



HARVARD
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Toplines

Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey

Health Care Agenda for the New Congress

January 2005

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey, *Health Care Agenda for the New Congress*, was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Drew E. Altman, Ph.D., Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Hamel from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by ICR/International Communications Research between November 4 and November 28, 2004, among a nationally representative sample of 1,396 respondents ages 18 and over. The survey included an oversample of respondents ages 65 and over (a total of 407 respondents in this age group were interviewed). Results for all groups have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 4 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents age 65 and older it is plus or minus 8 percentage points. For results based on subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

In order to get additional data, several questions were added to an omnibus survey conducted between November 12 and November 16, 2004 among a nationally representative sample of 1,014 adults 18 years of age and older. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research. The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). "Vol." indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

S1. Would you say you are under 65 or 65 or older?

	Under 65	65 or older	Refused
11/28/04	83	17	*

VOTING

1. Are you registered to vote at your present address?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	81	19	*	--

(Asked of total registered voters; n = 1199)

2. My next question is about the presidential election that took place (this past Tuesday/on Tuesday, November 2nd). Did you happen to vote in the presidential election, including voting by mail, early voting, or absentee ballot before the election, or did things come up that kept you from voting?

	Voted in the presidential election	Things came up that kept you from voting	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	89	11	--	--

1/2. Combo Table

	Registered to vote			Not registered to vote	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Voted	Did not vote			
11/28/04	81	72	9	19	*	--

(Asked of total voters; n = 1126)

3. Was this the first time you have voted in a presidential election, or have you voted in a presidential election before?

	First time voter	Voted before	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	11	89	--	--

1/2/3. Combo Table

	-----VOTED-----			Did not vote or not registered	Don't know	Refused
	NET	First time voter	Voted before			
11/28/04	72	8	64	28	*	--

(Asked of total voters; n =1126)

4. For PRESIDENT, did you happen to vote for...?

	John Kerry, the Democrat	George W. Bush, the Republican	Ralph Nader, the independent	Someone else	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	42	47	1	1	1	8

(Asked of total voters; n = 1126)

5. I'm going to read you two things that might have influenced your vote in the presidential election. Please tell me which of the following was MOST important when you decided who to vote for. Was it...?

	The candidates' stands on the issues	Your perception of the candidates' leadership abilities, character, values, and experience	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	40	53	5	2

(Asked of total voters; n =1126)

6. In the November election, people also voted to elect their representatives in the U.S. CONGRESS. In the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your district, did you happen to vote for...?

	The Democratic candidate	The Republican candidate	Some other candidate	Did you choose NOT to vote for Congress	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	39	43	2	7	4	4

PRIORITIES FOR NEW CONGRESS

7. Now I have some questions about what the President and the new Congress should try to accomplish in the next year. What do you think is the single MOST important issue or problem they should deal with?

	11/28/04
WAR IN IRAQ (NET)	27
The Conflict In Iraq/End The War	27
ECONOMICAL (NET)	17
The Economy	6
Unemployment/Create More Jobs	6
Poverty/More Help For The Poor/Homeless	2
Outsourcing Jobs To Other Countries	2
Better Wages/Increase Minimum Wage	*
Welfare/Welfare Reform	*
Housing/Better Housing For Low Income	*
Other Economical	1
HEALTH CARE (NET)	10
Healthcare/Healthcare Reform	7
Health Insurance	2
Medicare	1
Prescription Drug Cost Are Too High	1
Medical/Medicine/Health Issues	*
Other Health Care	*
TERRORISM/NATIONAL SECURITY (NET)	10
War On Terrorism/How To Combat Terrorist	5
National Security	4
Terrorism/Resolve Terrorism/Sept. 11th Attacks	1
Kill/Find Osama Bin Laden	*
Other Security/Safety Concerns	*
EDUCATION (NET)	5
Education/School System/Better Schooling	5
OTHER WAR/FOREIGN POLICY (NET)	4
Foreign Policy/Foreign Relations	2
World Peace/Peace In The Middle East	1
War In Afghanistan	*
Other War Mentions	1
IMMIGRATION ISSUES (NET)	3
Immigration/Illegal Alien Issues (General)	3

Continued on next page...

Q7 continued...

	11/28/04
FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT (NET)	3
National Budget/Deficit/Reducing The Nation's Deficit	3
TAXES (NET)	3
Taxes/Tax Reform	3
SOCIAL SECURITY (NET)	2
Social Security	2
MISCELLANEOUS (NET)	14
Abortion Issues	2
Drug Problems	1
Energy Crisis	1
Environmental Issues/Lack Of Concern For The Environment/Pollution	1
Moral/Religious Values	1
Racism/Civil Rights	1
Same Sex Marriages	1
Senior Citizens/More Help For The Elderly	1
Unifying The Nation/Parties	1
Children's Rights And Protection/Child Abuse	*
Crime/Violence	*
Gun Control/Gun Laws	*
Honesty In Government	*
Next Supreme Court Justice	*
Separation Of Church And State (Prayer In Schools)	*
Size Of Government Is Too Large	*
Utility Rates/Gas, Electric, And Oil Rates	*
Other Governmental/Political Issues	2
Other	3
Nothing/No issues	2
Don't Know/Refused	6

(Items a-e asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 700)

(Items f-j asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 696)

8. As you may know, the federal government has a budget deficit this year, so there will be only a limited amount of money for expanding things the government does. I'm going to read you a list of some different things the President and Congress might try to act on this year, some of which will cost money to do and some will not. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all. What about (INSERT)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all?

a. Increasing federal spending for public education

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	51	33	8	8	*	*

b. Rolling back some of the recent tax cuts to have more money to spend on other priorities

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	20	35	19	23	3	*

c. Fighting terrorism

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	60	28	5	4	2	--

d. Making changes to the Social Security system

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	35	38	10	14	2	*

e. Dealing with health care costs

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	60	34	4	1	*	--

f. Doing more to protect the environment

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	33	46	15	5	1	*

g. Cutting taxes

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	28	32	19	20	1	*

h. Dealing with Iraq

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	65	17	6	9	2	*

i. Reducing the federal budget deficit

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	42	46	7	3	2	*

j. Expanding health insurance coverage for people who are uninsured

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	50	39	8	3	*	*

(Items a-f asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 700)

(Items g-l asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 696)

9. Now thinking specifically about health care - I'm going to read you a list of health care issues the President and Congress might try to act on this year. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all. What about (INSERT, RANDOMIZE)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all?

a. Reducing the number and size of jury awards in medical malpractice lawsuits

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	26	35	20	13	6	--

b. Improving the Medicare prescription drug law that was enacted last year

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	38	35	13	5	8	*

c. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	57	34	6	2	1	*

d. Improving the nation's ability to respond to bioterrorist attacks

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	50	34	9	3	4	--

e. Spending more on medical research

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	28	50	11	7	3	*

f. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	38	47	10	3	2	*

g. Allowing prescription drugs to be imported from Canada

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	31	40	16	9	3	*

h. Making Medicare more financially sound for the future

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	58	35	4	2	1	*

i. Lowering the cost of health care and health insurance

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	63	26	6	3	1	*

j. Strengthening the system that provides flu vaccinations to the public

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	27	47	20	5	1	*

k. Improving the quality of medical care and reducing the number of medical errors

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	53	33	10	3	1	--

l. Increasing federal funding for stem cell research

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	21	32	19	23	5	*

NEW MEDICARE LAW

Now, on another topic...

(Asked of total age 65+; n = 407)

10. As you may know, at the end of 2003 President Bush and the U.S. Congress approved a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs for seniors. How well would you say you understand this new law? Would you say you understand it very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

	WELL			NOT WELL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	44	21	23	54	29	25	*	1

(Asked of total age 65+; n = 407)

11. Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of this new Medicare law?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	29	46	25	*

(Asked of one half of total age 65+; n = 204)

12. Which of the following comes closest to how you personally feel about the new Medicare law? Are you enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	ENTHUSIASTIC/SATISFIED			DISSATISFIED/ANGRY			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Enthusiastic	Satisfied but not enthusiastic	NET	Dissatisfied but not angry	Angry		
11/28/04	35	6	29	48	39	9	17	*

(Asked of one half of total age 65+; n = 203)

13. Which of the following comes closest to your view of what lawmakers in Washington should do with the new Medicare law?

	They should leave the law as it is	They should work to fix problems in the law	They should repeal the law	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	16	70	12	3	*

(Asked of total age 65+; n = 407)

14. How helpful do you think the new Medicare law will be for the following people?
 (First/Next), how helpful do you think the law will be for (READ ITEM)? Will it be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful?

a. A typical person on Medicare

	HELPFUL			NOT HELPFUL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	58	16	42	30	21	9	13	--

b. Low-income people on Medicare

	HELPFUL			NOT HELPFUL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	62	24	38	26	17	9	12	*

c. People on Medicare with very high prescription drug costs

	HELPFUL			NOT HELPFUL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	58	27	31	27	19	8	15	*

d. People on Medicare who currently have no drug coverage

	HELPFUL			NOT HELPFUL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	64	27	37	23	13	10	13	--

e. You personally

	HELPFUL			NOT HELPFUL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	38	21	17	54	22	32	8	*

(Asked of total age 65+; n = 407)

15. I'm going to read you a list of things some people say are problems with the new Medicare law that need to be fixed. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each. (First,) some people have said the new law (INSERT). Do you agree or disagree?

a. Will cost the government too much in the long run

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	43	40	17	--

b. Does not provide people on Medicare enough help with their prescription drug costs

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	78	11	10	*

c. Is too complicated for people on Medicare to understand

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	81	13	7	--

d. Will benefit private health plans and pharmaceutical companies too much

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	55	32	14	*

e. Does not do enough to lower prescription drug prices

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	78	13	9	*

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ISSUES

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 700)

16. Do you favor or oppose Congress changing the law to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada if they think they can get a lower price?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	73	21	5	*

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 700)

17. I'm going to read you a list of things some people have said about allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada, and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of these statements. Some people say that allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada (INSERT). Do you agree or disagree?

a. Will expose Americans to unsafe medicines from other countries

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	37	57	6	*

b. Will lead U.S. drug companies to do less research and development

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	25	70	5	--

c. Will make medicines more affordable without sacrificing safety or quality

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	69	24	6	*

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 700)

18. If Congress changed the law to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada, how much do you think this would help in reducing prescription drug costs in the U.S.? Would it help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	A LOT/SOME			NOT MUCH/NOT AT ALL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Not at all		
11/28/04	77	33	44	18	11	7	5	--

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 696)

19. Do you favor or oppose Congress changing the law to allow the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	80	13	7	*

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 696)

20. I'm going to read you a list of things some people have said about allowing the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare, and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of these statements. Some people say that allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices (INSERT). Do you agree or disagree?

- a. Will mean government price controls on prescription drugs

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	54	40	6	--

- b. Will lead U.S. drug companies to do less research and development

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	29	64	7	*

- c. Will make medicines more affordable for people on Medicare

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	77	16	7	*

- d. Makes sense because the government already negotiates lower prices for the Defense Department and Veterans Administration

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	67	25	8	*

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 696)

21. If Congress changed the law to allow the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price on prescription drugs for people on Medicare, how much do you think this would help in reducing prescription drug costs in the U.S.? Would it help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	A LOT/SOME			NOT MUCH/NOT AT ALL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Not at all		
11/28/04	81	28	53	17	11	6	3	--

THE UNINSURED

23. I'm going to read you some different ways to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here's the (first/next) one – (INSERT). Do you favor or oppose this?

- a. A national health plan, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	37	55	8	*

- b. Requiring businesses to offer private health insurance for their employees

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	70	27	3	*

- c. Offering uninsured Americans income tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase private health insurance on their own

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	73	24	3	*

- d. Expanding Medicare to cover people between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have health insurance

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	74	23	2	*

- e. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, to provide coverage for people without health insurance

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	80	18	2	--

- f. Offering businesses tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance to help them provide health insurance to their employees

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	88	10	1	*

- 23a. Of those options you just said you favored, which ONE do you MOST prefer?

Note: Also includes those who said “favor” to only one option

	11/28/04
Offering business tax deductions or other financial assistance to help them provide health insurance to their employees	23
Offering tax deductions or other financial assistance to help the uninsured pay for private insurance	17
Expanding state government programs, such as Medicaid to provide coverage for people without health insurance	17
A single payer government plan to provide health insurance for all Americans	15
Expanding Medicare to cover people under age 65 who do not have health insurance	13
Requiring businesses to offer health insurance for their employees	12
Don't favor any option	1
Don't know	2
Refused	*

24. Would you be willing to pay more—either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes—in order to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance, or not?

	Yes, would be willing to pay more	No, would not be willing to pay more	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	45	51	4	*

HEALTH INSURANCE

25. 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])?

	Yes, covered	No, not covered	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	85	15	*	*

(Asked of total who are covered by health insurance; n = 1252)

26. Which type of health insurance do you now have? 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?

Note: Adds up to more than 100 percent due to multiple responses.

	11/28/04
Private plan through employer/spouse's employer	64
Plan purchased yourself	16
Medicare	19
Medicaid	7
Some other government program	6
Covered through parents/family plan	2
Retiree benefits from a former employer/retiree health benefits	*
Somewhere else	1
Don't know	*
Refused	*

25/26. Combo Table

	11/28/04
Covered by insurance (NET)	85
Private plan through employer/spouse's employer	55
Plan purchased yourself	13
Medicare	16
Medicaid	6
Some other government program	5
Covered through parents/family plan	2
Retiree benefits from a former employer/retiree health benefits	*
Somewhere else	1
Not covered by any insurance	15
Don't know	*
Refused	*

27. Next, I'd like to ask your familiarity with the term "health savings account." Have you heard the term and you know what it means, have you heard it but you don't know what it means, or have you not heard the term "health savings account"?

	Heard the term and know what it means	Heard the term but don't know what it means	Have not heard the term	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	30	17	53	*	--

(Asked of total who have heard the term "health savings account" and know what it means; n = 494)

28. Are you currently enrolled in a health savings account, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	13	87	*	--

27/28. Combo Table

	Heard the term and know what it means			Heard term but don't know what it means	Have not heard term	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Currently enrolled	Not currently enrolled				
11/28/04	30	4	26	17	53	*	--

(Asked of total who have a private insurance plan through employer; n = 802)

29. Would you prefer to have your employer or your spouse's employer pay for all or part of your health insurance at work, or would you rather buy health insurance yourself, with the employer giving you the cash amount they would have contributed – or doesn't it make much difference to you?

	Prefer to have your or your spouse's employer pay for all or part	Would rather buy health insurance yourself	Doesn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	50	8	40	2	*

(Asked of total who have a private insurance plan through employer; n = 802)

30. What if the employer gave you the cash amount they would have contributed to your policy, and you had to buy health insurance on your own - Do you think purchasing your own coverage would make it EASIER or HARDER for you to (INSERT), or wouldn't it make much difference?

a. Get a good price for health insurance

	Easier	Harder	Wouldn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	7	77	14	1	*

b. Find a plan that matches your needs well

	Easier	Harder	Wouldn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	14	55	27	4	*

c. Find or keep health insurance if you are sick

	Easier	Harder	Wouldn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	4	70	22	3	*

d. Handle administrative issues, such as filing a claim or signing up for a policy

	Easier	Harder	Wouldn't make much difference	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	5	63	29	3	*

31. Do you think most people would be better off if they got their health insurance policy from the place where they work, or if they purchased their own health insurance policy?

	Better off if they got it from where they work	Better off if they purchased their own policy	No difference (Vol.)	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	75	17	2	6	*

HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 700)

32. Now, on another topic... A number of factors have been suggested as possible reasons for rising **health care costs**. For each factor I mention, please tell me whether you feel it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all in causing higher **health care costs**. If you do not know enough about some of these factors to have an opinion, just let me know. How important is (INSERT) as a factor in causing rising **health care costs**? (Next,) How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

a. High profits made by drug companies and insurance companies

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	89	66	23	8	5	3	3	--

b. The number of malpractice lawsuits

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	81	60	21	12	8	4	7	*

c. The amount of greed and waste that occurs in the health care system

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	80	57	23	10	8	2	9	*

d. The aging of the population

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	84	49	35	13	9	4	3	--

e. The use of expensive, high-tech medical equipment and expensive new drugs

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	77	40	37	18	12	6	5	--

f. The fact that most people with health insurance have little incentive to look for lower-priced doctors and services

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	63	26	37	29	20	9	8	*

g. Doctors making too much money

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	60	31	29	37	23	14	3	*

32a. Of those factors you said are very important in causing rising health care costs, which one do you think is the MOST important reason health care costs are rising?

Note: Also includes those who said “very important” to only one factor

	11/28/04
High profits made by drug companies and insurance companies	29
The number of malpractice lawsuits	22
The amount of greed and waste that occurs in the health care system	15
The aging of the population	9
The use of expensive, high-tech medical equipment and expensive new drugs	7
Doctors making too much money	5
The fact that most people with health insurance have little incentive to look for lower-priced doctors and services	4
Other reason is most important	1
None of these very important	5
All same/equally important	1
Don't know	1
Refused	--

MALPRACTICE REFORM

33. Now, switching to the topic of medical malpractice. First, do you think patients bring (too many), about the right amount, or (too few) lawsuits against doctors?

	Too many	Too few	About the right amount	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	61	10	18	12	*

34. Do you think the amount of money awarded to patients by juries in malpractice suits is usually (too much), (not enough), or about right?

	Too much	Not enough	About right	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	49	9	30	11	*

35. When medical malpractice occurs, juries usually award patients money to compensate them for their unpaid medical bills and other financial losses they may have suffered. In addition to these awards, do you approve or disapprove of juries making large monetary awards in malpractice cases as a way to (INSERT)?

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know	Refused
a. Compensate individuals for pain and suffering	51	41	8	*
b. Punish doctors for negligence and carelessness	38	54	7	*

36. Would you favor or oppose a new law that would put a limit on the amount of money that can be awarded to someone suing a doctor for malpractice for damages for pain and suffering?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	63	33	4	*

(Asked of total who would favor putting a limit on the amount of money awarded for pain and suffering; n = 963)

37. Do you think such awards for pain and suffering should be limited to \$1 million; \$500,000; \$250,000; or should the limit be lower than \$250,000?

	\$1 million	\$500,000	\$250,000	Lower than \$250,000	Higher than \$1 million (vol.)	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	29	23	16	15	1	16	1

36/37. Combo Table

	11/28/04
Favor pain and suffering award limits	63
Limited to \$1M	18
Limited to \$500K	14
Limited to \$250K	10
Limited to lower than \$250K	9
Limited to higher than \$1M (Vol.)	1
Don't know	10
Refused	1
Oppose pain and suffering award limits	33
Don't know	4
Refused	*

38. If a law were passed that did limit the amount of money patients can receive for pain and suffering, how much do you think this would help in reducing the overall cost of health care in the U.S.? Do you think it would help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	A LOT/SOME			NOT MUCH/NOT AT ALL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Not at all		
11/28/04	69	32	37	25	14	11	5	*

39. Would you favor or oppose a new law that would prohibit individuals from filing medical malpractice lawsuits unless a qualified independent medical specialist reviewed the claim and thought it was reasonable?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	72	23	5	*

40. If a law were passed that did prohibit individuals from filing malpractice lawsuits unless an independent medical specialist reviewed the claim and thought it was reasonable, how much do you think this would help in reducing the overall cost of health care in the U.S.? Do you think it would help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	A LOT/SOME			NOT MUCH/NOT AT ALL			Don't know	Refused
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Not at all		
11/28/04	75	32	43	23	13	10	3	*

(Asked of one-half of total respondents; n = 696)

41. A number of factors have been suggested as possible reasons for the increasing cost of **medical malpractice insurance**. For each factor I mention, please tell me whether you feel it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all in causing higher **malpractice insurance costs**. If you do not know enough about some of these factors to have an opinion, just let me know. How important is (INSERT) as a factor in causing rising **malpractice insurance costs**? (Next,) How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

(REPEAT CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY: Is this factor very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?)

a. Too many doctors making mistakes in treating patients

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	76	43	33	14	13	1	9	*

b. Too many patients making unwarranted claims against doctors

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	76	53	23	15	9	6	9	*

c. Too many lawyers filing unwarranted lawsuits

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	82	60	22	12	6	6	6	*

d. Too many juries making larger awards than are justified

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	72	42	30	15	8	7	13	--

e. High profits made by insurance companies selling malpractice insurance

	IMPORTANT			NOT IMPORTANT			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
11/28/04	77	49	28	10	5	5	12	--

41a. Of those factors you said are very important in causing rising malpractice insurance costs, which one do you think is the MOST important reason these costs are rising?

Note: Also includes those who said “very important” to only one reason

	11/28/04
Too many lawyers filing unwarranted lawsuits	32
High profits made by insurance companies selling malpractice insurance	15
Too many patients making unwarranted claims against doctors	14
Too many doctors making mistakes in treating patients	11
Too many juries making larger awards than are justified	9
Other reason is most important	*
All same/equally important	2
None of these very important	17
Don't know	*
Refused	*

DEMOGRAPHICS

(Asked of total who do not have Medicare; n = 1039)

42. Medicare is the program that provides health insurance for people over age 65 and some disabled people. Is anyone in your household now receiving Medicare benefits?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	10	89	1	*

26/42. Combo Table

	Someone in household has Medicare	No one in household has Medicare
11/28/04	25	75

(Asked of total who have Medicare; n = 133)

42a. Is that you or someone else?

	You	Someone else	Both you and someone else	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	18	72	11	--	*

26/42/42a. Combo Table

	Someone in household has Medicare				No one in household has Medicare
	NET	Respondent	Someone else	Both respondent and someone else	
11/28/04	25	18	6	1	75

D1. What is your age?

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Refused
11/28/04	21	36	25	16	2

D2. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	31	31	21	8	3	5

(Asked of total Republicans/Democrats; n = 919)

D3. Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or not a very strong (Republican/ Democrat)?

D2/D3. Combo Table

	REPUBLICAN			DEMOCRAT			Independent	Something else	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Strong	Not strong	NET	Strong	Not strong				
11/28/04	31	21	10	31	20	10	21	8	3	5

(Asked of total independents; n = 310)

D4. Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

D2/D4. Combo Table – Leaned Party

	Republican + Lean Rep.	Democrat + Lean Dem.	Non-lean Independent	Something else	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	39	41	5	8	3	5

D5. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	21	37	36	5	2

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

	Married	Living w/a partner	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never been married	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	55	5	3	11	8	19	*	1

D7. Including yourself, how many adults age 18 or older live in your household?

	1	2	3	4	5	6+	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	25	57	11	5	1	1	--	1

D8. How many people living in your household are under the age of 18?

	1	2	3	4	5	6+	None	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	17	18	5	3	1	*	55	--	1

D9. What is your religious preference? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, some other religion or no religion?

	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Jewish	Some other religion	No religion	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	35	28	2	22	10	*	2

(Asked of total who are some other religion; n = 300)

D10. Do you consider yourself a Christian or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	86	13	--	1

(Asked of total Christians/Protestants/Catholics; n = 1148)

D11. Do you consider yourself a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	43	53	3	1

D9/10. Religion Summary Table #1

	11/28/04
Protestant/Catholic/Other Christian (NET)	82
Protestant	35
Catholic	28
Other Christian	19
Jewish	2
Some other religion/not Christian	3
No religion	10
Don't know	*
Refused	2

D9/D10/D11. Religion Summary Table #2

	11/28/04
Protestant/Catholic/Other Christian (NET)	82
Born Again	35
Not Born Again	47
Jewish	2
Some other religion/not Christian	3
No religion	10
Don't know	*
Refused	2

D12. What is the last grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

	11/28/04
High school graduate or less (NET)	46
Less than high school graduate (SUBNET)	20
None, or grade 1-8	14
High school incomplete	7
High school graduate + (SUBNET)	26
High school graduate	23
Business, technical/vocational school	3
Some college or more (NET)	53
Some college, no 4 year degree	18
College graduate + (SUBNET)	35
College graduate	20
Post-graduate training	15
Don't Know	*
Refused	1

D13. Are you, or are any other adults living in your household, a member of a labor union?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	15	84	1	*

(Asked of total labor union members; n = 191)

D13a. Is that you or someone else?

	You	Someone else	Both you and someone else	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	42	50	7	--	--

D13/D13a. Combo Table

	Labor union member in household				No labor union member in household	Don't know	Refused
	NET	Respondent	Someone else	Both respondent and someone else			
11/28/04	15	6	7	1	84	1	*

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

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	13	85	*	2

D15. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race?

	White	Black	Asian	Some other race	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	78	12	1	5	*	3

Race Summary Table

	White Non-Hispanic	Black or African American Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian	Some other race	Don't know	Refused
11/28/04	70	11	13	1	2	*	2

D16. Last year, that is in 2003, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

	11/28/04
LESS THAN \$20,000	16
\$20,000 BUT LESS THAN \$30,000	13
\$30,000 BUT LESS THAN \$40,000	12
\$40,000 BUT LESS THAN \$50,000	10
\$50,000 BUT LESS THAN \$60,000	8
\$60,000 BUT LESS THAN \$75,000	8
\$75,000 BUT LESS THAN \$100,000	9
\$100,000 OR MORE	12
Don't know	6
Refused	7

D18. GENDER

	Male	Female
11/28/04	48	52

D20. What language was this interview conducted in?

	All Spanish	Mostly Spanish	Part Spanish/Part English	Mostly English	All English
11/28/04	8	--	--	*	92

Region

	Northeast	North Central	South	West
11/28/04	19	23	36	22

Metro Status

	Urban	Suburban	Rural
11/28/04	32	45	23

OMNIBUS QUESTIONS

The following questions were part of an omnibus survey conducted by telephone from November 12 through November 16, 2004 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,014 adults 18 years of age and older. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research.

Next, I'm going to read you a list of some specific DISEASES AND HEALTH CONDITIONS the President and Congress might try to do something about this year. As I read each one, tell me if you think doing something about this disease should be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all. What about (INSERT, RANDOMIZE)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, important but not a top priority, not too important, or should not be done at all?

a. HIV/AIDS

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	59	33	6	2	*	--

b. Obesity

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	30	41	20	7	2	*

c. Alzheimer's disease

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	52	40	6	1	1	*

d. Cancer

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	70	26	2	1	*	*

e. Heart disease

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	59	36	4	1	1	*

f. Diabetes

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	49	43	7	1	1	*

g. Mental health

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	41	48	9	1	*	*

h. Infectious diseases such as the flu and SARS

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	32	54	12	2	1	*

i. Drug and alcohol abuse

	Top priority	Important, but not a top priority	Not too important	Should not be done at all	Don't know	Refused
11/16/04	37	46	11	5	1	*



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