



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

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One of the key questions explored in the Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Americans on the U.S. Role in Global Health is the public's level of support for U.S. government spending to improve health for people in developing countries.

In our main report on the survey (available at http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/posr05609pkg.cfm), we noted that young people, African Americans, Latinos, and self-identified liberals and Democrats are more likely than their counterparts to support increased action from the U.S. on

global health issues. In order to dig beneath the surface and determine which factors are the strongest predictors of support for increased spending, we performed a multivariate logistic regression analysis, including various demographic factors along with experience traveling to a developing country, knowledge about foreign aid as a share of the federal budget, and level of attention paid to global health issues.

After controlling for all these factors, we found that increased attention to global health issues and more accurate knowledge about the size of foreign aid were both positively associated with support for increased U.S. spending on global health efforts. To illustrate the impact of these differences, Table 1 compares the predicted likelihood of support for increased spending on global health for those with accurate vs. inaccurate views of foreign aid spending, and for those who pay a lot vs. a little attention to global health issues, when all other factors are held constant.

We also found that various demographic factors were positively associated with support for increased spending on global health, including being male, being

Factors entered into the model:

- Age
• Gender
• Race/ethnicity
• Education
• Income
• Political party identification
• Political ideology
• Experience traveling to a developing country
• How much attention paid to global health issues
• Correct/incorrect answer to questions about size of foreign aid relative to the federal budget

younger, and identifying as a Democrat or independent. Table 2 shows the predicted likelihood of support for increased spending based on these demographics, when all other factors are held constant.

TABLE 1.

Predicted likelihood of support for increased U.S. spending on global health by foreign aid knowledge and attention to global health issues, after controlling for other factors

Table with 2 columns: Characteristic, Predicted likelihood of support. Rows include: Correct answer about foreign aid and federal budget (31%), Incorrect answer about foreign aid and federal budget (15%), Pay a lot of attention to global health issues (35%), Pay a little attention to global health issues (15%).

TABLE 2.

Predicted likelihood of support for increased U.S. spending on global health by demographic characteristics, after controlling for other factors

Table with 2 columns: Characteristic, Predicted likelihood of support. Rows include: Male (27%), Female (19%), Age 25 (32%), Age 45 (23%), Age 65 (16%), Democrat (29%), Independent (25%), Republican (11%).

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