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*THE WASHINGTON POST/KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/HARVARD UNIVERSITY*

# Issues in the 2000 Election: Health Care

July 28, 2000

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*The Kaiser Family Foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, is a nonprofit, independent national health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.*

## Methodology

*The Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University Survey Project is a three-way partnership that began in 1995 as an experiment in combining survey research and reporting to better inform the public. Researchers at the *Post*, Kaiser, and Harvard jointly design and analyze surveys examining public knowledge, perceptions, and misperceptions on major issues. The *Post* then reports the results as well as facts to dispel myths and misperceptions. Our hope is that this project contributes to a better understanding of public knowledge on major issues facing the country as well as more effective efforts by the media to educate, inform, and engage citizens in national debates.

This survey on health care is the second in a series of surveys to be conducted to examine issues in the national elections over the course of the 2000 election season. This survey of a nationally representative sample of 1,183 registered voters was conducted by *The Washington Post*, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University by telephone between July 5 and 18, 2000. The survey included an oversample of 176 registered voters who said that Medicare and/or health care other than Medicare would be one of the most important issues helping them to decide which presidential candidate to support. A total of 614 voters fell into this category and were classified as “health care or Medicare-oriented voters.” The margin of error for all voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points, for health care voters it is plus or minus 4 percentage points. Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pennsylvania.

Representatives of *The Washington Post*, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results. Each organization bears the sole responsibility for the work that appears under its name. The project team included Richard Morin, *The Washington Post* director of polling and Claudia Deane, assistant director of polling; Drew E. Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, Mollyann Brodie, vice president and director of public opinion and media research, and Juliette Cubanski, research associate; and Robert J. Blendon, professor of health policy and political analysis at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard School of Public Health, and John M. Benson, deputy director of the Harvard Opinion Research Program in the Harvard School of Public Health.

Copies of the survey topline publication #3038 are available online at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

**NOTE: Some results will not add to 100% because of rounding.**

**Total = Total registered voters**

**Total HCare/Medicare= Total “health care or Medicare-oriented” registered voters**

**Vol. = Respondent volunteered the response**

**DK = Don’t know**

2. If the election for president in November 2000 were being held today, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat, and George W. Bush, the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Gore	Bush	Other	Neither (vol.)	Don’t know
Total	37	44	*	8	11
Total HCare/Medicare	46	32	*	10	11

- 2a. Who do you lean toward?

*(Asked of respondents who say other, neither, or don’t know to election 2000 horserace)*

	Gore	Bush	Other	Neither (vol.)	Don’t know
Total	22	32	*	27	19
Total HCare/Medicare	26	29	1	26	18

Q.2/Q.2a

	Gore	Bush	Other	Neither (vol.)	Don’t know
Total	41	50	*	4	5
Total HCare/Medicare	52	39	*	4	5

- 2b. How about if the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat, George W. Bush, the Republican, Pat Buchanan, the Reform Party candidate, and Ralph Nader, the Green Party candidate, for whom would you vote?

	Al Gore	George W. Bush	Pat Buchanan	Ralph Nader	Other	Neither (vol.)	Don’t know
Total	35	44	4	7	*	3	7
Total HCare/Medicare	42	33	4	9	1	3	8

2c. Who do you lean toward?

(Asked of respondents who say other, neither, or don't know to election 2000 horserace)

	Al Gore	George W. Bush	Pat Buchanan	Ralph Nader	Other	Neither (vol.)	Don't know
Total	17	12	4	8	-	23	35
Total HCare/Medicare	24	14	3	6	-	26	27

Q.2B/2C

	Al Gore	George W. Bush	Pat Buchanan	Ralph Nader	Other	Neither (vol.)	Don't know
Total	37	45	4	8	*	2	4
Total HCare/Medicare	45	34	4	10	*	2	4

3. Now I'm going to read you a list of issues that might be discussed during this year's presidential campaign. (READ LIST) Which of these issues do you think will be MOST important in deciding your vote for president. Here are the choices again...(READ LIST) And which do you think will be the second most important in deciding your vote for president?

	-----First Mention-----		-----Second Mention-----		-----Combined-----	
	Total	Total HCare/ Medicare	Total	Total HCare/ Medicare	Total	Total HCare/ Medicare
Education	18	14	16	12	34	26
The economy	11	5	12	5	23	10
Social Security	15	19	14	14	29	32
Taxes	11	5	12	6	23	10
Crime	6	3	10	4	16	7
Moral values	15	4	7	4	21	8
Medicare	9	20	9	21	18	42
Health care	13	30	15	33	28	63
Environmental Issues	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gun control	*	-	-	-	*	-
Illegal immigration	*	-	*	-	*	-
Money for presc. Drugs	*	-	-	-	*	-
Missile defense	-	-	*	-	*	-
Campaign finance reform	*	*	*	-	*	*

Continued...

Continued ... -----First Mention----- -----Second Mention----- -----Combined-----

	Total	Total Hcare/ Medicare	Total	Total Hcare/ Medicare	Total	Total Hcare/ Medicare
Bush	-	-	*	-	*	-
Honesty in Govt. officials	-	-	-	-	*	-
Abortion	*	-	-	-	*	-
None/Issues will not be important	1	-	1	*	1	-
Don't know	2	-	2	1	2	-

4. If a presidential candidate's position on Medicare differs from your own, how likely is it that this particular difference ALONE would determine your vote on election day?

*(Asked of those who think the issue of Medicare is one of the deciding factors in who to choose for president)*

	Certain to determine your vote	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Don't know
Total	11	20	40	27	3
Total HCare/Medicare	11	20	40	27	3

5. If a presidential candidate's position on health care differs from your own, how likely is it that this particular difference ALONE would determine your vote on election day?

*(Asked of registered voters who think the issue of Health care other than Medicare is one of the deciding factors in who to choose for president)*

	Certain to determine your vote	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Don't know
Total	6	23	39	30	1
Total HCare/Medicare	6	23	39	30	1

7. Next, I'd like you to rate your satisfaction with the state of the nation in two different areas. For each of the following areas, please say whether you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied. How about (READ ITEM). Are you (READ LIST)

a. The state of the nation's economy

	---Very/Somewhat satisfied---			---Not too/Not at all satisfied---			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	79	33	46	19	14	5	1
Total HCare/Medicare	79	35	44	20	15	5	1

b. The availability and affordability of health care

	---Very/Somewhat satisfied---			---Not too/Not at all satisfied---			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	46	10	37	53	30	23	1
Total Hcare/Medicare	34	6	29	64	33	31	1

8. Which presidential candidate, Al Gore or George W. Bush, do you think would do a better job handling health care?

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total HCare/Medicare	55	30	5	1	9

9. Which presidential candidate, Al Gore or George W. Bush, do you think would do a better job handling Medicare?

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total HCare/Medicare	54	31	4	1	10

10. Now thinking specifically about health care...I'm going to read you a list of health care issues you might consider in deciding who to vote for in this year's presidential election. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it will be very important in deciding your vote for president, fairly important, not too important, or not at all important.

a. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans

	--Very/Somewhat important--			-Not too/Not at all important-			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	91	70	21	8	6	2	1
Total HCare/Medicare	92	76	16	6	4	2	1

b. Helping people age 65 and over to pay for prescription medicines

	--Very/Somewhat important--			-Not too/Not at all important-			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	92	67	25	7	5	2	1
Total HCare/Medicare	97	78	19	3	3	*	*

c. Making Medicare financially sound for future generations

	--Very/Somewhat important--			-Not too/Not at all important-			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	94	74	21	5	4	1	*
Total HCare/Medicare	97	81	16	3	3	*	*

d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance

	--Very/Somewhat important--			-Not too/Not at all important-			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	89	64	25	10	7	2	1
Total HCare/Medicare	94	74	21	4	4	1	1

e. Regulating the cost of prescription medicines

	--Very/Somewhat important--			-Not too/Not at all important-			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	88	63	25	11	8	3	1
Total HCare/Medicare	93	73	20	6	5	1	1



f. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members who need long-term help.

	--Very/Somewhat important--			-Not too/Not at all important-			Don't know
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
Total	93	62	31	7	6	1	*
Total HCare/Medicare	96	72	24	4	3	*	*

10a. You mentioned more than one issue that will be very important. Which ONE of these do you think will be the MOST important in deciding your vote?  
*(Asked of respondents who mentioned more than one issue that will be very important in deciding their vote for president)*

	Total	Total Hcare/ Medicare
a. Protecting patients' rights in health plans	15	14
b. Helping people age 65 and over to pay for medicines	16	18
c. Making Medicare financially sound	20	18
d. Increasing the number of Americans with health insurance	21	22
e. Regulating the cost of medicines	12	13
f. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members	13	14
Don't know	2	2

10/10a.

	Total	Total HCare/ Medicare
a. Protecting patients' rights in health plans	15	13
b. Helping people age 65 and over to pay for medicines	14	18
c. Making Medicare financially sound	20	18
d. Increasing the number of Americans with health insurance	19	21
e. Regulating the cost of medicines	11	12
f. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members	11	13
Don't know/none are important	10	4

11. Which presidential candidate, Al Gore or George W. Bush, do you think would do a better job handling each of the following problems?

a. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	46	40	3	2	9
Total HCare/Medicare	54	32	3	2	10

b. Helping people age 65 and over to pay for prescription medicines

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	49	38	3	2	8
Total HCare/Medicare	57	29	4	2	8

c. Making Medicare financially sound for future generations

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	44	43	4	2	7
Total HCare/Medicare	54	33	4	2	8

d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	51	35	3	2	8
Total HCare/Medicare	58	29	3	1	10

e. Regulating the cost of prescription medicines

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	48	38	4	2	8
Total HCare/Medicare	57	29	4	2	8

f. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members who need long term help

	Gore	Bush	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	49	39	3	2	8
Total HCare/Medicare	57	30	3	2	8

12. Regardless of how you usually vote, which party do you think would do a better job dealing with health care--the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

	Democratic	Republican	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	51	38	4	2	5
Total HCare/Medicare	64	28	3	2	3

13. Regardless of how you usually vote, which party do you think would do a better job dealing with Medicare, the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

	Democratic	Republican	Neither	Same	Don't know
Total	52	39	3	1	5
Total HCare/Medicare	63	28	2	2	5

16. For each of the following areas, please tell me whether you think there is too much government regulation, not enough government regulation, or about the right amount?

a. The cost of prescription medicines

	Too much	Not enough	Right amount	Don't know
Total	19	56	20	5
Total HCare/Medicare	16	66	14	4

b. HMOs and managed care

	Too much	Not enough	Right amount	Don't know
Total	27	48	20	5
Total HCare/Medicare	27	54	15	3

c. Health care

	Too much	Not enough	Right amount	Don't know
Total	28	45	24	4
Total HCare/Medicare	22	51	22	5

d. The quality of care in nursing homes

	Too much	Not enough	Right amount	Don't know
Total	8	63	22	7
Total HCare/Medicare	6	70	17	6

e. The safety of prescription medicines

	Too much	Not enough	Right amount	Don't know
Total	11	38	48	4

Total HCare/Medicare	9	42	45	4
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Next, I have a few questions about Medicare, the program that provides health insurance primarily to people aged 65 and older.

19. To the best of your knowledge, is Medicare primarily a federal government program, a state government program, or a private insurance program?

	Federal	State	Private insurance program	Don't know
Total	75	16	5	4
Total HCare/Medicare	74	16	5	4

20. Medicare does not currently pay for prescription medicines. Some people say it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure people age 65 and over are able to buy the prescription medicines they need. Others say this is not the responsibility of the federal government. Which comes closer to your own view?

	Federal government responsible	Federal government not responsible	Don't know
Total	68	29	3
Total HCare/Medicare	76	21	3

24. I'm going to read you two proposals to help people age 65 and over to pay for prescription medicines. Please tell me which of these two proposals you would prefer. (READ ITEMS) Which do you prefer, expanding Medicare or government help to buy PRIVATE health insurance plans?

	Total	Total Hcare/Medicare
Having the federal government help people age 65 and over to buy PRIVATE health insurance plans that would pay part of their prescription medicine costs	36	34
Expanding Medicare to pay directly for part of prescription medicine costs for people age 65 and over	57	61
Both equally	1	1
Neither	3	1
Don't know	3	3

## G. THE UNINSURED

30. I'd like your views on uninsured Americans--that is, people with no health insurance at all. Would you say that more of them are.. (PROBE: Are they mostly EMPLOYED or mostly UNEMPLOYED)

	Mostly employed	Mostly unemployed	Don't know
Total	45	49	6
Total HCare/Medicare	42	50	8

31. In the past 10 years, has the number of Americans without health insurance increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

	Increased	Decreased	Stayed same	Don't know
Total	63	15	18	5
Total HCare/Medicare	65	15	14	5

32. Generally speaking, should the federal government work to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance, or is this NOT something the federal government should be doing?

	Yes, should work to increase	Not something federal government should be doing	Don't know
Total	72	24	3
Total HCare/Medicare	81	14	5

34. Should the federal government (READ FIRST STATEMENT) or should the federal government (READ SECOND STATEMENT)?  
*(Asked of respondents who say the federal government should work to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance)*

	Make a limited effort/not require a tax increase	Make a major effort/require a tax increase	Don't know
Total	43	52	4
Total HCare/Medicare	40	54	5

#### Q32/Q34 SUMMARY

-----Yes, federal gov't should work-----  
 Make limited effort/not      Make major      Not something

	NET	require tax increase	effort/require tax increase	federal gov't should be doing	Don't know
Total	72	31	38	24	3
Total HCare/Medicare	81	33	44	14	5

Presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush have each proposed health care reform to expand health insurance coverage for Americans who currently go without.

33a. Do you think (Gore's/Bush's) plan to cover more uninsured will lead to a big tax increase, or not? (PROBE IF NECESSARY: "Just your best guess") How about (other candidates) plan do you think it would lead to a big tax increase or not? (PROBE IF NECESSARY: "Just your best guess")

a. Bush

	Lead to big tax increase	Will not lead to big tax increase	Don't know
Total	50	31	19
Total HCare/Medicare	49	30	21

b. Gore

	Lead to big tax increase	Will not lead to big tax increase	Don't know
Total	56	26	18
Total HCare/Medicare	48	32	21

33b. Do you think (Gore's/Bush's) plan to cover more uninsured will lead to too much government involvement in health care, or not? (PROBE IF NECESSARY: "Just your best guess") How about (other candidates) plan do you think it would lead to too much government involvement in health care or not?

a. Bush

	Lead to too much gov't involvement	Will not lead to too much gov't involvement	Don't know
Total	32	49	18
Total HCare/Medicare	31	47	21

b. Gore

	Lead to too much gov't involvement	Will not lead to too much gov't involvement	Don't know
Total	45	40	15
Total HCare/Medicare	36	46	18

33c. Which plan, Gore's or Bush's, do you think would cover more of the uninsured?

	Bush	Gore	Both	Don't know
Total	26	51	1	22
Total HCare/Medicare	23	52	1	23

I'm going to read you three proposals to provide health insurance for people who don't have it. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each one?

39a Do you favor or oppose offering uninsured Americans income tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase PRIVATE health insurance on their own? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?)

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
Total	69	33	36	28	13	14	3
Total HCare/Medicare	71	26	35	25	13	13	4

38. If this proposal were enacted, do you think people like you would be better off, worse off, or not much affected either way?

	Better off	Worse off	Not much affected	Don't know
Total	23	13	60	3
Total HCare/Medicare	25	11	61	3

39b Do you favor or oppose Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Programs, to provide coverage for people without health insurance? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?)

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
Total	77	39	37	22	12	10	2
Total HCare/Medicare	82	43	38	16	9	7	2

38a. If this proposal were enacted, do you think people like you would be better off, worse off, or not much affected either way?

	Better off	Worse off	Not much affected	Don't know
Total	22	14	62	2
Total HCare/Medicare	24	11	63	2

39c Do you favor or oppose A national health plan, financed by the taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?)

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
Total	38	20	18	58	19	40	3
Total HCare/Medicare	47	26	20	50	20	30	3

38c. If this proposal were enacted, do you think people like you would be better off, worse off, or not much affected either way?

	Better off	Worse off	Not much affected	Don't know
Total	23	36	38	3
Total HCare/Medicare	27	30	40	3

#### H. CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN HMOs AND MANAGED CARE

40. A law has been debated in Congress that would require HMOs, other managed care plans, and health insurance companies to provide people with more information about their health plan, make it easier for people to see medical specialists, allow appeals to independent reviewers when someone is denied coverage for a particular medical treatment, and give people the right to sue their health plan. Do you favor or oppose such a law?  
(*Asked of half of total*)

	Favor	Oppose	Don't Know
Total	81	17	2
Total HCare/Medicare	82	16	2

40aa. Would you still favor this if it meant that some companies might stop offering health care plans to their workers because the companies are afraid they might be sued along with the health plan?

(*Asked of half of total who favor a law that would require HMO's, other managed care plans, and health insurance companies to provide people with more information*)

Yes	No	Don't know
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Total	61	33	7
Total HCare/Medicare	62	33	5

40/40AA SUMMARY

		-----OPPOSE-----			
	Favor (even with challenge)	NET	Before challenge	If companies might stop offering health care plans	Don't know
Total	49	44	17	26	7
Total HCare/Medicare	51	43	16	27	7

Q40/41 SUMMARY

	-----FAVOR-----				-----OPPOSE-----				
	NET	Better	Worse	Not affected	NET	Better	Worse	Not affected	Don't know
Total	81	24	14	42	17	1	8	8	2
Total HCare/Medicare	82	24	10	47	16	1	7	8	2

40A. A law has been debated in Congress that would require HMOs, other managed care plans, and health insurance companies to provide people with more information about their health plan, make it easier for people to see medical specialists, allow appeals to independent reviewers when someone is denied coverage for a particular medical treatment. Do you favor or oppose such a law?

*(Asked of half of total)*

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total	82	16	3
Total HCare/Medicare	83	14	3

41. If this law were enacted, do you think people like you would be better off, worse off, or not much affected either way?

	Better off	Worse off	Not much affected	Don't know
Total	36	16	46	2
Total HCare/Medicare	39	14	45	2

I. BLAME AND INTEREST GROUPS

44. For each group I name, please tell me whether you think it's helping or hurting efforts to improve the nation's health care system? How about (READ ITEM)  
How about (READ NEXT ITEM)

	-----Total-----				-----Total HCare/Medicare-----			
	Helping	Hurting	Neither	DK	Helping	Hurting	Neither	DK
The Republicans in Congress	42	37	6	14	33	43	8	16
The Democrats in Congress	54	29	5	12	59	21	6	14
The American Medical Association *	47	33	5	15	44	37	5	14
Health insurance, HMOs, and managed care companies *	22	69	2	7	20	72	2	5
The Clinton administration *	54	34	5	7	58	30	5	8
Drug companies *	24	65	4	6	20	72	3	4
Business groups *	38	37	5	20	34	41	4	22
Unions *	54	27	4	16	55	22	5	18
Trial lawyers *	17	69	3	11	14	67	5	14
AARP, a national group of people age 50 and *	79	9	2	10	81	9	2	8

\* Asked of half of total

45. Have you or a family member ever been charged too much money for (READ FIRST ITEM)?

a. A doctor's visit

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	62	35	3
Total HCare/Medicare	64	33	3

b. A hospital visit

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	61	36	4
Total HCare/Medicare	64	33	3

c. A medical procedure

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	54	42	4
Total HCare/Medicare	57	38	5

d. Prescription drugs

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	65	33	2
Total HCare/Medicare	69	28	3

46. Have you or a family member ever been seriously taken advantage of or “ripped off” by a (READ FIRST ITEM)?

a. Doctor

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	20	79	1
Total HCare/Medicare	21	78	1

b. Hospital

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	22	76	2
Total HCare/Medicare	22	76	2

c. Health care provider

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	20	78	1
Total HCare/Medicare	22	77	1

46a. Have you or a family member ever had a serious problem getting health care you needed?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	21	79	*
Total HCare/Medicare	25	75	-

47. Thinking about the health care issue, which candidate—Al Gore or George W. Bush—would do a better job standing up to lobbying groups and other special interests when dealing with health care issues?

	Gore	Bush	Both	Neither	Don't know
Total	41	43	1	7	8
Total HCare/Medicare	48	33	1	6	11

J. HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND PROBLEMS

48. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Total	27	30	25	12	6	*
Total HCare/Medicare	21	28	27	14	10	*

49. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	90	10	*
Total HCare/Medicare	90	10	-

50. At ANY time in the past 12 months, have you, a family member, or a close friend been without health insurance coverage?

*(Asked of those who are covered by any health insurance or don't know)*

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	23	76	1
Total HCare/Medicare	24	76	*

29. Is there anyone else in your household who is now receiving Medicare benefits?  
(IF YES ASK: Is that you or someone else)

	-----YES-----					Don't know
	(NET)	Respondent only	Someone else only	Both	No	
Total	25	7	12	6	75	*
Total HCare/Medicare	31	11	11	9	69	*

51. In the past 12 months, have you, a family member, or a close friend had a **SERIOUS** problem with any of the following? (READ FIRST ITEM)

How about (READ NEXT ITEM)

a. Having enough money to pay doctor and hospital bills

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	30	70	*
Total HCare/Medicare	33	67	-

b. Paying for prescription medicines that were needed

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	29	71	*
Total HCare/Medicare	35	65	*

c. Getting health care that was needed

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	20	80	*
Total HCare/Medicare	24	75	*

51a/51b/51c SUMMARY

	Had a problem	Have not had a problem	Don't know
Total	42	58	-
Total HCare/Medicare	47	53	-

54. Are you currently providing or arranging for care for an elderly or disabled family member who needs assistance for an extended period of time?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	15	84	*
Total HCare/Medicare	17	83	*

55. Do you or someone in your immediate family currently work in a health-care related job? (IF YES ASK: Is that you or someone else?)

	-----YES-----					Don't know
	(NET)	Respondent only	Someone else only	Both	No	
Total	25	9	14	2	75	*
Total HCare/Medicare	28	11	15	2	72	*

Now we just have a few more questions to help classify your answers.

DEMOGRAPHICS

D01. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	Don't know
Total	31	35	27	6	1
Total HCare/Medicare	22	44	26	6	1

D01a. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?  
*(Asked of those who consider themselves Republicans)*

	Strong Republican	Not a very strong Republican	Don't know
Total	56	43	*
Total HCare/Medicare	50	50	1

D01b. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?  
*(Asked of those who consider themselves Democrats)*

	Strong Democrat	Not a very strong Democrat	Don't know
Total	57	41	1
Total HCare/Medicare	57	42	1

D01c. Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?  
*(Asked of those who consider themselves Independents)*

	Closer to the Republican Party	Closer to the Democratic	Don't know
Total	47	39	14
Total HCare/Medicare	34	47	19

Q.DO1/Q.DO1A/Q.DO1B/Q.DO1C

-----Republican-----			-----Democrat-----			-----Independent-----				
(NET)	Strong	Not Strong	(NET)	Strong	Not Strong	(NET)	Closer to Rep.	Closer to Dem.	Something Else	Don't know

Total	31	17	13	35	20	14	27	12	10	6	1
Total HCare/ Medicare	22	11	11	44	25	18	26	9	12	6	1

Q.DO1/DOC Leaned Party Table

	-----Republican-----			-----Democrat-----				Something else	Don't know
	(NET)	Unleaned	Leaned	(NET)	Unleaned	Leaned	Independent		
Total	43	31	12	45	35	10	4	6	1
Total HCare/ Medicare	31	22	9	56	44	12	5	6	1

D02. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, liberal, moderate, conservative, or very conservative?

	-----Liberal-----				-----Conservative-----			Don't know
	(NET)	Very liberal	Liberal	Moderate	(NET)	Conservative	Very conservative	
Total	28	4	24	36	34	24	10	1
Total HCare/Medicare	33	5	28	41	24	18	6	2

D03. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the next election for president. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, or are the chances 50-50 or less that you will vote?

	Absolutely certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50-50 or less	Don't know
Total	82	12	6	*
Total HCare/Medicare	79	14	7	*

D04 As you may know, around half the public does not vote in presidential elections. How about you - did you vote in the presidential election in 1996 when Bill Clinton ran against Bob Dole and Ross Perot, or did you skip that one?

Yes, voted	No, skipped that one	Don't know/no opinion
------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Total	83	17	*
Total HCare/Medicare	83	16	*

D04a Which candidate did you vote for? (DO NOT READ)  
*(Asked of those who voted in 1996 presidential election)*

	Clinton	Dole	Perot	Nader	Other	Don't know/no opinion
Total	52	31	9	1	1	4
Total HCare/Medicare	67	21	6	1	1	4

Q.D04/Q.D04a

	-----Voted-----							Don't know/no opinion
	(NET)	Clinton	Dole	Perot	Nader	Other	Did not vote	
Total	83	44	26	7	1	1	17	*
Total HCare/Medicare	83	55	17	5	*	1	16	*

D05. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

	Currently married	Living with a partner	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Never been married
Total	58	5	8	11	3	14
Total HCare/Medicare	55	7	13	12	3	11

D06. Including yourself, how many adults, 18 or older, are there living in your household?

	-----Number of adults living in household-----										Don't Know
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Total	25	58	13	3	*	*	*	-	-	-	-
Total HCare/Medicare	27	55	12	3	*	*	-	-	-	-	-

D07a. What is your religious preference? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Jewish	Some other religion	No religion	Don't know
Total	52	23	2	12	11	*



Total HCare/Medicare	54	25	2	10	9	*
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D07B. Do you consider yourself a Christian?  
*(Asked of those who are some other religion)*

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	84	15	2
Total HCare/Medicare	84	12	4

D07C. Would you consider yourself as a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?  
*(Asked of those who are Protestant or some other religion/Christian)*

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	55	42	3
Total HCare/Medicare	53	44	3

Q.D07A/Q.D07B

	--Protestant/Other Christian--							Don't Know
	(NET)	Protestant	Other Christian	Roman Catholic	Jewish	Some Other	No Religion	
Total	63	52	10	23	2	2	11	*
Total HCare/Medicare	62	54	9	25	2	2	9	*

Q.D07A/ Q.D07B/ Q.D07C

	Total	Total HCare/Medicare
Born again Protestants or some other Religion/Christian	35	33
Protestant not born again	23	25
Roman catholic	23	25
Jewish	2	2
Some other/not Christian	2	2
Other Christian not born again	5	5
No religion	11	9
Don't know	*	*

D08. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school? (DO NOT READ)

Total

	Total	HCare/Medicare
<b>High school graduate or less (net)</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>
<i>Less than high school graduate (subnet)</i>	13	16
None, or grade 1-8	2	3
High school incomplete	10	13
<i>High school graduate + (subnet)</i>	32	33
High school graduate	29	30
Business, technical/vocational school	3	4
<b>Some college or more (net)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Some college, no 4-year degree</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>College graduate + (subnet)</i>	26	23
College graduate	16	13
Post-graduate training	10	10
<b>Don't know</b>	*	*

D08a. Are you or any other members of your household -- that is any other adult living in your home or apartment -- a member of a labor union? (IF YES ASK: Is that person you or someone else?)

	-----YES-----					Don't know
	(NET )	Respondent only	Other family member only	Both	No	
Total	18	10	6	2	82	*
Total HCare/Medicare	18	10	5	3	82	*

D09. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Total	16	44	22	18
Total HCare/Medicare	9	37	25	28

D10. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Latin American background?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	9	91	-
Total HCare/Medicare	9	91	-

D11. Do you consider yourself to be white, black or African-American, Asian-American, or some other race?

	White	Black or African American	Asian American	Some other race	Don't know
Total	82	11	1	6	1
Total HCare/Medicare	82	10	*	7	1

Q.D10/Q.D11

	Total	Total HCare/Medicare
<b>White non-Hispanic</b>	78	79
<b>Black or African-American non-Hispanic</b>	10	10
<b>Asian-American</b>	1	*
<b>Some other race</b>	2	2
<b>Hispanic (net)</b>	9	9
White Hispanic	4	3
Black Hispanic	1	*
Hispanic (unspecified)	4	5
<b>Don't know</b>	*	*

Q.D12

	Total	Total HCare/Medicare
<b>Less than \$50,000 (net)</b>	51	57
<i>Less than \$20,000</i>	13	16
<i>\$20,000 but less than \$30,000</i>	13	14
<i>\$30,000 but less than \$50,000 (subnet)</i>	22	24
<b>\$50,000 or more (net)</b>	42	35
<i>\$50,000 but less than \$75,000</i>	18	16
<i>\$75,000 or more(subnet)</i>	22	18
<b>Don't know</b>	2	2

**The following questions were fielded separately between July 12 and 16, 2000. This study was conducted by telephone among a nationally-representative sample of 1,005 registered voters 18 years of age or older. Field work by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, PA.**

HC-1. When you think about Medicare, do you think of it mainly as a retirement program like Social Security, or mainly as a health insurance program?

	Retirement program	Health insurance program	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't know
Total	31	61	4	2	3

HC-2. Which presidential candidate, Al Gore or George W. Bush, do you think would do a better job handling each of the following problems?  
How about... (READ ITEMS)?

BASE: HALF OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS

	Al Gore	George W. Bush	Neither (vol.)	Both would do about the same (vol.)	Don't know
a. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans	41	31	7	1	20
b. Helping people age 65 and over to pay for prescription medicines	42	32	6	1	18
c. Making Medicare financially sound for future generations	39	35	10	1	15
d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	40	35	7	1	18
e. Regulating the cost of prescription medicines	40	33	9	1	18
f. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members who need long term help	43	29	6	1	21

HC-3. Which party--the Democratic Party or the Republican Party--do you think would do a better job of handling each of the following problems? How about... (READ ITEMS)?

BASE: HALF OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS

	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Neither (vol.)	Both would do about the same (vol.)	Don't know
a. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans	45	30	6	3	16
b. Helping people age 65 and over to pay for prescription medicines	51	26	6	3	14
c. Making Medicare financially sound for future generations	43	34	7	3	14
d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	52	25	6	2	15
e. Regulating the cost of prescription medicines	47	29	7	2	15
f. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members who need long term help	53	26	6	3	13

HC-4. Do you favor or oppose a law to protect patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total	85	8	7

HC-5. Would you still favor such a law if it included the right for patients to sue a health plan for malpractice, like they can now sue a doctor?

HC-4/HC-5 Summary Table

	-----Favor-----					Oppose	Don't know
	Net	Still favor	No, now oppose	Don't know			
Total	84	69	12	3	8		7



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