

AUGUST 1999 HEALTH NEWS INTEREST INDEX

**-- FINAL TOPLINE RESULTS --
August 12, 1999**

job # 99041

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

Margin of error: plus or minus 3 percentage points (square root of design effect = 1.07)

Interviewing dates: August 6-10, 1999

Note: Because percentages are rounded they may not total 100%.

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:

47 Male
53 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?

Current Total <u>Mention</u>		Jun-99 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Apr-99 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Feb-99 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Dec-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	Oct-98 Total <u>Ment.</u>	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>
14	Health care costs	16	13	18	16	14	14	17	15	12	18
11	Medicare/Medicaid	8	8	10	7	8	8	8	9	7	7
11	Seniors health issues	7	8	10	8	9	7	7	6	6	8
10	HMO/Managed care concerns	6	6	7	7	12	4	5	2	5	4
6	Cost of prescription drugs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	N/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
6	Universal coverage/for everyone /and uninsured	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	9	9	6	8	9	8
6	AIDS/HIV	6	4	5	7	6	7	5	5	13	10
6	Cancer/Cancer research	7	8	7	9	8	10	5	4	11	10
5	Cost of insurance	n/a	5	3	6	3	5	4	4	5	5

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

2. Over the last month or so, you might have seen or heard news about a Medicare proposal by the Clinton White House. Please tell me whether or not each of the following is part of this White House Medicare proposal, as far as you know. If you're not sure, that's okay – just tell me. (First,) what about... **(INSERT—READ AND ROTATE)** was this part of the White House Medicare proposal, or not?

	<u>Yes, Part of White House Proposal</u>	<u>No, Is Not</u>	<u>Not sure/ Refused</u>
a. Providing a prescription drug benefit for ALL seniors	45	7	48
b. Providing a prescription drug benefit ONLY for lower income seniors	26	19	55
c. Changing Medicare so that beneficiaries receive vouchers they can use to buy private health insurance	18	20	62
d. Keeping the Medicare program financially sound beyond the year 2025	46	8	46

Correct answers: a=yes, b=no, c=no, d=yes.

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...

	<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>
a. American bicycle racer and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong winning the Tour de France Current:	21	29	18	29	2
b. The woman doctor stationed at the South Pole who had to perform her own breast cancer biopsy Current:	13	26	16	42	3
c. The continuing debate in Congress over the "Patients' Bill of Rights" Current:	11	24	25	37	3

Continued...

Question 3 continued...

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not Too <u>Closely</u>	Not At All <u>Closely</u>	Don't Know <u>Refused</u>
d.	A White House proposal that would expand Medicare benefits to include coverage for prescription drugs Current:	15	25	27	31	3
e.	A recent study of doctors reporting their experiences with health plans denying coverage to their patients Current:	13	23	22	38	3
f.	The death of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife and sister-in-law in a plane crash near Martha's Vineyard Current: 7/99 ¹	52 54	28 29	13 13	6 4	1 0
g.	The debate and discussion in Washington about how much to cut taxes Current: 7/99:	18 14	33 34	20 21	27 31	2 * ²
h.	President Clinton's poverty tour Current:	7	15	25	50	3

I have just a few more questions about some things that have been in the news recently. Not everybody 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. Thinking again about the debate in Congress over the "Patients' Bill of Rights"... To the best of your knowledge, did the Democrats or the Republicans propose patients' rights legislation this year, or did both parties propose patients' rights legislation?
- 18 The Democrats
 - 6 The Republicans
 - 14 Both parties (*correct answer*)
 - 62 Don't know/Refused

¹ Trends for question 3 items f and g are from the July 22, 1999 News Interest Index Survey conducted by the Pew Research Center.

² An asterisk indicates a value of less than .5 percent.

5. From what you've seen or heard in the news...
- 13 Has patients' rights legislation not yet come to a vote in the U.S. Senate, OR...
 - 10 Has it been passed by a vote in the Senate (*correct answer*) OR...
 - 12 Did it fail to pass a vote in the Senate?
 - 66 Don't know/Refused

The Senate did in fact pass patients' rights legislation...

6. From what you've seen or heard in the news, please tell me whether or not each of the following was included in this patients' rights legislation passed by the Senate. (First,) what about...**(INSERT—READ AND ROTATE)**? Was this included or not?

	<u>Yes, Included</u>	<u>No, Not Included</u>	<u>Don't Know Refused</u>
a. Giving patients greater access to emergency room care	28	8	64
b. Allowing patients to appeal health plan decisions to an independent, expert reviewer	26	9	64
c. Allowing patients to sue their health plan	25	16	59

Correct answers: a=yes, b=yes, c=no

7. As far as you know, does the patient's rights legislation passed by the Senate apply to ALL Americans who have health insurance, or only to those enrolled in certain types of health plans?
- 20 Applies to all
 - 25 Applies only to those in certain types of plans (*correct answer*)
 - 55 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?
- 26 Republican
 - 29 Democrat
 - 34 Independent
 - 6 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
 - 1 Other party (VOL.)
 - 3 Don't know
 - 2 Refused

- D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?
- 4 None, or grade 1-8
 - 12 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
 - 34 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
 - 4 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?
- 23 18 – 29
 - 40 30 – 49
 - 35 Total - 50+
 - 19 50 – 64
 - 16 65 +
 - 0 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...
- 7 Less than \$10,000
 - 8 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
 - 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
 - 18 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
 - 13 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
 - 5 \$75,000 or under \$100,000
 - 6 \$100,000 or more
 - 8 Don't know
 - 22 Refused
- D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?
- 8 Yes
 - 90 No
 - * Don't know
 - 2 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?)

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

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:

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