



*Toplines*

# ***January/February 2005 Health Poll Report Survey***

**February 2005**

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### **Methodology**

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between February 3 and February 6, 2005, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 adults ages 18 and older.

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.

Q1a. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem for the government to address? Is there another problem you think is almost as important for the government to address?

*Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=605)* (Total Net Responses)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>WAR/FOREIGN POLICY (NET)</b>          | 34 |
| War/Situation with Iraq                  | 17 |
| War (general)                            | 14 |
| Foreign policy/Foreign relations         | 3  |
| World peace/Peace in the Middle East     | 1  |
| <b>SOCIAL SECURITY (NET)</b>             | 33 |
| <b>ECONOMY (NET)</b>                     | 21 |
| The economy                              | 6  |
| Unemployment                             | 9  |
| Poverty/homelessness                     | 5  |
| Rising gas/fuel prices                   | -- |
| <b>HEALTH CARE (NET)</b>                 | 21 |
| Health care/health care reform           | 14 |
| Health insurance                         | 3  |
| Prescription drug costs                  | 1  |
| Medicare                                 | 2  |
| <b>TERRORISM/NATIONAL SECURITY (NET)</b> | 10 |
| National security                        | 5  |
| Terrorism/Sept. 11 attacks               | 3  |
| War on terrorism                         | 1  |
| <b>TAXES/BUDGET (NET)</b>                | 10 |
| Taxes/tax reform                         | 3  |
| National budget/deficit                  | 5  |
| Reduce government spending               | 1  |
| <b>EDUCATION (NET)</b>                   | 4  |
| <b>CRIME (NET)</b>                       | 2  |
| Crime/violence                           | 1  |
| Drug problems                            | 1  |
| <b>OTHER GOVERNMENT ISSUES (NET)</b>     | 6  |
| Honesty in government                    | 1  |
| Size of government is too large          | -- |

Q1b. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem in health or health care for the government to address? Is there another health problem you think is almost as important?

*Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=596)*

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>COSTS (NET)</b>  | 42 |
| Cost of health care   | 25 |
| Cost of prescription drugs/medicines  | 14 |
| Cost of insurance/affordable insurance  | 8  |
| Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)   | 2  |
| <b>ACCESS TO CARE AND INSURANCE (NET)</b>   | 21 |
| Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured   | 12 |
| Health care availability (general)  | 4  |
| Health care for the poor  | 2  |
| Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions) | 3  |
| <b>MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NET)</b>   | 18 |
| Cancer/Cancer Research  | 6  |
| AIDS/AIDS research/HIV  | 5  |
| Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other  | 9  |
| <b>SENIORS' ISSUES (NET)</b>  | 16 |
| Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)   | 8  |
| Medicare  | 6  |
| Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly/Medicare)   | 4  |
| <b>INSURANCE COMPANY CONCERNS (NET)</b>   | 8  |
| Health insurance (general)  | 7  |
| HMO/Managed care concerns   | 1  |
| <b>OTHER POLICY (NET)</b>   | 8  |
| Quality of care   | 3  |
| Children's care/issues  | 2  |
| Other policy/social issues (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)                         | 4  |

*NOTE: "Don't know" and responses mentioned by less than 5 percent are not shown*

- Q2. Now 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,) how closely did you follow this story...? **(INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE) REPEAT CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY:** Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

|   | <u>Very<br/>Closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>Closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>Closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>Closely</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Military action and peace keeping efforts in Iraq  | 50                      | 35                        | 9                          | 6                             | 1                   |
| b. The elections in Iraq  | 29                      | 36                        | 18                         | 17                            | 1                   |
| c. Proposals by President Bush to change the Social Security System   | 45                      | 29                        | 13                         | 13                            | 1                   |
| d. Recovery efforts following the tsunami in Asia   | 37                      | 42                        | 13                         | 9                             | 0                   |
| e. Changes to U.S. dietary guidelines recommending that Americans eat fewer calories, get more exercise, and eat more fruits and vegetables       | 24                      | 28                        | 20                         | 28                            | *                   |
| f. The ongoing discussions about the potential health risks of pain medications such as Vioxx and Celebrex  | 27                      | 29                        | 21                         | 22                            | 1                   |
| g. Reports of new cases of mad cow disease in Canada  | 13                      | 22                        | 27                         | 38                            | *                   |
| h. Ongoing efforts to manage the nation's supply of flu vaccine   | 22                      | 34                        | 25                         | 18                            | 1                   |
| i. A new study finding that everyday activity such as fidgeting, pacing and restlessness may be part of what determines whether a person is obese | 6                       | 13                        | 17                         | 62                            | 1                   |
| j. Proposed legislation supported by President Bush that would reform the medical malpractice system  | 18                      | 27                        | 23                         | 30                            | 1                   |
| k. President Bush's State of the Union address  | 22                      | 20                        | 14                         | 44                            | 1                   |

Q3. Now I'm going to read you some different health care issues. As I read each one, please tell me how important you think it is for the President and Congress to deal with this issue—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. (First,) How important is this issue... **(INSERT ITEM, READ & RANDOMIZE)?**

|   | Very<br><u>imp.</u> | Somewhat<br><u>imp.</u> | Not too<br><u>imp.</u> | Not at all<br><u>imp.</u> | DK/<br><u>Ref.</u> |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance | 78                  | 16                      | 3                      | 2                         | 1                  |
| b. Reforming the medical malpractice system                       | 53                  | 31                      | 9                      | 5                         | 3                  |
| c. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs                        | 82                  | 14                      | 2                      | 1                         | *                  |
| d. Lowering the cost of health insurance                          | 85                  | 12                      | 2                      | 1                         | *                  |
| e. Reducing medical errors or mistakes                            | 72                  | 20                      | 5                      | 2                         | 1                  |

Q3.1 Which of the following issues you say are very important do you think is MOST important?

- 30 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- 27 Lowering the cost of health insurance
- 17 Lowering the cost of prescription drugs
- 10 Reducing medical errors or mistakes
- 7 Reforming the medical malpractice system
- \* **(VOL.)** Other issue is most important
- 5 **(VOL.)** All the same/equally important
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
- 3 None very important

Q3.2 Do you currently take any prescription medicine on a daily basis or not?

- 50 Yes
- 50 No
- \* Don't know/Refused

- Q4. I am going to read you a list of companies and groups. For each one please tell me if you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of each. How about.. **(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE)**.. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion?

**If favorable/unfavorable, ask:** Is that very or somewhat?

***Based on One-Half of Respondents only (n=605)***

|   | Very<br><u>favor</u> | Somewhat<br><u>favor</u> | Somewhat<br><u>unfavor.</u> | Very<br><u>unfavor</u> | DK/<br><u>Ref.</u> |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Hospitals  | 39                   | 39                       | 12                          | 6                      | 4                  |
| b. HMO's, or Health Maintenance<br>Organizations, and other managed care<br>plans | 15                   | 30                       | 24                          | 20                     | 11                 |
| c. Health insurance companies   | 19                   | 34                       | 24                          | 18                     | 5                  |
| d. Banks  | 28                   | 47                       | 14                          | 4                      | 6                  |
| e. Oil companies  | 10                   | 26                       | 27                          | 27                     | 10                 |
| f. Pharmaceutical or drug companies   | 14                   | 30                       | 25                          | 25                     | 6                  |
| g. Airlines   | 18                   | 40                       | 15                          | 8                      | 18                 |
| h. Doctors  | 42                   | 40                       | 11                          | 4                      | 4                  |
| i. Tobacco companies  | 7                    | 10                       | 19                          | 56                     | 7                  |

- Q5. We're interested in how often you think you can trust what certain groups have to say in their advertisements. Do you think you can trust what...(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE) ... say in their advertisements most of the time, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

***Based on One-Half of Respondents Only (n=596)***

|                                     | <u>Most of<br/>the time</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Hardly<br/>ever</u> | <u>Never</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| a. Hospitals                        | 37                          | 48               | 10                     | 3            | 3                   |
| b. Lawyers                          | 11                          | 39               | 27                     | 21           | 2                   |
| c. Health insurance companies       | 17                          | 47               | 23                     | 11           | 2                   |
| d. Pharmaceutical or drug companies | 18                          | 47               | 21                     | 13           | 2                   |
| e. Doctors                          | 45                          | 39               | 7                      | 5            | 4                   |
| f. HMO's or managed care companies  | 16                          | 37               | 20                     | 17           | 10                  |
| g. Politicians                      | 6                           | 35               | 30                     | 27           | 2                   |

- Q6. What impact do you think new prescription drugs developed over the past **20** years have had on the health and quality of life of Americans in general? Have they had a positive impact on health and quality of life, a negative impact, or have they had no impact?

78 Positive  
13 Negative  
4 No impact  
5 Don't know/Refused

- Q7. Do you think prescription drugs developed over the past **20** years have made a big difference, small difference or no difference in the lives of people with.. (INSERT. READ AND ROTATE). What about for people with...(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE).

**READ AS NECESSARY:** Have they made a big difference, a small difference, or no difference?

|                   | <u>Big<br/>difference</u> | <u>Small<br/>difference</u> | <u>No<br/>difference</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Heart disease  | 72                        | 18                          | 3                        | 6                   |
| b. Cancer         | 63                        | 23                          | 8                        | 7                   |
| c. Obesity        | 18                        | 37                          | 32                       | 13                  |
| d. Mental illness | 42                        | 33                          | 9                        | 16                  |
| e. HIV            | 52                        | 22                          | 9                        | 18                  |

- Q7.1 Do you think prescription drugs developed over the past 20 years have made a big difference, a small difference, or no difference in the life of the average person?
- 58 Big difference
  - 33 Small difference
  - 7 No difference
  - 3 Don't know/Refused
- Q8a. How important a contribution do pharmaceutical companies make by researching and developing new drugs and treatments?
- 60 Very important
  - 31 Somewhat important
  - 3 Not too important
  - 3 Not at all important
  - 3 Don't know
- Q8b. Which statement comes closer to your own view (**ROTATE 1 & 2**):
- 70 Pharmaceutical companies are most concerned about making profits, and they put profits ahead of people
  - 24 Pharmaceutical companies are most concerned about developing new drugs and treatments that save lives and improve the quality of life for Americans, and profits come second, OR
  - 7 (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know/Refused
- Q8c. When you see prescription medicines advertised on television, how confident are you that the benefits outweigh the risks and side effects of the medicine?
- 5 Very confident
  - 34 Somewhat confident
  - 31 Not too confident
  - 26 Not at all confident
  - 3 Don't know/Refused
- Q9. Which statement comes closer to your own view (**ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 & 2**):
- 59 Prescription drugs increase overall medical costs in the U.S. because they are so expensive (OR)
  - 23 Prescription drugs help decrease overall medical costs in the U.S. by reducing the need for expensive medical procedures and hospitalizations. (OR)
  - 11 Prescription drugs do not affect overall medical costs in the U.S.
  - 7 Don't know/Refused

- Q10. Do you think consumers get excellent value for the dollar, a good value, only fair value for the dollar, or poor value for the dollar from each of the following? What about (**INSERT. READ AND ROTATE**)...

**READ AS NECESSARY:** Would you say this is an excellent value, good value, only fair value, or poor value?

|                                  | <u>Excellent</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Only fair</u> | <u>Poor</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| a. Prescription drugs            | 6                | 27          | 39               | 27          | 2             |
| b. Hospitals                     | 6                | 30          | 39               | 22          | 3             |
| c. Physician fees                | 4                | 28          | 39               | 25          | 4             |
| d. Immunizations against disease | 23               | 39          | 26               | 8           | 3             |

- Q11. Have you seen or heard any advertisements for prescription drugs, or not?

90 Yes  
 9 No  
 \* Don't know/Refused

- Q12. As a result of seeing an ad for a prescription medicine, have you ever talked with a doctor about the specific medicine you saw or heard advertised, or not?

***Based on those who have seen or heard ads (n=1097)***

26 Yes  
 74 No  
 \* Don't know/Refused

Q13. When you talked to your doctor about a prescription medicine you saw advertised please tell me if your doctor did any of the following. Did your doctor....?

*Based on those who talked with dr. about advertised medicine (n=286)*

|  | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/ Ref.</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| a. Give you the prescription drug you asked about                | 52         | 47        | 1               |
| b. Recommend a different prescription drug                       | 44         | 54        | 2               |
| c. Recommend an over-the-counter drug                            | 34         | 65        | 1               |
| d. Recommend no drug   | 26         | 72        | 2               |
| e. Recommend that you make changes in your behavior or lifestyle | 57         | 42        | 1               |
| f. Something else  | 19         | 78        | 3               |

Q14. Do you think advertisements by pharmaceutical or drug companies provide useful information most of the time, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

*Based on those who have seen or heard ads (n=1097)*

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 22 | Most of the time |
| 42 | Sometimes        |
| 25 | Hardly ever      |
| 10 | Never            |
| 1  | Don't know       |

Q15. I'd like your opinion of current government regulation of prescription drugs in some different areas. Is there too much regulation in this area, not as much as there should be, or about the right amount of regulation? How about ...**(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE?)**

|  | <u>Too much</u> | <u>Not enough</u> | <u>About right</u> | <u>DK/ Ref.</u> |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. Making sure prescription drugs are safe for people to use   | 8               | 50                | 39                 | 3               |
| b. Making sure that statements about benefits and possible side effects made in advertisements for prescription drugs are not misleading | 6               | 51                | 39                 | 4               |
| c. Limiting the price of prescription drugs  | 14              | 65                | 14                 | 7               |

- Q16. What if you heard that limiting the prices of prescription drugs might lead to LESS research and development of new drugs since drug companies would be making smaller profits. Would you still think there should be more regulation of the prices charged for prescription drugs?

*Based on those who think the government is not doing enough to limit price of Rx drugs (n=788)*

- 70 Yes
- 23 No
- 6 Don't know/Refused

- Q17. Overall, how confident are you in the safety of prescription drugs sold in the United States? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

- 28 Very confident
- 52 Somewhat confident
- 13 Not too confident
- 5 Not at all confident
- 1 Don't know/Refused

- Q18. How confident are you in the Food and Drug Administration's ability to make sure prescription drugs for sale in the United States are safe?

- 22 Very confident
- 55 Somewhat confident
- 15 Not too confident
- 7 Not at all confident
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q19. In the past few years, has your confidence in the Food and Drug Administration's ability to ensure the safety of prescription drugs in the United States--increased, decreased or has it remained about the same?

- 8 Increased
- 27 Decreased
- 62 Remained about the same
- 2 Don't know/Refused

Now, on another topic...

Q20. 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
- 10 Part-time for an employer
- 21 Retired
- 12 Not employed
- 2 Homemaker (VOL.)
- 1 Student (VOL.)
- 3 Disabled (VOL.)
- \* Don't know/Refused

Q21. 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 CALIFORNIA:** (Medi-Cal)

- 83 Yes, insured
- 17 No, not insured
- \* Don't know/Refused

- Q22. 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,) 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<br/>Worried</u> | <u>Somewhat<br/>Worried</u> | <u>Not too<br/>Worried</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>Worried</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance   | 41                      | 32                          | 11                         | 15                            | 1                   |
| b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need  | 34                      | 28                          | 16                         | 22                            | *                   |
| c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse   | 23                      | 33                          | 19                         | 24                            | 1                   |
| d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need  | 31                      | 26                          | 17                         | 25                            | *                   |
| e. Being the victim of a violent crime   | 15                      | 26                          | 29                         | 30                            | *                   |
| f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack  | 17                      | 27                          | 24                         | 31                            | *                   |
| g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices   | 40                      | 31                          | 13                         | 17                            | 1                   |
| h. Losing your savings in the stock market   | 17                      | 18                          | 15                         | 48                            | 1                   |
| i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage   | 21                      | 19                          | 19                         | 40                            | *                   |
| <b>Item J based on those who are employed (n=687)</b>  |                         |                             |                            |                               |                     |
| j. Losing your job   | 15                      | 15                          | 24                         | 45                            | *                   |
| <b>Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=599)</b>  |                         |                             |                            |                               |                     |
| k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits               | 15                      | 14                          | 19                         | 52                            | *                   |
| <b>Items L-M based on those who are insured (n=1046)</b>   |                         |                             |                            |                               |                     |
| l. Losing your health insurance coverage   | 26                      | 22                          | 19                         | 32                            | *                   |
| m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you | 29                      | 34                          | 17                         | 18                            | 1                   |

**DEMOGRAPHICS:**

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.)**

- 19 18-29
- 39 30-49
- 24 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 1 Refused
  
- 58 Total Under 50
- 41 Total 50 and older

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

- 30 Republican
- 35 Democrat
- 29 Independent
- 4 (VOL.) No preference/Not interested in politics
- \* (VOL.) Other party
- 1 Don't know
- 2 Refused

**D4. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)**

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 17 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)
- \* Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2004 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?  
Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 7 Less than \$10,000
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 20 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 6 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D7. 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)**

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



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