



Toplines

March/April 2003 Health News Index Survey

April 2003

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 April 3-6, 2003, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,211 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.

April 2003 HEALTH NEWS INTEREST INDEX

Q.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) | 35 |
| Cost of prescription drugs/medicines | 15 |
| Cost of health care | 15 |
| Cost of insurance/affordable insurance | 7 |
| Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs) | 3 |
| Seniors' issues (NET) | 23 |
| Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security) | 12 |
| Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled) | 8 |
| Medicare | 5 |
| MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET) | 16 |
| Cancer/Cancer Research | 6 |
| AIDS/AIDS research/HIV | 4 |
| Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other | 10 |
| ACCESS (NET) | 23 |
| Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured | 15 |
| 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) | 3 |
| INSURANCE COMPANY CONCERNS (NET) | 8 |
| Health insurance (general) | 5 |
| HMO/Managed care concerns | 3 |
| OTHER POLICY (NET) | 9 |
| Children's care/issues | 3 |
| Quality of care | 2 |
| Other policy/social issues (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.) | 4 |

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

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentage may not add to 100%.

Q.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 / Refuse</u> |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines | 81 | 15 | 2 | 3 | * |
| Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations | 81 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance | 74 | 18 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Helping states with the cost of Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance for many low-income families | 64 | 25 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians | 53 | 30 | 8 | 6 | 3 |

Q2.1 Which of the following issues you say are very important do you think is MOST important? (Summary)

- 27 Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines
- 27 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- 18 Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations
- 11 Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians
- 8 Helping states with the cost of Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance for many low-income families
- 1 Other issue is most important (VOL.)
- 6 All the same/equally important (VOL.)
- 3 None Very Important
- 0 Don't know/Refused

Q.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. Reports about the war in Iraq | 77 | 16 | 5 | 3 | * |
| b. The capture of certain members of the Al-Qaeda terrorist network | 48 | 32 | 9 | 11 | 1 |
| c. Reports about a mysterious respiratory illness with pneumonia-like symptoms that is starting to spread worldwide | 60 | 26 | 9 | 5 | * |
| d. A vote in the Senate on legislation to ban late-term abortions, sometimes called partial-birth abortions | 27 | 25 | 17 | 29 | 1 |
| e. Discussions in Washington about limits on jury awards in medical malpractice lawsuits | 17 | 26 | 22 | 34 | 1 |
| f. President Bush's proposal to make changes to Medicare, including adding a prescription drug benefit | 28 | 36 | 17 | 19 | 1 |
| g. HealthSouth Corporation, a rehabilitation hospital chain, accused of accounting fraud | 9 | 15 | 20 | 52 | 3 |
| h. Scientists develop the first treatment for peanut allergies | 6 | 14 | 20 | 57 | 3 |
| i. Reports about the number of people without health insurance in the U.S. | 29 | 33 | 16 | 21 | 1 |

Q.4 Now, I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I mentioned earlier. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question.

Last month the Senate voted on a bill that would ban late term abortions, sometimes called partial-birth abortions. To the best of your knowledge, did they pass the bill or not?

- 18 Yes, passed bill banning it (correct answer)
- 20 No, didn't pass bill banning it
- 62 Don't know/Refused

Q.5a In the last month, have you seen or heard any news or information about the problem of people without health insurance in the U.S., or not?

Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=591)

- 56 Yes, seen or heard information
- 38 No, have not seen or heard information
- 6 Don't know/Refused

Q.5b In the last month, have you seen or heard any news or information about a campaign called "Cover the Uninsured Week", or not?

Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=620)

- 7 Yes, seen or heard information
- 87 No, have not seen or heard information
- 7 Don't know/Refused

Q.6 Next, think about the PAST TWO MONTHS and any information you may have seen or heard about HIV and AIDS. In the past 2 months, have you seen or heard (INSERT), or not?

| | <u>Have Seen or Heard</u> | <u>Have Not Seen or Heard</u> | <u>Don't know/ Refused</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Ads on TV or radio talking about HIV and AIDS | 55 | 44 | 2 |
| b. TV shows in which HIV and AIDS was discussed as part of the story | 38 | 59 | 3 |
| c. Ads about HIV and AIDS in movie theaters or on billboards, trains, buses or other outdoor posters | 38 | 60 | 2 |

Q.7 In recent years, there have been public service campaigns on issues like smoking, AIDS, and drug abuse. For each of the following, please tell me whether you have ever heard of this campaign or seen ads containing this phrase or tagline. (FIRST,) what about (INSERT)? Have you ever heard of this campaign or seen ads containing this phrase or tagline, or not?

| | <u>Have Seen or Heard</u> | <u>Have Not Seen or Heard</u> | <u>Don't know/ Refused</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. KNOW HIV/AIDS | 27 | 71 | 2 |
| b. The More You Know | 54 | 42 | 4 |
| c. Apathy is Lethal | 20 | 75 | 5 |
| d. The Truth | 51 | 45 | 4 |

Q.8 Next, I'm going to read you descriptions of several ads about HIV and AIDS that you may have seen on TV. After I read each one, please tell me whether or not you have seen that ad on TV. (INSERT). Have you seen this ad on TV, or not?

| | <u>Have Seen</u> | <u>Have Not Seen</u> | <u>Don't know/ Refused</u> |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. A woman ignores messages about HIV while she's driving through town on her way home. When she gets home and opens her mail, she sees information about the impact of HIV on young people. The issue finally gets her attention when her own daughter walks into the room. | 16 | 83 | 1 |
| b. A young woman is approached by a man. As a narrator says "She always uses protection. Do you?" the man runs up against a wall of glass. The ad ends with a 1-800 number for more information. | 17 | 81 | 1 |

Q.9 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 |
| * | Don't know/Refused |

Q.10 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...?
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 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 34 | * |
| b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase | 36 | 29 | 12 | 21 | 2 |
| c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it | 26 | 23 | 17 | 33 | 1 |
| d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse | 27 | 29 | 18 | 25 | 1 |
| e. You might not be able to afford the prescription drugs you need | 26 | 21 | 17 | 36 | * |
| f. You might be the victim of a violent crime | 12 | 24 | 30 | 33 | 1 |
| g. You might be the victim of a terrorist attack | 14 | 24 | 26 | 36 | * |
| h. Your income might not keep up with rising prices | 35 | 32 | 11 | 21 | 1 |
| i. You might lose your savings in the stock market | 16 | 15 | 12 | 54 | 3 |
| j. You might lose your job | 12 | 11 | 17 | 57 | 4 |
| k. You might not be able to pay your rent or mortgage | 17 | 15 | 20 | 48 | * |

Items l-n based on those who are insured (n=1,049)

| | <u>Very worried</u> | <u>Somewhat worried</u> | <u>Not too worried</u> | <u>Not at all worried</u> | <u>DK/ Ref.</u> |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| l. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits | 11 | 10 | 13 | 60 | 5 |
| m. You might lose your health insurance coverage | 17 | 15 | 21 | 46 | 1 |
| n. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you | 34 | 30 | 12 | 22 | 2 |

DEMOGRAPHICS:**D1. 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?

- 33 Republican
- 29 Democrat
- 31 Independent
- 3 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)
- 2 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no 4-year degree
- 18 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)
- 0 Don't Know
- * Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 20 18-29
- 40 30-49
- 21 50-64
- 16 65+
- 2 Undesignated

D5. Are you NOW self-employed, working full-time for an employer, working part-time for an employer, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?

- 13 Self-employed
- 38 Full-time for an employer
- 10 Part-time for an employer
- 20 Retired
- 11 Not employed
- 3 Homemaker (VOL.)
- 2 Student (VOL.)
- 3 Disabled (VOL.)
- * Don't know/Refused

D6. 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.

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 12 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 19 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 7 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 4 Don't know
- 13 Refused

D7. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D8. 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
- 25 Total Non-White
 - 10 Black or African-American
 - 10 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 2 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

Additional copies of this publication (#7275) are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation dedicated to providing information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.