

FEBRUARY 1999 HEALTH NEWS INTEREST INDEX
(plus supplements questions)

--FINAL TOPLINE RESULTS--

March 1, 1999

job # 99007

n=1,200 national adults, 18 years and older

Margin of error: plus or minus 3 percentage points

Interviewing dates: February 19 – February 25, 1999

INTRODUCTION: Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. We're taking a short survey about some important issues in the news. I'd like to ask a few questions of the **YOUNGEST MALE** age 18 or older, who is now at home. **(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I speak with the **OLDEST FEMALE** age 18 or older who is now at home).

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:

48 Male

52 Female

100

1. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem in health or health care for the government to address? (**OPEN-ENDED. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. IF RESPONDENT ONLY GIVES ONE ANSWER ASK:**) Is there another health problem you think is almost as important?

Current Total <u>Mention</u>		Dec-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Oct-98 Total Ment.	June-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Apr-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Feb-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Dec-97 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Oct-97 Total <u>Ment.</u>
18	Health care costs	16	14	14	17	15	12	18
10	Medicare/Medicaid	7	8	8	8	9	7	7
10	Seniors health issues	8	9	7	7	6	6	8
8	Health insurance - availability	11	9	9	6	8	9	8
7	HMO/Managed care concerns	7	12	4	5	2	5	4
7	Cancer/Cancer research	9	8	10	5	4	11	10
5	AIDS/HIV	7	6	7	5	5	13	10
5	Government involvement	3	*	3	2	3	3	3

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

2. Now I have a few questions about Medicare... National bipartisan commissions are sometimes created to study national problems and make recommendations to the President and Congress. As far as you know, is there such a commission now studying the future of Medicare, or not?

Based on Form 1 respondents only; n=602

<u>Current</u>		<u>8/98¹</u>
27	Yes, there is a commission studying Medicare	39
21	No, there is not a commission studying Medicare	16
49	Don't know if there is a commission	39
<u>3</u>	Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

IF NOT AWARE OF COMMISSION (IN Q.2), READ: In fact, a commission WAS created to study the future of Medicare...

3. Now I have a few questions about Medicare... How closely, if at all, have you been following news stories about the work of a national bipartisan commission studying the future of Medicare? Have you been following news about the commission's work.

Based on Form 2 respondents only; n=606

<u>Current</u>		<u>8/98</u>
5	Very closely	3
16	Fairly closely	10
35	Not too closely, OR	31
43	Not at all closely?	55
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

4. As far as you know, has the commission released its report of recommendations about what should be done to improve the condition of the Medicare program, or not?

16	Yes
35	No
<u>49</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

¹ Trends for questions 2 & 3 are from the September 24, 1998 Medicare Survey, n=1,908, conducted for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and The Harvard School of Public Health by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

Now I'm going to ask you about some things that have been in the news recently. Not everyone will have heard about them. If I mention something you're not familiar with, just say so and I'll go to the next question. . .

5. In his recent State of the Union address, President Clinton made some proposals that would affect health care for seniors. Based on what you've seen or heard in the news recently, tell me whether or not the President proposed doing each of the following. (First,) as far as you know, did he propose...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a. Offering tax credits to help people pay for long-term health care for the elderly and disabled	38	14	48	=100
b. Asking seniors with higher incomes to pay more for Medicare	23	26	51	=100
c. Using part of the federal budget surplus to help make the Medicare program financially sound	49	11	40	=100
d. Offering early retirees the option of buying insurance under Medicare before they turn 65	21	21	58	=100

6. In his State of the Union address, President Clinton also made some proposals regarding the Social Security program. Based on what you've seen or heard in the news recently, tell me whether or not the President proposed doing each of the following. (First,) as far as you know, did he propose...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a. Using a part of the federal budget surplus to help make the Social Security program financially sound	56	12	32	=100
b. Taking part of the Social Security funds and having an independent board invest them in the stock market	45	18	37	=100
c. Helping people set up individual savings account that can be used for retirement	38	20	42	=100
d. Raising the age of eligibility for Social Security to 70 years	29	27	44	=100

7. Based on their recent research study, a group of scientists say they have identified how the HIV virus that causes AIDS originally developed. From what you've seen or heard in the news, did this research study find that HIV originally came from...

63 Chimpanzees
 1 Rats
 2 A laboratory accident
 2 An agent used in germ warfare
32 Don't know/Refused
 100

8. Now I'm going to read a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month. 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...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not At <u>All Closely</u>	Don't Know <u>Refused</u>	
a. President Clinton's State of the Union Address						
Current:	13	23	24	38	2	=100
b. Controversy over an anti-abortion web site on the internet						
Current:	7	16	22	52	3	=100
c. The Y2K, or year 2000, problem facing the nation's computer systems next year						
Current:	28	37	21	13	1	=100
d. President Clinton's proposal to use part of the budget surplus to pay for Social Security in the future						
Current:	15	30	25	28	2	=100
1/99 ² :	21	33	27	18	1	=100
e. A new research study that has identified chimpanzees as the original source of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS						
Current:	12	28	27	31	2	=100

Continued...

² Trends use for question 8, items d and g are from the Senate Impeachment Trial News Interest Tracking Poll, January 19-25, 1999, n=1,500 conducted by Pew Research Center for the People and The Press. Wording for 8d. in the trend survey did not include the phrase "part of".

8. Continued...	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not At All Closely</u>	<u>Don't Know Refused</u>	
f. A proposal by the Clinton Administration to provide tax credits to help pay for long-term care for the elderly and disabled						
Current:	10	20	29	38	3	=100
g. The impeachment trial of President Clinton in the Senate						
Current:	29	35	19	15	2	=100
1/99:	22	37	26	14	1	=100
h. Michael Jordan's retirement from pro basketball						
Current:	18	25	29	27	1	=100
i. Americans' use of herbal products and other dietary supplements						
Current:	12	24	27	36	1	=100
9. Now I have some questions about dietary supplements other than conventional vitamins and minerals. These kinds of supplements include herbal products, like echinacea and ginseng, as well as amino acids, over-the-counter hormone pills, and others. In general, would you say you are very familiar with these supplements, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not at all familiar with them?						
16	Very familiar					
39	Somewhat familiar					
22	Not too familiar					
22	Not at all familiar					
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused					
100						
10. How often do you, yourself, use these kinds of dietary supplements...						
18	Regularly					
15	Sometimes					
16	Hardly ever, OR					
50	Never?					
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused					
100						

11. Are you the parent of any children under age 18 living in your household?

34 Yes
 65 No
1 Don't know/Refused
 100

12. Do you give any of these kinds of supplements to your children, or not?

Based on parents of children under 18; n=399

18 Yes
 81 No
1 Don't know/Refused
 100

13. Continuing to think about dietary supplements OTHER than conventional vitamins and minerals... For you personally, how important is it to be able to get these kinds of supplements, if you want them? Is it...

35 Very important
 24 Somewhat important
 17 Not too important, OR
 22 Not at all important?
2 Don't know/Refused
 100

14. Generally speaking, do you think these supplements are good for people's health and well-being, or not?

52 Yes, are good
 17 No, are not good
 17 It depends/some are, some aren't (VOL.)
14 Don't know/Refused
 100

15. Please tell whether or not you think these supplements can generally help people with each of the following illnesses. (First,) do you think they can help people with...

	<u>Yes, Can Can Help</u>	<u>No, Cannot</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a. The flu	49	37	14	=100
b. Colds	61	27	12	=100
c. Cancer	35	43	22	=100
d. AIDS	16	57	27	=100
e. Arthritis	53	28	19	=100
f. Depression	52	29	19	=100

16. If you heard or read the phrase “ supports or boosts the immune system” would you think that phrase means it helps PREVENT you from getting sick, or not?

64 Yes, would
27 No, would not
9 Don't know/Refused
100

17. Would you think that phrase means it helps you get better if you are ALREADY sick, or not?

42 Yes, would
48 No, would not
10 Don't know/Refused
100

18. As far as you know, does the government regulate these kinds of dietary supplements to make sure that they are safe and will do what they claim to do?

35 Yes, government regulates
53 No, does not
12 Don't know/Refused
100

19. In general, do you think these supplements are adequately tested for safety, purity, and consistency of dosage before being put on the market, or not?
- 37 Yes, adequately tested
 - 48 No, are not
 - 15 Don't know/Refused
- 100
20. Which ONE of the following statements comes CLOSER to your opinion?
- 49 Many of the health claims made about dietary supplements are just not true
 - 37 In general, dietary supplements do provide the health benefits they claim
 - 14 Don't know/Refused
- 100
21. How frequently, if ever, do you think people get sick from or are harmed by dietary supplements? Do you think this happens...
- 9 Often
 - 37 Sometimes
 - 38 Rarely OR
 - 6 Never?
 - 10 Don't know/Refused
- 100

22. I'd like your opinion of current government regulation of dietary supplements in some different areas. (First,) what is your opinion of the amount of... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)** Is there too much regulation in this area, not as much as there should be, or about the right amount of regulation?

	<u>Too Much Regulation</u>	<u>Not As Much As There Should Be</u>	<u>Right Amount</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a. Regulation to make sure these supplements don't harm people who use them	7	59	24	10	=100
b. Regulation to make sure these supplements are pure and their dosages are consistent	6	60	23	11	=100
c. Regulation to make sure that health claims made in advertisements for these supplements are true	7	63	20	10	=100

23. Do you think supplements that are produced specifically for children should be more strictly regulated by the government than other supplements, or not?

77 Yes, should
18 No, should not
5 Don't know/Refused
100

24. If a government agency said that the dietary supplement you use most often is ineffective, do you think you would stop using it, or you would you continue using it because it works for you?

Based on those who use supplements regularly/sometimes; n=412

24 Would stop using
72 Would continue using
4 Don't know/Refused
100

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

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

25	Republican
30	Democrat
35	Independent
5	No preference (VOL.)
1	Other (VOL.)
1	Don't know
<u>3</u>	Refused
100	

D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

4	None, or grade 1 - 8
13	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
33	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
3	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
23	Some college, no 4-year degree
15	College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
8	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward A master's degree Ph.D.; law or medical school)
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

D4. What is your age?

22	18 - 29
41	30 - 49
19	50 - 64
16	65 +
*	Don't Know
<u>2</u>	Refused
100	

D5. Last year – that is, in 1998 – what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category...

7	Less than \$10,000
12	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
15	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
18	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
13	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
6	\$75,000 or under \$100,000
5	\$100,000 or more
5	Don't know
<u>19</u>	Refused
100	

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

7	Yes
92	No
0	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

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?)**

84	White
11	Black or African-American
1	Asian
3	Other or mixed race
*	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:

Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. Have a nice day/evening.