

*Toplines*

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

**October 2008**

---

## **Methodology**

The *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane and Carolina Gutiérrez. The survey was conducted September 8 through September 13, 2008, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,207 adults ages 18 and older, including 1,081 adults who say they are registered to vote. Of these registered voters, there are 321 self-identified Republicans, 397 self-identified Democrats, and 292 self-identified independents. Telephone interviews were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points and for the sample of registered voters it is plus or minus 4 percentage points; for registered voters who self-identify as Republicans and Democrats it is plus or minus 6 percentage points, and for those who self-identify as independents it is plus or minus 7 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. 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 RESPONDENT GIVES ONE ISSUE PROBE FOR SECOND: Is there another issue you'd like to hear about? (OPEN-END)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	<u>Rep RVs</u>	<u>Dem RVs</u>	<u>Ind RVs</u>	
<b>54</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>54</b>	Economic issues (Net)
43	46	49	45	47	Economy (general)
8	7	4	12	3	Jobs
1	1	--	1	--	Poverty/homelessness
5	5	3	4	5	Other economy mentions
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	Iraq/War in Iraq
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	Health care (Net)
15	16	8	19	21	Health care (general)
3	3	1	3	4	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
1	1	1	1	1	Health care costs
*	1	*	1	*	Medicare/Elderly
1	1	*	1	1	Other health care mentions
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	Gas prices/Energy (Net)
11	11	14	10	10	Gas prices
8	8	14	5	9	Energy issues
<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	Terrorism/National security (Net)
6	7	15	2	6	National security
2	2	4	*	2	Terrorism/war on terror
<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	Taxes
<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Immigration/illegal immigration
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	Education/schools
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	Morality issues (Net)
3	3	4	1	5	Abortion
1	1	1	--	1	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
*	*	1	*	--	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
*	*	*	*	*	Middle East
*	*	--	--	*	Iran
3	3	3	4	3	Other foreign affairs mentions
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	Budget deficit/national debt
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	Social Security
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	Frustration with government/Corruption (Net)
*	*	--	--	1	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
*	*	*	*	*	Partisan politics/Party bickering
1	1	1	1	1	Other frustration with government mentions
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Crime/violence
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	Stand on issues
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare/health care)
*	*	--	*	<b>1</b>	Personal characteristics
*	*	--	*	--	Specific candidate/party
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	Other
<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	Nothing
<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	Don't know/Refused

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

2. Now thinking specifically about HEALTH CARE, which ONE of the following health care issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? (**READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-5, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY**)

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
51	50	52	51	47	Making health care and health insurance more affordable
20	20	9	29	19	Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
10	11	17	6	13	Improving the quality of care and reducing medical errors
8	8	9	7	10	Reducing the total amount the country spends on health care
5	5	7	4	4	Reducing spending on government health programs like Medicare and Medicaid
2	3	2	1	4	None of these ( <b>VOL.</b> )
2	2	3	1	1	Other issue ( <b>VOL.</b> )
2	2	1	1	2	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

**READ TO ALL:** On a different subject...

3. As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? (First/Next,) (**READ AND RANDOMIZE**)? **IF YES ASK:** Was this a serious problem, or not?

	Yes, serious <u>problem</u>	Yes, not a serious <u>problem</u>	Not a <u>problem</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Problems paying for health care and health insurance				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	*
Total RVs:	27	11	62	*
Republican RVs:	18	8	74	--
Democratic RVs:	35	12	52	*
Independent RVs:	25	10	65	--
b. Problems paying for gas				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	*
Total RVs:	37	18	44	*
Republican RVs:	31	19	49	*
Democratic RVs:	43	18	39	*
Independent RVs:	39	16	45	*

*Q.3 continued on next page*

Q.3 continued

3. As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? (First/Next,) **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)? IF YES ASK: Was this a serious problem, or not?**

	<u>Yes, serious problem</u>	<u>Yes, not a serious problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
c. Problems getting a good-paying job or a raise in pay				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>
Total RVs:	30	11	58	1
Republican RVs:	19	9	72	*
Democratic RVs:	36	11	53	1
Independent RVs:	33	15	51	1
d. Problems paying your rent or mortgage				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>*</b>
Total RVs:	18	8	74	*
Republican RVs:	9	5	86	--
Democratic RVs:	25	9	65	--
Independent RVs:	18	7	75	*
e. Losing money in the stock market				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2</b>
Total RVs:	20	20	59	1
Republican RVs:	18	22	59	1
Democratic RVs:	21	15	62	2
Independent RVs:	20	23	57	*
f. Problems with credit card debt or other personal debt				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1</b>
Total RVs:	18	13	69	1
Republican RVs:	14	10	76	*
Democratic RVs:	21	15	63	1
Independent RVs:	20	11	70	--
g. Problems paying for food				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>*</b>
Total RVs:	18	15	67	*
Republican RVs:	12	13	74	1
Democratic RVs:	23	16	61	*
Independent RVs:	17	16	67	--

**Total serious problem to any of these: 63 %**

**READ TO ALL:** Thinking again about issues in the presidential campaign...

4. Thinking about 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)

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
45	45	5	80	40	Barack Obama
28	29	72	4	25	John McCain
*	*	*	--	1	Ron Paul
*	*	--	1	*	Hillary Clinton
*	*	--	*	1	Ralph Nader
*	*	--	--	*	Mitt Romney
*	*	--	--	*	Sarah Palin
*	*	*	--	*	Other candidate
1	1	--	2	*	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	1	1	--	1	Republican candidate, non-specific
6	6	4	4	7	No candidate represents my views
7	7	6	3	11	Can't name a candidate
12	11	12	6	13	Don't know/Refused

5. Which presidential candidate do you think would be more likely to make health care reform a top priority in his administration - John McCain (or) Barack Obama? (*Names rotated*)

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
59	59	24	87	56	Barack Obama
22	23	54	4	21	John McCain
3	3	4	1	3	Both equally (VOL.)
6	6	8	4	10	Neither (VOL.)
10	8	10	4	10	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

6. And which presidential candidate would do more to **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)** - John McCain (or) Barack Obama? (*Names rotated*)

	<u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>John McCain</u>	<u>(VOL.) Both</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Make health care and health insurance more affordable					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
Total RVs:	55	24	2	6	13
Republican RVs:	19	57	2	8	13
Democratic RVs:	85	4	2	2	6
Independent RVs:	48	22	2	10	19
b. Make sure that Americans who don't currently have health insurance get it					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
Total RVs:	61	19	3	7	11
Republican RVs:	32	42	4	7	15
Democratic RVs:	86	4	2	3	5
Independent RVs:	57	17	3	11	12
c. Lower the total amount the country spends on health care					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>
Total RVs:	37	38	1	7	16
Republican RVs:	8	69	1	6	16
Democratic RVs:	65	16	1	5	13
Independent RVs:	29	39	3	11	18
d. Lower the federal budget deficit					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
Total RVs:	45	33	2	9	10
Republican RVs:	11	69	2	10	9
Democratic RVs:	76	7	1	7	9
Independent RVs:	37	37	3	11	12

7. Based on what you know or have heard, whose health reform plan - John McCain's (or) Barack Obama's - would be better for... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? And whose plan would be better for... **(READ NEXT ITEM)** - John McCain's (or) Barack Obama's? *(Names rotated)*

		Obama's <u>plan</u>	McCain's <u>plan</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. Low-income people	<b>Total:</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	Total RVs:	64	17	1	4	14
	Republican RVs:	39	37	2	4	19
	Democratic RVs:	84	6	1	2	8
	Independent RVs:	61	16	1	6	15
b. Working families	<b>Total:</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	Total RVs:	52	29	1	4	13
	Republican RVs:	15	62	3	4	16
	Democratic RVs:	82	9	1	1	7
	Independent RVs:	49	27	1	8	16
c. The uninsured	<b>Total:</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>
	Total RVs:	60	18	2	5	16
	Republican RVs:	34	38	2	6	20
	Democratic RVs:	81	6	1	2	10
	Independent RVs:	56	15	1	9	19
d. Children	<b>Total:</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>
	Total RVs:	54	23	2	5	16
	Republican RVs:	18	51	2	8	21
	Democratic RVs:	82	6	1	1	9
	Independent RVs:	50	22	2	7	19
e. The elderly	<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
	Total RVs:	48	29	2	5	17
	Republican RVs:	14	57	3	6	21
	Democratic RVs:	76	9	2	2	10
	Independent RVs:	44	29	2	6	19
f. Employers	<b>Total:</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
	Total RVs:	29	48	1	5	17
	Republican RVs:	10	64	2	4	19
	Democratic RVs:	50	33	1	3	14
	Independent RVs:	20	53	2	8	17
g. Health insurance companies	<b>Total:</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>
	Total RVs:	27	46	1	5	21
	Republican RVs:	14	56	1	6	23
	Democratic RVs:	41	42	1	3	13
	Independent RVs:	22	43	1	8	26



8. I'm going to read you some different ways to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here's the (first/next) one – (INSERT & RANDOMIZE). Do you favor or oppose this?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Requiring employers to either offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government pool that provides coverage for those who aren't covered			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>
Total RVs:	63	31	6
Republican RVs:	51	43	6
Democratic RVs:	74	21	6
Independent RVs:	64	32	5
b. Offering tax credits to help people buy private health insurance			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>
Total RVs:	65	28	7
Republican RVs:	68	23	9
Democratic RVs:	61	31	8
Independent RVs:	70	28	3
c. Expanding Medicare to cover people between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have health insurance			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>
Total RVs:	68	27	6
Republican RVs:	51	44	5
Democratic RVs:	81	15	3
Independent RVs:	65	29	7
d. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, to provide coverage for people without health insurance			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>
Total RVs:	70	24	6
Republican RVs:	51	40	9
Democratic RVs:	84	11	4
Independent RVs:	71	23	6
e. Requiring all Americans to have health insurance, either from their employer or from another source, with tax credits or other aid to help lower and middle income people pay for it			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>
Total RVs:	58	36	7
Republican RVs:	42	51	7
Democratic RVs:	69	25	6
Independent RVs:	59	35	7

*Q.8 continued on next page*

Q.8 continued

8. I'm going to read you some different ways to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here's the (first/next) one – **(INSERT & RANDOMIZE)**. Do you favor or oppose this?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
f. Offering tax breaks or other incentives to businesses that provide health insurance for their employees			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>
Total RVs:	80	17	4
Republican RVs:	82	13	5
Democratic RVs:	80	16	4
Independent RVs:	79	19	2
g. Having a national health plan, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>8</b>
Total RVs:	41	51	8
Republican RVs:	18	75	7
Democratic RVs:	58	33	9
Independent RVs:	35	58	6

9. Of those options you just said you favored, which ONE do you MOST prefer? Is it...**(READ)**?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	<u>Rep RVs</u>	<u>Dem RVs</u>	<u>Ind RVs</u>	
15	15	13	15	18	Requiring employers to either offer health insurance or pay money into a government pool
15	15	4	20	18	Having all Americans get their insurance from a single government plan
14	13	11	15	10	Expanding Medicare to those uninsured who are aged 55 to 64
14	15	25	10	14	Offering tax breaks to businesses that do offer health insurance
14	14	10	15	15	Requiring all Americans to have health insurance, with tax credits or other aid to help those who can't afford it
12	13	24	7	12	Offering tax credits to help people buy private health insurance
11	11	7	16	9	Expanding state government programs for low-income people
1	*	1	*	*	None of these <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	2	3	*	2	None favored <sup>1</sup>
3	3	2	3	2	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

<sup>1</sup> This category includes respondents who did not favor any option in question 8.

10. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose the federal government doing more to help provide health insurance for more Americans?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
75	72	47	91	72	Yes, favor doing more
21	24	46	7	24	No, oppose
4	4	7	2	4	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

11. Which would you prefer – the current health insurance system in the United States, in which most people get their health insurance from private employers, but some people have no insurance; (or) a universal health insurance program, in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that's run by the government and financed by taxpayers? (*Options rotated*)

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
41	42	72	24	41	Current system
49	48	17	67	50	Universal health insurance
10	10	11	9	9	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

12. Do you think a universal health insurance system would make **(INSERT & RANDOMIZE)** better, worse or would it stay about the same?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. The quality of your own health care				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>6</b>
Total RVs:	21	34	39	6
Republican RVs:	6	63	25	6
Democratic RVs:	31	13	49	7
Independent RVs:	22	37	36	4
b. The availability of health care treatments to you and your family				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>
Total RVs:	25	34	36	5
Republican RVs:	7	61	27	5
Democratic RVs:	36	13	47	5
Independent RVs:	25	41	30	4
c. The cost of health care for you and your family				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>
Total RVs:	32	28	31	9
Republican RVs:	16	49	26	9
Democratic RVs:	43	11	38	9
Independent RVs:	32	31	27	9
d. Your choice of doctors and hospitals				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>
Total RVs:	20	37	38	5
Republican RVs:	7	63	25	5
Democratic RVs:	28	16	49	6
Independent RVs:	19	42	35	3

13. Would you support or oppose a universal health insurance program if it (**INSERT & RANDOMIZE**)?

*Based on those who prefer universal health insurance*

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Limited your own choice of doctors			
<b>Total (n=553):</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4</b>
Total RVs (n=491):	39	57	4
Republican RVs (n=53):	33	63	4
Democratic RVs (n=273):	42	54	5
Independent RVs (n=135):	37	61	2
b. Meant there were waiting lists for some non-emergency treatments			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>
Total RVs:	53	42	5
Republican RVs:	48	47	5
Democratic RVs:	54	41	5
Independent RVs:	53	42	5
c. Meant you'd have to pay more, either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>
Total RVs:	45	51	4
Republican RVs:	28	68	4
Democratic RVs:	48	46	6
Independent RVs:	41	57	2
d. Meant that some medical treatments that are currently covered by insurance are no longer covered			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7</b>
Total RVs:	26	67	7
Republican RVs:	33	65	1
Democratic RVs:	26	69	5
Independent RVs:	27	63	10

11. Which would you prefer – the current health insurance system in the United States (or) a universal health insurance program?

- 13a. Would you support or oppose a universal health insurance program if it limited your own choice of doctors?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	<u>Rep RVs</u>	<u>Dem RVs</u>	<u>Ind RVs</u>	
49	48	17	67	50	Prefer universal health insurance program
19	19	6	28	19	Support even if it limited choice of doctors
28	27	11	36	30	Oppose if it limited choice of doctors
2	2	1	3	1	DK/Ref.
41	42	72	24	41	Prefer current health insurance system
10	10	11	9	9	Don't know/Refused

11. Which would you prefer – the current health insurance system in the United States (or) a universal health insurance program?
- 13b. Would you support or oppose a universal health insurance program if it meant there were waiting lists for some non-emergency treatments?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Rep</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Dem</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Ind</u> <u>RVs</u>	
49	48	17	67	50	Prefer universal health insurance program
25	25	8	37	27	Support even if it meant there were waiting lists for some non-emergency treatments
21	20	8	27	21	Oppose if it meant there were waiting lists for some non-emergency treatments
2	2	1	3	2	DK/Ref.
41	42	72	24	41	Prefer current health insurance system
10	10	11	9	9	Don't know/Refused

11. Which would you prefer – the current health insurance system in the United States (or) a universal health insurance program?
- 13c. Would you support or oppose a universal health insurance program if it meant you'd have to pay more, either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Rep</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Dem</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Ind</u> <u>RVs</u>	
49	48	17	67	50	Prefer universal health insurance program
20	21	5	32	20	Support even if it meant you'd have to pay more
26	24	12	31	29	Oppose if it meant you'd have to pay more
2	2	1	4	1	DK/Ref.
41	42	72	24	41	Prefer current health insurance system
10	10	11	9	9	Don't know/Refused

11. Which would you prefer – the current health insurance system in the United States (or) a universal health insurance program?
- 13d. Would you support or oppose a universal health insurance program if it meant that some medical treatments that are currently covered by insurance are no longer covered?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Rep</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Dem</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Ind</u> <u>RVs</u>	
49	48	17	67	50	Prefer universal health insurance program
12	13	6	17	14	Support even if it meant some medical treatments are no longer covered
33	32	11	47	31	Oppose if it meant some medical treatments are no longer covered
4	3	*	3	5	DK/Ref.
41	42	72	24	41	Prefer current health insurance system
10	10	11	9	9	Don't know/Refused

**READ TO ALL:** Now on a different subject...

14. How closely did you follow news about Hurricane Gustav, the recent storm which led to the evacuation of New Orleans --very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
35	37	Very closely
37	38	Somewhat closely
18	18	Not too closely
10	8	Not at all closely
*	*	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

15. Compared to the way they handled Hurricane Katrina three years ago, would you say the **(INSERT & RANDOMIZE)** seems/seem (more prepared) to handle a major hurricane now, (less prepared) or about the same? How about the **(INSERT NEXT ITEM)? (ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS) READ IF NECESSARY:** (more prepared), (less prepared) or about the same?

*Based on those who followed news about Hurricane Gustav*

	<u>More prepared</u>	<u>Less prepared</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. City government in New Orleans				
<b>Total (n=1,116):</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>
Total RVs (n=1,018):	81	3	11	6
b. State government of Louisiana				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
Total RVs:	81	2	10	7
c. Federal government				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>
Total RVs:	75	3	17	4
d. Residents of New Orleans				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
Total RVs:	83	2	12	3

16. Thinking back to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which of the following statements comes closer to your view? **READ AND ROTATE OPTIONS 1 AND 2**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
79	79	The country learned a lesson from Katrina and is much better prepared for natural disasters and other emergencies than it was then
17	17	The country did not learn a lesson from Katrina and is just as vulnerable as it was then to the effects of natural disasters and other emergencies
4	4	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

17. As far as you know, does the city of New Orleans still face MAJOR challenges in its continuing process of recovering from Hurricane Katrina, MINOR challenges, or is it mostly recovered at this point?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
75	77	Major challenges
15	14	Minor challenges
5	5	Mostly recovered
5	5	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

18. Do you think the federal government should do more to help New Orleans in its efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina, or do you think the federal government has already done enough?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
57	56	Should do more
33	34	Already done enough
10	10	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

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

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
59	61	Married
5	5	Living with a partner
8	8	Widowed
8	8	Divorced
1	1	Separated
17	15	Never been married
2	1	Undesignated

- D7. 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)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
82	87	Yes, insured
17	12	No, not insured
1	*	Don't know/Refused

- D8. Which type of health insurance do you now have? Is it a plan through your employer, (IF D6=1: a plan through your spouse's employer,) a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare, Medicaid (USE VARIANT WORDING IN CALIFORNIA: (Medi-Cal)), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

*Based on those who are insured*

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>RVs</u>	
42	43	A plan through your employer
15	16	A plan through your spouse's employer
9	10	A plan you purchased yourself
20	20	Medicare
4	3	Medicaid
6	5	Some other government program
3	3	Get insurance from somewhere else
1	*	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
(n=1,057)	(n=983)	

- D9. 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?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>RVs</u>	
11	12	Self-employed
37	38	Full-time for an employer
9	8	Part-time for an employer
22	24	Retired
12	9	Not employed
4	3	<b>(VOL.)</b> Homemaker
2	1	<b>(VOL.)</b> Student
3	3	<b>(VOL.)</b> Disabled
1	1	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused



19. 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?)

*Data based on Total Respondents*

	<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	34	33	15	17	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	28	28	20	24	1
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	24	28	22	26	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	27	22	20	31	*
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	17	25	30	28	1
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	18	29	25	27	1
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	41	32	13	13	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	19	17	18	45	2
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	21	20	21	39	*
<i>Item J based on those who are employed (n=617)</i>					
j. Losing your job	21	15	23	41	1
<i>Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=543)</i>					
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	16	14	22	47	1
<i>Items L and M based on those who are insured (n=1,057)</i>					
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	23	20	22	35	*
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	24	33	19	23	1

**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**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
50	49	Male
50	51	Female

**D2. In the past 12 months, how many times have you, yourself, done each of the following...(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

a. Had a doctor's visit

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
17	16	No doctor's visits
15	15	1 time
17	18	2 times
22	23	3-4 times
21	21	5-12 times
7	6	13 or more times
1	1	Don't know/Refused

b. Had an overnight stay in a hospital

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
82	82	No hospital overnight stays
10	10	1 time
7	7	2 or more times
1	1	Don't know/Refused

c. Gone to a hospital emergency room for medical treatment

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
67	67	No emergency room visits
19	19	1 time
13	13	2 or more times
1	1	Don't know/Refused

D3. Are you, or is someone else in your household now receiving regular medical treatment or making regular doctor visits for any chronic health problem -- such as asthma, high blood pressure or cancer?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
39	41	Yes
60	59	No
*	*	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused

D4. What is your age? **(RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ years

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
16	12	18-29
37	38	30-49
27	29	50-64
17	18	65 and older
3	3	Undesignated

D5. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
19	20	Excellent
33	34	Very good
32	31	Good
12	11	Only fair
4	4	Poor
*	*	Don't know/Refused

D10. Do you have a disability, handicap or chronic disease that keeps you from participating fully in work, housework, school or other activities?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
16	17	Yes
83	83	No
1	1	Don't know/Refused

D10a. Does any other adult in your household have a disability, handicap or chronic disease that keeps them from participating fully in work, housework, school or other activities?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
14	14	Yes
86	85	No
1	1	Don't know/Refused

D11. In politics today, do you consider yourself a **[ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican]**, an Independent, or what?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
24	26	Republican
38	39	Democrat
28	28	Independent
4	4	Or what?
5	3	Don't know/Refused

D11. In politics today, do you consider yourself a **[ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican]**, an Independent, or what?

D11a. Do you LEAN more towards the **[ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]**?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
35	38	Republican/Lean Republican
52	51	Democrat/Lean Democratic
13	11	Refused to Lean

D12. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

85	Yes
14	No
1	Don't know/Refused

D13. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
23	22	Liberal
39	41	Moderate
31	32	Conservative
6	4	Don't know/Refused

D14. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
3	2	None, or grade 1-8
10	9	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
31	29	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
4	4	Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
22	24	Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
18	20	College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
10	12	Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
1	1	Refused

D15. Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
35	33	Yes
65	67	No
*	*	Don't know/Refused

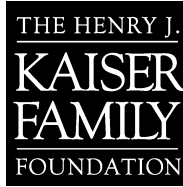
D16. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D17. 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?)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
72	76	White, Non Hispanic
27	23	Total Non-White
10	10	Black or African-American
12	9	Hispanic
3	2	Asian
2	2	Other or mixed race
1	1	Undesignated

D18. Last year -- that is, in 2007 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	
15	13	Less than \$20,000
12	10	\$20,000 to less than \$30,000
18	19	\$30,000 to less than \$50,000
16	18	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
11	12	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
14	16	\$100,000 or more
13	12	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know /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)**

This publication (#7816) is 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, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible information, research and analysis on health issues.*