



Toplines

September/October 2005 Health Poll Report Survey

October 2005

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was conducted and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative sample of 1,200 adults ages 18 and older was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between October 4 and October 9, 2005. 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.

Q1 What do you think is the MOST urgent health problem facing this nation TODAY? Is there another health problem you think is almost as urgent?

Total

- 36 Cancer
- 16 AIDS or HIV
- 16 Health care – cost
- 14 Lack of good nutrition/junk foods/obesity/weight disorder
- 14 Heart disease
- 11 Health insurance/The uninsured
- 8 Diabetes
- 5 Health care – access
- 4 Smoking
- 4 Drugs
- 4 Bird Flu/Flu
- 3 Elderly
- 2 Pollution/environment/contamination
- 1 STDs (other than HIV)
- 1 Hunger/malnutrition
- 8 Other
- 9 Don't know/Refused

Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

Q2 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/Next,) how closely did you follow this story (**INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE**)?

REPEAT CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY: Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Military action and peace keeping efforts in Iraq	44	37	11	7	1
b. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and subsequent recovery efforts	66	25	6	3	*
c. Confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Chief Justice nominee John Roberts	26	33	18	22	1
d. Concerns over the safety and marketing of implanted heart devices	7	15	23	54	1
e. The resignation of Susan Wood, the Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health, over the agency's handling of the emergency contraception drug , known as, Plan B	5	10	19	65	2
f. Reports of a national survey about the cost of health insurance premiums	23	29	17	31	1
g. The resignation of Lester Crawford as chief of the Food and Drug Administration	3	10	20	66	1

INTERVIEWER READ: Now, onto another topic...

Q3 Thinking about the way the problem of HIV/AIDS affects the United States today, do you think the problem is ABOUT THE SAME as it has been, that the U.S. today is MAKING PROGRESS in this area, or that the U.S. today is LOSING GROUND?

- 26 About the same
- 41 U.S. making progress
- 24 U.S. losing ground
- 9 Don't know/Refused

Q4 In general, do you think the federal government spends (**READ AND ROTATE 1-2, ALWAYS READ 3 LAST**)?

- 9 Too much money on HIV/AIDS
- 42 Too little money on HIV/AIDS
- 33 Or About the right amount?
- 16 Don't know/Refused

Q5 Compared with the amount of money the federal government spends on other health problems, such as heart disease and cancer, do you think federal spending on HIV/AIDS is too HIGH, too LOW, or ABOUT RIGHT?

- 13 Too high
- 29 Too low
- 43 About right
- 16 Don't know/Refused

Q6 In general, do you think that spending more money on HIV/AIDS PREVENTION in the United States will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic, OR that spending more money won't make much difference?

44 Will lead to meaningful progress

48 Won't make much difference

3 (VOL.) It depends

5 Don't know/Refused

INTERVIEWER READ: Now, I'd like to ask you about a different topic...

Q7 How big a problem is poverty in our society today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?

68 A big problem

25 Somewhat of a problem

5 A small problem

1 Not a problem at all

1 Don't know/Refused

Q8 In your opinion, which is the bigger cause of poverty today — that people are not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty, or that circumstances beyond their control cause them to be poor?

44 People aren't doing enough to help themselves out of poverty

47 Circumstances beyond their control cause them to be poor

9 Don't know/Refused

Q9 Do you think that most poor people in the United States are people who work but can't earn enough money, or people who don't work?

61 People who work but can't earn enough money

32 People who don't work

7 Don't know/Refused

Q10 Which of the following statements comes closer to your own views? **READ...(ROTATE ANSWER CATEGORIES 1 -2)**

38 Poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return, (OR)

47 Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently (OR)

15 Don't know/Refused

- Q11 From what you know, what portion of poor people in this country do you think are African American? About a tenth, about a quarter, about half, or about three-quarters?
- 12 A tenth
 - 28 A quarter
 - 38 Half
 - 12 Three-quarters
 - 9 Don't know
 - 1 Refused
- Q12 In terms of the amount of money we as a country are spending on assistance to poor people, do you think we are spending too much, too little, or about the right amount?
- 18 Spending too much
 - 44 Spending too little
 - 31 Spending about the right amount
 - 7 Don't know
 - 1 Refused
- Q13 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
 - 43 Full-time for an employer
 - 10 Part-time for an employer
 - 20 Retired
 - 10 Not employed
 - 1 (VOL.) Homemaker
 - 1 (VOL.) Student
 - 2 (VOL.) Disabled
 - * (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
- Q14 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)
- 81 Yes, insured
 - 18 No, not insured
 - * Don't know/Refused

Q15 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)?

READ FOR FIRST ITEM AND THEN AS NECESSARY: 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	40	32	12	16	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	34	27	15	24	1
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	28	28	18	24	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	32	21	17	30	*
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	16	27	29	28	*
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	18	28	25	29	*
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	40	30	13	16	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	14	19	16	50	2
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	22	20	19	39	*
Item L based on those who are employed (n=746)					
j. Losing your job	16	18	22	43	*
Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=633)					
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	12	16	19	51	1
Items L-M based on those who are insured (n=1,020)					
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	27	22	19	33	*
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you	30	31	16	20	4

DEMOGRAPHICS:

(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

48 Male
52 Female

D2. What is your age?
_____ years

18 18-29
39 30-49
24 50-64
16 65 and older
2 Refused

57 Total Under 50
40 Total 50 and older

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

30 Republican
32 Democrat
30 Independent
5 **(VOL.)** No preference/Not interested in politics
1 **(VOL.)** Other party
1 Don't know
1 Refused

D4. Are you currently married, living as married, divorced, separated, widowed, or have you never been married?

55 Married
4 Living as married
8 Divorced
2 Separated
9 Widowed
20 Never been married
* **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
1 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

- D5. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**
- 4 None, or grade 1-8
 - 10 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
 - 31 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
 - 5 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)
 - * Refused
- D6. Last year -- that is, in 2004 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**
- 7 Less than \$10,000
 - 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
 - 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
 - 19 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
 - 17 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
 - 10 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
 - 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
 - 2 \$200,000 or more
 - 6 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 9 **(DO NOT READ)** 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?)**
- 71 White, Non Hispanic
 - 26 Total Non-White
 - 10 Black or African-American
 - 12 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 2 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 (#7424) 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.