



*Toplines*

# ***March/April 2001 Health News Index Survey***

**April 2001**

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### **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 28 and April 1, 2001, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,082 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?

<b>COSTS (NET)</b>	<b>24</b>
Cost of health care	10
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	9
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	4
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	1
<b>POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)</b>	<b>24</b>
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	10
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	5
Medicare	6
Children's care/issues	2
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	2
<b>ACCESS (NET)</b>	<b>16</b>
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	7
Health insurance (general)	4
Health care availability (general)	3
Health care for the poor	1
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	*
<b>MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)</b>	<b>12</b>
Cancer/Cancer Research	5
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	3
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	5
<b>QUALITY OF CARE (NET)</b>	<b>6</b>
HMO/Managed care concerns	5
Quality of care – other	2
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>	<b>18</b>

*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. The controversy over the price of AIDS drugs in South Africa	9	17	25	46	2
b. Congressional action on the Clinton Administration's workplace injury rules aimed at preventing repetitive stress injuries	10	16	24	47	2
c. A new government report about the financial future of Social Security and Medicare	30	31	18	20	1
d. President Bush's announcement regarding patient rights legislation now being considered by Congress	13	20	25	41	2
e. The Supreme Courts decision upholding the Environmental Protection Agency's power to regulate air standards under the Clean Air Act	15	22	24	37	2
f. The findings of a new study on the effects of estrogen replacement therapy on ovarian cancer	13	17	24	45	1
g. A new government report on rising health care costs	23	32	21	23	1
h. Reports about decline of stock prices and the possibility of an economic slow-down <sup>35</sup>		29	15	19	1
i. The school shooting at a suburban San Diego high school	42	36	13	8	*
j. George W. Bush's tax-cut plan	33	33	19	15	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...

From what you may have seen or heard in the news in the last month, what action did Congress take on the workplace injury rules that were put in place at the end of the Clinton administration? **(INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE)**

- 20 They were repealed and will not go into effect (*correct answer*)
- 5 They were extended to cover additional repetitive stress injuries
- 6 They were revised and passed by the new Congress and will take effect in October
- 70 Don't know/Refused

4. You may have seen or heard news reports about a trial involving the South African government and drug companies. From what you may have seen or heard in the news, what is the major reason for this trial? **(INSERT--READ AND ROTATE)**

- 10 The South African government is suing the drug companies in order to reduce the price of AIDS drugs
- 15 The drug companies are challenging a South African law that allows the country to import or produce cheaper generic substitutes for AIDS drugs that are still under patent protection (*correct answer*)
- 10 The South African government is accusing the drug companies of exporting AIDS drugs which have not undergone the same safety testing as drug sold in the United States
- 65 Don't know/Refused

5. From what you may have seen or heard in the news in the last month regarding a new government report about the financial future of Medicare and Social Security, are the Medicare and Social Security trust funds expected to run out of money sooner, later, or at about the same time as had been previously thought?

- 33 Sooner
- 22 Later (*correct answer*)
- 21 About the same time
- 24 Don't know/Refused

6. From what you may have seen or heard in the news, did a new study about estrogen and ovarian cancer find that women who have taken estrogen replacement therapy for more than ten years. . .(INSERT--READ ITEMS IN ORDER)

- 34 Have an INCREASED risk for ovarian cancer (*correct answer*)
- 13 Have a DECREASED risk for ovarian cancer
- 10 Have the SAME risk for ovarian cancer as women who have not taken estrogen
- 43 Don't know/Refused

7. As you may know, the government recently released a new report on the cost of health care in the United States. According to this report what category of health care spending grew the most in the last year? (**INSERT--READ AND ROTATE**)

16 Hospital Costs  
59 Prescription drug costs (*correct answer*)  
8 The costs of doctors' visits  
18 Don't know/Refused

8. On another topic...At the present time, do you get any regular exercise, either at work or somewhere else?

77 Yes  
22 No  
1 Don't know/Refused

9. How often do you exercise strenuously—that is, so you breathe heavily and your heart and pulse rate are accelerated for a period lasting at least twenty minutes?

20 Never  
6 Less than one day a month  
7 1 to 3 days a month  
9 1 day a week  
12 2 days a week  
17 3 days a week  
15 4-5 days a week  
12 6-7 days a week  
2 Don't know/Refused

10. Do you think most Americans exercise on a regular basis?

13 Yes  
83 No  
3 Don't know/Refused

11. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say...(READ)?
- 11a. (IF TELEVISION ASK) Would you say your MOST important source of news and information about health issues is specifically...(READ)

- 47 Television
  - 15 News shows on major broadcast TV networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS,
  - 12 Cable TV channels such as CNN, MSNBC, or Fox News Channel,
  - 7 Local TV news, OR
  - 7 Morning shows like Today or Good Morning America?
  - 5 TV in general (VOL.)
  - 1 Don't know/Refused
- 17 Newspapers
- 9 Radio
- 8 Magazines
- 7 The Internet, OR
- 10 Talking with friends and family?
  - 1 Other most important source (VOL.)
  - 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?

- 28 Republican
- 36 Democrat
- 28 Independent
- 4 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
- 1 Other party (VOL.)
- 1 Don't know
- 2 Refused

D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 12 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 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
- \* Refused

D4. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

- 21 18-29
- 41 30-49
- 20 50-64
- 16 65+
- 2 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. **(READ)**

- 10 Less than \$10,000
- 12 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 20 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 6 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 9 **(DO NOT READ)** 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?**

7 White, Non Hispanic  
4  
2 Total Non-White  
5  
11 Black or African-American  
10 Hispanic  
2 Asian  
5 Other or mixed race  
1 Don't know/Refused



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