



Toplines

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008

August 2007

Methodology

The *Kaiser Health Tracking Survey: Election 2008* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey was conducted from August 2 – 8, 2007, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,500 adults, including 748 adults who reported having heard or read anything about the movie “Sicko”, or having seen the movie. Telephone interviews were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for the full survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points, and for the results based on respondents familiar with the movie “Sicko”, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points; for results based on subgroups, 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>	
42	38	53	41	Iraq/war in Iraq
27	19	35	25	Health care (Net)
10	6	15	7	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
7	5	7	8	Health care (general)
6	8	5	6	Health care costs
2	1	2	2	Medicare/elderly
4	1	7	5	Other health care mentions
16	13	14	16	Economic issues (Net)
5	5	5	3	Jobs
4	1	5	4	Poverty/homelessness
3	3	2	4	Economy (general)
4	4	2	6	Other economy mentions
13	18	6	14	Immigration/illegal immigration
11	22	3	12	Terrorism/national security (Net)
7	12	3	8	National security
4	11	1	4	Terrorism/war on terror
9	10	8	10	Frustration with government/corruption (Net)
2	1	2	3	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
1	2	1	1	Partisan politics/party bickering
*	1	1	--	Campaigns/elections
6	7	5	6	Other frustration with government mentions
7	3	12	5	Education/schools
6	6	6	5	Gas prices/energy (Net)
5	6	5	4	Gas prices
1	1	2	1	Energy issues
5	10	2	4	Taxes
4	5	1	5	Crime/violence
4	2	5	5	Social Security
4	5	4	4	Budget deficit/national debt
3	--	5	4	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
3	6	1	2	Morality issues (Net)
*	2	--	--	Abortion
*	--	*	--	Moral issues (general)
2	4	1	2	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
2	3	1	2	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
2	3	1	2	Other foreign affairs mentions
1	*	1	*	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare/health care)
*	1	*	--	Katrina
*	--	*	--	Local issues
7	7	8	6	Other
8	4	9	9	Don't know/Refused
(N=765)	(184)	(225)	(279)	

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>	
38	32	42	43	Iraq/war in Iraq
30	21	42	25	Health care (Net)
11	8	16	10	Health care (general)
8	5	11	7	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
6	4	8	5	Health care costs
2	--	4	1	Medicare/elderly
4	5	5	3	Other health care mentions
13	15	12	14	Economic issues (Net)
7	10	4	9	Economy (general)
3	3	2	1	Jobs
1	*	3	1	Poverty/homelessness
3	2	4	3	Other economy mentions
12	15	7	16	Immigration/illegal immigration
7	2	9	8	Education/schools
7	10	6	6	Taxes
7	16	3	7	Terrorism/national security (Net)
6	12	3	6	National security
1	4	*	1	Terrorism/war on terror
4	8	2	3	Gas prices/energy (Net)
4	7	2	3	Gas prices
*	1	*	--	Energy issues
4	4	5	3	Social Security
4	2	4	4	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
3	6	1	3	Morality issues (Net)
2	3	*	2	Abortion
*	1	--	*	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
*	*	--	1	Stem cells
*	*	*	--	Moral issues (general)
1	2	*	1	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
3	1	2	2	Frustration with government/corruption (Net)
*	--	--	1	Campaigns/elections
*	--	*	*	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
*	*	*	*	Partisan politics/party bickering
2	1	1	2	Other frustration with government mentions
2	2	2	2	Budget deficit/national debt
2	3	1	1	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
*	*	--	*	Middle East
1	2	1	1	Other foreign affairs mentions
1	1	*	1	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare/health care)
1	2	*	1	Crime/violence
*	1	--	--	Katrina
6	5	7	6	Other
14	13	12	12	Don't know/Refused
(N=735)	(189)	(220)	(254)	

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 1-4, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY**)

Based on Half Sample

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
39	50	36	36	Reducing the costs of health care and health insurance
34	16	40	37	Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
13	17	14	11	Improving the quality of care and reducing medical errors
8	9	6	9	Reducing spending on government health programs like Medicare and Medicaid
3	4	1	2	None of these (VOL.)
2	1	1	3	Other issue (VOL.)
2	3	3	2	Don't know/Refused
(N=765)	(184)	(225)	(279)	

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>	
37	24	48	38	Uninsured/access/expanding coverage (Net)
13	6	19	12	Coverage for everyone/everyone being insured
7	5	9	7	Accessibility to health care for all
6	2	8	6	Should have nat'l health plan/federalized healthcare/gov't funded
3	1	5	3	Health insurance for children
3	1	4	3	Accessibility to healthcare for poor
3	3	1	4	Better insurance coverage
6	7	7	5	Other accessibility mentions
32	30	31	35	Health care cost (including Rx) (Net)
11	11	13	10	Affordable healthcare/high cost of health care services
9	11	5	12	Affordable insurance
9	7	9	9	RX drug costs/affordable drugs (no mention of elderly/Medicare)
5	6	4	7	Cost/high cost (unspecified)
19	26	13	21	Other (Net)
3	8	--	3	The gov't shouldn't be involved in healthcare/socialized medicine
2	3	2	1	Specific diseases
2	1	1	2	Medical research/for diseases/illness/breakthroughs
1	1	1	1	Health care (not specific)
1	1	*	1	Stem cells
1	2	1	1	Malpractice/lawsuits
1	2	1	*	Long term health care
*	1	--	1	Abortion
*	*	1	*	Preventive health care/medicine
*	1	--	--	Smoking/tobacco
10	9	6	12	Other (misc.)
12	16	12	10	Medicare (Net)
7	10	7	7	Healthcare for the elderly (no mention of prescriptions, drugs)
3	3	2	1	Medicare drug benefit
1	1	1	1	Medicare (general)
2	4	3	2	Other Medicare mentions
10	10	10	7	Not health care (Net)
1	2	1	1	Social Security
9	9	9	6	Other non-health care mentions
5	3	7	5	Insurance company issues (Net)
2	2	3	3	Insurance companies have too much control
2	1	3	2	Health insurance/insurance (unspecified)
1	--	1	1	HMOs
2	1	3	2	Quality/Lack of quality healthcare/Better quality health care
2	2	*	3	Nothing
17	22	17	14	Don't know/Refused
(N=735)	(N=189)	(N=220)	(N=254)	

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>	
19	4	35	15	Hillary Clinton
6	3	9	7	Barack Obama
4	1	6	3	John Edwards
3	8	1	4	Rudy Giuliani
2	5	*	2	Mitt Romney
1	2	1	1	John McCain
1	2	--	1	Fred Thompson
*	--	*	1	Dennis Kucinich
*	--	1	1	Bill Richardson
*	*	--	1	Ron Paul
*	1	--	*	George W. Bush
*	--	*	*	Joe Biden
*	*	--	--	Mike Huckabee
*	--	*	--	Al Gore
*	--	*	--	Ralph Nader
*	--	--	*	Alan Keyes
*	1	*	--	Other candidate
2	*	4	1	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	4	--	1	Republican candidate, non-specific
59	68	43	63	No candidate represents my views/Don't know/Refused
(N=1500)	(373)	(445)	(533)	

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>	
27	20	34	27	Hillary Clinton
6	4	9	5	Barack Obama
5	2	7	6	John Edwards
1	3	*	1	Rudy Giuliani
1	2	*	1	Mitt Romney
1	1	1	1	John McCain
*	--	1	*	Bill Richardson
*	--	1	*	Dennis Kucinich
*	*	*	--	Mike Huckabee
*	*	--	*	Ron Paul
*	*	*	--	Fred Thompson
*	--	*	--	Al Gore
*	--	--	*	Joe Biden
*	--	*	--	Ralph Nader
*	*	*	--	Other candidate
2	2	3	1	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	2	*	*	Republican candidate, non-specific
56	62	43	57	No candidate placing big emphasis on health/DK/Ref.
(N=1500)	(373)	(445)	(533)	

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>	
11	7	14	11	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on health care (or)
74	76	76	74	Consider a candidate's position on health care as just one of many important factors (or)
11	12	6	12	Not see health care as a major issue in your vote (or)
4	6	3	3	Don't know/Refused
(N=1500)	(373)	(445)	(533)	

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)?**

READ IF NECESSARY: 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>	
54	35	67	54	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
23	31	21	24	A new health plan that is more limited and would cover only some groups of the uninsured BUT would involve less new spending
13	24	3	13	Keeping things basically as they are
10	10	9	9	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
(N=1500)	(373)	(445)	(533)	

9. I am going to read you a list of companies and groups. For each one please tell me if you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion. (First/Next,) **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)** - do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion? **IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK:** Is that very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable)?

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Hospitals	30	43	14	7	6
b. HMOs, or Health Maintenance Organizations, and other managed care plans	12	27	21	25	15
c. Health insurance companies	12	31	24	27	6
d. Banks	22	45	15	10	7
e. Oil companies	9	17	21	45	7
f. Pharmaceutical or drug companies	13	30	21	31	6
g. Airlines	16	40	17	10	17
h. Doctors	39	41	11	5	4
i. Tobacco companies	6	11	18	58	8
j. Defense contractors	11	24	18	23	24

10. Have you heard or read anything about the movie “An Inconvenient Truth”, a documentary about global warming narrated by Al Gore, or not?

11. Have you seen the movie “An Inconvenient Truth”, or not?

- 61 Total have seen, heard or read about “An Inconvenient Truth”
- 13 Saw “An Inconvenient Truth”
- 48 Heard/read about “An Inconvenient Truth”
- 38 Did not see, hear or read about “An Inconvenient Truth”
- * Don’t know/Refused

12. Have you heard or read anything about the movie “Sicko”, a documentary about the U.S. health care system directed by Michael Moore, or not?

13. Have you seen the movie “Sicko”, or not?

- 46 Total have seen, heard or read about “Sicko”
- 4 Saw “Sicko”
- 42 Heard/read about “Sicko”
- 54 Did not see, hear or read about “Sicko”
- * Don’t know/Refused

14. **(READ ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN THE MOVIE:** Based on what you have heard or read) do you have a positive impression or a negative impression of the movie “Sicko”? **IF POSITIVE/NEGATIVE IMPRESSION, ASK:** Is that a very (positive/negative) impression or a somewhat (positive/negative) impression?

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 24 Very positive
- 24 Somewhat positive
- 11 Somewhat negative
- 22 Very negative
- 18 Don’t know/Refused

15. **(READ ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN THE MOVIE:** Based on what you have heard or read) do you think the movie “Sicko”... **(CATEGORIES READ IN ORDER AND REVERSE ORDER)**

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 33 Overstates the problems with the U.S. health care system (or)
- 36 Accurately represents the problems with the U.S. health care system (or)
- 9 Understates the problems with the U.S. health care system (or)
- 22 Don’t know/Refused

16. Which of the following do you think is the main message of the movie “Sicko”? (**READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-3**)

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 54 The U.S. should have a free, universal, government-financed health care system (or)
- 15 The U.S. should continue to build on our mixed system of public and private health insurance (or)
- 8 The U.S. should have a market-driven health care system where people purchase private insurance on their own (or)
- 23 Don’t know/Refused

17. As a RESULT of (watching the movie “Sicko”/what you have heard or read about the movie “Sicko”), have you had a discussion with a co-worker, friend, or family member about the U.S. health care system, or not?

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 45 Yes
- 54 No
- 1 Don’t know/Refused

Questions 18, 19, and 20 were rotated.

18. As a RESULT of (watching the movie “Sicko”/what you have heard or read about the movie “Sicko”), are you more likely or less likely to think that there is a need to reform the U.S. health care system, or has this movie not changed your opinion about the need for reforming the U.S. health care system?

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 43 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 49 Has not changed opinion
- 6 Don’t know/Refused

19. As a RESULT of (watching the movie “Sicko”/what you have heard or read about the movie “Sicko”), are you paying more attention or less attention to the presidential candidates’ positions on health care, or has this movie not had an effect on how much attention you are paying to candidates’ positions on health?

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 27 More attention
- 2 Less attention
- 67 Has not changed amount of attention
- 4 Don’t know/Refused

20. As a RESULT of (watching the movie “Sicko”/what you have heard or read about the movie “Sicko”), are you more likely or less likely to think that other countries have a better approach to health care than we do in the U.S., or has this movie not had an effect on how you think the U.S. health care system compares to health care in other countries?

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 37 More likely
- 10 Less likely
- 43 Has not had an effect
- 10 Don’t know/Refused

21. Which of the following has recently had the biggest impact on your opinions about the issue of health care? (**READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-3, FOLLOWED BY 4**)

Based on those who have seen, heard or read about “Sicko” (n=748)

- 62 Your personal health care experiences (or)
- 9 What you have heard or read about what presidential candidates are proposing in terms of reforming health care in the U.S. (or)
- 2 What you have heard or read about the movie “Sicko” (or)
- 22 None of the above
- 2 All of the above (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don’t know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS (ASK ALL):

(READ) 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. Do you consider yourself a supporter of a single-payer health care system, that is a national health plan financed by taxpayers in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan, or not?

- 47 Yes
- 41 No
- 12 Don't know/Refused

D3. What is your age? **(RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)**
_____ years

- 19 18-29
- 35 30-49
- 27 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 2 Undesignated

- 54 Total Under 50
- 43 Total 50 and older

D4. In politics today, do you consider yourself a **[ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican]**, an Independent, or what?

- 22 Republican
- 30 Democrat
- 37 Independent
- 5 Other/None
- 3 Don't know
- 3 Refused

- D4. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?
- D4b. 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
- 18 Refused to Lean

- D5. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

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

- D6. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

- 20 Liberal
- 40 Moderate
- 34 Conservative
- 5 Don't know
- 2 Refused

- D7. 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?

- 11 Self-employed
- 39 Full-time for an employer
- 9 Part-time for an employer
- 21 Retired
- 8 Not employed
- 4 Homemaker (VOL.)
- 2 Student (VOL.)
- 4 Disabled (VOL.)
- 1 Don't know/Refused

- D8. 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)**

- 83 Yes, insured
- 16 No, not insured
- 1 Don't know/Refused

- D9. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**
- 5 None, or grade 1-8
 - 9 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
 - 31 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)
 - 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
 - 1 Refused
- D10. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?
- 55 Married
 - 4 Living with a partner
 - 10 Divorced
 - 3 Separated
 - 9 Widowed
 - 17 Never been married
 - 2 Undesignated
- D11. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?
- D12. 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
 - 2 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
 - 3 Undesignated
- D13. 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
 - 13 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
 - 18 \$30,000 to less than \$50,000
 - 16 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
 - 11 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
 - 11 \$100,000 or more
 - 6 Don't know
 - 11 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 (#7690) 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*