



Toplines

***January/February 2001 Health News Index
Survey***

February 2001

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 January 25 and January 28, 2001, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,021 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?

COSTS (NET)	22
Cost of health care	12
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	8
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	2
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	*
ACCESS (NET)	20
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	8
Health insurance (general)	5
Health care availability (general)	5
Health care for the poor	2
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	1
POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)	22
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	9
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	5
Medicare	5
Children's care/issues	2
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	2
MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)	9
Cancer/Cancer Research	3
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	3
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	3
QUALITY OF CARE (NET)	6
HMO/Managed care concerns	4
Quality of care – other	2
OTHER	4
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	14

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

Percentages add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

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. Possible health risks to NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo and Bosnia from weapons containing depleted uranium	7	18	20	52	2
b. The Supreme Court's decision to hear tobacco companies' case against a Massachusetts state law limiting cigarette advertisements	13	24	21	40	2
c. The Clinton Administration's decision about a program to re-import U.S. made prescription drugs.	10	20	22	45	3
d. Scientists create the first genetically altered monkey.	5	18	21	54	1
e. The government report on the effectiveness and safety of popular weight-loss diets.	7	17	23	53	1
f. The ongoing concerns about the possible spread of Mad Cow Disease.	12	28	26	33	1
g. The energy crisis in California.	31	34	16	18	1
h. The escape and capture of seven convicts from a Texas prison.	38	35	17	10	1
i. George W. Bush's executive order on U.S. funding of international family planning groups	21	21	21	35	3
(READ ITEMS J-L LAST. READ ITEM J FIRST. ROTATE ITEMS K AND L.)					
j. George W. Bush's cabinet nominees and their Senate confirmation hearings	30	32	13	24	1
k. Bush' nomination of John Ashcroft to a Cabinet position	31	27	14	27	1
l. Bush's nomination of Tommy Thompson to a Cabinet position	14	22	18	44	2

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 a recent USDA report on various diets... From what you've seen or heard in the news, which one of the following types of diet did the report say is the best nutritionally, the most likely to keep weight off, as well as lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels? (**INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE**)

- 18 A moderate-fat, high-carbohydrate diet such as the Food Guide Pyramid – *correct answer*
 14 A high-protein low-carbohydrate diet such as the Atkins diet
 10 A low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet such as the Pritikin diet
 58 Don't know/Refused

4. From what you have seen or heard in the news, what action did former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala recently take on a program to re-import U.S. made prescription drugs? (**INSERT--READ AND ROTATE**)

- 8 She approved the program, allowing wholesalers to re-import U.S. made prescription drugs
 11 She blocked the program, preventing wholesalers from re-importing U.S. made prescription drugs – *correct answer*
 81 Don't know/Refused

5. From what you have seen or heard in the news, which Cabinet position did President Bush nominate (**INSERT. READ AND ROTATE**) to fill? Was it Attorney General, Secretary of Health and Human Services, or Secretary of the Interior?

	<u>Attorney General</u>	Secretary. of Health and Human <u>Services</u>	<u>Secretary of the Interior</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson	4	22	10	64
b. Former Missouri Senator John Ashcroft	47	5	6	42

6. As you may know the Senate held hearings to confirm former Missouri Senator John Ashcroft for Attorney General. From what you may have seen or heard, did Ashcroft say that as Attorney General he would... (**INSERT--READ AND ROTATE**)

- 37 Uphold Roe v. Wade, protecting women's right to have an abortion – *correct answer*
- 24 Seek to overturn Roe v. Wade, making most abortions illegal
- 39 Don't know/Refused

7. As you may have seen or heard in the news, President Bush changed U.S. policy regarding funding of international family planning groups. In what way did Bush change the policy? Did he... (**INSERT--READ ITEMS IN ORDER**)

- 4 Increase amount of U.S. funding of these groups
- 11 Reduce amount of U.S. funding of these groups
- 39 Ban all U.S. funding for international groups that provide abortions, abortion counseling, or that lobby for abortion rights – *correct answer*
- 47 Don't know/Refused

- 8a. On a different subject... Bearing in mind the different ways people can be infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS-how concerned are you PERSONALLY about becoming infected with HIV? Are you... (**READ**)

Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=499)

- 26 Very concerned
- 15 Somewhat concerned
- 22 Not too concerned
- 36 Not concerned at all
- 1 Don't know/Refused

- 8b. On a different subject...Thinking about the way the problem of AIDS is affecting THE ENTIRE WORLD today, not just this country or your local community, do you think AIDS is a MORE urgent problem for the world than it was a few years ago, a LESS urgent problem, or is it ABOUT THE SAME? (**READ**)

Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=522)

- 59 MORE urgent
- 5 LESS urgent
- 31 About the same
- 4 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...(READ)?
10. **IF TELEVISION ASK:** Would you say your MOST important source of news and information about health issues is specifically...(READ)
- 46 Television
 - 17 News shows on major broadcast TV networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS,
 - 11 Cable TV channels such as CNN, MSNBC, or Fox News Channel,
 - 8 Local TV news, OR
 - 6 Morning shows like Today or Good Morning America?
 - 3 (VOL.) TV in general
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
 - 18 Newspapers
 - 9 Radio
 - 7 Magazines
 - 6 The Internet, OR
 - 11 Talking with friends and family?
 - 2 Other most important source (VOL.)
 - 3 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
34 Democrat
26 Independent
7 No preference/Not interested in politics (**VOL.**)
* Other party (**VOL.**)
1 Don't know
3 Refused

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

2 None, or grade 1-8
13 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
34 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
3 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
24 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?

23 18-29
39 30-49
20 50-64
16 65+
1 Don't know/Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2000-- 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
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 14 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 18 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 14 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 7 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 9 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?**

- 72 White, Non Hispanic
- 26 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 10 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 6 Other or mixed race
- 2 Don't know/Refused



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