



*Toplines*

# ***September/October 2001 Health News Index Survey***

**October 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 September 28, 2001 and October 1, 2001, 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?

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>COSTS (NET)</b>  | <b>27</b> |
| Cost of health care   | 12        |
| Cost of prescription drugs/medicines  | 11        |
| Cost of insurance/affordable insurance  | 4         |
| Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)   | 1         |
| <b>POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)</b>   | <b>26</b> |
| Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)   | 11        |
| Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)   | 5         |
| Medicare  | 5         |
| Children's care/issues  | 4         |
| Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)                       | 5         |
| <b>ACCESS (NET)</b>   | <b>25</b> |
| Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured   | 9         |
| Health insurance (general)  | 7         |
| Health care availability (general)  | 6         |
| Health care for the poor  | 2         |
| Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions) | 2         |
| <b>MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)</b>  | <b>13</b> |
| Cancer/Cancer Research  | 6         |
| AIDS/AIDS research/HIV  | 4         |
| Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other  | 7         |
| <b>QUALITY OF CARE (NET)</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| HMO/Managed care concerns   | 5         |
| Quality of care – other   | 4         |
| <b>OTHER</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>   | <b>12</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<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. The discussion of stem cell lines eligible for research with federal funding  | 21                      | 30                        | 20                         | 27                            | 2                   |
| b. The lawsuit involving a pharmacist accused of diluting cancer drugs   | 23                      | 22                        | 20                         | 33                            | 2                   |
| c. A federal judge temporarily blocking President Bush's plan for prescription drug discount cards                                 | 13                      | 17                        | 23                         | 44                            | 3                   |
| d. New publication rules by major medical journals aimed at curbing pharmaceutical companies' influence over drug studies          | 8                       | 14                        | 26                         | 50                            | 3                   |
| e. Criticism of the American Medical Association for accepting funding from pharmaceutical companies to pay for an ethics campaign | 9                       | 15                        | 24                         | 50                            | 2                   |
| f. Reports about rising health insurance premiums  | 26                      | 30                        | 19                         | 24                            | 1                   |
| g. Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon  | 85                      | 10                        | 3                          | 1                             | 1                   |
| h. Wildfires in California and Montana   | 15                      | 34                        | 27                         | 22                            | 1                   |
| i. The state of the U.S. economy and the decreasing federal budget surplus   | 29                      | 36                        | 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.

You may have seen or heard news reports about the National Institutes of Health releasing a list of stem cell lines eligible for research with federal funding. As far as you know, under President Bush's current policy, will stem cell lines developed in the future be eligible for federal funding for research if they meet certain criteria or will only those named recently be eligible for federal funding?

- 14 Stem cell lines developed in the future will be eligible if they meet certain criteria  
 28 Only those stem cell lines recently named by the National Institutes of Health  
 (correct answer)  
 58 Don't know/Refused

4. A federal judge recently issued a temporary injunction halting a Bush administration plan to promote private prescription drug discount cards under Medicare. From what you may have seen in the news in the last month was this a result of...(INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

- 4 A lawsuit filed by drugstore chains (correct answer)  
 12 A lawsuit filed by pharmaceutical companies  
 9 A lawsuit filed by consumer rights groups  
 75 Don't know/Refused

5. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? A health plan 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)? **USE VARIANT WORDING IN CALIFORNIA:** (Medi-Cal)

- 85 Yes, insured  
 15 No, not insured  
 \* Don't know/Refused

6. 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...? (**INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE**)

**READ FOR FIRST ITEM AND THEN AS NECESSARY:** Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

|   | <u>Very<br/>worried</u> | <u>Somewhat<br/>worried</u> | <u>Not too<br/>worried</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>worried</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. You might not be able to get the health care services you think you need   | 21                      | 22                          | 22                         | 34                            | 1                   |
| b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase                                     | 31                      | 28                          | 18                         | 21                            | 1                   |
| c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it                            | 25                      | 20                          | 20                         | 35                            | 1                   |
| d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse   | 23                      | 27                          | 23                         | 27                            | 1                   |
| <b><i>Items e-g based on those who are insured (n=868)</i></b>  |                         |                             |                            |                               |                     |
| e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits               | 11                      | 11                          | 15                         | 55                            | 8                   |
| f. You might lose your health insurance coverage  | 17                      | 13                          | 23                         | 47                            | 1                   |
| g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you | 26                      | 29                          | 18                         | 23                            | 3                   |

7. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say...(READ)?
- 7a. (IF TELEVISION ASK) Would you say your MOST important source of news and information about health issues is specifically...(READ)

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

- 31 Republican
- 32 Democrat
- 27 Independent
- 6 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?

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 12 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college, no 4-year degree
- 15 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 0 Don't Know
- 1 Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 21 18-29
- 41 30-49
- 21 50-64
- 16 65+
- 0 Don't know
- 1 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.

- 5 Less than \$10,000
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 22 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 7 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 7 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 7 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
- 25 Total Non-White
  - 11 Black or African-American
  - 10 Hispanic
  - 2 Asian
  - 3 Other or mixed race
- 1 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](http://www.kff.org)**

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