

JUNE 1999 HEALTH NEWS INTEREST INDEX

-- FINALTOPLINE RESULTS--

June 18, 1999

job # 99037

n=1,000 national adults, 18 years and older

Margin of error: plus or minus 3 percentage points (square root of design effect = 1.05)

Interviewing dates: June 11 through 16, 1999

Field period: June 11-16, 1999

INTRODUCTION: Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. We're taking an opinion 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

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? (**BE SURE TO DISTINGUISH 1ST AND 2ND RESPONSE**)

Current Total <u>Mention</u>		Apr-99 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Feb-99 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Dec-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Oct-98 Total Ment.	Jun-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>
16	Health care costs	13	18	16	14	14	17	15	12	18
8	Medicare/Medicaid	8	10	7	8	8	8	9	7	7
7	Cancer/Cancer research	8	7	9	8	10	5	4	11	10
7	Seniors health issues	8	10	8	9	7	7	6	6	8
6	HMO/Managed care concerns	6	7	7	12	4	5	2	5	4
6	AIDS/HIV	4	5	7	6	7	5	5	13	10

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

2. On some occasions, the White House has brought different people together to discuss a particular national problem and find solutions. Do you happen to know if the White House held such a meeting last month to discuss youth violence?

37 Yes, held meeting (*correct response*)

29 No, did not

34 Don't know/Refused

3. Now I'm going to read you 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.	Recent proposals in Washington for stricter gun control laws					
	Current:	43	32	13	11	1
b.	Continuing coverage of the aftermath of the violence at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado					
	Current:	50	32	11	6	*
c.	The tornadoes in Kansas and Oklahoma					
	Current:	38	30	19	11	2
d.	The NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo					
	Current:	51	29	10	9	1
	4/99 ¹ :	53	31	9	6	1
	3/99 ² :	41	33	16	9	1
e.	Major pharmaceutical companies accused of fixing vitamin prices					
	Current:	16	18	19	42	5
f.	Concerns about a new obesity drug, Xenical, being prescribed over the Internet					
	Current:	9	13	22	50	6

Continued...

¹ Trend from the April 1999 Health News Interest Index conducted for the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

² Trend from the March 1999 News Interest Index conducted by the Pew Research Center.

Question 3 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>
g.	F-D-A approval of Vioxx a new super-aspirin for acute pain and arthritis					
	Current:	10	10	22	52	6
h.	A White House summit meeting focusing on ways to prevent youth violence					
	current:	23	25	23	26	4

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. . .

4. The U.S. Senate recently passed a bill containing new laws about guns. The U.S. House of Representatives is now considering whether to pass this bill and send it to the President. As I read you a list of some different proposals, please tell me whether or not you think each was part of the bill passed by the Senate. (First,) as far as you know, was this proposal part of the bill passed by the Senate...?

		<u>Yes, Did</u>	<u>No, Did Not</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
a.	Requiring background checks on people who buy firearms at gun shows	79	7	14
b.	Prohibiting states from allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons	31	37	32
c.	Raising the minimum age for buying a gun to 21	62	17	21
d.	Requiring gun manufacturers to include safety locks on all guns they sell	69	13	18
e.	Making it illegal for children under 18 to fire or use guns	46	29	25

(Correct response is "yes" to item a, "no" to items b-e)

5. Thinking again about news stories about major pharmaceutical companies fixing vitamin prices... From what you've seen or heard in the news, did these pharmaceutical companies plead guilty or NOT guilty of conspiracy to fix vitamin prices?
- 15 Guilty (*correct response*)
 - 20 Not guilty
 - 65 Don't know/Refused
6. From what you've seen or heard in the news, did these pharmaceutical companies agree to pay a settlement in this vitamin price-fixing case, or not?
- 17 Agree to pay (*correct response*)
 - 11 Did not agree to pay
 - 72 Don't know/Refused

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?
- 27 Republican
 - 30 Democrat
 - 32 Independent
 - 5 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
 - 1 Other party (VOL.)
 - 2 Don't know
 - 2 Refused
- D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?
- 5 None, or grade 1-8
 - 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
 - 34 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 or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
 - 1 Refused

D4. What is your age?

21	18 – 29
41	30 – 49
36	Total 50 +
19	50 – 64
16	65 +
*	Don't know
2	Refused

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...

8	Less than \$10,000
11	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
13	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
19	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
14	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
6	\$75,000 or under \$100,000
5	\$100,000 or more
8	Don't know
17	Refused

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

7	Yes
92	No
*	Don't know
*	Refused

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?)**

83	White
11	Black or African-American
1	Asian
3	Other or mixed race
*	Don't know
2	Refused

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:

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