



Toplines

May/June 2002 Health News Index Survey

June 2002

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 May 31 and June 3, 2002, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 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)	31
Cost of health care	15
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	12
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	5
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	2
ACCESS (NET)	22
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	10
Health insurance (general)	5
Health care availability (general)	4
Health care for the poor	3
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	*
POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)	18
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	8
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	6
Medicare	4
Children's care/issues	2
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	2
MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)	7
Cancer/Cancer Research	4
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	2
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	3
QUALITY OF CARE (NET)	3
HMO/Managed care concerns	2
Quality of care – other	1
OTHER	9
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3

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 some different health care issues. As I read each one, please tell me how important you think it is for the President and Congress to deal with this issue – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. (First,) how important is this issue...?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans	69	23	3	3	3
b. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	83	13	2	2	*
c. Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations	81	15	1	2	1
d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	75	17	3	3	2

3. 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...?

	<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 U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan	51	32	11	6	1
b. Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis	50	30	12	7	1
c. Discussions in Congress about a Medicare prescription drug benefit	23	29	19	27	2
d. Medical researchers warn about possible harmful side effects of newer prescription drugs	22	29	20	28	1
e. A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on high school smoking	16	23	23	37	1
f. A report about the U.S. cities with the worst air quality	13	24	24	37	1
g. President Bush discusses mental health benefits offered by health plans	14	19	25	40	2

4. 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 what you have heard or seen in the news, did Congress recently pass a bill to provide prescription drug coverage to people on Medicare, or not?

- 15 Yes, Congress recently passed a bill to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries
- 31 No, Congress did not pass a bill to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries (*correct answer*)
- 55 Don't know/Refused

5. Thinking about what you have seen or heard in the news about a recent report on the possible harmful side effects from newer prescription drugs, what was the report about?
- 19 The FDA announced plans requiring longer periods of prescription drug testing beginning in 2003 to reduce the chances of harmful side effects
 - 27 Researchers found that doctors should avoid prescribing newer drugs when older, similarly effective drugs are available (*correct answer*)
 - 53 Don't know/Refused
6. Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, which of the following statements best summarizes the findings of the recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on smoking among high school kids?
- 34 Despite efforts to decrease youth smoking, smoking rates among teenagers are still increasing
 - 29 Rates of high school smoking declined for the first time in 10 years (*correct answer*)
 - 6 High school students living in urban areas are less likely to smoke than those in rural areas
 - 32 Don't know/Refused
7. 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)?
- 84 Yes, insured
 - 15 No, not insured
 - 1 Don't know/Refused

8. 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 worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. You might not be able to get the health care services you think you need	26	20	17	35	1
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	35	25	13	24	3
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	28	19	16	36	2
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	25	27	15	30	3
<i>Items e-g based on those who are insured (n=1041)</i>					
e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	16	10	10	58	6
f. You might lose your health insurance coverage	18	14	17	50	1
g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	34	27	14	22	3

9. Now, on another topic, have you heard of the movie titled "John Q" starring Denzel Washington, or not?

44 Yes, have heard of the movie
 55 No, have not heard of the movie
 1 Don't know/Refused

10. Did you happen to see the movie “John Q”, or not?

Based on those who have heard of the movie (n=514)

- 15 Yes, saw the movie
- 84 No, did not see the movie
- * Don't know/Refused

11. As you may know, the movie “John Q” is about a family whose son needs a heart transplant and can't get it. From what you may have seen or heard about the movie, which comes closer to why he can't get the transplant?

Based on those who have heard of the movie (n=514)

- 10 The family doesn't have any health insurance
- 58 The family has health insurance, but their policy won't cover the transplant
- 2 There are no matching hearts available for the transplant
- 20 Don't know enough about the movie to answer (VOL.)
- 10 Don't know/Refused

12. In the movie, who do you think is MOST to blame for the son not getting the treatment he needed?

Based on those who have heard of the movie (n=514)

- 6 The hospital
- 2 The doctors
- 47 The health insurance company
- 4 The father's employer
- 3 The child's parents
- 25 Don't know enough about the movie to answer (VOL.)
- 13 Don't know/Refused

13. Now, thinking about real life, about how often do you think health insurance companies refuse to pay for transplants or procedures like what was depicted in the movie “John Q”?

Based on those who have heard of the movie (n=514)

- 42 A lot
- 30 Sometimes
- 9 Rarely
- 2 Never
- 17 Don't know/Refused

14. How much information about health issues do you get from (INSERT)? A lot of information, some information, only a little information, or no information at all?

	<u>A lot of Informatio n</u>	<u>Some Information</u>	<u>Only a little Information</u>	<u>No information At All</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. NATIONAL news on TV	26	36	26	11	1
b. LOCAL news on TV	22	34	27	16	1
c. TV Entertainment shows like ER	11	14	17	54	4
d. Newspapers	20	32	24	23	1
e. The Internet	12	16	16	54	3

15. Have you ever heard of the drug mifepristone or RU-486?

31 Yes
66 No
3 Not sure/Don't know
* Refused

16. To the best of your knowledge, what is mifepristone or RU-486 used for?

Based on those who have heard of/not sure have heard of RU-486 (n=431)

60 It is a drug used to END pregnancy, that is to cause an abortion
12 It is a drug used to PREVENT pregnancy
4 Both (VOL.)
24 Not sure/Don't know
1 Refused

- 16b. To the best of your knowledge, is mifepristone or RU-486 another name for emergency contraceptive pills or morning-after pills or is it something different?

Based on those who have heard of/not sure have heard of RU-486 (n=431)

59 It is another name for ECPs
16 It is something different
24 Not sure/Don't know
* Refused

17. To the best of your knowledge, is there a drug that a woman can take to end a pregnancy, that is, cause an abortion?

64 Yes
 18 No
 17 Not sure/Don't know
 * Refused

18. As far as you know, is mifepristone or RU-486 currently available in the United States or not?

Based on those who say there is/not sure there is an abortion drug (n=989)

29 Yes is available
 21 No is not available
 50 Not sure/Don't know
 * Refused

19. From what you know, how SAFE is mifepristone or RU-486 when used under a doctor's care for medical abortion. Is it very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe, not at all safe, or don't you know enough to answer?

Based on those who say there is/not sure there is an abortion drug (n=989)

11 Very safe
 15 Somewhat safe
 6 Not too safe
 10 Not at all safe
 57 Not sure/Don't know
 1 Refused

20. From what you know, how EFFECTIVE is mifepristone or RU-486 when used under a doctor's care for medical abortion. Is it very effective, somewhat effective, not too effective, not at all effective, or don't you know enough to answer?

Based on those who say there is/not sure there is an abortion drug (n=989)

24 Very effective
 13 Somewhat effective
 1 Not too effective
 2 Not at all effective
 60 Not sure/Don't know
 * Refused

21. Do you remember seeing any news stories about mifepristone or RU-486 in the past couple of months?

Based on those who say there is/not sure there is an abortion drug (n=989)

- 19 Yes
- 70 No
- 10 Not sure/Don't know
- * Refused

22. Now, I have a question about SURGICAL abortion. From what you know, how safe is surgical abortion when performed under a doctor's care. Is it very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe, not at all safe, or don't you know enough to answer?

Based on those who say there is/not sure there is an abortion drug (n=989)

- 31 Very safe
- 34 Somewhat safe
- 7 Not too safe
- 9 Not at all safe
- 17 Not sure/Don't know
- 1 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
- 30 Democrat
- 32 Independent
- 5 No preference/Not interested in politics (**VOL.**)
- 1 Other party (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don't know
- 2 Refused

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

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 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
- 17 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
- 8 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?

- 21 18-29
- 39 30-49
- 21 50-64
- 17 65+
- 2 Don't know/Refused

D4.1 Is there anyone now living in your household who is between the ages of 15 to 24 years?

- 20 Yes
- 66 No
- 2 Don't know/Refused
- 12 Age 18-24 (not asked this Q)

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2001 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 6 Less than \$10,000
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 21 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 8 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 6 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 6 Don't know
- 14 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
- 24 Total Non-White
 - 10 Black or African-American
 - 10 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 2 Other or mixed race
- 2 Don't know/Refused



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