

Toplines

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008

June 2007

Methodology

The *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between May 31 and June 5, 2007. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

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.

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

1. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem for the government to address? Is there another problem you think is almost as important for the government to address? (OPEN-END)

Based on Half Sample

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
43	36	50	45	Iraq/war in Iraq
28	18	33	29	Health care (Net)
9	4	15	7	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
8	4	9	10	Health care (general)
6	5	6	8	Other health care mentions
6	9	6	5	Health care costs
1	1	1	2	Medicare
14	15	13	12	Gas prices/energy (Net)
12	13	12	12	Gas prices
1	2	1	1	Energy issues
12	20	5	13	Immigration/illegal immigration
11	12	10	12	Economic issues (Net)
3	4	3	5	Economy (general)
3	3	4	2	Jobs
2	4	2	2	Poverty/homelessness
2	2	*	2	Other economy mentions
9	8	8	9	Frustration with government/corruption (Net)
2	3	1	1	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
1	1	--	1	Partisan politics/party bickering
*	--	--	1	Campaigns/elections
6	4	7	7	Other frustration with government mentions
9	17	1	12	Terrorism/national security (Net)
5	9	*	7	Terrorism/war on terror
4	8	1	3	National security
*	*	--	1	Other terrorism/national security mentions
5	4	7	4	Education/schools
4	*	6	6	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
4	5	4	3	Taxes
4	5	3	4	Social Security
3	5	1	5	Budget deficit/national debt
3	3	1	6	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
1	1	*	2	Iran
2	2	*	5	Other foreign affairs mentions
3	8	1	*	Morality issues (Net)
1	4	*	--	Abortion
*	*	*	--	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
*	--	1	--	Stem cells
*	1	--	--	Moral issues (general)
1	3	*	*	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
3	1	4	3	Crime/violence
2	--	3	4	Local issues
1	1	2	--	Katrina
*	--	*	1	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare)
7	7	7	8	Other
7	8	9	2	Don't know/Refused
(N=598)	(179)	(186)	(176)	

Note: Table will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

2. Thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2008, what two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? **IF R GIVES ONE ISSUE PROBE FOR SECOND:** Is there another issue you'd like to hear about? (**OPEN-END**)

Based on Half Sample

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
43	43	52	37	Iraq/war in Iraq
21	18	21	24	Health care (Net)
8	6	7	12	Health care (general)
5	3	6	5	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
5	6	3	6	Health care costs
3	3	5	1	Other health care mentions
1	1	1	3	Medicare
18	20	14	20	Immigration/illegal immigration
13	12	18	10	Economic issues (Net)
9	9	11	7	Economy (general)
3	2	4	3	Jobs
*	--	1	--	Poverty/homelessness
1	*	2	1	Other economy mentions
12	12	11	13	Gas prices/energy (Net)
10	11	10	11	Gas prices
2	1	2	2	Energy issues
7	16	2	6	Terrorism/national security (Net)
4	13	--	3	National security
3	3	2	2	Terrorism/war on terror
*	--	*	--	Other terrorism/national security mentions
4	3	6	4	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
4	6	1	6	Social Security
4	5	3	3	Taxes
4	1	6	5	Education/schools
3	6	1	3	Morality issues (Net)
3	4	*	3	Abortion
*	1	--	--	Moral issues (general)
*	*	--	--	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
1	*	1	--	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
2	1	2	2	Frustration with government/corruption (Net)
1	*	1	1	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
1	1	1	*	Other frustration with government mentions
2	2	2	2	Budget deficit/national debt
2	2	1	2	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
*	--	*	*	Iran
1	2	1	2	Other foreign affairs mentions
1	--	3	1	Crime/violence
1	1	1	*	Local issues
*	1	*	--	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare)
*	--	*	--	Katrina
6	4	6	5	Other
*	1	--	--	Nothing
9	13	6	8	Don't know/Refused
(N=605)	(159)	(206)	(179)	

Note: Table will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

3. Next, thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2008, which ONE of the following health care issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about and focus on in any health reform plan they may develop? (**READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-5**)

Based on Half Sample

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
32	23	40	31	Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
31	37	29	25	Reducing health care costs
13	10	15	14	Improving the Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors
11	10	10	15	Improving the quality of care and reducing medical errors
7	13	2	7	Reducing spending on government health programs like Medicare and Medicaid
2	4	*	2	None of these (VOL)
1	1	*	3	Other issue (VOL)
3	3	4	3	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(N=598)	(179)	(186)	(176)	

4. Now thinking specifically about HEALTH CARE, what two health care issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? **IF R GIVES ONE ISSUE PROBE FOR SECOND:** Is there another health care issue you'd like to hear about? (**OPEN-END**)

Based on Half Sample

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
36	28	41	38	Uninsured/access/expanding coverage (Net)
8	5	12	9	Coverage for everyone/everyone being insured
6	4	6	10	Accessibility to health care for all
6	3	7	4	Should have nat'l health plan/federalized healthcare/gov't funded
5	4	3	9	Health insurance for children
4	6	6	2	Better insurance coverage
4	3	8	1	Accessibility to healthcare for poor
4	4	3	6	Other accessibility mentions
27	23	25	34	Health care cost (including RX) (Net)
14	14	13	17	Affordable healthcare/high cost of health care services
9	7	8	9	RX drug costs/affordable drugs (no mention of elderly/Medicare)
6	7	6	7	Affordable insurance
*	--	--	2	Cost/high cost (unspecified)
21	26	20	22	Other (Net)
3	5	3	3	Malpractice/lawsuits
2	2	3	--	Specific diseases
2	3	1	2	Gov't shouldn't be involved in healthcare/socialized medicine
1	1	2	1	Medical research/for diseases/illness/breakthroughs
1	2	1	1	Health care (not specific)
1	--	2	1	Stem cells
*	*	--	--	Abortion
*	--	*	1	Preventive health care/medicine
*	*	*	1	Long term health care
12	15	10	14	Other
16	16	19	14	Medicare (Net)
8	6	8	6	Healthcare for the elderly (no mention of prescriptions, drugs)
4	6	4	4	Medicare (general)
3	1	6	3	Medicare drug benefit
3	3	3	2	Other Medicare mentions
12	12	14	13	Not health care (Net)
1	1	1	2	Social Security
*	--	*	--	Seniors/retirement (not related to health/health care)
11	10	12	10	Other non-health care mentions
2	3	2	1	Quality/lack of quality healthcare/better quality health care
1	1	1	1	Insurance company issues (Net)
1	*	1	1	HMOs
*	*	1	*	Health insurance/insurance (unspecified)
1	2	--	*	Nothing
17	21	13	16	Don't know/Refused
(n=605)	(159)	(206)	(179)	

Note: Table will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

5. Thinking about all of the candidates for president in 2008, regardless of political party or who you intend to vote for, which candidate BEST represents your own views on health care? (**OPEN-END, DO NOT READ**)

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
17	2	33	13	Hillary Clinton
9	4	15	7	Barack Obama
3	9	1	3	Rudy Giuliani
3	1	4	3	John Edwards
3	6	*	2	Mitt Romney
2	5	1	1	John McCain
1	*	1	1	Bill Richardson
*	1	*	1	Fred Thompson
*	--	1	--	Dennis Kucinich
*	*	--	*	Ron Paul
*	--	*	--	Al Gore
*	*	--	--	Newt Gingrich
*	--	*	--	George W. Bush
*	*	*	--	John Kerry
*	--	*	--	Joe Biden
*	1	*	1	Other candidate
1	*	1	*	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	3	--	1	Republican candidate, non-specific
59	67	42	68	No candidate represents my views/Don't know/Refused
(N=1203)	(338)	(392)	(355)	

6. And still thinking about all of the candidates for president, regardless of political party and whether or not you agree with their views, which candidate do you think is placing the BIGGEST EMPHASIS on health care issues? (**OPEN-END, DO NOT READ**)

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
23	17	32	21	Hillary Clinton
9	8	12	9	Barack Obama
4	1	6	6	John Edwards
2	4	1	1	Rudy Giuliani
1	2	*	1	Mitt Romney
1	1	*	1	John McCain
*	1	--	1	Newt Gingrich
*	--	1	--	Bill Richardson
*	--	*	*	Dennis Kucinich
*	--	*	--	John Kerry
*	--	--	--	Al Gore
*	--	--	--	George W. Bush
*	--	--	*	Fred Thompson
*	--	*	--	Joe Biden
*	--	1	*	Other candidate
2	*	2	1	Democratic candidate, non-specific
*	1	*	*	Republican candidate, non-specific
57	64	44	59	No candidate placing big emphasis on health care/DK/Ref.
(N=1203)	(338)	(392)	(355)	

7. Thinking about how the issue of health care might affect your vote for president, would you ...
(CATEGORIES READ IN ORDER AND REVERSE ORDER)

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
13	9	17	10	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on health care
68	67	67	74	Consider a candidate's position on health care as just one of many important factors
13	21	9	13	Not see health care as a major issue in your vote
5	2	6	3	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(N=1203)	(338)	(392)	(355)	

8. Which ONE of the following three things would you like to see in a health care reform proposal from a presidential candidate? Would you want your candidate to propose... **(READ)**? (Which would you want your presidential candidate to propose - a major plan OR a more limited plan OR to keep things as they are?)

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
53	36	72	49	A new health plan that would make a major effort to provide health insurance for all or nearly all of the uninsured BUT would involve a substantial increase in spending
21	29	14	23	A new health plan that is more limited and would cover only some groups of the uninsured BUT would involve less new spending
17	26	8	19	Keeping things basically as they are
9	9	6	10	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(N=1203)	(338)	(392)	(355)	

- 8a. When thinking about rising health care costs, which ONE of the following concerns you most...
(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
38	35	45	35	Increases in the amount people pay for their health insurance premiums and other out of pocket costs
18	19	17	19	Increases in spending on government health insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid
18	21	16	20	Increases in what the nation as a whole spends on health
13	14	13	14	Increases in the health insurance premiums that employers pay to cover their workers
4	3	3	5	All of these (VOL)
3	4	1	4	None of these (VOL)
5	4	5	4	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(N=1203)	(338)	(392)	(355)	

9. 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?

- 9 Self-employed
- 38 Full-time for an employer
- 11 Part-time for an employer
- 23 Retired
- 12 Not employed
- 2 Homemaker (**VOL**)
- 1 Student (**VOL**)
- 5 Disabled (**VOL**)
- * (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know/Refused

10. 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)

- 82 Yes, insured
- 17 No, not insured
- * Don't know/Refused

11. Next, I'm going to read you a list of things that some people worry about and others do not. I'd like you to tell me how worried you are about each of the following things. (First/Next,) how worried are you about...**(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? (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. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance	41	34	14	11	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	36	27	19	18	*
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	32	28	19	20	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	33	23	22	22	*
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	21	28	31	20	1
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	25	29	25	19	1
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	45	30	12	13	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	14	13	22	48	3
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	25	19	20	34	1
j. Losing your job	19	15	25	41	*
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	17	14	24	45	1
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	34	20	20	25	1
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you	31	33	18	16	3

NOTE: Item J based on those who are employed (n=613), Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=529), Item L based on those who are insured (n=1,062), Item M based on those who are insured (n=1,062)

12. Next, I'd like to ask you to think about uninsured Americans--that is, people with no health insurance at all. Would you say that more of them are...(READ AND ROTATE)

- 44 Employed people and people from families in which someone is employed
- 45 Unemployed people and people from families in which no one is employed
- 11 Don't know/Refused

13. Compared to those WITH health insurance, please tell me if you think uninsured Americans are more likely, less likely, or about as likely to have or do each of the following. First... (READ AND RANDOMIZE) – are uninsured Americans more likely, less likely, or about as likely to have/do this? What about... (READ NEXT ITEM)? (Are uninsured Americans more likely, less likely, or about as likely to have/do this?)

	<u>More likely</u>	<u>Less likely</u>	<u>About as likely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Have a regular source where they get medical care	23	57	13	7
b. Have hospital or ER visits that could have been avoided	55	22	17	6
c. Put off or postpone seeking care	71	14	10	6

14. Do you think that most people without health insurance are unable to get medical treatment, or that these uninsured people are still able to get the medical care they need from doctors and hospitals?

- 45 Able to get treatment
- 48 Not able to get treatment
- 7 Don't know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS (ASK ALL):

Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX

- 49 Male
- 51 Female

D2. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

_____ years

- 20 18-29
- 34 30-49
- 26 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 3 Refused

- 54 Total Under 50
- 43 Total 50 and older

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

- 25 Republican
- 35 Democrat
- 29 Independent
- 6 Other/None
- 4 Don't know
- 2 Refused

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

D3b. Do you lean more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]?

Party ID including Leaners

- 34 Republican/Lean Republican
- 47 Democrat/Lean Democrat
- 20 Refused to Lean

D4. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

- 81 Yes
- 17 No
- 2 Don't know/Refused

D5. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**

- 4 None, or grade 1-8
- 9 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 11 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 1 Refused

D6. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 53 Married
- 4 Living with a partner
- 10 Divorced
- 2 Separated
- 9 Widowed
- 20 Never been married
- 2 Undesignated

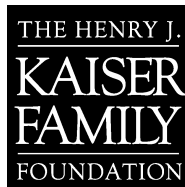
D7. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

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?)**

- 70 White, Non Hispanic
- 27 Total Non-White
- 10 Black or African-American
- 12 Hispanic
- 3 Asian
- 3 Other or mixed race
- 3 Undesignated

D9. Last year -- that is, in 2006 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 15 Less than \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
- 18 \$30,000 to less than \$50,000
- 14 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 13 \$100,000 or more
- 6 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 13 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Headquarters
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and
Barbara Jordan Conference Center
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

Additional copies of this publication (#7656) 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.