

*Toplines*

## ***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008***

**March 2007**

---

### **Methodology**

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*, the first in a new series, was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. A nationally representative random sample of 1,233 adults ages 18 and older was contacted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between March 8 and March 13, 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>	
44	43	50	43	Iraq/War in Iraq
29	28	31	29	Health care (Net)
13	12	12	16	Health care (general)
7	7	8	6	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
3	2	4	3	Other health care mentions
5	6	6	4	Health care costs
2	1	3	1	Medicare
13	10	20	10	Economic issues (Net)
5	3	6	4	Jobs
4	3	8	1	Poverty/homelessness
4	3	5	4	Economy (general)
2	*	2	2	Other economy mentions
9	12	4	11	Immigration/illegal immigration
8	8	8	8	Education/schools
8	14	4	8	Terrorism/National security (Net)
4	8	2	4	Terrorism/war on terror
4	7	2	4	National security
7	6	9	7	Frustration with government/Corruption (Net)
2	1	2	2	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
*	1	--	*	Partisan politics/Party bickering
*	--	1	--	Campaigns/elections
5	4	6	4	Other frustration with government mentions
5	6	3	7	Budget deficit/national debt
4	4	5	4	Gas prices/Energy (Net)
3	2	3	4	Gas prices
1	2	2	--	Energy issues
4	6	3	5	Taxes
4	6	3	4	Social Security
3	3	1	6	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
3	3	3	3	Crime/violence
3	4	3	2	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
1	*	1	1	Middle East
2	4	3	1	Other foreign affairs mentions
3	7	2	1	Morality issues (Net)
1	4	--	--	Abortion
*	1	--	--	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
*	*	--	--	Moral issues (general)
2	2	2	1	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
1	2	*	--	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare)
*	--	*	1	Katrina
*	1	--	--	Local issues
6	5	6	5	Other
*	--	*	--	Nothing
11	7	8	11	Don't know/Refused
(N=634)	(156)	(221)	(175)	

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>	
44	42	51	44	Iraq/War in Iraq
26	22	30	26	Health care (Net)
17	19	18	14	Health care (general)
4	2	5	6	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
2	--	4	3	Other health care mentions
2	1	2	2	Health care costs
2	1	1	3	Medicare
18	18	20	20	Economic issues (Net)
10	10	9	12	Economy (general)
6	4	9	5	Jobs
2	2	1	3	Poverty/homelessness
2	1	3	--	Other economy mentions
9	8	7	9	Immigration/illegal immigration
6	14	3	6	Terrorism/National security (Net)
5	12	2	4	National security
1	2	1	2	Terrorism/war on terror
6	6	7	4	Social Security
6	8	7	3	Education/schools
4	2	7	3	Frustration with government/Corruption (Net)
*	--	1	--	Partisan politics/Party bickering
*	--	1	*	Campaigns/elections
*	1	--	--	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
3	1	5	3	Other frustration with government mentions
4	5	1	9	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
1	1	--	2	Middle East
1	*	1	1	Iran
*	2	--	--	North Korea
2	2	1	5	Other foreign affairs mentions
4	6	2	2	Morality issues (Net)
1	2	1	--	Abortion
1	1	--	2	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
*	1	*	--	Moral issues (general)
*	1	--	--	Stem cells
1	1	1	*	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
3	4	3	6	Taxes
3	4	5	3	Gas prices/Energy (Net)
3	3	4	2	Gas prices
1	1	1	1	Energy issues
3	2	4	2	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
2	5	*	1	Budget deficit/national debt
1	1	--	2	Crime/violence
1	2	1	1	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare)
*	--	*	--	Katrina
*	--	*	--	Local issues
6	9	3	8	Other
1	--	1	1	Nothing
15	17	13	13	Don't know/Refused
(N=599)	(156)	(218)	(159)	

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)**

**Based on Half Sample**

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
32	22	38	32	Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
31	38	28	31	Reducing health care costs
12	10	15	11	Improving the Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors
12	16	7	14	Improving the quality of care and reducing medical errors
7	11	6	6	Reducing spending on government health programs like Medicare and Medicaid
1	1	1	*	None of these <b>(VOL)</b>
3	1	4	2	Other issue <b>(VOL)</b>
2	1	1	3	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
(N=634)	(156)	(221)	(175)	

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>	
35	35	37	33	Uninsured/access/expanding coverage (Net)
11	8	13	9	Coverage for everyone/everyone being insured
5	6	6	4	Should have national health plan/federalized healthcare/government funded
5	3	6	7	Accessibility to healthcare for poor
5	7	5	4	Accessibility to health care for all
4	5	3	5	Health insurance for children
2	2	2	1	Better insurance coverage
4	4	5	6	Other accessibility mentions
32	34	34	27	Health care cost (including RX) (Net)
15	20	13	17	Affordable healthcare/high cost of health care services
10	6	12	10	Prescription drug costs/affordable drugs (no mention of elderly/Medicare)
6	6	6	3	Affordable insurance
5	5	6	4	Cost/high cost (unspecified)
22	17	23	24	Medicare (Net)
9	9	9	10	Healthcare for the elderly (no mention of prescriptions, drugs)
8	7	7	7	Medicare (general)
4	2	5	6	Medicare drug benefit
2	1	4	2	Other Medicare mentions
19	25	16	18	Other (Net)
1	1	2	2	Stem cells
1	5	--	1	The government shouldn't be involved in healthcare/socialized medicine
1	2	2	--	Medical research/for diseases/illness/breakthroughs
1	1	2	*	Specific diseases
1	*	1	--	Health care (not specific)
1	1	*	1	Malpractice/lawsuits
*	1	--	--	Long term health care
*	--	--	*	Preventive health care/medicine
13	15	11	15	Other
6	5	7	4	Not health care (Net)
2	3	3	--	Social Security
*	--	*	--	Seniors/retirement (not related to health/health care)
3	2	4	4	Other non-health care mentions
3	2	2	4	Quality/Lack of quality healthcare/Better quality health care
3	2	3	2	Insurance company issues (Net)
2	1	3	2	Health insurance/insurance (unspecified)
*	1	*	--	Insurance companies have too much control
*	1	--	--	HMOs
*	*	--	1	Nothing
17	17	15	17	Don't know/Refused
(N=599)	(156)	(218)	(159)	

*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)**

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
14	7	27	9	Hillary Clinton
5	3	8	4	Barack Obama
3	7	1	4	Rudy Giuliani
2	4	1	2	John McCain
2	*	4	1	John Edwards
1	2	*	1	Mitt Romney
1	*	1	1	Bill Richardson
*	--	*	1	Al Gore
*	*	--	--	Alan Keyes
*	--	*	--	Chuck Hagel
*	--	--	*	Dennis Kucinich
*	*	--	--	Fred Thompson
*	*	*	1	George W. Bush
*	--	*	--	Janet Napolitano
*	--	*	--	Joe Biden
*	--	--	--	Joe Lieberman
*	1	--	*	Newt Gringrich
*	--	--	1	Ralph Nader
*	--	--	*	Ron Paul
*	--	--	*	Russ Feingold
*	--	*	--	Ted Kennedy
*	*	--	--	Walter Williams
*	--	--	*	Other candidate
2	*	4	1	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	3	--	1	Republican candidate, non-specific
8	8	4	11	No candidate represents my views
22	22	17	24	Can't name a candidate
38	41	31	38	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
(N=1233)	(312)	(439)	(334)	

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)**

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
21	19	28	20	Hillary Clinton
5	1	10	5	Barack Obama
3	3	4	2	John Edwards
1	3	*	1	Rudy Giuliani
1	1	1	*	John McCain
*	1	--	--	Mitt Romney
*	--	*	--	Al Gore
*	*	*	--	Bill Richardson
*	--	--	1	George W. Bush
*	--	*	--	Joe Biden
*	--	--	*	Ron Paul
*	--	*	1	Other candidate
1	--	3	1	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	2	*	*	Republican candidate, non-specific
21	23	13	28	No candidate placing big emphasis on health care
8	9	7	7	Can't name a candidate
37	39	32	34	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
(N=1233)	(312)	(439)	(334)	

7. Thinking about how the issue of health care might affect your vote for president, would you ... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)**

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	
14	7	17	15	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on health care
69	77	70	67	Consider a candidate's position on health care as just one of many important factors
10	11	7	11	Not see health care as a major issue in your vote
8	5	6	7	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
(N=1233)	(312)	(439)	(334)	



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>	
52	38	66	52	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 OR
24	33	18	25	A new health plan that is more limited and would cover only some groups of the uninsured BUT would involve less new spending OR
14	19	9	13	Keeping things basically as they are?
11	10	8	10	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
(N=1233)	(312)	(439)	(334)	

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?

11	Self-employed
39	Full-time for an employer
12	Part-time for an employer
21	Retired
12	Not employed
1	Homemaker <b>(VOL)</b>
2	Student <b>(VOL)</b>
3	Disabled <b>(VOL)</b>
*	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> 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
18	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	40	34	11	14	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	35	27	16	21	1
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	30	31	16	21	2
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	33	26	16	24	1
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	23	24	28	24	1
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	23	28	22	25	1
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	42	31	14	13	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	18	18	17	44	3
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	27	18	18	36	1
j. Losing your job	18	15	23	44	1
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	20	14	18	46	1
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	29	19	19	32	1
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you	30	37	14	16	4

*NOTE: Item J based on those who are employed (n=686), Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=593), Item L based on those who are insured (n=1,064), Item M based on those who are insured (n=1,064)*

**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? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ years

- 19 18-29
- 37 30-49
- 25 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 1 Refused
  
- 56 Total Under 50
- 42 Total 50 and older

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

- 23 Republican
- 36 Democrat
- 26 Independent
- 6 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL)
- 5 Other party (VOL)
- 3 Don't know/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

- 35 Republican/Lean Republican
- 48 Democrat/Lean Democrat
- 16 Refused to Lean

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

- 76 Yes
- 23 No
- 1 Don't know/Refused

D5. 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)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 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

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

- 51 Married
- 6 Living with a partner
- 9 Divorced
- 3 Separated
- 9 Widowed
- 21 Never been married
- 1 Undesignated

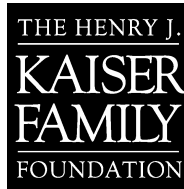
D7. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

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
  - 2 Asian
  - 3 Other or mixed race
- 2 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)**

- 17 Less than \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
- 18 \$30,000 to less than \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
- 10 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 12 \$100,000 or more
- 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 10 **(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](http://www.kff.org)**

Additional copies of this publication (#7626) are available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at [www.kff.org](http://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.*