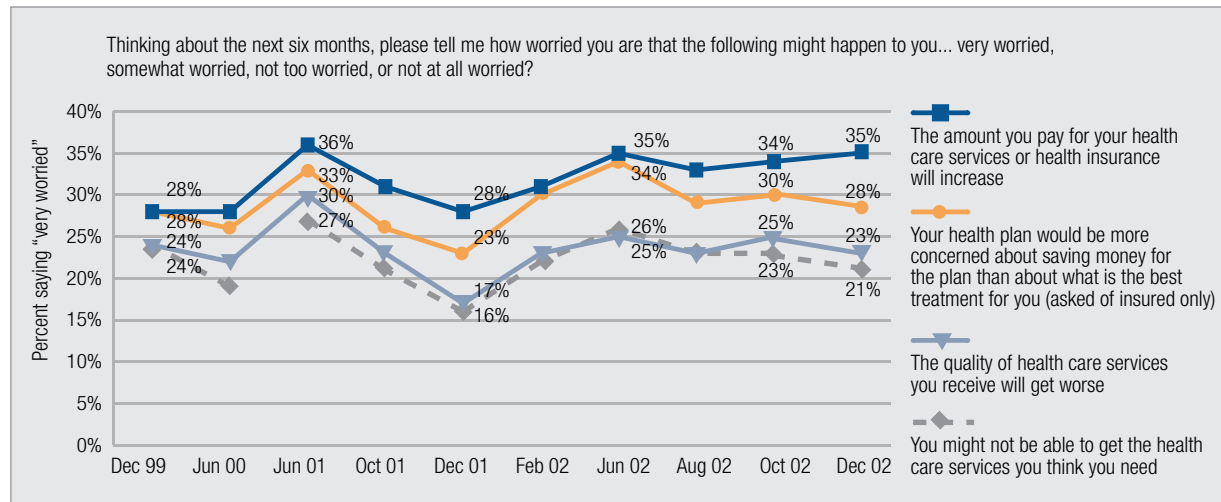


Kaiser Health Poll Report is a bimonthly report designed to provide key tracking information on public opinion about health care topics to journalists, policymakers and the general public. It includes tracking on how secure the public feels about their health care, the most important health care problem facing our government, and the health news stories the public is following most closely. In addition, each report includes poll findings on featured topics.

HEALTH SECURITY WATCH

In December 2002, the public's level of concern about accessing and paying for health care remained at relatively the same level as in October.



HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES

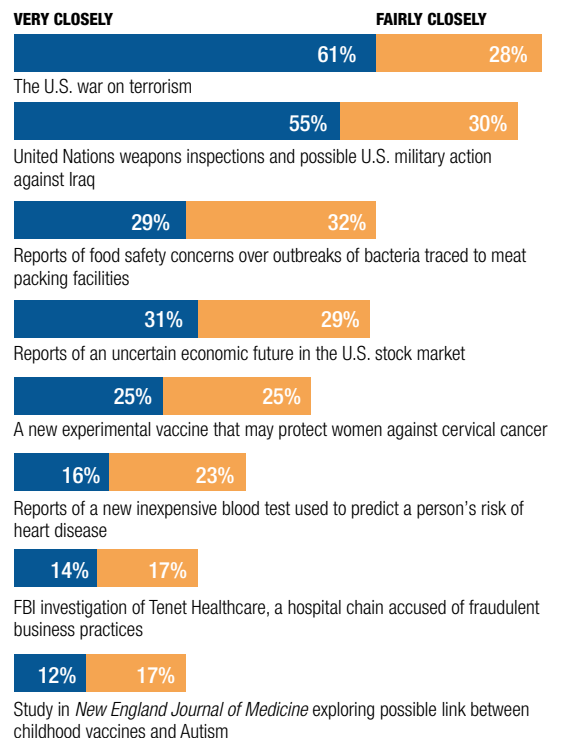
Based on response to the question, "Which of the following health care issues do you think is the most important for the President and Congress to deal with?"

ISSUE	PERCENT SAYING "MOST IMPORTANT"
Making health care more affordable	47
Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	16
Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	13
Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations	10
Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans	5
All equally important (volunteered response)	6
None are very important	2
Don't know/Refused	1

For more information about *Health Security Watch*, *Health Care Priorities*, and the Kaiser/Harvard School of Public Health *Health News Index*, including text summaries and charts with trend information and analysis by various demographic groups, visit www.kff.org/healthpollreport

Kaiser/Harvard School of Public Health HEALTH NEWS INDEX

How closely the public followed leading stories in the news from November 1 to December 2, 2002. Based on response to the question, "How closely did you follow this story...?"



The Kaiser Health Poll Report is prepared by Dr. Mollyann Brodie, Vice President and Director, Public Opinion and Media Research, Elizabeth Hamel, and Jaime Valdez of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The Kaiser/Harvard School of Public Health *Health News Index*, *Health Security Watch* and *Health Care Priorities* for December 2002 are based on a national random sample survey of 1,206 adults conducted November 1–December 2, 2002 to measure Americans' interest in and knowledge of health stories covered in the news media during the previous month. The survey was designed and analyzed by Dr. Mollyann Brodie, Elizabeth Hamel and Jaime Valdez of the Kaiser Family Foundation and Dr. Robert J. Blendon and John M. Benson at the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates. The margin of sampling error is +/-3%.

For copies of this report (#3310), please call the Kaiser Family Foundation's Publications Request Line at 1-800-656-4533, or visit our website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is an independent, national health philanthropy dedicated to providing information and analysis on health issues to policymakers, the media, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.

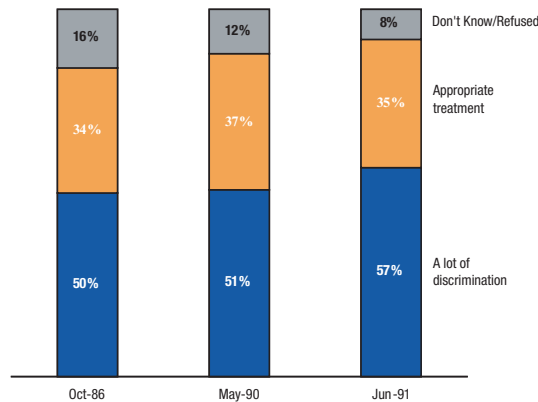
FEATURED TOPIC

Public Attitudes Towards HIV/AIDS

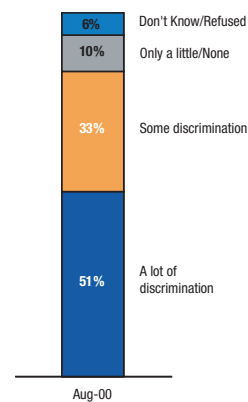
The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Live and let live," with a focus on eliminating HIV-related discrimination and stigma. To provide a public opinion context to this issue, this Featured Topic focuses on the public's views about HIV-related discrimination and stigma, as well as questions that illustrate the public's attitudes towards individuals who are infected with HIV.

Discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS: Since 1986, roughly half of Americans have said that there has been a lot of discrimination against people with AIDS. In 2000, an additional 33% said they think there has been some discrimination against people with HIV, resulting in around eight in ten saying there has been at least some discrimination.

Do you think there has been a lot of discrimination against people with AIDS, or do you think their treatment has been generally appropriate?

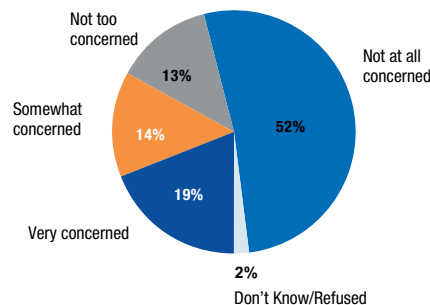


How much prejudice and discrimination do you think there is against people living with HIV and AIDS in this country today?



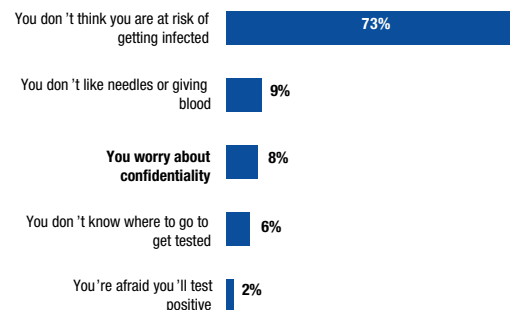
Relationship between stigma and HIV testing: Fear of being stigmatized by HIV/AIDS appears to have at least some relationship to people's decisions about whether or not to get tested for HIV. One-third say that if they were to be tested for HIV, they would be "very" or "somewhat" concerned that people would think less of them if they found out they'd been tested. In addition, eight percent of people who had never been tested for HIV said that worries about confidentiality were a factor in their decision not to have the test.

If you were to be tested for HIV, how concerned would you be that people would think less of you if they found out you had been tested? (Aug-00)



People have many reasons they might decide not to get tested for HIV. As I read the following list of reasons, please tell me if each one was or was not a reason you have decided not to get tested. How about ... (Aug-00)

Note: asked of those who have never been tested for HIV (55%)



For more information about this featured topic, including the actual survey question wording and sources, as well as additional information about public attitudes toward HIV/AIDS, visit www.kff.org/healthpollreport