



Toplines

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: February 2009

February 2009

Methodology

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane and Carolina Gutiérrez. The survey was conducted February 3 through February 12, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,204 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (903) and cell phone (301, including 123 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on subgroups, 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.

Trends in this document come from surveys listed on the last page.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*).

“VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

A1. All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country?

	<u>02/09</u>
Satisfied	19
Dissatisfied	73
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9

1. I'm going to read you a list of some different things the new president and Congress might try to act on next year. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important. What about **(INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)**? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important?

		<u>One of their TOP priorities</u>	<u>Very important but not a top priority</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>Should not be done at all (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Improving the country's economic situation	02/09	71	24	3	1	--	1
	12/08	73	21	4	2	--	*
b. Reforming health care	02/09	39	38	14	8	--	1
	12/08	43	34	15	8	*	*
<i>Items c-f based on form 1 random half sample (n=621)</i>							
c. Reducing the federal budget deficit	02/09	36	41	16	5	--	3
	12/08	39	37	18	6	--	*
d. Working to create more clean energy sources	02/09	31	41	20	7	--	1
	12/08	36	36	21	6	--	*
e. Fighting terrorism	02/09	42	41	12	4	--	1
	12/08	48	36	13	2	*	*
f. Dealing with Iraq	02/09	30	36	23	9	--	3
	12/08	35	33	20	10	*	1

Continued on next page

		One of their TOP priorities	Very important but not a top priority	Somewhat important	Not that important	Should not be done at all (VOL.)	DK/ Ref
Items g-j based on form 2 random half sample (n=583)							
g. Providing more support to improve public schools							
	02/09	35	38	19	6	--	1
	12/08	37	40	14	7	*	*
h. Dealing with Afghanistan							
	02/09	26	31	22	16	--	4
	12/08	31	35	22	10	*	1
i. Improving America's image and standing in the world							
	02/09	21	39	22	16	--	1
	12/08	25	34	23	17	*	*
j. Making Medicare and Social Security more financially sound							
	02/09	49	37	11	2	--	1

READ ALL: Now I'd like to turn to the subject of health care.

2. Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country (we cannot afford to take on health care reform right now) OR (it is more important than ever to take on health care reform now)? **(ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)**

	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>	<u>10/08</u>
We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now	34	37	34
It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now	62	61	62
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4	2	5

3. How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform? Very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not at all?

	<u>02/09</u>
Very closely	23
Somewhat closely	46
Not too closely	21
Not at all	9
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

4. And when you hear people talking about health care reform, what does that mean to you, in your own words? **[OPEN END]**

	<u>02/09</u>
Health care costs (NET)	40
People paying less for health care/making health care more affordable	36
U.S. spending less on health care	4
Lower prices for prescription drugs	4
Expanding coverage (NET)	39
Providing insurance to more people/helping the uninsured/expanding coverage	34
Universal coverage/national health care/single payer	4
General response: fixing the health care system generally	12
Improving the quality of health care people get	9
Reforming Medicare	3
Get government out of health care/no national health care	3
Getting rid of waste/fraud in health care system	3
Other (SPECIFY)	8
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	12

Note: Table will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

5. If the new president and Congress decide to take on health care reform, how important is each of the following as a goal of any health care reform plan? What about **(INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)**? Is this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important as a goal of health care reform?

a. Making health care and health insurance more affordable	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Very important	82	80
Somewhat important	14	15
Not too important	1	3
Not at all important	2	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	*

b. Finding a way to provide health insurance coverage to most Americans	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Very important	74	69
Somewhat important	18	20
Not too important	4	5
Not at all important	3	4
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	*

c. Reforming the existing health care system to provide higher quality, more cost-effective care	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Very important	64	65
Somewhat important	27	25
Not too important	4	5
Not at all important	3	4
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2	1

(ASK Q5d IF "VERY IMPORTANT" TO MORE THAN ONE ITEM IN Q5)

5d. Of the things you said are very important, which of these do you think should be the MOST important goal of any health care reform plan?

5/5d. Very/Most important Combo Table based on total (includes those who said only one item was "very important")

	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Making health care and health insurance more affordable	38	39
Finding a way to provide health insurance coverage to most Americans	34	30
Reforming the existing health care system to provide higher quality, more cost-effective care	14	18
(VOL.) None of these is very or most important/Something else	10	11
(VOL.) Combination/All of these	4	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*	*

8. During the past seven days, did you see, hear or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system?

	<u>02/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
Yes	20	40
No	79	58
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	2

9. Do you think **(INSERT AND ROTATE)** would be (better off) or (worse off) if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference? **(ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)**

		<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>	<u>Wouldn't make much difference</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. You and your family	02/09	38	11	43	4	3
b. The country as a whole	02/09	59	12	19	5	5

10a. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make **(INSERT & RANDOMIZE)** better, worse or would it stay about the same?

Based on form 1 random half sample (n=621)

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of your own health care	02/09	29	14	52	2	2
b. The cost of health care for you and your family	02/09	39	16	39	2	5
c. Your choice of doctors and hospitals	02/09	24	18	52	3	4
d. Your wait times for non-emergency procedures and treatments	02/09	23	25	47	2	4

Split-sample 10a and 10b

10b. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT & RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

Based on form 2 random half sample (n=583)

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of health care in America						
	02/09	47	17	28	3	4
b. The overall cost of health care						
	02/09	46	19	23	4	6
c. The average patient's choice of doctors and hospitals						
	02/09	35	22	32	5	6
d. Waiting times for non-emergency procedures and treatments						
	02/09	24	27	39	3	7

11. Who do you trust to do a better job handling health care reform?
(READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-3)

	<u>02/09</u>
President Obama	47
The Republicans in Congress	17
The Democrats in Congress	12
(VOL.) None of these	11
(VOL.) All of these	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	7

12. As I read the names of some people and groups, please tell me how much confidence you have in each of them to do or recommend the right thing for health care reform. How much confidence do you have in... **(INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)** ... on health care reform: a great deal, a fair amount, only a little or none?

		A great <u>deal</u>	A fair <u>amount</u>	Only a <u>little</u>	<u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
<i>Items a-e based on form 1 random half sample (n=621)</i>						
a. President Obama*						
	02/09	46	26	14	11	3
	09/93	22	36	21	19	2
b. Republican leaders in Congress						
	02/09	7	31	32	26	4
	09/93	9	38	32	19	2
c. Health trade groups, like insurance and pharmaceutical company groups						
	02/09	8	19	41	31	2
	09/93	8	30	39	21	2
d. Groups representing the country's major corporations						
	02/09	5	20	41	30	4
e. Labor unions						
	02/09	12	28	29	27	4
	09/93	11	37	31	18	3
<i>Items f-j based on form 2 random half sample (n=583)</i>						
f. Democratic leaders in Congress						
	02/09	23	34	22	18	3
h. Doctors' organizations like the American Medical Association						
	02/09	21	39	28	8	4
	09/93	16	46	25	11	2
i. Small business groups						
	02/09	12	36	36	12	4
	09/93	17	41	28	11	3
j. AARP						
	02/09	20	37	25	10	7
	09/93	29	42	19	5	5

*Note: in 1993, the question asked about "Bill Clinton"

ROTATE QUESTIONS 13 AND 14

13. Which comes closer to your opinion? **(READ AND ROTATE)**

	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without spending more money to do it	58
To make any real reforms to the health care system, policymakers will need to spend more money, either by raising taxes, taking from other programs or increasing the deficit	36
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6

ROTATE QUESTIONS 13 AND 14

14. Which comes closer to your opinion? **(READ AND ROTATE)**

	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without changing the existing health care arrangements of people like yourself	56
Making any real reforms to the health care system will probably require people like yourself to change our existing health care arrangements	37
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	8

13a. Do you think those changes would be mainly positive or mainly negative for you and your family?

Based on those who think they will have to change health care arrangements (n=437)

	<u>02/09</u>
Mainly positive	54
Mainly negative	37
(VOL.) Would not have an effect	3
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5

Q14/13a Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without changing the existing health care arrangements of people like yourself	56
Making any real reforms to the health care system will probably require people like yourself to change our existing health care arrangements	37
Mainly positive	20
Mainly negative	14
(VOL.) Would not have an effect	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	8

14a. How willing would you be to make some changes to your existing health care arrangements in exchange for reforming the health care system nationally? **(READ)**

Based on those who think they will have to change health care arrangements (n=437)

	<u>02/09</u>
Very willing	29
Somewhat willing	42
Not too willing	11
Not at all willing	14
(VOL.) Depends on what the reform looked like	3
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

Q14/14a Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without changing the existing health care arrangements of people like yourself	56
Making any real reforms to the health care system will probably require people like yourself to change our existing health care arrangements	37
Very willing	11
Somewhat willing	15
Not too willing	4
Not at all willing	5
(VOL.) Depends on what the reform looked like	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	8

16. Thinking about the timing of health care reform, do you expect that President Obama and the Congress will enact health care reform by the end of his first year in office, the end of his second year, later than that, or not at all?

	<u>02/09</u>
End of first year	17
End of second year	40
Later than that	31
Not at all	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3

18. How will you feel if the president and Congress do not pass a major health care reform bill this year --will you be **(READ AND ROTATE 1-4, 4-1)**?

	<u>02/09</u>
Very relieved	11
Somewhat relieved	24
Somewhat angry	32
Very angry	8
(VOL.) None of these	21
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

- D2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? **(READ IF NECESSARY: 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/Medi-CAL])?**

Covered by health insurance	82
Not covered by health insurance	18
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

- D2a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your or your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/Medi-CAL), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else? **(ENTER ONE ONLY)**

Based on those who are insured (n=1,026)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	56
Plan you purchased yourself	12
Medicare	17
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	6
Some other government program	4
Covered by parent's plan (VOL.)	2
Somewhere else	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

19. Next, I'm going to read you a list of things that some people worry about and others do not. I'd like you to tell me how worried you are about each of the following things. (First/Next,) how worried are you about...**(INSERT – READ AND RANDOMIZE)? READ FOR FIRST ITEM AND THEN AS NECESSARY:** Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

		<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance						
	02/09	45	32	14	9	*
	10/08	38	34	13	14	1
	09/08	34	33	15	17	1
	04/08	37	34	11	17	1
	02/08	36	32	17	13	2
	11/07	41	32	13	13	1
	10/07	39	34	13	13	2
	06/07	41	34	14	11	1
	03/07	40	34	11	14	1
	10/06	47	27	13	12	1
	08/06	46	28	10	15	1
	02/06	38	33	11	17	2
	10/05	40	32	12	16	1
	06/05	45	28	12	14	1
	03/05	49	29	9	12	*
	02/05	41	32	11	15	1
	12/04	47	29	10	14	*
	10/04	47	31	9	12	1
	08/04	45	30	8	15	1
	06/04	46	28	12	13	1
	04/04	47	30	9	13	1
	02/04	47	31	10	12	1

		<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
b. Your income not keeping up with rising prices						
	02/09	53	28	12	8	*
	10/08	47	32	10	11	1
	09/08	41	32	13	13	1
	04/08	43	31	11	14	*
	02/08	42	32	15	9	1
	11/07	46	28	13	13	*
	10/07	41	30	14	14	1
	06/07	45	30	12	13	1
	03/07	42	31	14	13	1
	10/06	45	27	13	14	1
	08/06	46	28	11	15	*
	02/06	36	32	14	17	1
	10/05	40	30	13	16	1
	06/05	40	28	15	17	1
	03/05	46	27	10	15	1
	02/05	40	31	13	17	1
	12/04	41	30	13	16	1
	10/04	46	25	11	17	*
	08/04	42	29	11	17	1
	06/04	45	26	14	15	*
	04/04	44	27	12	16	1
	02/04	40	29	14	16	1

		<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
c. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need						
	02/09	38	29	18	15	*
	10/08	31	29	17	23	1
	09/08	28	28	20	24	1
	04/08	29	26	19	25	1
	11/07	35	30	15	19	1
	10/07	34	28	17	20	1
	06/07	36	27	19	18	*
	03/07	35	27	16	21	1
	10/06	39	24	17	19	1
	08/06	34	27	16	22	1
	02/06	32	25	18	24	1
	10/05	34	27	15	24	1
	06/05	34	28	16	22	1
	03/05	42	24	13	21	1
	02/05	34	28	16	22	*
	12/04	37	27	15	20	1
	10/04	38	26	16	21	*
	08/04	40	23	14	22	1
	06/04	36	24	19	21	*
	04/04	39	25	14	21	1
	02/04	38	24	18	19	*

		<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Based on those who are insured (n=1,026)						
d. Losing your health insurance coverage						
	02/09	34	20	22	24	*
	10/08	29	20	19	31	1
	09/08	23	20	22	35	*
	04/08	26	19	19	35	1
	11/07	29	22	21	27	1
	10/07	29	21	19	30	1
	06/07	34	20	20	25	1
	03/07	29	19	19	32	1
	10/06	32	18	16	33	1
	08/06	30	20	19	31	*
	02/06	26	19	21	34	*
	10/05	27	22	19	33	*
	06/05	30	19	18	33	*
	03/05	35	17	17	30	1
	02/05	26	22	19	32	*
	12/04	34	20	19	27	*
	10/04	29	20	18	33	*
	08/04	34	17	16	32	*
	06/04	29	19	20	32	*
	04/04	33	19	17	30	1
	02/04	32	19	19	29	*

20. Thinking about your family's financial situation, would you say you are living comfortably, just getting by, or struggling to make ends meet?

	<u>02/09</u>
Living comfortably	35
Just getting by	44
Struggling to make ends meet	21
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

21. Have you or your family experienced any of the following problems as a result of the economic downturn, or not? First, **(INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)**?

READ IF NECESSARY: As a result of the economic downturn, have you or your family **[INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]**, or not? **IF YES, ASK:** Was this a serious problem, or not?

		Yes, this happened, and was <u>a serious problem</u>	Yes, this happened and was not a <u>serious problem</u>	No, this did not <u>happen</u>	DK/ Ref
a. Had problems paying for health care and health insurance	02/09	16	8	75	1
b. Had problems paying for gas	02/09	20	13	67	*
c. Had problems getting a good-paying job or a raise in pay	02/09	27	12	59	2
d. Had problems paying your rent or mortgage	02/09	18	7	75	*
e. Lost money in the stock market	02/09	27	21	51	1
f. Had problems with credit card debt or other personal debt	02/09	18	10	72	*
g. Had problems paying for food	02/09	13	9	77	*
h. Lost a job	02/09	19	4	77	1
i. Had work hours cut or had to take a pay cut	02/09	23	10	66	2
j. Lost health insurance coverage	02/09	12	4	83	1

Percent who say “Yes, this happened, and was a serious problem” to ANY of the above = 63%

23. In the past 12 months, did you or another family member in your household have any problems paying medical bills, or not?

	<u>02/09</u>	<u>10/08</u>	<u>09/06</u>	<u>03/02</u>	<u>05/97</u>
Yes	22	32	25	21	18
No	78	68	75	79	78
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/ Refused	1	1	*	--	3

Note: slight variations in question wording

24. How much of an impact have these bills had on you and your family — a major impact, a minor impact, or no real impact on you and your family?

Based on those who had problems paying medical bills in past 12 months (n=237)

	<u>02/09</u>
Major	56
Minor	42
No impact	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

Q23/24 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>	<u>10/08</u>	<u>09/06</u>
Problems paying medical bills	22	32	25
Bills had a major impact on you/your family	12	19	15
Bills had a minor impact on you/your family	9	11	8
Bills had no impact on you/your family	*	2	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*	--	--
No problems paying medical bills	78	68	75
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	1	*

25. Would you say the amount of these medical bills was: **(READ IN ORDER)**

Based on those who had problems paying medical bills in past 12 months (n=237)

	<u>02/09</u>
Less than \$100	2
\$100-\$500	17
\$500-\$1,000	19
More than \$1,000	61
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

Q23/25 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>	<u>10/08</u>
Problems paying medical bills	22	32
Bills were less than \$100	1	1
Bills were \$100-\$500	4	6
Bills were \$500-\$1,000	4	6
Bills were more than \$1,000	13	18
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*	1
No problems paying medical bills	78	68
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	1

26. Were these bills mainly bills for: **(READ AND RANDOMIZE, ALWAYS ASK 4 AFTER 3 AND ASK 5 LAST)**

Based on those who had problems paying medical bills in past 12 months (n=237)

	<u>02/09</u>
Prescription drugs	15
Doctors visits	29
Emergency room visits	25
Other hospital stays	14
Something else	17
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

Q23/26 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
Problems paying medical bills	22
Doctors visits	6
Emergency room visits	5
Other hospital stays	3
Prescription drugs	3
Something else	4
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*
No problems paying medical bills	78
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

27. In the past twelve months, have you **(INSERT. READ AND RANDOMIZE. ITEM “C” SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW ITEM “B”)** because of medical bills, or not?

Based on those who had problems paying medical bills in past 12 months (n=237)

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Used up all or most of your savings	02/09	58	41	1
b. Been unable to pay for basic necessities like food, heat or housing	02/09	31	67	2
c. Had difficulty paying other bills	02/09	63	37	1
d. Borrowed money or gotten a loan or another mortgage on your home	02/09	18	81	1
e. Been contacted by a collection agency	02/09	57	43	1
f. Declared bankruptcy	02/09	4	96	--

Among those who had problems paying medical bills, percent who say “Yes” to ANY = 87%

Q23/27 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
Problems paying medical bills	22
Have used up all or most of your savings	13
Have had difficulty paying other bills	13
Have been contacted by a collection agency	12
Have been unable to pay for basic necessities like food, heat, or housing	7
Have borrowed money or gotten a loan or another mortgage	4
Have declared bankruptcy	1
Have done ANY of the above	19
No problems paying medical bills	78
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

ASK ALL:

28. In the past twelve months, have you or another family member living in your household...
(**READ AND RANDOMIZE; ALWAYS ASK 28e LAST**) because of the COST, or not?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u>
a. Skipped a recommended medical test or treatment	02/09	23	77	*
	10/08	31	68	*
	04/08	24	76	1
	04/05	17	82	*
b. Not filled a prescription for a medicine	02/09	21	78	*
	10/08	27	72	*
	04/08	23	76	*
	04/05	20	79	*
c. Cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine	02/09	15	85	*
	10/08	22	78	*
	04/08	19	80	*
	04/05	16	84	*
d. Had problems getting mental health care	02/09	7	92	*
	10/08	12	87	2
	04/08	8	90	2
	04/05	7	93	1
e. Put off or postponed getting health care you needed	02/09	27	72	1
	10/08	36	64	*
	04/08	29	70	1
f. Skipped dental care or checkups	02/09	34	66	*
g. Relied on home remedies or over the counter drugs instead of going to see a doctor	02/09	35	65	1

Percent who say "Yes" to ANY of the above = 53%

29. Thinking about the TYPE of health care you or a family member put off or postponed in the past 12 months, please tell me if it included any of the following. (First/Next,)... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)**
READ IF NECESSARY: Did you or a family member put off or postpone this in the past 12 months?

Based on those who put off or postponed getting health care they needed (n=300)

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. A visit to the doctor for a temporary illness, such as a cold or a stomach flu	02/09	69	31	--
b. A visit to the doctor to check on an ongoing health problem, such as diabetes or asthma	02/09	38	62	--
c. A major surgery that would require an overnight hospital stay	02/09	17	82	*
d. A minor surgery that could be done in the doctor's office	02/09	23	76	*
e. Preventive care, such as a yearly physical exam	02/09	70	30	*

Among those who put off or postponed care, percent who say "Yes" to ANY = 91%

Q28e/29 Combination Table based on total

Put off or postponed getting health care	<u>02/09</u> 27
Put off or postponed a visit to the doctor for a temporary illness	19
Put off or postponed preventive care	19
Put off or postponed chronic care visit, major or minor surgery (NET)	16
Put off or postponed a visit to the doctor for an ongoing health problem	10
Put off or postponed a minor surgery	6
Put off or postponed a major surgery	5
Have not put off or postponed care	72
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

- D3. Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?

Yes	38
No	62
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

30. Thinking about the children under 18 living in your home, in the past year, was there ever a time when you did not take a child to the doctor because of the cost?

Based on those with kids under 18 living in household (n=392)

	<u>02/09</u>
Yes	12
No	88
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

QD3/30 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
Have children under 18 living at home	38
Yes, there was a time in the past year when you did not take a child to the doctor because of the cost	5
No, there was not a time in the past year when you did not take a child to the doctor because of the cost	33
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*
Do not have children under 18 living at home	62
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

31. In the past year, have you or anyone in your household ... **(ROTATE)** What about **(INSERT NEXT ITEM)**? In the past year, have you or anyone in your household done this?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Doesn't apply</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Decided to stay in one job, rather than take another, mainly because the job you held at the time offered better health care benefits					
	02/09	15	83	--	2
	10/08	25	64	10	1
	04/08	18	76	5	2
	04/05	17	82	--	1
b. Decided to take a different job, rather than stay at a job, mainly because the new job offered better health care benefits					
	02/09	8	90	--	2
	10/08	13	76	10	1
	04/08	12	82	5	2

D4. Are you, yourself, currently employed, unemployed and looking for work, or something else?

Total Employed	57
Employed	55
Self-employed (VOL.)	1
Unemployed and looking for work	14
Retired (VOL.)	17
Homemaker (VOL.)	3
Student (VOL.)	2
Disabled (VOL.)	4
Unemployed not looking for work (VOL.)	2
Something else	*
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

D4a. Is anyone in your household currently employed for pay, or not?

Based on those who did not say they are employed (n=544)

Yes	45
No	54
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

QD4/D4a Combination Table based on total

Employed household	76
Respondent is employed	57
Someone in household is employed	20
No one in household is employed	23
Don't know/Refused	1

32. Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely do you think it is that you or someone living in your household will lose a job or be laid off – very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

Based on those with someone in household who is employed (n=876)

	<u>02/09</u>
Very likely	13
Somewhat likely	26
Not too likely	29
Not at all likely	29
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3

QD4/D4a/32 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
You or someone in household is employed	76
Very likely you or someone in household will lose a job or be laid off	10
Somewhat likely you or someone in household will lose a job or be laid off	19
Not too likely you or someone in household will lose a job or be laid off	22
Not at all likely you or someone in household will lose a job or be laid off	22
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3
No one in household is employed	23
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

33. If you or someone living in your household were to lose a job, how likely is it that you would find another job that is just as good – very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Based on those with someone in household who is employed (n=876)

	<u>02/09</u>
Very likely	13
Somewhat likely	30
Not too likely	31
Not at all likely	23
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

QD4/D4a/33 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
You or someone in household is employed	76
Very likely that if you or someone in household lost a job, you would find another job that is just as good	10
Somewhat likely that if you or someone in household lost a job, you would find another job that is just as good	23
Not too likely that if you or someone in household lost a job, you would find another job that is just as good	24
Not at all likely that if you or someone in household lost a job, you would find another job that is just as good	18
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2
No one in household is employed	23
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

34. Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely do you think it is that you or someone living in your household will have work hours cut back – very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Based on those with someone in household who is employed (n=876)

	<u>02/09</u>
Very likely	22
Somewhat likely	23
Not too likely	22
Not at all likely	30
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

QD4/D4a/34 Combination Table based on total

	<u>02/09</u>
You or someone in household is employed	76
Very likely that you or someone in household will have work hours cut back	16
Somewhat likely that you or someone in household will have work hours cut back	18
Not too likely that you or someone in household will have work hours cut back	17
Not at all likely that you or someone in household will have work hours cut back	23
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2
No one in household is employed	23
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

35. How much would you say you have heard about a federal program called COBRA that allows you to continue to purchase health insurance through your employer after you leave a job if you pay the entire cost of the insurance premium? Would you say you have heard a lot, some, only a little, or nothing at all?

Based on those insured through own or spouse's employer (n=565)

	<u>02/09</u>
A lot	44
Some	19
Only a little	16
Nothing at all	19
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

36. If you or your spouse lost a job, how difficult would it be for you to pay the full cost of your health insurance premiums – that is, the portion you now pay plus the portion your employer or your spouse’s employer now pays? Would you say it would be very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult, or not difficult at all to pay the full cost of your health insurance premiums?

Based on those insured through own or spouse’s employer (n=565)

	<u>02/09</u>
Very difficult	59
Somewhat difficult	24
Not too difficult	8
Not at all difficult	6
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	4

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

Male	49
Female	51

D5. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	18
Very good	32
Good	31
Only fair	13
Poor	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D6. Are you, yourself, now receiving regular medical treatment or making regular doctor visits for any chronic health problem -- such as asthma, high blood pressure or cancer?

Yes	31
No	68
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D6a. Is any other adult in your household now receiving regular medical treatment or making regular doctor visits for any chronic health problem -- such as asthma, high blood pressure or cancer?

Yes	26
No	73
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D7. Do you currently take any prescription medicine on a daily basis, or not?

Yes	49
No	50
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D8. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)
_____ years

18-29	20
30-49	37
50-64	24
65 and older	16
Undesignated	2

D9. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	56
Living with a partner	7
Widowed	6
Divorced	7
Separated	2
Never been married	20
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D10. In politics today, do you consider yourself a **[ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican]**, an Independent, or what?

Republican	22
Democratic	40
Independent	29
Or What? (INTERVIEWER: INCLUDE 'OTHER' AND 'NONE' HERE)	6
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

D11. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	23
Moderate	39
Conservative	32
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6

D12. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**

None, or grade 1-8	3
High School incomplete (grade 9-11)	10
High School graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	32
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	4
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	23
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	17
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

D13. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D14. 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)**

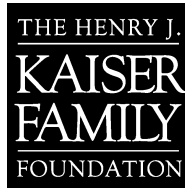
White, non-Hispanic	69
Total non-White	29
Black or African-American	11
Hispanic	12
Asian	3
Other mixed race	3
Undesignated	2

D15. Last year -- that is, in 2008 -- 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	18
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to less than \$50,000	17
\$70,000 to less than \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	11
\$100,000 or more	13
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	12

Trend Information:

- 12/08: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress* (December 4-14, 2008)
- 10/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 8-13, 2008)
- 09/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (September 8-13, 2008)
- 07/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (July 29-August 6, 2008)
- 06/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (June 3-8, 2008)
- 04/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (April 3-13, 2008)
- 02/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (February 7-16, 2008)
- 11/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (November 28-December 9, 2007)
- 10/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 1-10, 2007)
- 06/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (May 31-June 5, 2007)
- 03/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (March 8-13, 2007)
- 10/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 5-10, 2006)
- 09/06: ABC News/Kaiser Family Foundation/*USA Today Health Care in American 2006 Survey* (September 7-12, 2006)
- 08/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 3-8, 2006)
- 02/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 2-7, 2006)
- 10/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 4-9, 2005)
- 06/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (June 2-5, 2005)
- 04/05: *USA Today*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University *Health Care Costs Survey* (April 25-June 9, 2005)
- 03/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (March 31-April 3, 2005)
- 02/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 3-6, 2005)
- 12/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (December 2-5, 2004)
- 10/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 14-17, 2004)
- 08/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 5-8, 2004)
- 06/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (June 4-8, 2004)
- 04/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (April 1-5, 2004)
- 02/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 5-8, 2004)
- 03/02: National Public Radio/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government *National Survey on Health Care* (March 28-May 1, 2002)
- 05/97: *U.S. News and World Report*/Kaiser Family Foundation *Americans' Report Card on Health* (May 31-July 19, 1997)
- 09/93: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Survey of Public Knowledge and Awareness of Health Reform* (September 30-October 5, 1993)



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Headquarters
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and
Barbara Jordan Conference Center
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

This publication (#7867) is available on the
Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible information, research and analysis on health issues.