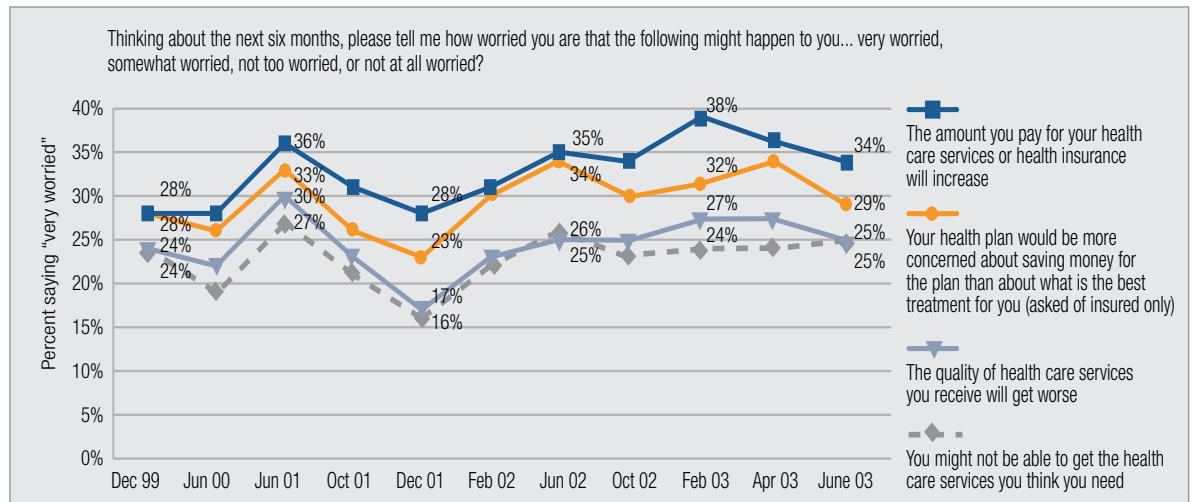


Kaiser Health Poll Report is a bimonthly report designed to provide key tracking information on public opinion about health care topics to journalists, policymakers and the general public. It includes tracking on how secure the public feels about their health care, the most important health care problem 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

The percentage of people concerned about their own ability to access and pay for health care decreased slightly between February and June, 2003.



HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES

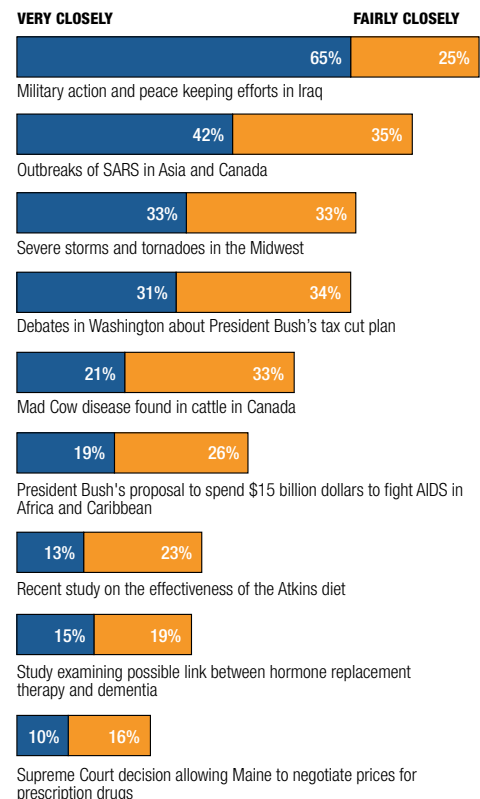
Based on response to the question, "Which of the following health care issues do you think is the most important for the President and Congress to deal with?"

ISSUE	PERCENT SAYING "MOST IMPORTANT"
Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	31
Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	25
Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations	19
Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians	11
All equally important (volunteered response)	8
None are very important	5
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 May 1 to May 30, 2003. 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 June 2003 are based on a national random sample survey of 1,210 adults conducted June 5-8, 2003 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%.

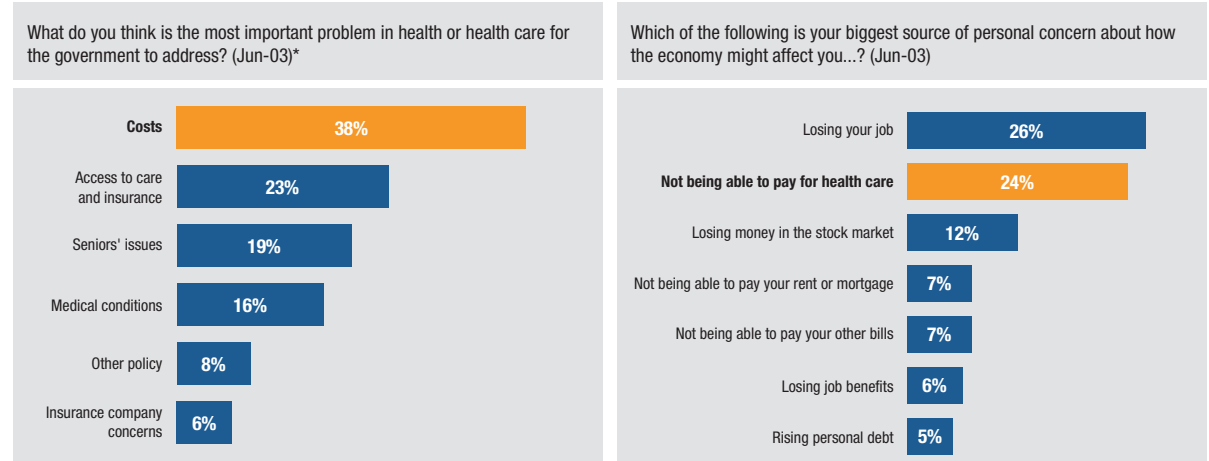
Additional copies of this report (#3352) are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

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 Opinion on Health Care Costs

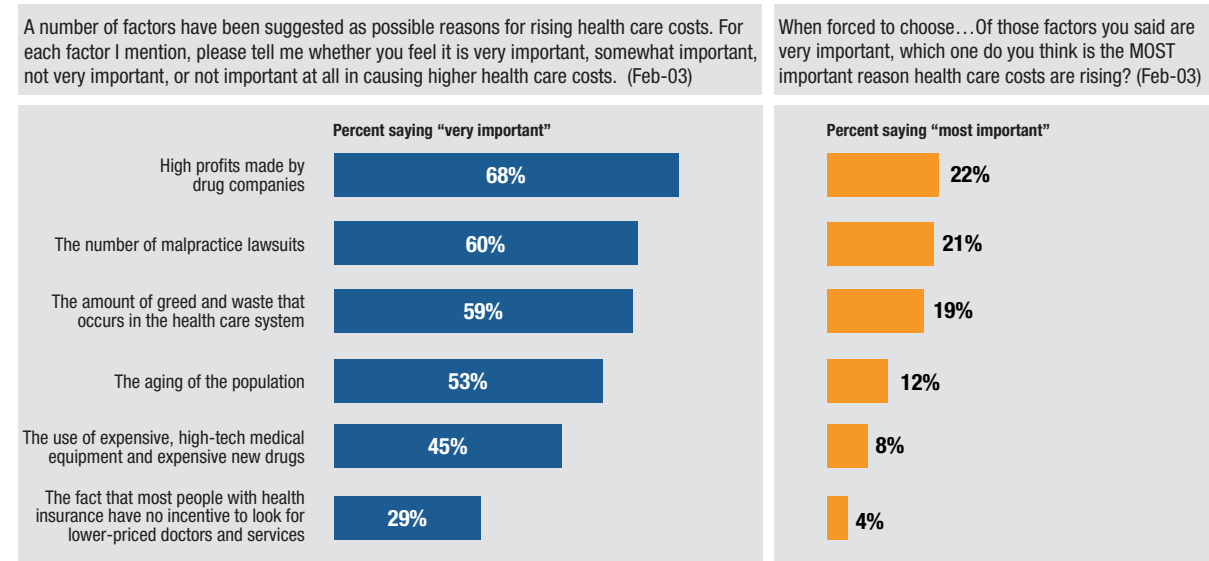
The public's concerns: Given recent concerns about the economy and the fact that health insurance premium costs have risen by double digits over the past few years, it's perhaps not surprising that being able to afford health care and health insurance ranks among the public's top concerns when it comes to health, both personally, and in what they see as important issues for the government to address.



*Adds up to more than 100% because of multiple responses

Experiences with rising health care costs: In 2002, more than half (54%) of the public said the amount they paid for their health insurance premiums had gone up, and 45% said their out-of-pocket health care expenses had gone up in the past year. In addition, roughly one in five (21%) said that they or someone in their family has had trouble paying medical bills in the past year. Most of these people reported that these bills present a serious problem for their families, and a significant number (12% of all adults) said they have been contacted by a collection agency about money owed for medical bills.

Reasons for rising costs: The public believes a number of different factors are important in causing rising health care costs, and they are divided when it comes to deciding which factor is the most important. While experts cite advances in medical technology, including prescription drugs, as the biggest reason health care costs are rising, the public is less likely to recognize this as an important reason, instead citing high profits, malpractice, and greed.



For more information about public opinion on health care costs, including additional survey questions as well as full wording and sources for all questions shown here, visit www.kff.org/healthpollreport