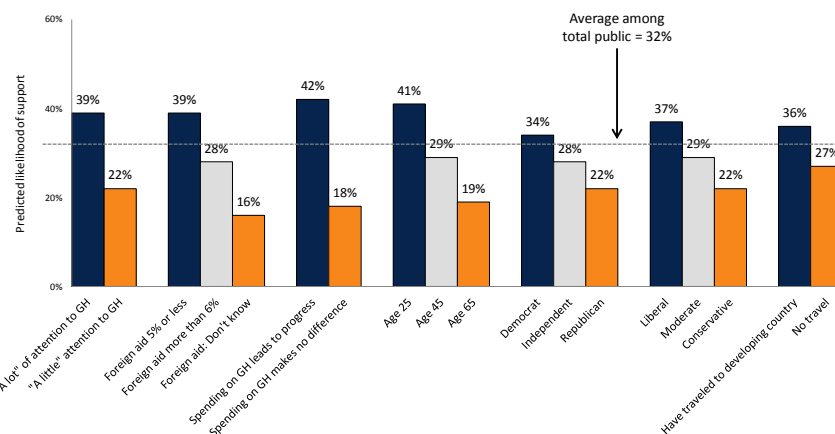
To address the question of which groups are most likely to support increased U.S. spending on improving health in developing countries, we analyzed which factors are associated with saying the U.S. currently spends “too little” on efforts to improve health in developing countries (32 percent of the public overall). We used multivariate logistic regression to look at the impact of demographic factors (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income, education, party identification, and ideology), as well as knowledge about foreign aid spending as a share of the federal budget, level of attention paid to global health issues, experience traveling to a developing country, and the belief that more spending will lead to meaningful progress.

After controlling for all these factors, we found that higher levels of attention to global health issues, more accurate knowledge about the share of the federal budget spent on foreign aid, and believing that more spending will lead to meaningful progress in improving health are all positively associated with support for increased U.S. spending on health in developing countries. To illustrate these differences, the chart below compares the predicted likelihood of support for increased spending for different groups, when all other factors are held constant. So, for example, the “average” person who pays a lot of attention to global health issues is almost twice as likely as the average person who pays just a little attention to support increased spending on global health (39 percent vs. 22 percent). Similarly, the average person who believes that more spending from the U.S. and other donor countries will lead to meaningful progress is more than twice as likely as the average person who thinks more spending won’t make a difference to support increased spending on global health (42 percent vs. 18 percent). And there is a similar difference between those with a more accurate perception of foreign aid spending and those with a less accurate perception. We also found several demographic factors to be positively associated with support for increased spending on global health, including younger age, identifying as a liberal or Democrat, and experience traveling to a developing country in the past five years.

This analysis reinforces another finding from this survey—that correcting misconceptions about foreign aid spending has the potential to change opinions. It also suggests that increasing the visibility of global health issues among the public, and convincing people of the effectiveness of such spending could be potentially successful strategies for those looking to gain broader support for U.S. global health efforts.

### Predictors of Support for Increased U.S. Spending on Global Health

After controlling for other factors, predicted likelihood of support for increased U.S. spending on health in developing countries by various characteristics:



Based on multivariate logistic regression analysis. Other variables included in the analysis were not significant predictors (gender, race, income, education).  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)



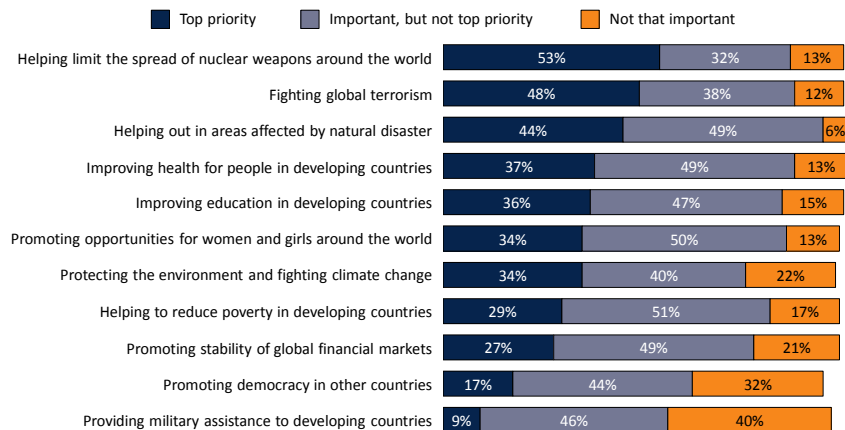
## VIEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH: PRIORITIES AND PROBLEMS

### HEALTH AMONG A LIST OF PRIORITIES THE PUBLIC SEES FOR U.S. IN WORLD AFFAIRS

When it comes to different ways in which the U.S. might engage in world affairs, issues of safety and security, such as limiting the spread of nuclear weapons (53 percent) and fighting global terrorism (48 percent), top the public's priority list, closely followed by disaster relief (44 percent). Following this is a cluster of issues seen as top priorities by more than a third of the public, including improving health in developing countries (37 percent), improving education in developing countries (36 percent), promoting opportunities for women and girls around the world (34 percent), improving education (36 percent), promoting opportunities for women and girls (34 percent), and fighting climate change (34 percent). Almost three in ten place a top priority on reducing poverty in developing countries (29 percent) and promoting global financial stability (27 percent), while fewer prioritize promoting democracy (17 percent) and providing military assistance to developing countries (9 percent).

#### Global Security and Disaster Top Priorities For World Affairs, Followed Closely By Many Other Priorities, Including Health

I'm going to read you some different things the president and Congress might try to do when it comes to world affairs. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their top priorities, important but not a top priority, or not that important?



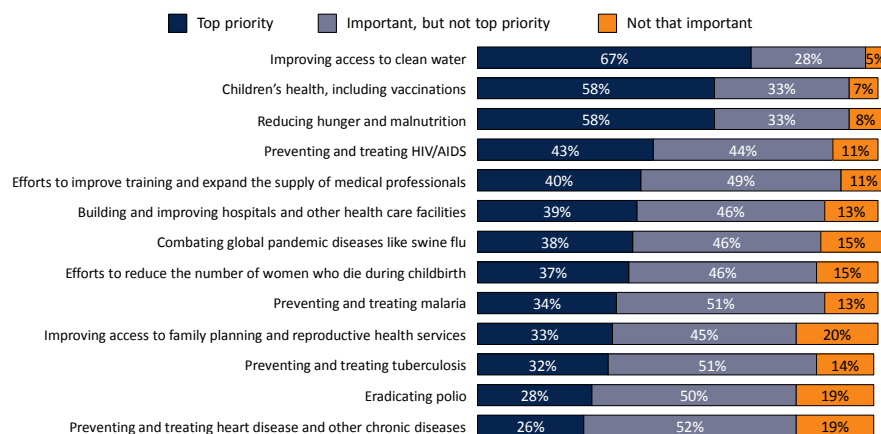
Note: Some items asked of half sample. Not at all important (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

### WITHIN HEALTH, ALL PRIORITIES SEEN AS IMPORTANT; CLEAN WATER, CHILDREN'S HEALTH, HUNGER RISE TO TOP

When asked about a variety of different priorities for U.S. efforts to improve health in developing countries, large majorities believe each area is important, and between a quarter and two-thirds say each should be "one of the top" priorities.

#### All Health Priorities Seen As Important; Clean Water, Nutrition, And Children's Health Rise To Top

I'm going to read you some different areas in which the U.S. might contribute to efforts to improve health in developing countries, and for each, I'd like you to tell me if this should be one of the top priorities, important but not a top priority, or not that important?

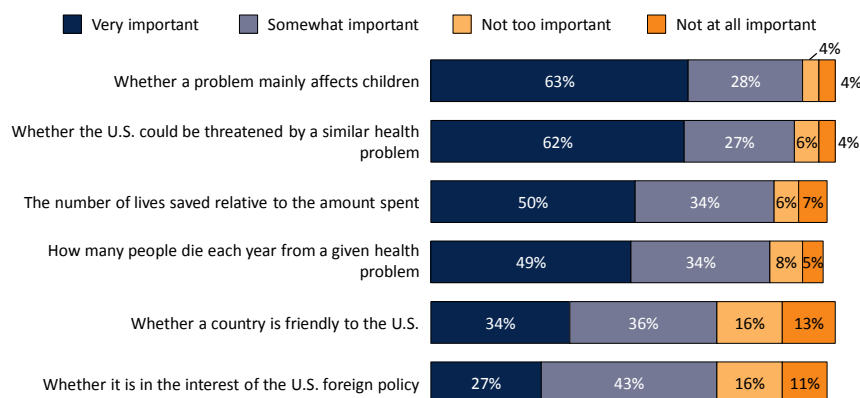


Note: Some items asked of half sample. Not at all important (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

Highest on the list of those considered *top* priorities are popular causes such as improving access to clean water (67 percent), reducing hunger and malnutrition (58 percent), and children's health, including vaccinations (58 percent). Several other areas are seen as top priorities by about four in ten Americans, including preventing and treating HIV/AIDS (43 percent), improving training and expanding the supply of medical professionals (40 percent), building and improving health care facilities (39 percent), combating global pandemic diseases like swine flu (38 percent), and reducing maternal deaths (37 percent). Somewhat lower on the list of top priorities (though still considered important by sizable

## Foreign Policy Interests Seen As Less Important Than Other Factors In Deciding How To Allocate Funds

I'm going to read you some different factors that could be used to determine how to spend U.S. dollars on improving health in developing countries. For each, please tell me if this should be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important.



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

majorities) are preventing and treating malaria (34 percent), improving access to family planning and other reproductive health services (33 percent), preventing and treating tuberculosis (32 percent), eradicating polio (28 percent), and preventing and treating chronic diseases (26 percent).

In terms of which criteria should be used to determine allocation of U.S. spending on health in developing countries, the public ranks two factors at the top of the list: whether a problem mainly affects children, and whether the U.S. could be threatened by a similar health problem (six in ten say each of these should be "very important"

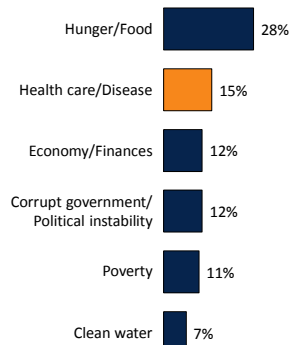
in determining how U.S. dollars are spent). Roughly half also say "the number of lives saved relative to the amount spent" and (50 percent) "how many people die each year from a given health problem" (49 percent) should be very important criteria. U.S. foreign policy concerns rank lower on the list, with about a third (34 percent) placing great importance on whether a country is friendly to the U.S., and just over a quarter (27 percent) saying the same about whether it is in the interest of U.S. foreign policy.

## HUNGER AND HEALTH SEEN AS BIGGEST PROBLEMS FACING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY; WITHIN HEALTH, HUNGER AND HIV SEEN AS TOP PROBLEMS

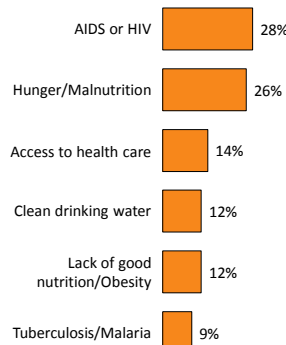
When it comes to the problems Americans perceive to be facing developing countries, hunger and lack of food top the list in an open-ended question (28 percent), followed by health and disease (15 percent), economic problems (12 percent), government corruption (12 percent), and poverty (11 percent). Hunger is also top-of-mind for many people when it comes to health specifically. When asked to name the most urgent *health* problems facing developing countries, HIV/AIDS (28 percent) and hunger/malnutrition (26 percent) are at the top of the list, followed by access to health care (14 percent), clean drinking water (12 percent), and obesity/lack of good nutrition (12 percent).

### HIV, Hunger Seen As Top Health Problems Facing Developing Countries

Thinking about developing countries such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, what do you think is the **most urgent problem** facing developing countries today? (*open-end*)



Thinking about developing countries such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, what do you think is the **most urgent HEALTH problem** facing developing countries today? (*open-end*)



Note: Questions asked of separate half samples. Only top 6 responses shown.

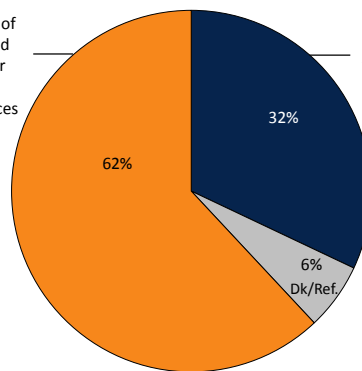
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

While HIV/AIDS continues to be at the top of the list of health problems perceived as most urgent for developing countries, the share mentioning HIV fell from 44 percent in 2010 to 28 percent in 2012. When asked more specifically how they view the HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries and the U.S. response, six in ten Americans (62 percent) say HIV/AIDS is “just one of many problems around the world that the U.S. and other wealthier countries must consider when deciding how to allocate resources,” while about half as many—32 percent—view it as “a global emergency requiring a special funding effort by the U.S. and other wealthier countries, regardless of other problems that exist.”

### Most See HIV/AIDS Epidemic As One Of Many Competing Priorities

Which comes closer to your own view:

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries is just one of many problems around the world that the U.S. and other wealthier countries must consider when deciding how to allocate resources



The HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries is a global emergency requiring a special funding effort by the U.S. and other wealthier countries, regardless of other problems that exist

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)



## VIEWS ON U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH SPENDING

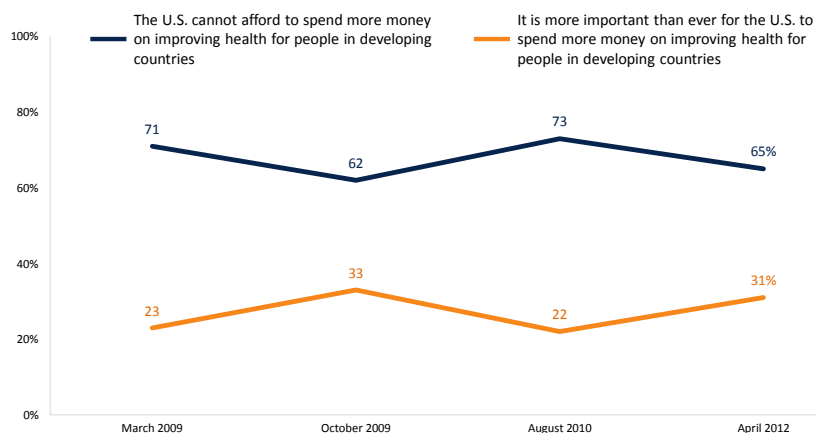
### DESPITE GENERAL SUPPORT FOR CURRENT LEVEL OF U.S. SPENDING ON GLOBAL HEALTH, SKEPTICISM ABOUT PROGRESS AND CONCERNS ABOUT ECONOMY MAKE AMERICANS WARY OF INCREASING SPENDING

While two-thirds of Americans say that the current level of U.S. spending to improve health in developing countries is too little or about right, economic concerns continue to make the public wary of the idea of *increasing* spending abroad. In 2012, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) say that given the serious economic problems facing the country and the world, the U.S. cannot afford to spend more money on health in developing countries, while three in ten feel the current economic conditions make it more important than ever for the U.S. to increase such spending.

As previous Kaiser surveys have also shown, the public's reluctance to increase U.S. spending on global health efforts may be related to the fact that Americans are divided as to whether more spending from the U.S. and other wealthier countries will lead to meaningful progress in improving health in developing countries (49 percent) or won't make much difference (47 percent).

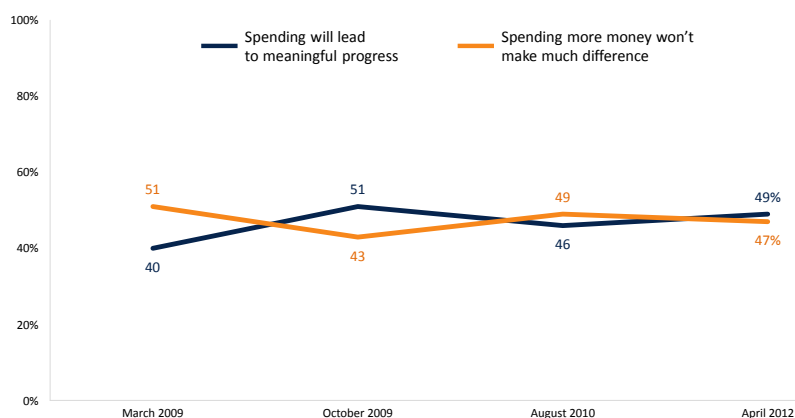
#### Economic Problems Continue To Make Public Wary Of Increasing Global Health Spending

Which of the following comes closer to your view? Given the serious economic problems facing the country and the world right now...

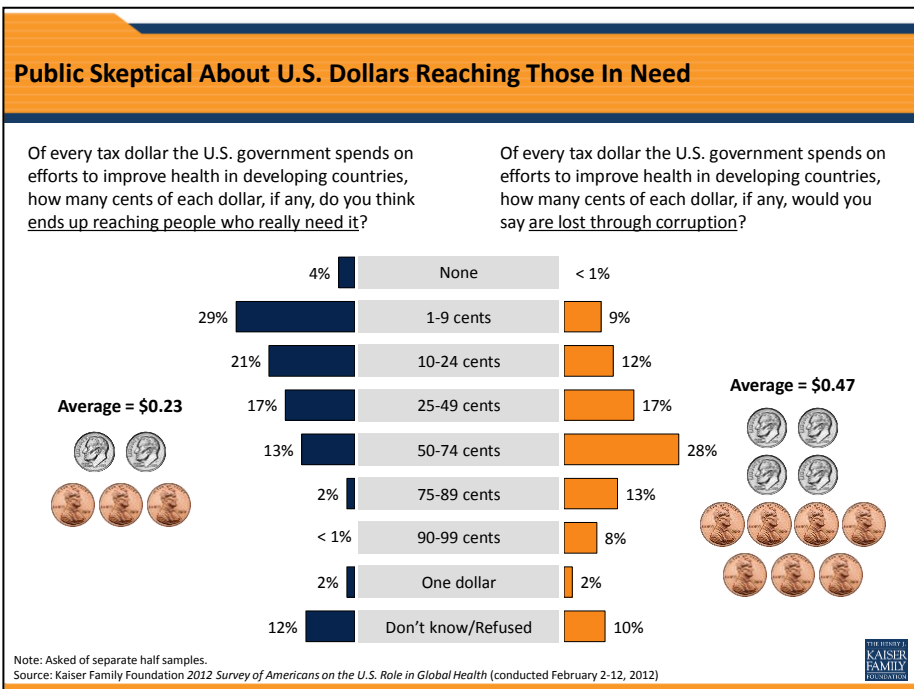


#### Public Remains Split On Whether More Spending Will Lead To Progress

In general, do you think more spending from the U.S. and other wealthier countries will lead to meaningful progress in improving health for people in developing countries, or that spending more money won't make much difference?



This skepticism about the ability of additional spending to lead to progress ties in with another key finding from the survey: many Americans do not believe that U.S. money is getting to where it needs to be on the ground, and most perceive that a large share of this money is being lost through corruption. On average, Americans believe just 23 cents of every tax dollar the U.S. spends on improving health in developing countries ends up reaching people who really need it. The public believes twice as much money—47 cents of every tax dollar spent on these efforts—is lost through corruption.



#### TRENDS IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. SPENDING ON HEALTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

On several measures of attitudes toward U.S. spending on health in developing countries, Americans' views appear to have gotten somewhat more generous since the summer of 2010. For example, 32 percent now say the U.S. spends too little in this area, up 9 percentage points since 2010, and 31 percent now say the economic crisis makes it more important than ever for the U.S. to spend more on health in developing countries, also up 9 percentage points. These marks do not represent new high points in support for increased spending, however, but rather a return to the levels seen in the fall of 2009.

TRENDS IN VIEWS ON U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH SPENDING				
	Mar-09	Oct-09	2010	2012
Amount U.S. spends to improve health in developing countries is...				
...too much	23%	25%	28%	21%
...about right	39	32	42	34
...too little	26	34	23	32
U.S. should spend its tax dollars on improving health...				
...in the U.S. only	n/a	n/a	48	42
...in the U.S. and globally	n/a	n/a	49	55
Given the serious economic conditions facing the country and world...				
...U.S. cannot afford to spend more on health in developing countries	71	62	73	65
...it is more important than ever for the U.S. to spend more	23	33	22	31

#### DEMOCRATS MORE LIKELY THAN REPUBLICANS TO PLACE TOP PRIORITY ON HEALTH ISSUES; STILL, MAJORITIES ACROSS PARTIES THINK CURRENT LEVEL OF U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH SPENDING IS TOO LOW OR ABOUT RIGHT

While many questions of U.S. policy, particularly those that involve spending, tend to be polarizing and characterized by large differences by political party, partisan differences in opinion on U.S. spending to improve health in developing countries appear to be more modest. For example, while those who identify as Republicans are somewhat more likely to favor a decrease in current levels of spending and Democrats are more likely to favor an increase, a healthy majority of Democrats (74 percent), independents (66 percent), and Republicans (59 percent) perceive current levels of spending to be too little or about right.

Framing the question in terms of U.S. tax dollars produces somewhat more of a division, with a majority of Democrats (60 percent) and independents (57 percent) saying tax dollars should be spent on improving health in the U.S. *and* globally, while Republicans are more split between spending tax dollars on improving health in the U.S. only (48 percent) or at home and abroad (47 percent). Still, these partisan differences are much smaller than the differences that surveys tend to measure on many other policy issues, such as recent debates about the domestic health reform law.

Some underlying partisan differences in perceptions of the impact of U.S. spending on health in developing countries may help explain the small but measurable differences in support for spending. For example, while a majority (57 percent) of Democrats believe that more spending from the U.S. and other wealthier countries will lead to meaningful progress in improving health, a similar share of Republicans (58 percent) feel that more spending won't make much difference. And across the board, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to feel that spending money on health in developing countries brings benefits to the U.S., including protecting the health of Americans, improving the U.S. image in the world, helping U.S. national security, and helping the U.S. economy by creating new markets for U.S. goods.

When asked about various priorities for U.S. efforts to improve health in developing countries, majorities across all parties say each of the 13 priorities asked about in the survey is important. However, there are certain areas that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to rank as "top priorities." The biggest partisan differences are in the share placing a top priority on reducing hunger and malnutrition (76 percent of Democrats vs. 39 percent of Republicans), improving access to family planning and reproductive health services (40 percent vs. 16 percent), preventing and treating heart disease and other chronic diseases (35 percent vs. 12 percent), and improving access to clean water (76 percent vs. 58 percent).

VIEWS ON U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH SPENDING BY POLITICAL PARTY ID					
	Total	Dems	Inds	Reps	D-R
Amount U.S. spends to improve health in developing countries is...					
...too much	21%	15%	22%	28%	-13
...about right	34	34	32	40	-6
...too little	32	40	34	19	+21
<i>TOTAL TOO LITTLE OR ABOUT RIGHT</i>	66	74	66	59	+15
U.S. should spend its tax dollars on improving health...					
...in the U.S. only	42	38	42	48	-10
...in the U.S. and globally	55	60	57	47	+13
More spending from the U.S. and other countries...					
...will lead to meaningful progress in improving health	49	57	50	37	+20
...won't make much difference	47	38	48	58	-20
Percent who say spending money on health in developing countries...					
Helps protect the health of Americans	70	82	66	62	+20
Helps the U.S. economy	42	50	42	35	+15
Helps U.S. national security	45	51	43	39	+12
Helps improve the U.S. image in the world	58	63	59	52	+11
Percent who say each of the following should be "one of the top priorities" for U.S. efforts to improve health in developing countries:					
Reducing hunger and malnutrition	58	76	54	39	+37
Improving access to family planning and reproductive health services	33	40	35	16	+24
Preventing and treating heart disease and other chronic diseases	26	35	26	12	+23
Improving access to clean water	67	76	65	58	+18
Efforts to improve training and expand the supply of medical professionals	40	47	40	31	+16
Preventing and treating malaria	34	39	34	23	+16
Eradicating polio	28	34	26	18	+16
Children's health, including vaccinations	58	64	59	50	+14
Preventing and treating HIV/AIDS	43	47	45	37	+10
Efforts to reduce the number of women who die during childbirth	37	38	38	31	+7
Building and improving hospitals and other health care facilities	39	40	39	34	+6
Combating global pandemic diseases like swine flu	38	44	36	39	+5
Preventing and treating tuberculosis	32	31	31	30	+1



## MOST THINK A DECREASE IN U.S. FUNDING WOULD RESULT IN MORE ILLNESS AND DEATH, AND FEW THINK OTHERS WOULD STEP IN TO FILL GAP

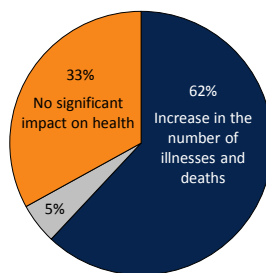
At the same time that they are skeptical about more spending leading to progress, a majority of the public (62 percent) agrees that if the president and Congress decide to reduce spending on assistance to developing countries, there would be an increase in the number of illnesses and deaths, while a third (33 percent) think such a decrease would not have a significant impact on the health of people in these countries. Further, two-thirds (67 percent) feel that a decrease in spending on assistance to developing countries would not have much impact on the federal budget deficit, while three in ten (29 percent) believe the deficit would be significantly reduced.

Only about a quarter (26 percent) of the public believes that if the U.S. were to decrease spending on assistance to developing countries, other wealthier countries would step in to fill the gap. In fact, the largest share of Americans—44 percent—believe that compared to other wealthier countries, the U.S. already contributes more than its fair share to efforts to improve health in developing countries. Another third (35 percent) believe the U.S. share is about right, while just 14 percent feel the U.S. currently contributes less than its fair share.<sup>4</sup>

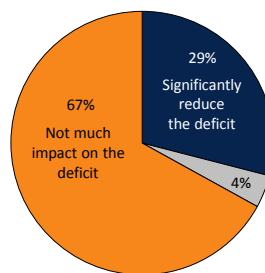
### Most Think Reduction In U.S. Spending Would Lead To Increase In Illness And Death In Developing Countries

If the president and Congress decide to reduce spending on assistance to developing countries...

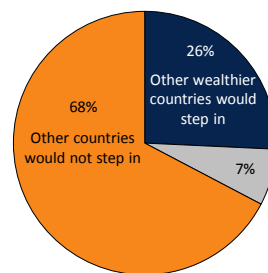
...do you think there would be an increase in the number of illnesses and deaths in developing countries, or do you think there would be no significant impact on the health of people in developing countries?



...do you think it will significantly reduce the federal budget deficit, or will it not have much impact on the deficit?



...do you think other wealthier countries would step in to fill the gap, or not?

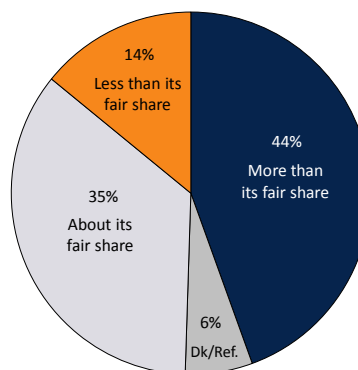


Dk/Ref.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

### Most Think U.S. Doing Its Fair Share Or More On Global Health

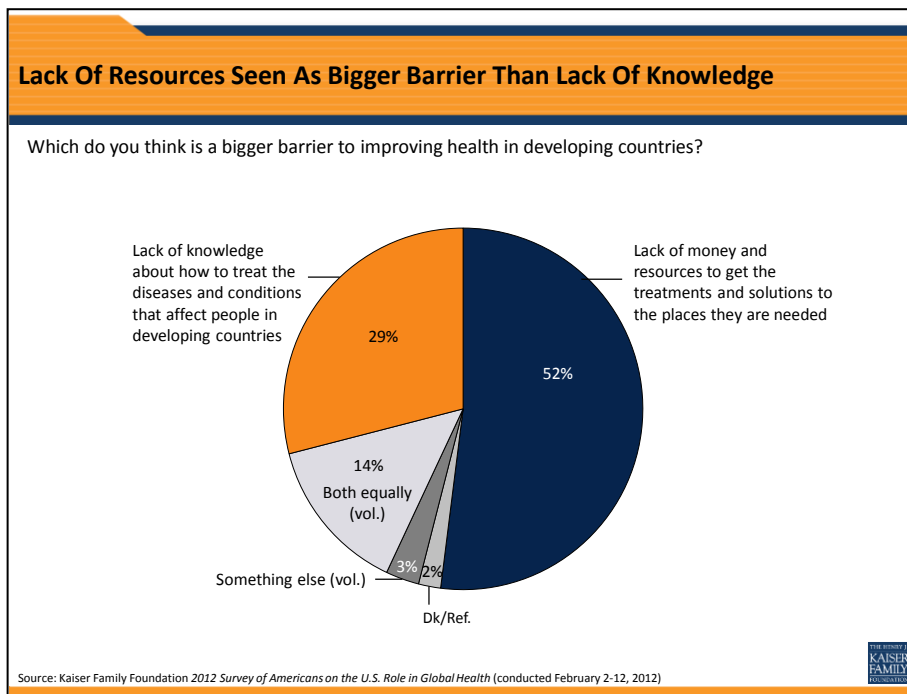
Compared to other wealthier countries such as Canada, England, France, Germany, and Japan, do you think the U.S. contributes more than its fair share, less than its fair share, or about its fair share to efforts to improve health in developing countries?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

<sup>4</sup> In absolute dollar amounts, the U.S. government gave more than any other donor country in Official Development Assistance (ODA) for health from 2002-2009. When looking at health ODA as a share of each country's GDP, the U.S. ranked eighth during this time period. For more information, see Kaiser Family Foundation *Donor Funding for Health in Low- & Middle-Income Countries, 2002-2009*, <http://www.kff.org/globalhealth/7679.cfm>.

More generally, Americans seem to recognize that lack of resources is a major roadblock to making progress on health. When asked which is the bigger barrier to improving health in developing countries, more than half (52 percent) choose lack of money and resources, while three in ten (29 percent) choose lack of knowledge about how to treat the diseases and conditions affecting people in these countries.



## APPROACHES TO AID AND REASONS FOR U.S. TO SPEND

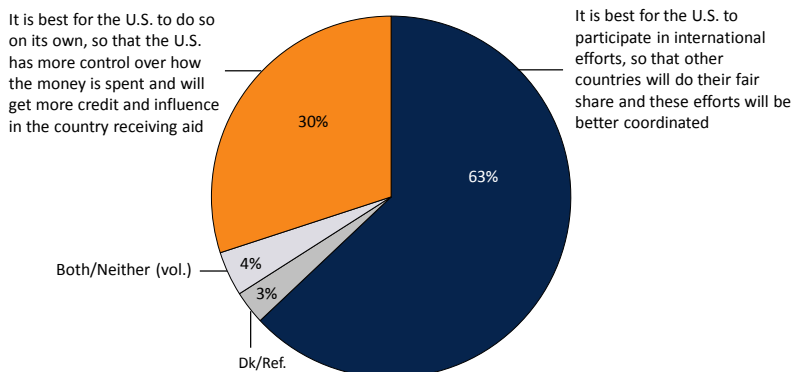
### AMERICANS CONTINUE TO FAVOR MULTILATERAL APPROACHES AND SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Perhaps related to the sense that the U.S. is already bearing more than its fair share of the burden, Americans continue to prefer multilateral approaches to global health aid. More than six in ten (63 percent) say that when giving aid to improve health in developing countries, “it is best for the U.S. to participate in international efforts, so that other countries will do their fair share and these efforts will be better coordinated,” while half as many (30 percent) say it is best for the U.S. “to do so on its own, so that the U.S. has more control over how money is spent and will get more credit and influence in the country receiving aid.”

In another show of support for coordinated, multilateral efforts, large shares say that the U.S. should give money to international organizations. Support is high regardless of whether the specific organizations mentioned in the question are the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (73 percent say we should give money) or the United Nations and the World Health Organization (71 percent). Two-thirds (67 percent) also think the U.S. should give directly to U.S.-based non-profits operating programs in developing countries. The public is somewhat more divided on whether the U.S. should give money directly to local non-profits that are based in developing countries and not in the U.S. (42 percent say we should, 47 percent say we shouldn’t). And about half (51 percent) would prefer the U.S. *not* give directly to religious or faith-based organizations, while just over a third (38 percent) say we should. Perhaps not surprisingly, Evangelical Christians (50 percent) and those who place a strong personal importance on religion (53 percent) are more likely than others to favor giving to faith-based organizations. The public comes down clearly against giving money directly to governments in developing countries, with 67 percent saying we should not.

#### Most Prefer U.S. To Participate In International Efforts

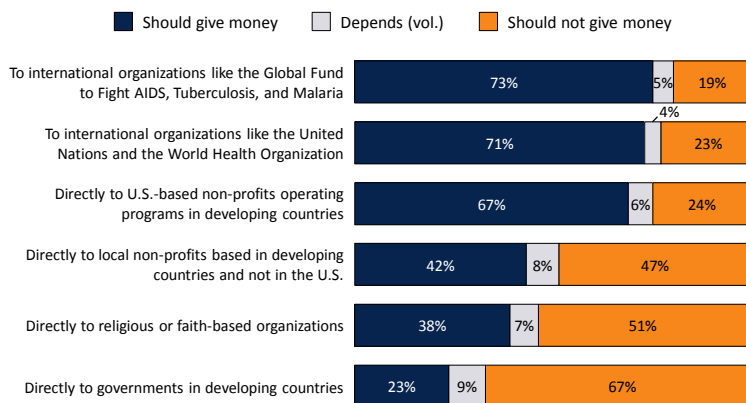
Which comes closer to your opinion? When giving aid to improve health in developing countries...



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

#### Public Wants Funds To Go To International Organizations And U.S.-Based Non-Profits, Not Developing Country Governments

When it comes to efforts to improve health in developing countries, do you think the U.S. should or should not give money to each of the following?



Note: Some items asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)

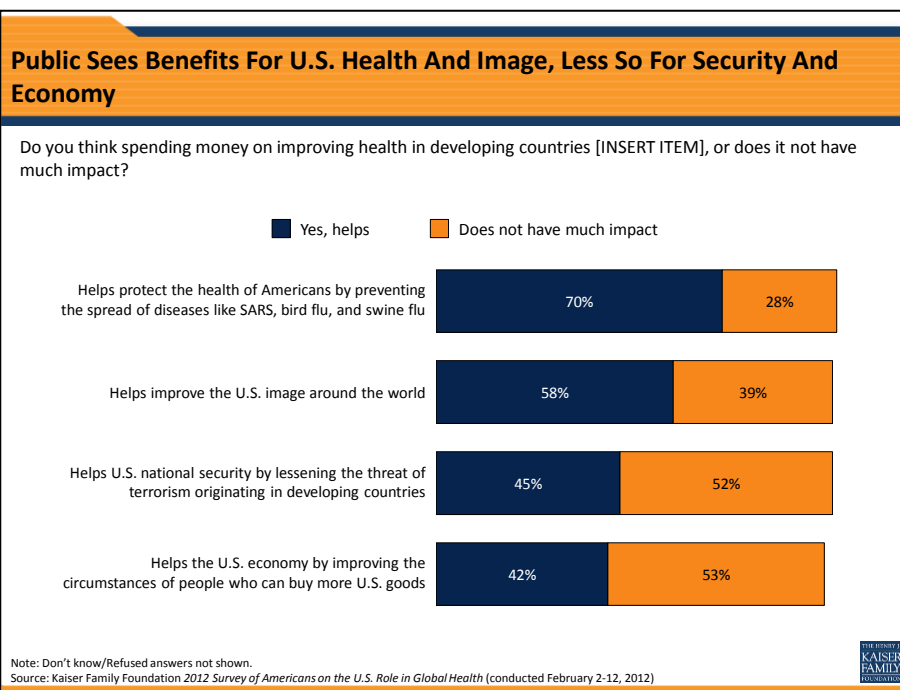
While majorities across political party affiliation support multilateral approaches to aid, there are some measurable partisan differences in attitudes in this area. Though it is a minority view across all parties, a larger share of Republicans (37 percent) compared with Democrats (24 percent) say it is better for the U.S. to give aid on its own, in order to retain control over how money is spent and receive more credit in the countries receiving aid. Republicans (55 percent) are also more likely than Democrats (38 percent) to feel that the U.S. is already contributing more than its fair share to global health efforts compared to other donor countries. And while still a majority, smaller shares of Republicans than Democrats say that when giving money to improve health in developing countries, the U.S. should give money to international organizations like the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund.

VIEWS ON MULTILATERAL APPROACHES BY POLITICAL PARTY ID					
	Total	Dems	Inds	Reps	D-R
When giving aid to improve health in developing countries, it is best for the U.S. to...					
...participate in international efforts	63%	70%	64%	54%	+16
...do so on its own	30	24	31	37	-13
Compared to other wealthier countries, the U.S. contributes...					
...more than its fair share	44	38	44	55	-17
...about its fair share	35	37	34	34	+3
...less than its fair share	14	18	16	6	+12
U.S. should/should not give money to international organizations like UN and WHO...					
...should	71	87	73	52	+35
...should not	23	10	23	42	-32
U.S. should/should not give money to international organizations like the Global Fund...					
...should	73	84	73	63	+21
...should not	19	10	23	23	-13

#### AMERICANS SEE BENEFITS AT HOME, BUT MOST THINK U.S. SHOULD GIVE BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Americans see several clear benefits to the U.S. from engaging in global health efforts. Seven in ten believe that spending money on health in developing countries helps protect the health of Americans at home by preventing the spread of diseases like SARS, bird flu, and swine flu, and nearly six in ten (58 percent) say such spending helps improve the U.S. image around the world.

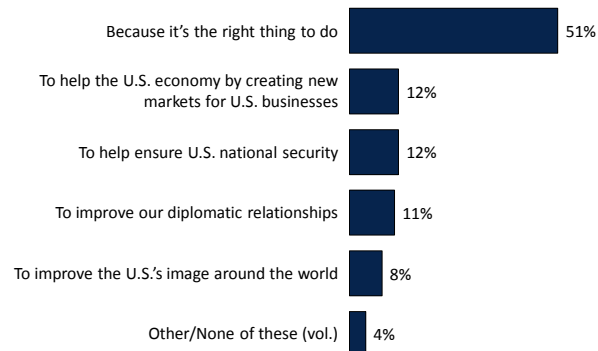
The public is somewhat less convinced that U.S. spending on health in developing countries helps U.S. national security by lessening the threat of terrorism originating in these countries (45 percent say it does, 52 percent say it does not), and that it helps the U.S. economy by creating new markets for U.S. goods (42 percent say it does, 53 percent say it does not).



Despite recognizing some potential benefits to the U.S., the moral argument continues to trump such “self-interest” arguments when it comes to reasons for the U.S. to give. Half (51 percent) say the most important reason for the U.S. to spend money on health in developing countries is “because it’s the right thing to do,” while much smaller shares see the top reason as helping the U.S. economy (12 percent), ensuring U.S. national security (12 percent), improving diplomatic relationships (11 percent) or improving the U.S. image in the world (8 percent).

### Moral Reason For Global Health Spending Trumps Self-Interest

Next, I’m going to read you some reasons why the U.S. might spend money on improving health for people in developing countries, and I’d like you to tell me which you think is the most important reason.



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health (conducted February 2-12, 2012)



## VISIBILITY AND ATTENTION TO GLOBAL HEALTH

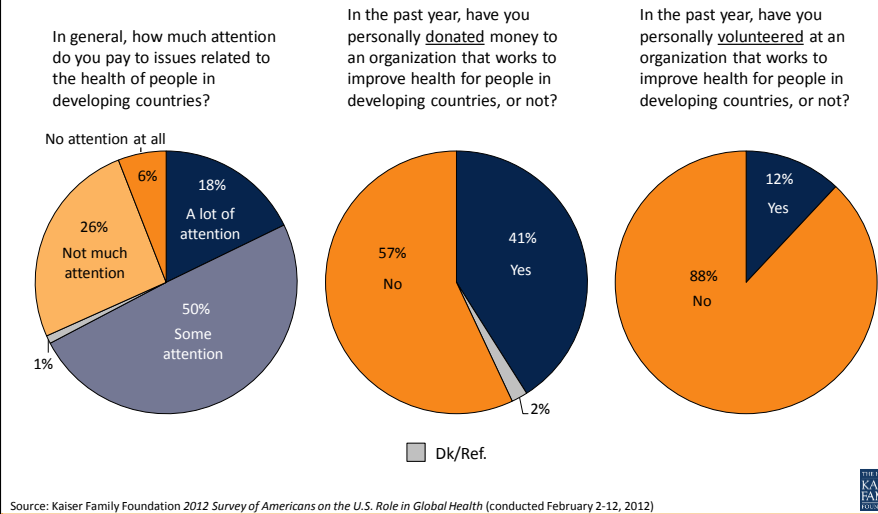
### DECLINING AWARENESS/VISIBILITY OF GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES

One challenge for those looking to increase the public's level of support for U.S. spending on global health is that there are some indications that visibility of the issue may have declined somewhat since the summer of 2010. This decline may not be surprising given that 2012 is an election year, and one in which the news has continued to be dominated by the economic problems facing the country. While a majority of the public reports paying at least "some" attention to issues related to health in developing countries, fewer than one in five (18 percent) say they pay "a lot" of attention to these issues. The share saying they pay at least "some" attention is down somewhat, from 75 percent in August 2010 to 68 percent in 2012.

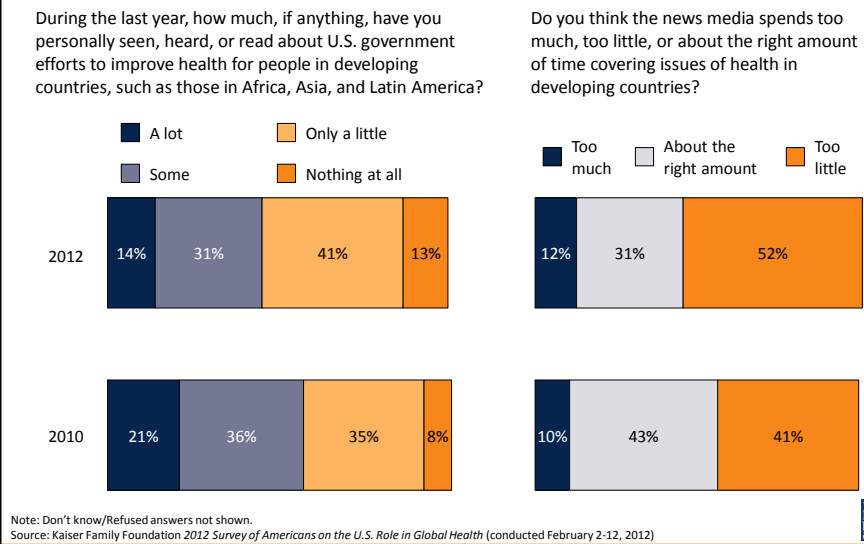
Similarly, there's been a decline in the share saying they've heard more than a little in the past year about U.S. government efforts to improve health for people in developing countries. Currently, 45 percent say they've heard "a lot" (14 percent) or "some" (31 percent), down from a total of 57 percent who reported hearing "a lot" (21 percent) or "some" (36 percent) in 2010.

In light of this decline in visibility, the public has become somewhat more likely to say the news media is not devoting enough time to covering issues of health in developing countries. Currently, roughly half (52 percent) say the news media spends too little time on the topic, up from 41 percent in 2010. At the same time, the share who say the media spends about the right amount of time on the issue declined from 43 percent to 31 percent, while about one in ten continue to believe the media devotes too much time to the issue.

### Reported Level Of Engagement In Global Health Issues



### Visibility Of U.S. Global Health Efforts Declined Since 2010; More Now Say Media Coverage Too Little



### AGE DIFFERENCES IN SUPPORT, OPTIMISM, AND ATTENTION

While there is a lot of agreement across various demographic groups on questions of U.S. global health policy, some distinct age trends emerge in this survey. Compared with their older counterparts, younger adults are more likely to support increasing U.S. spending on health in developing countries, more optimistic that spending will lead to progress and will bring various benefits to the U.S., and less skeptical about the amount of U.S. global health spending lost through corruption.

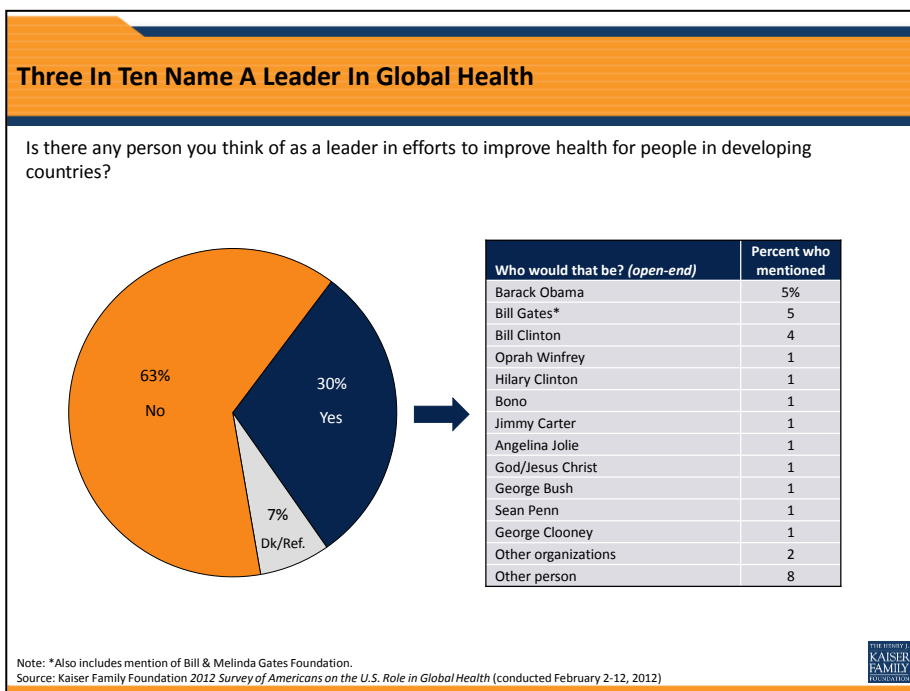
For example, more than half of adults under age 30 (53 percent) think the U.S. currently spends too little on health in developing countries, compared with just 18 percent of those ages 65 and older. And while a majority of those ages 50 and older feel that the U.S. contributes more than its fair share compared to other donor nations, just about a quarter of 18-29 year-olds feel the same way. Perhaps reflecting the optimism of youth, a clear majority (62 percent) of adults under 30 believe that more spending from the U.S. and others will lead to meaningful progress in improving health in developing countries, while a similar majority of seniors (57 percent) think more spending won't make much difference (those between the ages of 30-64 are more split). Younger Americans are also more likely than older ones to believe that spending to improve health in developing countries helps improve the U.S. image in the world, protects the health of Americans at home, and is helpful for the U.S. economy and national security. And seniors are more than twice as likely as those under 30 to believe that at least 75 cents of each U.S. dollar spent on health in developing countries is lost through corruption (34 percent vs. 15 percent).

At the same time, younger adults are *less* likely than older Americans to report paying close attention to the issue of health in developing countries, and less likely to report hearing news about U.S. global health efforts in the past year. Just a third (33 percent) of those ages 18-29 say they've heard "a lot" or "some" in the past year about U.S. government efforts to improve health in developing countries, compared with six in ten of those ages 65 and older.

VIEWS ON U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH SPENDING BY AGE				
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
U.S. spending to improve health in developing countries is...				
...too much	12%	22%	23%	29%
...about right	27	35	38	36
...too little	53	30	29	18
Compared to other wealthier countries, the U.S. contributes...				
...more than its fair share	26	43	55	52
...about its fair share	42	37	31	32
...less than its fair share	23	14	10	9
More spending from the U.S. and other countries...				
...will lead to meaningful progress in improving health	62	51	46	34
...won't make much difference	37	44	51	57
Percent who say spending money on health in developing countries...				
Helps improve the U.S. image in the world	72	64	52	44
Helps protect the health of Americans	73	81	72	65
Helps the U.S. economy	51	46	39	32
Helps U.S. national security	56	46	41	34
Percent who say cents of U.S. tax dollars spent on health in developing countries that are lost through corruption is...				
...less than 25 cents	33	28	10	13
...25-74 cents	41	43	55	40
...75 cents or more	15	19	29	34
During the last year, how much seen, heard, or read about U.S. government efforts to improve health in developing countries...				
...a lot/some	33	41	49	60
...only a little/none	66	58	50	39
How much attention you usually pay to health in developing countries...				
...a lot/some	61	65	70	77
...not much/none	39	35	30	21

### THREE IN TEN NAME A LEADER ON GLOBAL HEALTH; BARACK OBAMA, BILL GATES, BILL CLINTON TOP LIST

Perhaps surprisingly given this low level of visibility, three in ten Americans are able to name a person they think of as a leader in efforts to improve health for people in developing countries. At the top of the list are President Barack Obama (named by 5 percent) and entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Gates (named by 5 percent, which includes mentions of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), followed by former President Bill Clinton (4 percent). Various other individuals were mentioned by about 1 percent of the public each, including former presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Bono, Angelina Jolie, Sean Penn, and George Clooney.





## CONCLUSIONS

Since the Kaiser Family Foundation began tracking public opinion on the U.S. role in global health in 2009, we have consistently found solid levels of support among the public for current levels of U.S. global health spending, along with the caveat that the current economic situation makes most Americans wary of increasing such spending. This survey illuminates several opportunities and challenges for those looking to increase the public's level of support for U.S. global health efforts. While misperceptions about the size of U.S. foreign aid continue to be a challenge, an opportunity can be found in the fact that accurate information has the potential to "move the needle" in this area. By simply telling people that foreign aid makes up only one percent of the budget, opinion shifts from a majority saying the U.S. currently spends too much on foreign aid to two-thirds saying we spend either too little or about the right amount.

Another opportunity lies in the degree to which there is bipartisan agreement among the public about current levels of U.S. spending on health in developing countries. In contrast to many domestic policy issues which tend to be more divisive, those looking to rally support for U.S. global health efforts may find potential supporters among Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike. And those looking toward the future may be encouraged by the fact that young adults are among those most likely to support increased U.S. involvement. Our analysis also finds that those who pay a lot of attention to global health issues and those who believe more spending will lead to meaningful progress are more likely to support an increase in U.S. funding for global health, suggesting that increasing the visibility of these issues and convincing people of the effectiveness of spending could be potentially successful strategies in gaining broader public support.

On the challenge side, perhaps the biggest challenge lies in the public's skepticism about the amount of U.S. money that actually reaches people on the ground in developing countries versus being lost through corruption. It may be hard to convince the public to support an increase U.S. funding for global health as long as they continue to perceive that less than a quarter of every U.S. tax dollar spent on health in developing countries actually reaches those in need. And finally, declining attention to and visibility of global health issues presents an ongoing challenge for those looking to raise awareness of these issues, and one that is likely to continue throughout 2012 as the media focuses on the state of the U.S. economy and, increasingly, on the presidential election campaign.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Kaiser Family Foundation *2012 Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Liz Hamel, Bianca DiJulio, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston, with input and guidance from Jennifer Kates, Ph.D., and Alicia Carbaugh. The survey was conducted February 2-12, 2012, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,205 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (700) and cell phone (505, including 239 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Braun Research, Inc. under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population data from the Census Bureau's 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, and region along with data from the 2000 Census on population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the January-June 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. Weighted and unweighted values for key demographic variables are shown in the table below.

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS		
	Unweighted	Weighted
GENDER		
Male	53.1%	49.3%
Female	46.9%	50.7%
AGE		
18-24	8.1%	12.6%
25-34	12.9%	16.1%
35-44	13.4%	17.8%
45-54	17.8%	17.9%
55-64	21.6%	16.2%
65+	23.5%	16.7%
EDUCATION		
Less than HS Grad.	7.3%	12.3%
HS Grad.	28.6%	33.7%
Some College	24.8%	24.4%
College Grad.	38.1%	28.5%
RACE/ETHNICITY		
White/not Hispanic	72.3%	67.0%
Black/not Hispanic	9.4%	11.0%
Hispanic	12.0%	13.7%
Other/not Hispanic	3.8%	5.9%
PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
Democrat	31.5%	32.0%
Independent	34.9%	35.3%
Republican	23.6%	22.1%
Other	6.1%	5.9%

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margin of sampling errors for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

The response rate calculated based on the American Association for Public Opinion Research Response Rate 3 formula (AAPOR RR3) was 24 percent for the landline sample and 21 percent for the cell phone sample.

## SURVEY TOPLINE RESULTS

### NOTES FOR READING THE TOPLINE:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (\*)
- “Vol.” indicates a response was volunteered by the respondent, not offered as an explicit choice
- Questions presented in the order asked; question numbers may not be sequential
- Trends in this document come from surveys listed on the last page.

1. Thinking about developing countries such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America... what do you think is the MOST urgent problem facing developing countries today? (OPEN-ENDED; DO NOT READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES. WAIT FOR REPLY BEFORE PROBE) Is there another problem facing developing countries you think is almost as urgent? (RECORD UP TO 2 RESPONSES)

*Based on half sample A (n=598)*

	02/12
Hunger/Food	28
Health care/Disease	15
Economy/Finances/Currency	12
Corrupt/Bad Government/Leadership issues/Political instability	12
Poverty	11
Clean water	7
Unemployment/Jobs/wages	5
Education	5
Violence/Lawlessness/War	5
Infrastructure/Policy/Development/Resources	4
Interference from the U.S. and others/concentrate on our own country	2
Environmental issues/Pollution/Global warming	2
Overpopulations/Population growth	2
Religious differences/Lack of Christianity	1
Other	9
Don't know/Refused	15

*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.*

2. Thinking about developing countries such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America... what do you think is the MOST urgent health problem facing developing countries today? (OPEN-ENDED; DO NOT READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES. WAIT FOR REPLY BEFORE PROBE). Is there another health problem facing developing countries you think is almost as urgent? (RECORD UP TO 2 RESPONSES)

*Based on half sample B*

	02/12	08/10
AIDS or HIV	28	44
Hunger/Malnutrition	26	26
Health care – access	14	15
Clean drinking water	12	18
Lack of good nutrition/junk foods/obesity/weight disorder	12	9
Tuberculosis/Malaria	9	9
Cancer	4	5
Health care – cost (including cost of Rx drugs)	3	6
Health insurance/The uninsured	3	2
Pollution/Global warming/Environment	3	1
Reproductive health/Family planning	2	-
Heart disease	1	2
Diabetes	1	1
Drugs	*	1
Smoking	*	-
Other	11	9
Don't know/Refused	14	13
	(607)	(591)

*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.*

READ TO ALL: Next, I'm going to ask you some questions about the role the United States plays in the world today...

3. I would like you to think about the role the U.S. should play in trying to solve international problems. Do you think the US should—take the leading role in world affairs, take a major role, but not the leading role, take a minor role, or take no role at all in world affairs?

	02/12
Leading role	17
Major role	43
Minor role	26
No role	11
Don't know/Refused	3

4. Just your best guess, what percentage of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid? (OPEN-END, RECORD PERCENTAGE BETWEEN 0 AND 100)

	02/12	03/09
0-1%	5	3
2-5%	11	16
6-10%	13	9
11-20%	17	13
21-30%	12	9
31-40%	10	4
41-50%	7	7
51% or more	11	8
Don't know/Refused	13	31

5. Do you think the U.S. is now spending [ROTATE: (too much,)]/ (too little,)] or about the right amount on foreign aid?

	02/12	08/10	10/09	03/09	05/04	06/02
Too much	54	61	47	52	62	56
Too little	17	10	15	19	10	8
About the right amount	24	22	27	17	18	22
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	7	10	11	11	14

6. What if you heard that about one percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign aid? Would you still think that the U.S. is spending (INSERT ANSWER FROM Q.8: too much/too little/about the right amount) on foreign aid, or would you now say that the U.S. spends (INSERT OTHER ANSWERS NOT GIVEN IN Q.8 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.8: too much (OR) /too little (OR)/ about the right amount)?

*Based on those who said "too much," "too little," or "about the right amount" to Q5 (N=1127)*

	02/12
Too much	26
Too little	38
About the right amount	32
Don't know/Refused	4

Q5/Q6. Combo Table based on total

	02/12
Gave answer to Q5 (U.S. now spending too much/too little/right amount)	94
After hearing 1%: Too much	24
After hearing 1%: Too little	36
After hearing 1%: About the right amount	30
After hearing 1%: Don't know/Refused	4
Don't know/Refused Q5	6

7. Thinking about U.S. spending on foreign aid, what types of things do you think this money is spent on? (PROBE: "just your best guess" or "what's the first thing that comes to mind?") (RECORD UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

*Based on half sample A (N=598)*

	02/12
Food	31
Military/Weapons/Defense	21
Health care	21
Government/Diplomacy	10
Clothing/Shelter/Basic needs	10
Aid/Humanitarian aid/Disaster relief	9
Education/Schools	8
Political influence/Bribes/Lining the pockets of rich	7
Economic aid/Development	7
Infrastructure – general	5
Clean water	4
Agriculture	2
Technology/Electronics	*
Other	12
Don't know/Refused	14

*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.*

8. Thinking about U.S. spending to help developing countries, such as those in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, what types of things do you think this money is spent on? (PROBE: “just your best guess” or “what’s the first thing that comes to mind?”) (RECORD UP TO 3 RESPONSES)

*Based on half sample B (n=607)*

	02/12
Food	33
Health care	32
Education/Schools	13
Clothing/Shelter/Basic needs	12
Military/Weapons/Defense	10
Infrastructure – general	9
Clean water	8
Government/Diplomacy	7
Political influence/Bribes/Lining the pockets of rich	7
Aid/Humanitarian aid/Disaster relief	4
Economic aid/Development	4
Agriculture	2
Technology/Electronics	*
Other	9
Don’t know/Refused	15

*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.*

9. I’m going to read you some different things the president and Congress might try to do when it comes to world affairs. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, or not that important. What about (INSERT ITEMS—RANDOMIZE)?

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: Should this be one of their TOP priorities for world affairs, important but not a top priority, or not that important?

	One of the TOP	Important, but not top	Not that important	(VOL.) Not at all important	Dk/Ref
<i>Items A-E based on half sample A (n=598)</i>					
a. Providing military assistance to developing countries	9	46	40	4	1
b. Fighting global terrorism	48	38	12	1	1
c. Helping to reduce poverty in developing countries	29	51	17	1	1
d. Promoting stability of global financial markets	27	49	21	1	3
e. Promoting opportunities for women and girls around the world	34	50	13	1	1
<i>Items F-J based on half sample B (n=607)</i>					
f. Helping limit the spread of nuclear weapons around the world	53	32	13	1	1
g. Helping out in areas affected by natural disaster	44	49	6	*	*
h. Promoting democracy in other countries	17	44	32	4	2
i. Improving education in developing countries	36	47	15	2	*
j. Protecting the environment and fighting climate change	34	40	22	3	1
<i>Item K based on total</i>					
k. Improving health for people in developing countries	37	49	13	1	1

Read to all: Next, thinking about developing countries such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America...

10. Do you think the U.S. is now spending {ROTATE: (too much), (too little)}, or about the right amount on efforts to improve health for people in developing countries?

	2/12	8/10	10/09	3/09
Too much	21	28	25	23
Too little	32	23	34	26
About the right amount	34	42	32	39
Don't know/Refused	12	7	9	12

11. Which of the following comes closer to your view? Given the serious economic problems facing the country and the world right now... (READ AND ROTATE)

*Based on half sample A (n=598)*

	02/12	8/10	10/09	03/09
The U.S. cannot afford to spend more money on improving health for people in developing countries	65	73	62	71
It is more important than ever for the U.S. to spend more money on improving health for people in developing countries	31	22	33	23
Don't know/Refused	4	4	5	6

12. Some people say the U.S. should spend its tax dollars on improving health in the U.S. only. Other people say the U.S. should spend its tax dollars on improving health in the U.S. AND globally. Which of these statements more closely reflects your opinion?

*Based on half sample B (n=607)*

	2/12	8/10
U.S. should spend its tax dollars on improving health in the U.S. only	42	48
U.S. should spend its tax dollars on improving health in the U.S. AND globally	55	49
U.S. tax dollars should not be spent on improving health (VOL.)	N/A	1
Don't know/Refused	2	3

READ TO ALL: Now thinking about the problem of HIV/AIDS specifically...

13. Which comes closer to your own view (READ AND ROTATE):

	02/12
The HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries is just one of many problems around the world that the U.S. and other wealthier countries must consider when deciding how to allocate resources (OR)	62
The HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries is a global emergency requiring a special funding effort by the US and other wealthier countries, regardless of other problems that exist (OR)	32
Don't know/Refused	6

14. I'm going to read you some different areas in which the US might contribute to efforts to improve health in developing countries, and for each, I'd like you to tell me if this should be one of the top priorities, important but not a top priority, or not that important. What about (INSERT ITEMS—RANDOMIZE)?

READ AS NECESSARY: Should this be one of the TOP priorities for US efforts to improve health in developing countries, important but not a top priority, or not that important?

	One of the TOP	Important, but not top	Not that important	(VOL.) Not at all important	Dk/Ref
<i>Items A-F based on half sample A (n=598)</i>					
a. Preventing and treating HIV/AIDS	43	44	11	1	1
b. Building and improving hospitals and other health care facilities	39	46	13	1	1
c. Efforts to reduce the number of women who die during childbirth	37	46	15	1	1
d. Preventing and treating tuberculosis	32	51	14	1	2
e. Children's health, including vaccinations	58	33	7	1	1
f. Combating global pandemic diseases like swine flu	38	46	15	1	1
<i>Items G-M based on half sample B (n=607)</i>					
g. Improving access to clean water	67	28	5	*	*
h. Preventing and treating heart disease and other chronic diseases	26	52	19	2	1
i. Preventing and treating malaria	34	51	13	1	1
j. Reducing hunger and malnutrition	58	33	8	*	*
k. Efforts to improve training and expand the supply of medical professionals	40	49	11	1	*
l. Improving access to family planning and reproductive health services	33	45	20	1	1
m. Eradicating polio	28	50	19	1	3



READ: Now thinking about how to determine how and where money should be spent...

15. I'm going to read you some different factors that could be used to determine how to spend U.S. dollars on improving health in developing countries. For each, please tell me if this should be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. What about (INSERT ITEMS—RANDOMIZE)?

READ AS NECESSARY: Should this be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important [in determining how to spend U.S. dollars on improving health in developing countries]?

		Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not too Important	Not at all Important	Dk/Ref
a. How many people die each year from a given health problem						
	2/12	49	34	8	5	4
	3/09	60	28	4	4	5
b. Whether a problem mainly affects children						
	2/12	63	28	4	4	1
	3/09	69	24	2	4	1
c. Whether a country is friendly to the U.S.						
	2/12	34	36	16	13	1
	3/09	36	36	15	10	3
d. Whether it is in the interest of U.S. foreign policy						
	2/12	27	43	16	11	3
	3/09	25	42	15	12	6
e. The number of lives saved relative to the amount spent						
	2/12	50	34	6	7	3
	3/09	52	31	7	6	4
f. Whether the U.S. could be threatened by a similar health problem						
	2/12	62	27	6	4	1

16. Compared to other wealthier countries such as Canada, England, France, Germany, and Japan, do you think the U.S. contributes {ROTATE: (more) than its fair share, (less) than its fair share}, or about its fair share to efforts to improve health in developing countries?

	02/12
More	44
Less	14
About right	35
Don't know/Refused	6

READ: Next, thinking about which groups or organizations should receive money...

17. When it comes to efforts to improve health in developing countries, do you think the U.S. should or should not give money (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? [READ FULL STEM FIRST TIME, THEN READ: And do you think the U.S. should or should not give money (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)?]

		Should give money	Should not give money	Depends (VOL.)	DK/Ref
<i>Items A-B based on total</i>					
a. Directly to governments in developing countries					
	2/12	23	67	9	1
	8/10	24	71	--	5
	10/09	29	66	--	5
b. Directly to religious or faith-based organizations <sup>5</sup>					
	2/12	38	51	7	3
	8/10	53	40	--	6
	10/09	55	40	--	5
<i>Items C-D based on half sample A (n=598)</i>					
c. To international organizations like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria					
	2/12	73	19	5	3
	8/10	75	20	--	5
	10/09	74	22	--	4
d. Directly to local non-profits based in developing countries and not in the U.S. <sup>6</sup>					
	2/12	42	47	8	3
	8/10	51	41	--	7
	10/09	53	42	--	5
<i>Items E-F based on half sample B (n=607)</i>					
e. To international organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization					
	2/12	71	23	4	2
f. Directly to U.S.-based non-profits operating programs in developing countries					
	2/12	67	24	6	3

18. Which comes closer to your opinion? When giving aid to improve health in developing countries... (READ AND ROTATE)

	2/12	8/10	10/09
It is best for the U.S. to participate in international efforts, so that other countries will do their fair share and these efforts will be better coordinated (or)	63	57	55
It is best for the U.S. to do so on its own, so that the U.S. has more control over how the money is spent and will get more credit and influence in the country receiving aid (or)	30	35	39
Both/Neither (VOL)	4	6	n/a
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	2	6

<sup>5</sup> Wording in 8/10 and 10/9 surveys was "Directly to religious or faith-based organizations working to improve health in developing countries"

<sup>6</sup> Wording in 8/10 and 10/9 surveys was "Directly to local non-profit organizations in developing countries"

19. In general, do you think more spending from the U.S. and other wealthier countries will lead to meaningful progress in improving health for people in developing countries, OR that spending more money won't make much difference?

	2/12	8/10	10/09	03/09
Spending will lead to meaningful progress	49	46	51	40
Spending more money won't make much difference	47	49	43	51
Depends (VOL.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4	5	6	4

20. Do you think spending money on improving health in developing countries (INSERT ITEMS – RANDOMIZE), or does it not have much impact?

	Yes, Helps	Does not have much impact	Dk/Ref
a. Helps improve the U.S. image around the world	58	39	2
b. Helps protect the health of Americans by preventing the spread of diseases like SARS, bird flu, and swine flu	70	28	2
c. Helps the U.S. economy by improving the circumstances of people who can buy more U.S. goods	42	53	4
d. Helps U.S. national security by lessening the threat of terrorism originating in developing countries	45	52	4

21. Next, I'm going to read you some reasons why the U.S. might spend money on improving health for people in developing countries, and I'd like you to tell me which you think is the MOST important reason. Here's the list... (READ AND RANDOMIZE).

READ IF NECESSARY: Which of these do you think is the MOST important reason for the U.S. to spend money on improving health for people in developing countries?

	2/12	8/10	3/09
Because it's the right thing to do	51	46	47
To help the U.S. economy by creating new markets for U.S. businesses	12	12	17
To help ensure U.S. national security	12	7	11
To improve our diplomatic relationships	11	16	8
To improve the U.S.'s image around the world	8	12	9
Other/None of these (VOL.)	4	2	3
Don't know/Refused	2	4	4

#### QUESTIONS 22-24 READ IN RANDOM ORDER

22. If the president and Congress decide to reduce spending on assistance to developing countries, do you think there would be an increase in the number of illnesses and deaths in developing countries, or do you think there would be NO significant impact on the health of people in developing countries?

	02/12
Increase in the number of illnesses and deaths	62
No significant impact	33
Don't know/Refused	5

23. If the president and Congress decide to reduce spending on assistance to developing countries, do you think it will significantly reduce the federal budget deficit, or will it not have much impact on the deficit?

	02/12
Significantly reduce the deficit	29
Not much impact	67
Don't know/Refused	4

24. If the president and Congress decide to reduce spending on assistance to developing countries, do you think other wealthier countries would step in to fill the gap, or not?

	02/12
Other wealthier countries would step in	26
No, other wealthier countries would not step in	68
Don't know/Refused	7

25. Which do you think is a bigger barrier to improving health in developing countries? Lack of knowledge about how to treat the diseases and conditions that affect people in developing countries, or lack of money and resources to get the treatments and solutions to the places they are needed?

	02/12
Lack of knowledge	29
Lack of money and resources	52
(VOL.) Both equally	14
(VOL.) Something else	3
Don't know/Refused	2

26. Of every tax dollar the U.S. government spends on efforts to improve health in developing countries, how many cents of each dollar, if any, do you think ends up reaching people who really need it?

*Based on half sample A (n=598)*

	02/12
None/0	4
1-9 cents	29
10-24 cents	21
25-49 cents	17
50-74 cents	13
75-89 cents	2
90-99 cents	*
100 cents/1 Dollar	2
Don't know/Refused	12

27. Of every tax dollar the U.S. government spends on efforts to improve health in developing countries, how many cents of each dollar, if any, would you say are lost through corruption?

*Based on half sample B (n=607)*

	02/12
None/0	*
1-9 cents	9
10-24 cents	12
25-49 cents	17
50-74 cents	28
75-89 cents	13
90-99 cents	8
100 cents/1 Dollar	2
Don't know/Refused	10

READ TO ALL: On another topic....

28. Is there any person you think of as a leader in efforts to improve health for people in developing countries? (Ask if yes)  
Who would that be? (OPEN-ENDED)

	02/12
Total, Yes	30
Barack Obama	5
Bill Gates/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	5
Bill Clinton	4
Oprah Winfrey	1
Hilary Clinton	1
Bono	1
Jimmy Carter	1
Angelina Jolie	1
God/Jesus Christ	1
George Bush	1
Sean Penn	1
George Clooney	1
Other organizations	2
Other person	8
Total, No	63
Don't know/Refused	7

*Note: Only names with a share of 1% or greater are shown in this document.*

29. During the last year, how much, if anything, have you personally seen, heard, or read about U.S. government efforts to improve health for people in developing countries, such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America? Have you heard a lot, some, only a little, or nothing at all?

	2/12	8/10
A lot	14	21
Some	31	36
Only a little	41	35
Nothing at all	13	8
Don't know/Refused	1	1

30. In general, how much attention do you pay to issues related to the health of people in developing countries...A lot of attention, some attention, not much attention, or no attention at all?

	2/12	8/10	10/09	03/09
A lot of attention	18	19	18	22
Some attention	50	56	54	52
Not much attention or	26	19	23	19
No attention at all?	6	6	5	6
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	1	*	1

31. Do you think the news media spends {ROTATE: (too much), (too little)}, or about the right amount of time covering issues of health in developing countries? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENS)

	2/12	8/10
Too much	12	10
Too little	52	41
About the right amount	31	43
Don't know/Refused	4	5

32. In the past five years, have you traveled to a developing country, such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, or not?

	2/12	8/10	10/09
Yes	17	16	15
No	83	83	85
Don't know/Refused	*	1	*

33. In the past YEAR, have you personally donated money to an organization that works to improve health for people in developing countries, or not?

	2/12	8/10	10/09
Yes	41	49	34
No	57	50	65
Don't know/Refused	2	1	1

34. And in the past YEAR, have you personally volunteered at an organization that works to improve health for people in developing countries, or not?

	2/12	8/10	10/09
Yes	12	13	11
No	88	86	88
Don't know/Refused	*	1	1

Engagement Table (Based on Q30, Q33, Q34)

	2/12
High	15
Medium	61
Low	23

## DEMOGRAPHICS

READ TO ALL: Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

D1. Record respondent's sex

Male	49
Female	51

D2. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

D2a. (IF REFUSED) Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)...

18-29	22
30-49	32
50-64	28
65 and older	17
Don't know/Refused	1

D3. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	51
Living with a partner	6
Widowed	6
Divorced	9
Separated	3
Never been married	24
Don't know/Refused	1

D4. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Republican	22
Democrat	32
Independent	35
Other/None/No preference/Other party	6
Don't know/Refused	5

D5. (ASK IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER) Do you LEAN more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]?

### D4/D5. Combo Table #1 based on total

Republican/Lean Republican	32
Democrat/Lean Democratic	49
Other/Don't lean/Don't know	19

### D4/D5. Combo Table #2 based on total

Republican	22
Independent Lean Republican	10
Independent/Don't lean	18
Independent Lean Democratic	17
Democrat	32
Undesignated	1

D6. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal	22
Moderate	38
Conservative	34
Don't know/Refused	6

D7. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

Yes	78
No	21
Don't know/Refused	1

D8. How often would you say you vote...always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom?

*Based on those who say they are registered to vote (n=994)*

Always	59
Nearly always	24
Part of the time	9
Seldom	6
Never vote (VOL.)	2
Other (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused	*

D7/ D8 Combo Table based on total

Yes, registered to vote	78
Always vote	46
Nearly always vote	18
Vote part of the time	7
Seldom vote	5
Never vote (VOL.)	1
Other (VOL.)	*
Don't know how often	*
No, not registered	21
Don't know/Refused	1

D9. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

None, or grade 1-8	3
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	10
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	30
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	4
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	17
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)	11
Don't know/Refused	1



D10. How important is religion in your everyday life? Is it the most important thing in your life, very important, but not the most important thing, somewhat important, or not too important?

Most important	23
Very important	36
Somewhat important	20
Not too important	20
Don't know/Refused	1

D11. What is your religion – Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

Protestant (Baptist, Christian, Episcopalian, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)	50
Roman Catholic/Catholic	25
Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)	2
Jewish	1
Islam/Muslim	1
Buddhist	1
Hindu	*
Orthodox Church (Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc.)	*
Other religion (SPECIFY)	2
No religion/Atheist/Agnostic	14
Don't know/Refused	3

D12. Do you think of yourself as Christian, or not? (Asked of those who say some other religion/don't know/refused)

D13. Do you happen to be a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not? (Asked of those who say they are Protestant or think of themselves as Christian)

D11/D12/D13 Combo Table Based on Total

Total Protestant/Catholic/Mormon/Orthodox/Christian	79	
Born-Again/Evangelical		23
Not Born-Again/Evangelical		55
Don't know/Refused		1
Jewish/Muslim/Buddhist/Hindu/Other religion (non-Christian)	5	
No religion/Atheist/Agnostic	14	
Don't know/Refused	2	

D14. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

D15. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race? IF R SAYS "HISPANIC" OR "LATINO" ASK: Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?

White, non-Hispanic	67
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	14
Asian, non-Hispanic	3
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	3
Undesignated	2

BIRTH\_HISP Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

*Based on Hispanics (n=144)*

U.S.	55
Puerto Rico	3
Another country	43
Don't know/Refused	0

D16. Last year, that is in 2011, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	19
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	7
\$100,000 or more	4
Don't know/Refused	12

END OF INTERVIEW: That's all the questions I have. Thanks for your time.

#### TREND INFORMATION

8/10 trends for 2010 Global Health Tracking survey conducted August 3-16, 2010 for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates. N=1,213 national adults, age 18 or older.

10/09 trends from 2009 Global Health Tracking survey conducted October 21-28, 2009 for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates. N=1,205 national adults, age 18 or older.

3/09 trends from 2009 HIV/AIDS survey conducted January 26 – March 8, 2009 for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates. N=2,554 national adults, age 18 or older.

4/06 trends from 2006 HIV/AIDS survey conducted 3/24-4/18/2006 for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates. N=2,517 national adults, age 18 or older.

5/04 trends from 2004 HIV/AIDS survey conducted 3/15-5/11/2004 for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates. N=2,902 national adults, age 18 and older.

6/02 trends from 2002 HIV/AIDS survey conducted 6/13-23/2002 for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates. N=1,402 national adults, age 18 and older.





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