



*Toplines*

***May/June 2006 Kaiser Health Poll Report Survey***

***Selected Findings on Health Care***

**July 2006**

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### **Methodology**

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative sample of 1,217 adults ages 18 and older was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between June 12 and June 19, 2006. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (\*). “VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

1. I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. (First/Next,) how closely did you follow this story (**INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE**)?

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. The conflict in Iraq	50	32	10	9	*
b. Stories about the deadline for enrolling in the Medicare prescription drug benefit	17	18	26	39	1
c. News about efforts to rebuild New Orleans	23	35	24	17	1
d. Proposals in Congress to reform immigration laws	36	36	16	12	*
e. Efforts to prepare for a possible outbreak of bird flu in the U.S.	18	32	29	21	1
f. Reports of a vaccine that may protect women from cervical cancer	20	28	23	28	1
g. Stories about an outbreak of a rare eye infection in contact lens wearers	11	18	23	46	1
h. An announcement that soft drink makers will stop selling soda and other sweetened drinks in schools	18	32	23	26	1
i. Stories about the 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first case of AIDS in the U.S.	9	16	26	48	1
j. Reports that the government has collected phone records of Americans with the help of telecom countries	28	27	20	25	1

Now, I'd like to ask you about a few topics that are in the news...

2. For each item I name, please tell me how important it will be in your vote for Congress this year (2006). Will it be one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important or less important than that? (First/Next,) (**READ AND RANDOMIZE**)?

	<u>Single Most Imp.</u>	<u>Very Imp.</u>	<u>Some- what Imp.</u>	<u>Less Imp.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. The situation in Iraq	11	63	18	7	2
b. The US (United States) campaign against terrorism	10	60	21	8	1
c. Prescription drug benefits for the elderly	5	49	28	15	2
d. The economy	10	63	19	6	2
e. Health care overall	8	60	24	7	2
f. Immigration issues	8	51	28	11	2
g. Local issues where you live	6	55	27	10	2
h. Corruption in Washington	8	53	24	12	3
i. Gas prices	11	60	19	8	2
j. The overall performance of the President	11	55	18	13	3
k. The overall performance of the Congress	7	52	27	11	2
l. The overall performance of your Congressional representative	7	53	27	11	3

3. Thinking about what you may have heard in the news recently about a new vaccine that might protect women against cervical cancer, please tell me whether or not you think each one of the following is associated with cervical cancer, or if you don't know enough to say. (First,) what about... (**INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-d**) (Is this associated with cervical cancer, or don't you know enough about it to say?)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK enough to say</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a. Human papilloma virus, or HPV, the sexually transmitted virus that causes genital warts	48	6	45	1
b. Abortion	18	31	49	1
c. Obesity	21	27	51	2
d. High blood pressure	14	33	51	2

Now, onto another topic..

11. As you may know, a new prescription drug benefit is now available for people on Medicare. Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit?

- 30 Favorable
- 31 Unfavorable
- 11 Neither/Neutral (**VOL.**)
- 28 Don't know/Refused

12. Is your impression of the new Medicare drug benefit based mainly on... (**READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-3**)?

*Based on those with a favorable or unfavorable impression of Medicare drug benefit (n=777)*

- 48 What you've seen and heard on television, radio, and in newspapers
- 28 What you've learned from friends and family
- 18 Your own experience
- 5 Some other source
- 1 Don't know/Refused

47. Are you NOW self-employed, working full-time for an employer, working part-time for an employer, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?

- 11 Self-employed
- 40 Full-time for an employer
- 9 Part-time for an employer
- 21 Retired
- 13 Not employed
- 2 (**VOL.**) Homemaker
- 1 (**VOL.**) Student
- 2 (**VOL.**) Disabled
- 1 Don't know/Refused

48. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or (Medicaid)? **USE VARIANT WORDING IN STATES: [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC WORDING IN PLACE OF ‘MEDICAID’ WHERE NECESSARY]**

- 82 Yes, insured
- 16 No, not insured
- 2 Don't know/Refused

**DEMOGRAPHICS:**

**(READ)** 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**

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

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

- 18 18-29
- 37 30-49
- 25 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 3 Refused
  
- 55 Total Under 50
- 42 Total 50 and older

53. Do you currently take any prescription medicine on a daily basis, or not?

54. How many different prescription drugs do you take?

- 51 Yes, take prescription medicine
  - 31 1-3 prescription medicines
  - 19 4 or more prescription medicines
  - \* Don't know how many
- 48 Don't take any prescription medicine
- 2 Don't know/Refused

55. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

- 20 Excellent
- 36 Very good
- 28 Good
- 11 Only fair
- 4 Poor
- 2 Don't know/Refused

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 27 Republican
- 32 Democrat
- 33 Independent
- 4 (VOL.) No preference/Not interested in politics
- 1 (VOL.) Other party
- 1 Don't know
- 3 Refused

D4. These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register... Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?

- 81 Yes, registered
- 18 No, not registered
- 1 Don't know/Refused

D5. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (**DO NOT READ**)

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 10 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 2 Refused

D6. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 54 Married
- 4 Living as married
- 9 Divorced
- 2 Separated
- 8 Widowed
- 21 Never been married
- 2 Don't know/Refused

D7. Last year -- that is, in 2005 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 8 \$10,000 or less
- 6 \$10,001 to \$15,000
- 5 \$15,001 to \$20,000
- 9 \$20,001 to \$30,000
- 16 \$30,001 to \$50,000
- 16 \$50,001 to \$75,000
- 10 \$75,001 to \$100,000
- 8 \$100,001 to \$200,000
- 2 More than \$200,000
- 8 Don't know
- 12 Refused

D8. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D9. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic? CODE AS WHITE (1) OR BLACK (2). IF RESPONDENTS REFUSED TO PICK WHITE OR BLACK HISPANIC, RECORD HISPANIC AS "OTHER," CODE 4)**

- 71 White, Non Hispanic
- 26 Total Non-White
- 10 Black or African-American
- 10 Hispanic
- 3 Asian
- 3 Other or mixed race
- 3 Don't know/ Refused



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