



Toplines

March/April 2000 Health News Index Survey

April 2000

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health News Index Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between March 31 and April 3, 2000, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,012 adults ages 18 and over.

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.

Note: Some results will not add to 100% because of rounding.

1. 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?

Total Mention	
12	Health care costs
11	Seniors health issues
8	Medicare/Medicaid
8	Universal coverage/for everyone/and uninsured
8	HMO/Managed care concerns
5	Cost of prescription drugs/medicines
5	Cancer/Cancer research

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

2. 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...?

- a. The Pope's trip to Israel and the Holy Land

17 Very closely
 27 Fairly closely
 26 Not too closely
 30 Not at all closely
 * Don't know/Refused

- b. President Clinton's trip to India and other countries in southern Asia

11 Very closely
 21 Fairly closely
 30 Not too closely
 37 Not at all closely
 1 Don't know/Refused

- c. White House and government agencies' concerns about the increase in prescriptions of psychiatric drugs, such as Ritalin, for young children
- 19 Very closely
 - 24 Fairly closely
 - 23 Not too closely
 - 33 Not at all closely
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
- d. President Clinton's recent gun control initiatives
- 28 Very closely
 - 32 Fairly closely
 - 19 Not too closely
 - 20 Not at all closely
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
- e. The Supreme Court's ruling on the authority of the F-D-A – that is, the Food and Drug Administration – to regulate tobacco
- 19 Very closely
 - 29 Fairly closely
 - 24 Not too closely
 - 27 Not at all closely
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
- f. A recent action by the F-D-A – that is, the Food and Drug Administration – involving the diabetes drug Rezulin
- 14 Very closely
 - 20 Fairly closely
 - 24 Not too closely
 - 41 Not at all closely
 - 1 Don't know/Refused

- g. Congressional action to remove limits on how much people can collect in Social Security benefits
- 23 Very closely
 - 25 Fairly closely
 - 21 Not too closely
 - 30 Not at all closely
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
- h. Presidential primary elections and the race for the Republican and Democratic nominations
- 33 Very closely
 - 33 Fairly closely
 - 16 Not too closely
 - 18 Not at all closely
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
- i. Recent increases in the price of gasoline
- 61 Very closely
 - 24 Fairly closely
 - 9 Not too closely
 - 5 Not at all closely
 - * Don't know/Refused
3. Now I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I just mentioned. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question...

Thinking about the FDA and the diabetes drug Rezulin ... As far as you know, which ONE of the following happened during the past month? Was Rezulin...

- 3 Approved for general use by the FDA, OR...
- 29 Taken off the market by the FDA because of health risks to users (*correct response*), OR
- 6 Found to be effective by the FDA in treating cancer patients?
- 61 Don't know/Refused

4. Thinking about the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the authority of the FDA to regulate tobacco... From what you may recall, did the Supreme Court find that

- 33 The FDA can restrict tobacco companies from marketing cigarettes to teenagers (OR)
- 27 The FDA lacks Congressional authority to regulate the marketing of tobacco products (*correct response*) (OR)
- 3 The FDA can no longer require warning labels on cigarette advertisements (OR)
- 37 Don't know/Refused

5. Thinking about President Clinton and gun control... From what you've seen or heard in the news, which of the following things, if any, did President Clinton do over the past month?

Did President Clinton...?

- a. Make an agreement about gun control policies with the NRA – that is, the National Rifle Association

- 18 Yes, he did
- 41 No, he did not (*correct response*)
- 41 Don't know/Refused

- b. Make an agreement with a large gun manufacturer to provide safety locks on handguns within the year

- 65 Yes, he did (*correct response*)
- 8 No, he did not
- 27 Don't know/Refused

- c. Call on Congress to pass legislation requiring background checks for guns sold at gun shows

- 68 Yes, he did (*correct response*)
- 5 No, he did not
- 27 Don't know/Refused

- d. Decide to discontinue his gun buyback program due to lower crime rates

- 10 Yes, he did
- 35 No, he did not (*correct response*)
- 56 Don't know/Refused

6. Thinking about the recent Congressional action to remove limits on the amount people can collect in Social Security benefits... As far as you know, who will be affected by this change in policy:

- 22 ALL seniors now in the program, OR...
- 4 Only seniors with disabilities, OR...
- 41 Only some seniors who work and earn more than a certain amount in income? (*correct response*)
- 32 Don't know/Refused

7. Next, I'd like your opinion of the job some different groups are doing in serving the needs of health care consumers. In answering, please consider everything that might be important to consumers, including quality, cost and convenience.

First, in general, do you think (**INSERT ITEM. ROTATE LIST**) are doing a good job or a bad job in serving health care consumers? Next, do you think... (**INSERT NEXT ITEM**) are doing a good job or a bad job ?

- a. Doctors

- 64 Good job
- 12 Bad job
- 20 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
- 4 Don't know/refused

- b. Pharmaceutical or drug companies

- 45 Good job
- 30 Bad job
- 16 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
- 8 Don't know/refused

- c. HMOs, or Health Maintenance Organizations

- 22 Good job
- 49 Bad job
- 15 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
- 14 Don't know/refused

- d. Hospitals
 - 61 Good job
 - 16 Bad job
 - 18 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
 - 4 Don't know/refused

 - e. Health insurance companies
 - 28 Good job
 - 46 Bad job
 - 18 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
 - 8 Don't know/refused

 - f. Nurses
 - 82 Good job
 - 5 Bad job
 - 9 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
 - 5 Don't know/refused

 - g. Managed care health plans
 - 24 Good job
 - 39 Bad job
 - 16 Mixed/Neither good nor bad
 - 21 Don't know/refused
8. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say . . .
- 49 Television
 - 19 Newspapers
 - 6 Radio
 - 4 Magazines
 - 5 The Internet, OR
 - 12 Talking with friends and family?
 - 2 Other most important source
 - 2 Don't know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS:

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:

48 Male
52 Female

D2. Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey... In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

25 Republican
34 Democrat
30 Independent
6 No preference/Not interested in politics
1 Other party
2 Don't know
2 Refused

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

3 None, or grade 1-8
12 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
4 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
24 Some college, no 4-year degree
15 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
9 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
* Don't Know
1 Refused

D4. What is your age?

22 18-29
38 30-49
21 50-64
16 65+
* Don't know
2 Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 1999 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 6 Less than \$10,000
- 12 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 19 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 7 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 4 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 9 Don't know
- 15 Refused

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

- 7 Yes
- 91 No
- * Don't know
- 1 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
- 2 Refused

D8. Do you own or rent your home?

- 65 Own
- 29 Rent
- 4 Other arrangement/Live with parent(s)
- 3 Don't know/Refused

- D9. If you were to sell your home TODAY, how much money do you think you would get from the sale – AFTER subtracting any money you would need to pay off the mortgage?

READ IF NECESSARY: Just your best estimate, to the nearest thousand dollars...

Based on homeowners, n=692

- 3 \$0/Nothing/Would lose money
- 2 Less than \$10,000
- 6 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 5 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 9 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 11 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 6 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 16 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 9 \$200,000 or more
- 18 Don't know
- 14 Refused

- D10. Suppose you needed money quickly, and you and your spouse cashed in ALL of your checking and savings accounts, and any stocks and bonds, and real estate you might own...

IF HOME OWNER, ADD: OTHER THAN your principal home

...INCLUDING any money in a 401-K or other retirement account. If you added up all these financial assets, about how much would it amount to? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 19 Less than \$10,000
- 9 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 6 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 5 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 3 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 3 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 4 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 7 \$200,000 or more
- 16 Don't know
- 28 Refused



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