

## VITAL SIGNS INDEX NO. 1

### PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES FOR THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION AND LIFETIME TELEVISION

#### TOPLINE RESULTS

Job #20033

Total n= 500 women age 18 and older

Margin of error: plus or minus 5 percentage points

sqrt. of deff = 1.09

Dates of interviewing: October 6-October 15, 2000

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

**INTRODUCTION:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling for Princeton Survey Research of Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a national opinion survey about some important health issues. I'd like to ask a few questions of the YOUNGEST female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **(IF YOUNGEST FEMALE NOT AVAILABLE, ASK:** May I speak with the OLDEST female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?)

Most of my questions are about women's health issues. First,...

1. Thinking about the impact different medical conditions have on women in particular, which ONE medical condition or disease do you think should be the TOP priority for women's health research? (**RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE**)

Is there another condition that you think is almost as much of a priority for women's health research? (**RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE**)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Top</u>	<u>Second</u>	
<u>priority</u>	<u>priority</u>	<u>priority</u>	
87	77	28	<b>Total Cancer</b>
63	54	8	Breast cancer
11	2	9	Ovarian cancer
3	1	2	Cervical cancer
2	*	2	Uterine cancer
1	*	1	Other specific cancers
22	6	17	Heart disease
7	2	4	Diabetes
4	1	3	Osteoporosis
3	1	3	AIDS/HIV
3	1	2	Arthritis/Rheumatoid arthritis
3	1	2	Mental health/Stress/Depression
3	1	2	<b>Total reproductive health issues (including infertility)</b>
2	1	1	Menopause
2	* <sup>1</sup>	1	Alzheimer's disease
1	1	1	Sexually transmitted diseases other than HIV
1	0	1	High blood pressure/Stroke
9	4	6	Miscellaneous other
1	--	--	None/Nothing
6	--	--	Don't know/Refused

<sup>1</sup> An asterisk indicates a value of less than 1%

2. Next I'm going to read a list of health care issues affecting women in this country today. As I read each one, please tell me how important you think it is for the government to address it in the next year or so. (First/How about) . . . **(READ AND ROTATE. ROTATE ITEMS b-c AS A PAIR, IN ORDER. DO NOT ASK FIRST)**—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important for the government to address this issue?

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Some- what important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Requiring health insurance plans to pay for prescription contraceptives such as birth control pills	48	32	11	7	2
b. Protecting abortion rights	44	24	8	19	6
c. Making abortion illegal	31	14	10	41	4
d. Item "d" was deleted					
e. Expanding health care coverage for people who don't have health insurance	76	18	2	2	1
f. Protecting consumer rights in HMO's and managed care plans	65	24	4	2	5
g. Increasing spending for research on women's health concerns such as breast cancer or osteoporosis	81	18	1	*	*
h. Helping families pay for long-term health care for the elderly and the disabled	77	18	3	1	1
i. Providing coverage for prescription medicines for the elderly	87	11	1	1	*
j. Making Medicare, the government program that provides health insurance for the elderly, financially sound for the future	87	10	1	1	*

3. Of the issues you think are very important for the government to address which ONE would you say is the MOST important? Is it **(READ ALL ITEMS WITH VERY IMPORTANT RESPONSE IN Q.2a-j)**

29	Expanding health care coverage for people without health insurance
22	Making Medicare financially sound for the future
12	Providing coverage for prescription medicines for the elderly
8	Increasing spending for research on women's health concerns
8	Helping families pay for long-term health care
6	Making abortion illegal
5	Protecting consumer rights in HMO's and managed care plans
4	Requiring health insurance to pay for prescription contraceptives
4	Protecting abortion rights
*	<b>(VOL)</b> Other issue
1	None/No issue considered "very important"
1	Don't know/Refused

4. From what you have seen or heard, do you think that **(READ AND ROTATE)** give too much, not enough, or about the right amount of attention to women's health issues?

**(IN ITEM b IF R MENTIONS THE ELECTION SAY:** This question is NOT about the election. We want to know whether, in general, elected officials give too much, not enough, or about the right amount of attention to women's health issues?)

	<u>Too much attention</u>	<u>Not enough attention</u>	<u>About the right amount of attention</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. The media	6	44	44	6
b. Elected officials	5	70	18	6
c. Medical researchers	2	56	34	7

5. Now think specifically about **MEDICAL RESEARCH**. Do you think that over the years most medical research has given sufficient attention to how women's health is affected by diseases and medical problems, OR do you think most medical research has overlooked issues unique to women's health?

- 33 Most medical research has given sufficient attention to women's health  
62 Most medical research has overlooked issues unique to women's health  
5 Don't know/ Refused

6. I am going to read a short list of possible reasons why medical research has overlooked issues unique to women's health. For each one, please tell me whether you think it is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why medical research has overlooked issues unique to women's health.

**PROMPT FOR EACH ITEM: (READ AND ROTATE)...**Is this a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason (medical research has overlooked these issues)?

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>	<u>Think women's health given sufficient attention</u>
a. Medical researchers did not fully understand that women and men have different symptoms to diseases and respond differently to medical treatments	38	12	7	4	38
b. Most elected officials making spending decisions about health research were men	36	15	6	5	38
c. Women's health is not valued as highly as men's health in our society	32	14	12	4	38
d. Women did not put enough pressure on government and the scientific community to address their health care concerns	32	19	8	3	38

Now on a slightly different topic . . .

7. Many women have special health concerns. As I read a list of some of these concerns, please tell me which one, if any, YOU are most concerned about in your own life? Are you personally most concerned about . . . (**READ AND ROTATE**)

- 43 **Total Cancer**
- 24 **Total female cancers**
  - 18 Breast cancer
  - 3 Ovarian cancer
  - 2 Cervical cancer
  - 1 Uterine cancer
- 7 Other specific cancers
- 16 Heart disease
- 11 Depression, anxiety or another mental health problem
- 9 Osteoporosis
- 7 Obesity or another serious weight problem
- 3 HIV or some other STD
- 2 Infertility
- 1 Diabetes
- 3 **(ALWAYS ASK LAST)** Or some other condition?
- 5 **(VOL)** None/Not concerned about any health issue
- \* Don't know/Refused

*Total may exceed 100% due to multiple responses*

8. Next, as I read a list of potentially LIFE THREATENING medical conditions, please tell me which ones you think are among the top ten causes of death for women in the United States. (First/How about,) . . . (**READ AND ROTATE**)?

**READ FOR FIRST 2 ITEMS, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY:** Do you think this is among the top ten causes of death among women in the U.S., or not?

	Yes, in <u>top 10</u>	No, not <u>in top 10</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Stroke †	69	28	4
b. Heart disease, including high blood pressure †	91	8	1
c. HIV or AIDS	49	42	9
d. Breast cancer †	93	6	2
e. Diabetes †	56	37	7
f. Lung cancer †	65	29	6
g. Pneumonia and influenza †	17	77	6

† indicates among the top 10 causes of death among women in the U.S. in 1998

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

9. Of those you believe to be among the top ten causes of death for women, which ONE do you think caused the MOST deaths among women in the U.S. in 1999? Is it **(READ ALL ITEMS WITH YES RESPONSE IN Q.8a-g)**

41 Heart disease (*correct answer*)  
 38 Breast cancer  
 6 Lung cancer  
 5 HIV or AIDS  
 5 Stroke  
 5 Diabetes  
 1 Pneumonia and influenza  
 0 Don't know/Refused  
 \* Do not think any diseases listed are among top ten

The next few questions are about some specific health care proposals . . .

10. The proposed "patients bill of rights" legislation would require HMO's, other managed care plans and health insurance companies to provide people with more information about their health plan, make it easier for people to see medical specialists, allow appeals to independent reviewers when someone is denied coverage for a particular medical treatment, and give people the right to sue their health plan. Do you favor or oppose such a law?

84 Favor  
 8 Oppose  
 7 Don't know/Refused

11. Would you still favor this law if you heard it would increase the cost of health insurance premiums usually shared by employers and workers by about 20 dollars per month for a typical family?

59 Yes, would still favor  
 30 Total would oppose  
   8 Oppose initially  
   21 Switched to oppose  
 11 Don't know/Refused

12. If this legislation were enacted, do you think women like you and their families would be better off, worse off, or not much affected either way?

56 Better off  
 9 Worse off  
 28 Not much affected either way  
 6 Don't know/Refused

13. How important is it to you that this law includes the right to sue a health plan for denial of coverage for certain services or procedures? Is it . . . **(READ)**
- 48 Very important
  - 35 Somewhat important
  - 10 Not too important, OR
  - 4 Not at all important?
  - 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
14. How important is it to you that this law includes the right to see a specialty doctor such as an OB/GYN without having to first get a referral from your primary care physician or family doctor? Is it . . . **(READ)**
- 79 Very important
  - 13 Somewhat important
  - 4 Not too important, OR
  - 2 Not at all important?
  - 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
15. And how important is it to you that this law includes the right to use an OB/GYN as your primary care physician? Is it . . . **(READ)**
- 51 Very important
  - 27 Somewhat important
  - 13 Not too important, OR
  - 5 Not at all important?
  - 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, I have just a few questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey . . .

D1. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under age 18 now living in your household?

- 42 Yes
- 58 No
- \* Don't know/ Refused

D2. Are any of these children . . . **(READ IN ORDER)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Under age five?	18	82	0
b. Five to 17 years old?	31	69	0

- D3. Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?
- 56 Married
  - 3 Living as married
  - 10 Widowed
  - 12 Divorced
  - 3 Separated
  - 16 Never married
  - 1 Refused
- D4. Are you now employed full -time, part-time, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?
- 45 Employed full-time
  - 12 Employed part-time
  - 19 Retired
  - 21 Not employed
  - 2 (VOL) Disabled
  - 1 (VOL) Student
  - 1 (VOL) Other
  - \* Don't know/Refused
- D5. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare, Medicaid or another state assistance program? **IF NO, CONFIRM:** Let me just make sure I have this right...you DO NOT have ANY health insurance at this time?
- 90 Yes, have health insurance
  - 9 No, do not have health insurance
  - \* Don't know
  - \* Refused
- D6. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage? (**READ IN ORDER**)
- 55 Private insurance through an employer
  - 11 Private insurance from some other source
  - 16 Medicare, the government program that helps pay medical bills for people age 65 and older and the disabled
  - 6 (Medicaid/Other state assistance program), the government program that helps pay medical bills for people with low incomes, OR
  - 1 Some other public medical assistance program?
  - 1 (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know
  - \* (**DO NOT READ**) Refused
  - 10 Do not have health insurance/Undesignated



D7. What is your age?

- 21 18 to 29
- 19 30 to 39
- 21 40 to 49
- 20 50 to 64
- 18 65 or older
- 1 Refused

D8. What is the last grade or class you completed in school? (**DO NOT READ**)

- 4 None, or grade 1 to 8
- 13 High school incomplete (Grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate, Grade 12, or GED certificate
- 6 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college or university work, but no four-year degree
- 16 College or university graduate (BA, BS or other four-year degree received)
- 6 Post graduate or professional schooling after college (including work towards an MA, MS, Ph.D., JD, DDS, or MD degree)
- \* Refused

D9. Are you of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Latin American background?

- 9 Yes
- 90 No
- \* Don't know
- \* Refused

D10. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

**IF R SAYS HISPANIC OR LATINO, PROBE:** Do you consider yourself a WHITE (Hispanic/Latino) or a BLACK (Hispanic/Latino)?

- 80 White
- 12 Black or African-American
- 2 Asian or Pacific Islander
- 2 Mixed-race
- 4 Other
- \* Don't know
- \* Refused

D11. Last year, that is 1999, approximately what was your total household income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 9 Less than \$10,000
- 13 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 14 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 13 \$30,000 to under \$40,000
- 17 \$40,000 to under \$60,000
- 9 \$60,000 to under \$75,000
- 5 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 3 \$100,000 or over
- 6 Don't know
- 10 Refused

D12. Reporters from Lifetime Live, a daily news and information show for women, would like to follow up on the topics included in this survey by talking with women like yourself about your views. Would you be willing to talk with a reporter from the Lifetime show? **(IF YES)** So that a reporter can reach you more easily, may I have your first name?

- 34 Yes, willing to talk with reporter and gave name
- 1 Yes, willing to talk with reporter but did not give name
- 63 No, Not willing to talk with reporter
- 1 Don't know/Refused

**END OF INTERVIEW:** Thank you very much for taking the time to answer the questions on this survey. We really appreciate it. Have a nice day/evening.