



Toplines

November/December 2000 Health News Interest Survey

December 2000

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health News Index Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between November 29 and December 3, 2000, among a nationally representative random sample of 999 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>	
13	Cost of health care
10	Senior citizens' care/ issues
8	Cost of prescription drugs/medicines
6	Medicare*
6	Health insurance (general)
5	Universal coverage/ coverage for the uninsured
5	HMO/Managed care concerns
5	Health care availability (general)

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...? **(INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE)**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not Too Closely</u>	<u>Not At All Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u> *
a. The Presidential Election and Florida recount	56	27	9	8	*
b. Continuing violence in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians	20	35	22	22	1
c. President Clinton's historic trip to Vietnam as the first U.S. president to visit since the Vietnam War	15	28	27	29	1
d. FDA warning about an ingredient found in some over-the-counter medications that may cause stroke	20	26	19	35	1
e. News about when the abortion pill mifepristone, also sometimes called RU-486, might be available in doctors' offices	14	27	25	31	1
f. New rules issued by the Clinton administration related to the processing of health insurance claims and appeals of rejected claims	9	16	24	48	2
g. Stories about flu vaccines and prescription flu pills	19	32	21	27	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 FDA in the past month issued a warning about an ingredient, PPA, found in some over-the-counter medications. From what you may have seen or heard in the news, please tell me whether the following kinds of medications sometimes contain this ingredient:
(READ AND RANDOMIZE)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Cold and cough medicines (<i>correct answer – yes</i>)	44	9	47
b. Aspirin and other over-the-counter pain medications (<i>correct answer – no</i>)	15	31	54
c. Antacids (<i>correct answer – no</i>)	9	29	62
d. Diet pills (<i>correct answer – yes</i>)	32	15	52

4. On a different subject... 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 a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or (Medicaid), or aren't you covered by health insurance at this time? **USE VARIANT WORDING IN CALIFORNIA:** (Medi-Cal)

85 Yes
14 No
1 Don't Know/Refused

5. Thinking about the next six months, please tell me how worried are you that each of the following might happen to you. (First,) how worried are you that...?

	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not Too Worried</u>	<u>Not At All Worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>	<u>Currently uninsured</u>
a. You might not be able to get the health care services you think you need	22	20	20	39	*	NA
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	29	26	17	26	2	NA
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	26	17	19	38	1	NA
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	23	25	18	32	2	NA
e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	10	7	12	52	4	15
f. You might lose your health insurance coverage	15	10	15	44	1	15
g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	24	24	15	21	2	15

6. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say...
7. **IF TELEVISION, ASK:** Would you say your MOST important source of news and information about health issues is specifically...
- 51 Television
 - 15 News shows on major broadcast TV networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS
 - 16 Cable TV channels such as CNN, MSNBC, or Fox News Channel
 - 9 Local TV news
 - 6 Morning shows like Today or Good Morning America
 - 5 TV – type undetermined
 - 19 Newspapers
 - 7 Radio
 - 4 Magazines
 - 4 The Internet, OR
 - 12 Talking with friends and family?
 - 2 Other most important source
 - 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
- 38 Democrat
- 24 Independent
- 5 No preference/Not interested in politics
- 1 Other party
- 1 Don't know
- 2 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)
 - 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
 - 3 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
 - 23 Some college, no 4-year degree
 - 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
 - 7 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
 - 1 Don't Know
 - * Refused
- D4. What is your age?
- 21 18-29
 - 40 30-49
 - 21 50-64
 - 16 65+
 - 2 Don't know/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
 - 12 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
 - 14 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
 - 21 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
 - 14 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
 - 8 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
 - 5 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
 - 2 \$200,000 or more
 - 7 Don't know
 - 10 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?)**
- 73 White, Non Hispanic
 - 25 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 10 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 2 Other or mixed race
 - 2 Don't know/Refused



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