

HARVARD
School of Public Health

Toplines

**Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health
The Public's Health Care Agenda for the
New President and Congress**

January 2009

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress*, was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Drew E. Altman, Ph.D., Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., and Claudia Deane, M.A. from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The survey was conducted December 4-14, 2008 among a nationally representative random sample of 1,628 adults ages 18 and over. Telephone interviews were carried out in English and Spanish by ICR/International Communications Research.

The margin of sampling error for results based on the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is somewhat 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. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

(Q.1 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL SAMPLE; Q.1a ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF SAMPLE)
 (ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

1. I'm going to read you a list of some different things the new president and Congress might try to act on next year. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important. What about (INSERT)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important?

Based on one half of total (N=814)

	One of their top priorities	Very important, but not a top priority	Somewhat important	Not that important	Should not be done at all (vol.)	Don't know	Refused
a. Improving the country's economic situation	73	21	4	2	--	*	--
b. Reducing the federal budget deficit	39	37	18	6	*	1	--
c. Reforming health care	43	34	15	8	*	*	*
d. Working to create more clean energy sources	36	36	21	6	--	*	*
e. Providing more support to improve public schools	37	40	14	7	*	*	*
f. Fighting terrorism	48	36	13	2	*	*	*
g. Dealing with Iraq	35	33	20	10	*	1	*
h. Dealing with Afghanistan	31	35	22	10	*	1	*
i. Improving America's image and standing in the world	25	34	23	17	*	*	*

(Q.1 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL SAMPLE; Q.1a ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF SAMPLE)
 (ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

1a. Now I'm going to read some proposals for dealing with the current economic recession. For each, tell me if you think it should be a TOP priority for the new president and Congress, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important. What about (INSERT)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important?

Based on one half of total (N=814)

	One of their top priorities	Very important, but not a top priority	Somewhat important	Not that important	Should not be done at all (vol.)	Don't know	Refused
a. Repairing and rebuilding the country's infrastructure, including bridges, roads, and schools	27	41	22	9	--	*	*
b. Cutting taxes for the middle class	27	37	23	11	*	1	*
c. Helping large businesses badly affected by the economic downturn	13	26	33	26	*	1	*
d. Helping people who can't pay their mortgages to stay in their houses	27	31	24	17	1	1	*
e. Helping businesses keep or create jobs	45	38	11	5	*	1	*
f. Helping those who are newly unemployed to afford their health insurance coverage	33	37	22	6	*	2	*
g. Providing states with more federal dollars to help pay for the health care needs of their lower income residents	31	37	20	10	1	1	*

READ ALL: Now I'd like to turn to the subject of health care

(OPTIONS ROTATED)

2. Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country...?
 (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

- 37 We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now
- 61 It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now
- 2 Don't know
- * Refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

3. If the new president and Congress decide to take on health care reform, how important is each of the following as a goal of any health care reform plan? What about (INSERT)? Is this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important as a goal of health care reform?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know	Refused
a. Making health care and health insurance more affordable	80	15	3	2	*	*
b. Finding a way to provide health insurance coverage to most Americans	69	20	5	4	*	*
c. Reforming the existing health care system to provide higher quality, more cost-effective care	65	25	5	4	1	*

(Q3a ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAID "VERY IMPORTANT" TO MORE THAN ONE ITEM IN Q3)

3a. Of the things you said are very important, which of these do you think should be the MOST important goal of any health care reform plan?
(READ ONLY ITEMS RATED VERY IMPORTANT IN SAME ORDER AS Q3)

3/3a. Very/Most Important Combo Table based on total (Includes those who said only one item was "very important")

39	Making health care and health insurance more affordable
30	Finding a way to provide health insurance coverage to most Americans
18	Reforming the existing health care system to provide higher quality, more cost-effective care
2	Combination/all of these are most important
11	None of these is very/most important
*	Don't know/refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

(ITEMS a, c, e, f, and k ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL)

(ITEMS b, d, g, h, l and m ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

4. As you know, the federal government has a substantial budget deficit and there are many competing spending priorities facing the next president and Congress. Thinking about the federal budget, do you want to see the next president and Congress increase spending on (INSERT 1ST ITEM), decrease spending, or keep it about the same? How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

Based on one half of total items a, c, e, f, and k (N=814)

Based on one half of total items b, d, g, h, l, and m (N=814)

	Increase spending	Decrease spending	Keep it about the same	Don't know	Refused
a. Medicare, the program that provides health insurance primarily to people age 65 and older	43	6	51	1	--
b. Medicaid, the program that provides health insurance and long term care to low-income families and people with disabilities	34	11	54	1	*
c. Medical research to find cures for major illnesses	44	8	46	1	*
d. Public health programs to prevent the spread of disease and improve health	34	10	55	2	*
e. Medical care for veterans	64	2	32	1	--
f. Programs to protect against bioterrorism	35	16	46	2	--
g. Stem cell research	33	23	41	4	--
h. The State Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides health care coverage for uninsured children	51	8	39	2	*
k. Health information technology such as the use of electronic medical records	20	17	60	3	*
l. Efforts to insure that medical treatments are based on evidence about what works best	30	10	56	3	*
m. Global health issues like malaria and HIV/AIDS	29	18	51	1	--

5. Which ONE of the following three things would you like to see in a health care reform proposal from the new president and Congress? Would you want them to propose...? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

- 48** OPTION 1: A new health plan that would make a major effort to provide health insurance for nearly all uninsured Americans and would involve a substantial increase in spending
- 26** OPTION 2: A new health plan that is more limited and would cover only some groups of uninsured Americans, but would involve less new spending
- 24** OPTION 3: Keeping things basically as they are
- 2** Don't know
- 1** Refused

6. Would you like to see this effort to provide coverage be put in place right away, or would you rather wait a few years for the economy to recover?

Based on total who want the new president and Congress to propose a new health plan (Option 1 or Option 2) (N=1191)

- 53** Right away
- 46** Wait a few years
- 1** Don't know
- *** Refused

5/6. Combo Table based on total

- 73** Would like the president and Congress to propose a new health plan (Option 1 or Option 2)
- 39** Would like to see this effort put in place right away
- 34** Would rather wait a few years
- 1** Don't know/refused
- 24** Would like president and Congress to propose keeping things basically as they are
- 2** Don't know
- 1** Refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

(ITEMS a, b, c, f and j ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL)

(ITEMS d, e, g, h, and i ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

10. 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). Do you favor or oppose this? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total items b, c, f and j (N=814)

Based on one half of total items e, g, h, and i (N=814)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Ref.
a. Requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund that will pay to cover those without insurance	47	24	11	15	3	1
b. Offering tax credits to help people buy private health insurance	33	32	16	17	2	*
c. Expanding Medicare to cover people between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have health insurance	47	29	11	11	2	*
d. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program	43	30	14	11	2	*
e. Requiring all Americans to have health insurance, either from their employer or from another source, with financial help for those who can't afford it	40	27	13	18	1	1
f. Requiring all parents to have health insurance for their children, either from their employer or from another source, with financial help for those who can't afford it	58	21	8	11	1	1
g. Offering tax breaks or other incentives to businesses that provide health insurance for their employees	55	30	6	7	2	*
h. Having a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan	28	18	14	39	2	--
i. Giving people fixed amounts of money to buy health insurance on their own instead of getting it at work	15	15	28	40	2	--
j. Helping those who are unemployed to afford health insurance coverage	48	34	7	9	1	*

11. Earlier you said you favored requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund. What if you heard that paying for this may cause some employers to lay off some workers? Would you still favor that proposal, or would you oppose that proposal?

Based on total who favor requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund (Q10a) (N=560)

41	Still favor
55	Oppose
4	Don't know
--	Refused

- 10a/11. Combo Table based on one half of total (N=814)

72	Favor requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government
29	Still favor even if paying for this may cause some employers to lay off some workers
39	Would oppose if paying for this may cause some employers to lay off some workers
3	Don't know/refused
25	Oppose requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund
3	Don't know
1	Refused

12. Earlier you said you favored requiring all Americans to have health insurance. What if you heard that this could mean that some people would be required to buy health insurance that they find too expensive or did not want? Would you still favor that proposal, or would you oppose that proposal?

Based on total who favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance (Q10e) (N=544)

28	Still favor
69	Oppose
2	Don't know
*	Refused

- 10e/12. Combo Table based on one half of total (N=814)

67	Favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance
19	Still favor even if it means some people would be required to buy health insurance that they find too expensive or did not want
47	Would oppose if it means some people would be required to buy health insurance that they find too expensive or did not want
2	Don't know/refused
31	Oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance
1	Don't know
1	Refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

(ITEMS a, c, and e ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL)

(ITEMS b, d, and f ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

9. If you heard that a new health care REFORM proposal (INSERT), would that make you more likely to support it, less likely or wouldn't it make a difference?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?)

Based on one half of total items a, c, and e (N=814)

Based on one half of total items b, d, and f (N=814)

	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	Wouldn't make a difference	Somewhat less likely	Much less likely	Don't know	Refused
a. Limited your own choice of doctors	6	4	33	20	36	1	*
b. Meant that you would have to switch health insurance plans	5	6	44	16	27	2	*
c. Was going to increase people's insurance premiums or other out of pocket costs	3	6	27	26	35	2	*
d. Was going to increase taxes	6	6	41	18	28	2	--
e. Meant that there were waiting lists for some non-emergency treatments	7	10	45	15	22	2	*
f. Would get the government too involved in your personal health care decisions	6	3	24	20	45	2	*

13. Would you be willing to pay more—either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes—in order to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance, or not?

47 Yes, would
49 No, would not
3 Don't know
1 Refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

(ITEMS a, b, d, and g ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL)

(ITEMS c, e and f ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

14. Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance, is likely to require an increase in government spending and/or a tax increase to pay for it. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured. How about (INSERT)?
(ALWAYS READ FIRST TIME, AND REPEAT IF NECESSARY: Would you favor or oppose this as a way to help pay for expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured?)
(GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total items a, b, d, and g (N=814)

Based on one half of total items c, e, and f (N=814)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Ref.
a. Increasing the cigarette tax	63	9	5	22	1	--
b. Increasing income taxes for all those who pay income taxes	13	23	18	44	2	--
c. Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year	51	19	8	19	2	--
d. Having a Value Added Tax, or VAT, which is like a national sales tax	18	32	16	32	3	--
e. Not raising taxes but instead increasing the federal deficit	12	20	22	42	4	*
f. Requiring workers with the most generous health insurance benefits to pay taxes on a share of their employer's contribution toward their coverage	18	26	18	35	3	*
g. Repealing the current income tax cuts for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year	44	17	11	25	3	--

(Q.15 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.16 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

15. Do you favor or oppose the federal government requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total (N=814)

58	Strongly favor
20	Somewhat favor
10	Somewhat oppose
10	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know
*	Refused

(Q.15 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.16 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

16. Some have proposed that the federal government require health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness. This might mean that healthier people would end up paying somewhat more for their health insurance than they do now, while sicker people would pay somewhat less. Do you favor or oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total (N=814)

47	Strongly favor
25	Somewhat favor
14	Somewhat oppose
12	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know
--	Refused

17. Do you favor or oppose the president and Congress changing the law to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK : Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

47	Strongly favor
22	Somewhat favor
10	Somewhat oppose
17	Strongly oppose
3	Don't know
*	Refused

(Q.18 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.19 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

18. If an expensive new drug or medical treatment becomes available, but it has not been proven to be more effective than other, less expensive treatments, do you think insurance companies SHOULD or SHOULD NOT have to pay for the newer, more expensive treatment?

Based on one half of total (N=814)

40	Should have to pay
56	Should NOT have to pay
4	Don't know
*	Refused

(Q.18 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.19 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

19. If a doctor recommends an expensive new drug or medical treatment, but it has not been proven to be more effective than other, less expensive treatments, do you think insurance companies SHOULD or SHOULD NOT have to pay for the newer, more expensive treatment?

Based on one half of total (N=814)

45	Should have to pay
51	Should NOT have to pay
3	Don't know
*	Refused

(Q.20 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.21 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

20. Do you favor or oppose the federal government imposing limits on the administrative expenses of health insurance companies?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total (N=814)

35	Strongly favor
30	Somewhat favor
15	Somewhat oppose
16	Strongly oppose
4	Don't know
*	Refused

(Q.20 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.21 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)

21. Do you favor or oppose the federal government imposing limits on the profits of health insurance companies?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total (N=814)

44	Strongly favor
18	Somewhat favor
15	Somewhat oppose
21	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know
*	Refused

22. One way that health experts have proposed trying to slow the growth of health insurance premiums is to establish a new independent federal scientific body which would decide whether approved new medical technology, procedures, and drugs should be covered by insurance, based on whether they are proven to be more effective than existing, less expensive treatments. Would you favor or oppose this? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

28 Strongly favor
38 Somewhat favor
14 Somewhat oppose
17 Strongly oppose
3 Don't know
***** Refused

23. This might mean that in some cases, treatments or drugs recommended by a person's own doctor wouldn't be covered by their health insurance. Having heard that, would you favor or oppose having a new federal scientific body decide whether new treatments and drugs should be covered by insurance, or not?

Based on total who favor establishing a new Federal scientific body which would decide whether approved new medical technology, procedures, and drugs should be covered by insurance (N=1063)

49 Favor
49 Oppose
2 Don't know
***** Refused

- 22/23. Combo table base on total

66 Favor establishing a new independent federal scientific body
32 Still favor if in some cases treatments or drugs recommended by
a
person's own doctor wouldn't be covered by their health
insurance
32 Oppose if in some cases treatments or drugs recommended by a
person's own doctor wouldn't be covered by their health
insurance
2 Don't know/refused
31 Oppose establishing a new independent federal scientific body
3 Don't know
***** Refused

24. Overall, do you think there is too much, not enough, or about the right amount of government regulation of health care costs?

25 Too much
51 Not enough
21 About the right
4 Don't know
***** Refused

25. Overall, do you think there is too much, not enough, or about the right amount of government regulation of the price of prescription drugs?

23 Too much
52 Not enough
21 About the right
4 Don't know
***** Refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

26. Thinking about reducing future health care costs, which one of the following do you think should be the highest priority for government to address? Would it be reducing...?

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

28 Hospital charges
9 Physician fees
20 Health insurance premiums
21 The cost of prescription drugs
14 The cost of medical tests like mammograms and CAT scans
4 None/other/government shouldn't be involved (vol.)
4 Don't know
***** Refused

27. As you know, most Americans pay taxes on the wages they get from their employers. In cases where an employer also puts money into health insurance benefits for a worker, as far as you know, does the worker pay taxes on the amount the employer puts toward those health care benefits, or not?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF RESPONDENT SAYS "DON'T KNOW" DO NOT PROBE)

29 Yes
50 No
21 Don't know
***** Refused

(Q.28 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.29 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)
(IF Q.27 = 1, D, OR R INSERT 1ST VERBIAGE IN PARENS; IF Q.27 = 2, INSERT 2ND
VERBIAGE IN PARENS)

28. (Many people are not aware that/As you indicated) right now, the average worker does not pay taxes on any money that his or her employer puts into his or her health insurance benefits. Some policymakers are proposing that workers who have very generous health care benefits from their employers SHOULD pay taxes on a share of the money the employer puts into that health insurance, with those taxes being used to help pay to cover the uninsured. Do you favor or oppose changing the law so that workers with very generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total (N=814)

17	Strongly favor
22	Somewhat favor
15	Somewhat oppose
43	Strongly oppose
3	Don't know
*	Refused

(Q.28 ASKED OF ½ OF TOTAL; Q.29 ASKED OF OTHER ½ OF TOTAL)
(IF Q.27 = 1, D, OR R INSERT 1ST VERBIAGE IN PARENS; IF Q.27 = 2 INSERT 2ND
VERBIAGE IN PARENS)

29. (Many people are not aware that/As you indicated) right now, the average worker does not pay taxes on any money that his or her employer puts into his or her health insurance benefits. Some policymakers are proposing that workers with health care benefits from their employers SHOULD pay taxes on the money the employer puts into that health insurance, with those taxes being used to help pay to cover the uninsured. Do you favor or oppose changing the law so that workers would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage?
(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

Based on one half of total (N=814)

9	Strongly favor
17	Somewhat favor
19	Somewhat oppose
54	Strongly oppose
2	Don't know
--	Refused

29b. Thinking about all of the different priorities the new president and Congress might try to act on next year, how important is it to make sure that Medicare is more financially sound for future generations? Would you say it should be...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

- 44** One of their TOP priorities
- 38** Very important, but not a top priority
- 15** Somewhat important
- 3** Not that important
- *** Should not be done at all (vol.)
- *** Don't know
- *** Refused

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

(ITEMS b, c, e, f, and j ASKED OF 1/2 OF TOTAL)

(ITEMS a, d, g, h, and i ASKED OF OTHER 1/2 OF TOTAL)

30. I'm going to read you some proposals to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future. Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose each one. (First/Next) would you favor or oppose (INSERT)? (to keep the Medicare program financially sound in the future)?
GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or just somewhat?

Based on one half of total items b, c, e, f, and j (N=814)

Based on one half of total items a, d, g, h, and i (N=814)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Ref.
a. Requiring all seniors to pay a larger share of Medicare costs out of their own pocket	4	7	17	71	1	*
b. Requiring higher income seniors to pay higher Medicare premiums	25	26	13	34	1	*
c. Reducing payments to doctors and hospitals for treating people covered by Medicare	33	24	17	24	2	--
d. Reducing Medicare payments to HMOs and other private insurers	20	26	23	23	9	--
e. Increasing the payroll taxes workers and employers now pay to help fund the Medicare program	17	30	19	30	3	*
f. Gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees	15	19	16	50	1	--
g. Rolling back tax cuts for upper income Americans	29	17	16	35	3	--
h. Cutting back the Medicare drug benefit to save money	9	14	18	56	2	*
i. Turning Medicare into a program that ONLY serves low-income seniors instead of serving all seniors	13	13	17	56	2	*
j. Allowing the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs under Medicare	71	19	3	6	*	--

31. The way the Medicare prescription drug benefit currently works, some seniors with high drug costs hit a coverage gap where they have to pay the full costs of their medications out of their own pockets, up to several thousand dollars for some people. Would you favor or oppose spending more federal money to expand the Medicare prescription drug benefit to help pay the prescription costs for seniors in this situation? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

55 Strongly favor
24 Somewhat favor
9 Somewhat oppose
11 Strongly oppose
1 Don't know
***** Refused

READ ALL: Now thinking about your own experiences...

(ITEMS SCRAMBLED)

32. As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? First, (INSERT)? IF YES ASK: Was this a serious problem, or not?
 Next, (INSERT NEXT ITEM)? IF YES ASK: Was this a serious problem, or not?
 READ IF NECESSARY: As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced this problem, or not?

	Yes, serious problem	Yes, not a serious problem	No, not a problem	Don't know	Refused
a. Problems paying for health care and health insurance	25	12	63	*	--
b. Problems paying for gas	27	17	56	*	*
c. Problems getting a good-paying job or raise in pay	30	14	56	*	*
d. Problems paying your rent or mortgage	19	10	71	*	*
e. Losing money in the stock market	29	22	48	1	*
f. Problems with credit card debt or other personal debt	20	13	66	*	*
g. Problems paying for food	17	12	70	*	*
h. Losing a job	21	5	74	*	*

32. Combo Table based on total

64 Any of these was a serious problem
36 None of these was a serious problem
1 Don't know/refused

33. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: 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/Medical])?

84 Yes, covered
16 No, not covered
***** Don't know
-- Refused

34. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your or your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/Medi-CAL), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?
(ENTER ONE ONLY)

Based on total covered by health insurance (N=1459)

58	Plan through you/your spouse's employer
9	Plan you purchased yourself
19	Medicare
6	Medicaid/Medi-CAL
4	Some other government program
2	Plan through parents employer
1	Somewhere else
1	Don't know
*	Refused

- 33/34. Combo table based on total

84	Covered by any form of health insurance
49	Plan through you/your spouse's employer
8	Plan you purchased yourself
16	Medicare
5	Medicaid/Medi-CAL
3	Some other government program
2	Plan through parents employer
1	Somewhere else
1	Don't know/refused
16	No, not covered
*	Don't know
--	Refused

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

23	Excellent
30	Very good
25	Good
15	Fair
7	Poor
*	Don't know
--	Refused

36. Do you currently take any prescription medicine on a daily basis, or not?

52	Yes
48	No
--	Don't know
*	Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS:

READ: Now for classification purposes only...

(ITEMS IN PARENTHESES ROTATED)

D02. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

(INTERVIEWER IF REFUSED READ: We understand and respect that this information is private, we ask only for research purposes, and all your answers are confidential.)

38	Democrat
25	Republican
31	Independent
2	Something else
2	Don't know
1	Refused

(ITEMS IN PARENTHESES ROTATED IN SAME ORDER AS Q.D02)

D02a. Do you lean more towards the: (Democratic) or (Republican) Party?

Based on total registered voters who are independent, DK, or refused (N=500)

40	Democrat
30	Republican
22	Neither
6	Don't know
2	Refused

D02/D02a. Combo Table based on total

52	Democrat/lean Democrat
36	Republican/lean Republican
8	Independent
1	Neither
2	Something else
1	Don't know
*	Refused

(OPTIONS ROTATED 1-3/ 3-1)

D04. Would you say your views on most political matters are...?

(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

21	Liberal
36	Moderate
39	Conservative
1	(vol.) Don't think in those terms
1	Don't know
*	Refused

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

55	Married
7	Living with a partner
2	Separated
10	Divorced
7	Widowed
18	Never been married
*	Don't know
*	Refused

D06. Do you have any children under 18 living in your household, or not?

39	Yes
61	No
--	Don't know
*	Refused

D07. What is your age?

D07a. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of ...? (READ LIST)

22	18-29
37	30-44
24	45-64
16	65+
*	Refused

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

49	High school grad or less (NET)
3	None, or grade 1-8
11	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
31	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
4	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
24	Some college
27	College graduate+
17	College graduate (B.S., B.A, or other 4-year degree)
9	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards master's degree, or Ph.D; law or medical school)
*	Don't know/no opinion
*	NA/Refused

D09. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

13 Yes
86 No
* Don't know
* Refused

D10. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race?
(IF RESP SAYS "HISPANIC" OR "LATINO" ASK: Do you consider yourself a
WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?)

77 White
13 Black
2 Asian
6 Some other race
* Don't know
1 Refused

D9/d10 Race/Ethnicity Summary Table

68 White (non-Hispanic)
11 Black/African American (non-Hispanic)
2 Asian American (non-Hispanic)
13 Hispanic (NET)
4 Some other race
* Don't know
* Refused

D11. Last year, that is in 2007, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? (READ LIST)

41 Less than \$40K (NET)
9 Less than \$15K
7 \$15K but less than \$20K
6 \$20K but less than \$25K
5 \$25K but less than \$30K
12 \$30K but less than \$40K
1 Less than \$40K (unspecified)
52 \$40K+ (NET)
7 \$40K but less than \$50K
8 \$50K but less than \$60K
9 \$60K but less than \$75K
12 \$75K but less than \$100K
13 \$100K+
3 \$40K+ (unspecified)
4 Don't know
4 Refused

E. RESPONDENT GENDER

48	Male
52	Female

D13. INTERVIEWER: RECORD LANGUAGE OF INTERVIEW

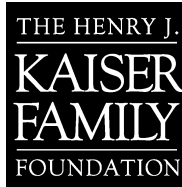
4	Predominately Spanish (NET)
4	All Spanish
--	Mostly Spanish
--	Both Spanish and English equally
96	Predominately English (NET)
*	Mostly English
96	All English

D14. REGION

18	Northeast
22	North Central
37	South
23	West

D15. METRO STATUS

32	Urban
43	Suburban
26	Rural



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