



Toplines

July/August 2000 Health News Index Survey

August 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 August 2 and August 6, 2000, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,001 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.

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?

<u>Total Mention</u>	
14	Senior citizens' care/ issues
13	Cost of health care
11	Cost of prescription drugs/medicines
7	Health insurance (general)
7	Policy/social issues – other specified
7	Universal coverage/ coverage for the uninsured
6	HMO/Managed care concerns
5	Medicare*
5	Coverage for prescription drugs

*Previous category included mentions of Medicaid and coverage of prescription drugs.
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...?

		<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.	The Middle East peace summit at Camp David	13	31	21	34	2
b.	Debate in Congress about providing prescription drug benefits to seniors	22	29	17	30	1
c.	Scientists completing a map of the human genetic code	12	28	17	41	1
d.	The results of the recent presidential election in Mexico	5	15	20	59	1
e.	A Supreme Court ruling on state laws banning a procedure critics call 'partial birth abortions'	19	24	18	37	2
f.	The International AIDS Conference in South Africa	8	18	23	51	1
g.	Proposed legislation allowing prescription drugs from other countries to be imported and sold in the U.S.	10	23	21	45	1
h.	The jury's decision in the Florida case where sick smokers were suing tobacco companies	19	33	22	25	1
i.	George W. Bush's selection of Dick Cheney as his vice-presidential running mate	26	30	18	25	1

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...

As you may know, the House of Representatives recently passed a bill that was proposed by Republican members of Congress regarding prescription drug benefits. From what you've seen or heard in the news, which ONE of the following does the bill do:

- 35 Provide drug coverage for seniors through the Medicare program
- 18 Provide drug coverage for seniors through private insurance companies (*correct answer*)
- 47 Don't Know/Refused

4. From what you may have seen or heard in the news in the last month, did the Supreme Court decide that states can outlaw a particular procedure for performing abortions in the second or third trimester, sometimes called 'partial-birth abortion', or did the Court rule that states do not have the right to outlaw this procedure?

- 14 Decided that states can outlaw partial-birth abortion
- 31 Decided that states do not have the right to outlaw (*correct answer*)
- 56 Don't know/Refused

5. Now I have some questions about the problem of AIDS and H-I-V, the virus that causes AIDS. Which ONE of the following parts of the world today do you think has the largest number of people with HIV and AIDS? Is it...

- 77 Africa (*correct answer*)
- 2 Latin America
- 13 The United States
- 2 Eastern Europe
- 7 Don't Know/Refused

6. In the African countries hit hardest by HIV, about how many teenagers do health officials think will eventually die of AIDS...

- 13 One-quarter
- 20 One-third
- 42 One-half (*correct response*)
- 24 Don't Know/Refused

7. As you may know, a Miami jury recently ordered five major U.S. tobacco companies to pay damages to sick Florida smokers. From what you have seen or heard in the news, was the amount the jury told the companies to pay noteworthy because...

- 51 It was the largest damage award in American history (*correct response*)
- 4 It was a much smaller damage award than the damages tobacco companies have paid in past cases
- 15 It was the first time a jury had ordered the tobacco companies to pay damages to sick smokers
- 30 Don't Know/Refused

8. On another subject...If a candidate for a national political office was in favor of a major increase in U.S. aid to African countries to help them fight the spread of HIV, would it make you...

- 29 More likely to vote for them,
- 13 Less likely to vote for them, OR
- 51 Would it not make much difference either way?
- 6 Don't Know/Refused

9. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say . . .

- 50 Television
- 21 Newspapers
- 7 Radio
- 4 Magazines
- 6 The Internet, OR
- 10 Talking with friends and family?
- 1 Other most important source (**VOL.**)
- 1 Don't Know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS:**D1. RECORD 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?

28	Republican
31	Democrat
32	Independent
6	No preference/Not interested in politics
*	Other party
2	Don't know
1	Refused

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

3	None, or grade 1-8
13	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
36	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
2	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
21	Some college, no 4-year degree
14	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?

21	18-29
41	30-49
20	50-64
17	65+
0	Don't know
1	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.

8	Less than \$10,000
10	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
15	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
20	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
13	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
6	\$75,000 to under \$100,000
6	\$100,000 to under \$200,000
1	\$200,000 or more
10	Don't know
11	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?)

74	White, Non Hispanic
24	Total Non-White
11	Black or African-American
9	Hispanic
2	Asian
2	Other or mixed race
2	Don't know/Refused



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Office:
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

Additional copies of this publication (#7259) are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation dedicated to providing information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.