

Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: June 2009

June 2009

Methodology

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* 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 June 1 through June 8, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,205 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (804) and cell phone (401, including 157 who had no landline telephone) 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. 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.

Trends in this document come from surveys listed on the last page.

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. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right-- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Just about always	9	6
Most of the time	24	26
Only some of the time	53	56
None of the time/Never (VOL.)	11	10
Don't know/Refused	3	3

2. I'm going to read you a list of some different things the new president and Congress might try to act on this 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 AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important?

		<u>One of their TOP priorities</u>	<u>Very important but not a top priority</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Improving the country's economic and job situation ¹						
	06/09	60	30	5	3	1
	04/09	66	26	4	3	1
	02/09	71	24	3	1	1
	12/08	73	21	4	2	*
b. Reforming health care						
	06/09	44	32	12	9	2
	04/09	43	31	15	9	1
	02/09	39	38	14	8	1
	12/08	43	34	15	8	1
c. Making Medicare and Social Security more financially sound						
	06/09	47	38	10	4	1
	04/09	46	37	12	4	1
	02/09	49	37	11	2	1
Items d-f based on Form A half sample (n=634)						
d. Reducing the federal budget deficit						
	06/09	39	37	14	6	4
	04/09	45	34	15	4	2
	02/09	36	41	16	5	3
	12/08	39	37	18	6	1

Continued on next page

¹ 12/08 and 2/09 trend wording read "Improving the country's economic situation".

Q.2 continued

		<u>One of their TOP priorities</u>	<u>Very important but not a top priority</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
e. Working to create more clean energy sources						
	06/09	30	39	21	9	1
	04/09	26	42	22	10	1
	02/09	31	41	20	7	1
	12/08	36	36	21	6	*
f. Fighting terrorism						
	06/09	44	34	13	7	2
	04/09	43	37	13	7	1
	02/09	42	41	12	4	1
	12/08	48	36	13	2	*
Items g-h based on Form B half sample (n=571)						
g. Improving public schools ²						
	06/09	37	44	12	5	2
	04/09	38	40	16	5	2
	02/09	35	38	19	6	1
	12/08	37	40	14	7	*
h. Dealing with continued conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan						
	06/09	31	32	19	14	4
	04/09	31	35	21	10	3

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

3. Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country (we cannot afford to take on health care reform right now) OR (it is more important than ever to take on health care reform now)? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>6/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>	<u>10/08</u>
We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now	35	37	34	37	34
It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now	61	59	62	61	62
Don't know/Refused	4	4	4	2	5

² 12/08 and 2/09 trend wording read "Providing more support to improve public schools."

4. Do you think (INSERT AND ROTATE) would be (better off) or (worse off) if the President and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>	<u>Wouldn't make much difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) It depends</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>	
a. You and your family						
	06/09	39	16	36	3	5
	04/09	43	14	36	4	4
	02/09	38	11	43	4	3
b. The country as a whole						
	06/09	57	16	19	3	5
	04/09	56	15	21	3	5
	02/09	59	12	19	5	5

Note: Americans' expectations of the effect of the Clinton Health Care Reform Plan on them, seven months after the plan's introduction

Effect on you personally: Worse off (37%) No difference (40%) Better off (19%) Don't know (4%)

Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll, 16 April 1994

ROTATE QUESTIONS 5 AND 6

5. Which comes closer to your opinion? (READ AND ROTATE)

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without spending more money to do it	60	58
To make any real reforms to the health care system, policymakers will need to spend more money, either by raising some taxes, taking from other programs or increasing the deficit	34	36
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	6

ROTATE QUESTIONS 5 AND 6

6. Which comes closer to your opinion? (READ AND ROTATE)

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without changing the existing health care arrangements of people like yourself	49	56
Making any real reforms to the health care system will probably require people like yourself to change your existing health care arrangements	41	37
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	10	8

7. 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?

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Yes, would	41	47
No, would not	54	49
Don't know/Refused	5	4

8. To the best of your knowledge, do you think each of the following groups ARE or ARE NOT supporting the president and Congress' efforts to reform health care this year? (First/Next,) (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS) READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Do you think (INSERT ITEM) ARE or ARE NOT supporting the president and Congress' efforts to reform health care this year?

		<u>Are supporting efforts</u>	<u>Are not supporting efforts</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Items a-d based on Form A half sample (n=634)</i>				
a. Big business groups				
	06/09	20	64	17
b. Pharmaceutical and drug companies				
	06/09	27	58	14
c. Hospital groups				
	06/09	40	44	16
d. Labor unions				
	06/09	46	34	21
<i>Items e-h based on Form B half sample (n=571)</i>				
e. Small business groups				
	06/09	38	49	13
f. Health insurance companies				
	06/09	27	62	11
g. Doctors groups				
	06/09	31	54	15
h. Consumer groups				
	06/09	44	34	22

9. Now 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 AND RANDOMIZE). Do you favor or oppose this? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>what</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	
Items c-e based on Form A half sample (n=634)									
Items f-h based on Form B half sample (n=571)									
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								
		06/09	69	42	27	28	16	11	3
		04/09	71	44	27	25	14	11	4
		12/08	71	47	24	26	15	11	4
b.	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								
		06/09	71	42	29	26	16	10	3
		04/09	72	48	24	25	13	13	3
		12/08	67	40	27	31	18	13	2
c.	Offering tax credits to help people buy private health insurance								
		06/09	69	41	28	28	14	14	3
		04/09	67	36	31	29	13	17	4
		12/08	65	33	32	33	17	16	2
		09/08	65	-	-	27	-	-	8
d.	Expanding Medicare to cover people between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have health insurance								
		06/09	75	53	22	23	13	9	2
		04/09	79	53	26	18	9	9	3
		12/08	76	47	29	22	11	11	2
		09/08	70	-	-	24	-	-	5
e.	Creating a public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans								
		06/09	68	40	27	28	17	11	4
		04/09	67	34	33	29	15	14	5
f.	Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program								
		06/09	75	46	29	22	12	10	3
		04/09	77	51	26	20	10	10	2
		12/08	73	43	30	25	11	14	2

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Q.9 continued

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
g. Having a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan								
	06/09	47	28	19	49	36	14	4
	04/09	49	29	19	47	30	17	4
	12/08	46	28	18	53	39	14	2
h. Creating a public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans								
	06/09	65	32	33	29	17	12	6

10. 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 now oppose that proposal?

Based on those who favor requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor	41	39	41
Oppose	52	56	55
Don't know/Refused	7	5	4
	(n=797)	(n=797)	(n=560)

9a/10. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund	28	27	29
Oppose requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund	64	65	64
Originally	28	25	25
Once heard argument	36	40	39
Don't know/Refused	8	7	7

11. Earlier you said you opposed requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers. What if you heard that this would be more fair because today some employers pay for health insurance and some do not? Would you still oppose that proposal, or would you now favor that proposal?

Based on those who oppose requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Still oppose	67	66
Favor	27	28
Don't know/Refused	6	7
	(n=362)	(n=351)

9a/11. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Favor requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund	76	78
Originally	69	71
Once heard argument	7	7
Still oppose requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund	19	17
Don't know/Refused	5	5

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 those who favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor	40	28
Oppose	55	69
Don't know/Refused	5	2
	(n=818)	(n=544)

9b/12. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source	29	19
Oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance	64	78
Originally	26	31
Once heard argument	39	47
Don't know/Refused	7	4

13. Earlier you said you opposed requiring all Americans to have health insurance. What if you heard that without such a requirement, insurance companies would still be allowed to deny coverage to people who are sick? Would you still oppose that proposal, or would you now favor that proposal?

Based on those who oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source (n=345)

	<u>06/09</u>
Still oppose	66
Favor	26
Don't know/Refused	9

9b/13. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>
Favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source	78
Originally	71
Once heard argument	7
Still oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance	17
Don't know/Refused	5

14. During the past seven days, did you see, hear or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system?

	<u>6/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
Yes	21	20	40
No	78	79	58
Don't know/Refused	1	1	2

- 14a. Did these advertisements make you more or less likely to believe that major changes are needed in the health care system, or did these advertisements not have much effect either way?

Based on those who saw, heard or read ads related to health care reform

	<u>6/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
More likely	33	53
Less likely	14	5
No effect either way	52	42
Don't know/Refused	1	0
	(n=265)	(n=480)

14/14a. Summary Table based on total

	<u>6/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
More likely	7	21
Less likely	3	2
No effect either way	11	17
Don't know/Not aware of ads	79	60

14b. As far as you could tell, were those ads IN FAVOR OF passing some sort of health care reform this year, or OPPOSED to passing some sort of health care reform this year?

Based on those who saw, heard or read ads related to health care reform (n=265)

	<u>6/09</u>
In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	62
Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	26
Don't know/Refused	12

14/14b. Summary Table based on total

	<u>6/09</u>
In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	13
Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	5
Don't know/Not aware of ads	82

15. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured. How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE - ALWAYS ASK ITEM d LAST)? READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Would you favor or oppose this to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
a. Increasing the cigarette tax								
	06/09	68	54	14	30	21	9	1
	04/09	65	51	14	34	26	9	1
<i>Compare to:</i>	12/08	72	63	9	27	22	5	1
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 increasing the cigarette tax.								
b. Increasing income taxes for all those who pay income taxes								
	06/09	29	11	19	67	50	17	3
	04/09	28	12	16	70	51	19	2
<i>Compare to:</i>	12/08	36	13	23	62	44	18	2
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 increasing income taxes for all those who pay income taxes.								

Continued on next page

Q.15 continued

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		Total	Strongly	Some- what	Total	Strongly	Some- what	
c. Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year								
	06/09	68	49	19	30	19	11	2
	04/09	71	49	22	28	18	10	1
<i>Compare to:</i>	12/08	70	51	19	27	19	8	2
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 increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year.								
Item d always asked last								
d. Increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks ³								
	06/09	52	31	22	44	26	18	3
	04/09	46	23	23	53	32	21	1
e. Increasing taxes on alcohol, wine and beer								
	06/09	68	48	19	31	20	11	2
	04/09	68	46	22	31	19	12	1
f. Increasing taxes on unhealthy snack foods								
	06/09	55	34	21	42	25	17	3
	04/09	52	28	24	46	29	17	2

16. Earlier you said you favored increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks. What if you heard that this kind of tax increase would hit low income people the hardest. Would you still favor increasing taxes on soda and soft drinks, or would you now oppose the increase?

Based on those who favor increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks (n=635)

	06/09
Still favor	74
Oppose	23
Don't know/Refused	3

15d/16. Summary Table based on total

	06/09
Still favor increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks	39
Oppose increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks	56
Originally	44
Once heard argument	12

³ April 2009 wording read: "Increasing taxes on soda and soft drinks."

17. Earlier you said you opposed increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks. What if you heard that this kind of tax increase would raise money for health care reform while also tackling the health problems that stem from being overweight? Would you still oppose increasing taxes on soda and soft drinks, or would you now favor the tax increase?

Based on those who oppose increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks (n=530)

	<u>06/09</u>
Still oppose	73
Favor	25
Don't know/Refused	3

15d/17. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>
Favor increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks	63
Originally	52
Once heard argument	11
Still oppose increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks	32
Don't know/Refused	4

18. Currently, the government determines how much doctors and hospitals get paid to treat people on Medicare. Would you favor or oppose limiting future increases in these payments as a way to help pay for health care reform?

	<u>06/09</u>
Favor	53
Oppose	37
Don't know/Refused	10

19. If you had to get health insurance on your own, how helpful would you find an independent organization or exchange that provides a range of health insurance plans for you to choose from while also guaranteeing that participating plans would not deny coverage to those with pre-existing conditions or charge higher premiums to those who are in poorer health – do you think it would be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful to you?

Based on Form A half sample

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>08/08³</u>
Very helpful	31	32
Somewhat helpful	39	39
Not too helpful	14	7
Not at all helpful	13	13
Don't know/Refused	3	8
	(n=634)	(n=1,517)

³ Trend wording read “If you had to get health insurance on your own, how helpful would you find an independent organization that provides a range of health insurance plans for you to choose from?” Trend based on total sample.

20. If you had to get health insurance on your own, how helpful would you find an independent organization or exchange that provides a range of health insurance plans approved by the government – do you think it would be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful to you?

Based on Form B half sample (n=571)

	<u>06/09</u>
Very helpful	27
Somewhat helpful	43
Not too helpful	11
Not at all helpful	15
Don't know/Refused	3

21. Right now, workers do not pay taxes on the money that their employer puts into their health insurance benefits. Some policymakers are proposing that workers with the most generous health care benefits SHOULD pay taxes on a share of the money the employer puts into that health insurance, with those taxes helping to pay for health care reform including covering more of the uninsured. Do you favor or oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
06/09	40	17	23	54	35	19	6
04/09	41	17	24	52	36	16	6
12/08 ⁴	39	17	22	58	43	15	3

⁴ Question wording: 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?

22. What if you heard that the current policy (INSERT AND ROTATE). Would you still oppose changing the tax treatment of the health insurance benefits people get at work, or would you now favor it?

Based on those who oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage

		<u>Still oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a. is unfair because, right now, those Americans who buy their own health insurance instead of getting it through an employer don't get a tax break	06/09	67	26	8	(n=674)
	04/09	61	29	10	(n=688)
b. is unfair because higher-wage workers get a bigger tax break than lower-wage workers	06/09	67	26	7	
	04/09	70	22	8	

21/22a. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Favor changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	54	57
Originally	40	41
Once heard argument (Is unfair because, right now, those Americans who buy their own health insurance instead of getting it through an employer don't get a tax break)	14	15
Still oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	36	32
Don't know/Refused	10	11

21/22b. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Favor changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	54	53
Originally	40	41
Once heard argument (Is unfair because higher-wage workers get a bigger tax break than lower-wage workers)	14	12
Still oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	36	37
Don't know/Refused	10	10

23. What if you heard that changing the tax treatment of workers' health benefits would (INSERT AND ROTATE)? Would you still favor changing it, or would you now oppose it?

Based on those who favor changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage

		<u>Still favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a. mean fewer employers would offer health insurance	06/09	48	47	5	(n=451)
	04/09	38	55	7	(n=434)
b. be unfair because it is taking away a benefit that people accepted in place of higher wages	06/09	53	40	7	

21/23a. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Still favor changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	19	16
Oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	73	75
Originally	54	52
Once heard argument (Would mean fewer employers would offer health insurance)	19	23
Don't know/Refused	8	9

21/23b. Summary Table based on total

	<u>06/09</u>
Still favor changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	21
Oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage	70
Originally	54
Once heard argument (Would be unfair because it is taking away a benefit that people accepted in place of higher wages)	16
Don't know/Refused	9

D2. 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/Medi-CAL])?

	<u>06/09</u>
Covered by health insurance	77
Not covered by health insurance	22
Don't know/Refused	*

D2a. 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?

Based on those who are insured (n=987)

	<u>06/09</u>
Plan through your/your spouse's employer	52
Plan you purchased yourself	13
Medicare	20
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	5
Some other government program	6
Somewhere else	3
Don't know/Refused	1

24. Do you think your health insurance plan would be considered among the most generous and be subject to the new tax, or not?

Based on those who have employer sponsored health insurance

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Yes	41	38
No	45	51
Don't know/Refused	14	11
	(n=509)	(n=500)

25. Have you or your family experienced any of the following problems as a result of the economic downturn, or not? First, (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? READ IF NECESSARY: As a result of the economic downturn, have you or your family [INSERT AND RANDOMIZE], or not? IF YES ASK: Was this a serious problem, or not?⁵

		Yes, this happened, and was <u>a serious problem</u>	Yes, this happened and was not a <u>serious problem</u>	No, this did not <u>happen</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a. Had problems paying for health care and health insurance					
	06/09	19	6	74	1
	04/09	15	11	73	*
	02/09	16	8	75	1
	12/08	25	12	63	*
	10/08	28	15	57	*
	09/08	30	10	59	*
	07/08	24	10	66	1
	06/08	25	12	63	*
	04/08	28	14	58	1
b. Had problems paying for gas					
	06/09	18	14	67	1
	04/09	15	10	75	*
	02/09	20	13	67	*
	12/08	27	17	56	*
	10/08	39	19	43	*
	09/08	39	18	42	*
	07/08	37	19	43	*
	06/08	43	19	38	*
	04/08	44	20	35	*

Continued on next page

⁵ In surveys prior to 02/09, question read “As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? Was this a serious problem, or not?”

Q.25 continued

		Yes, this happened, and was <u>a serious problem</u>	Yes, this happened and was not a <u>serious problem</u>	No, this did not <u>happen</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
c. Had problems getting a good-paying job or a raise in pay					
	06/09	24	13	63	1
	04/09	26	15	58	1
	02/09	27	12	59	2
	12/08	30	14	56	*
	10/08	35	11	52	2
	09/08	33	11	56	1
	07/08	26	10	62	1
	06/08	27	11	61	1
	04/08	29	11	59	1
d. Had problems paying your rent or mortgage					
	06/09	19	9	71	*
	04/09	17	8	75	-
	02/09	18	7	75	*
	12/08	19	10	71	*
	10/08	21	12	67	*
	09/08	21	8	71	*
	07/08	15	8	76	*
	06/08	14	8	77	*
	04/08	19	10	70	1
e. Lost money in the stock market					
	06/09	23	21	55	1
	04/09	23	23	53	1
	02/09	27	21	51	1
	12/08	29	22	48	1
	10/08	31	22	45	2
	09/08	19	18	62	2
	07/08	15	21	63	1
	06/08	15	18	67	1
	04/08	16	19	63	2

Continued on next page

Q.25 continued

		Yes, this happened, and was <u>a serious problem</u>	Yes, this happened and was not a <u>serious problem</u>	No, this did not <u>happen</u>	DK/ Ref
f. Had problems with credit card debt or other personal debt					
	06/09	18	11	70	1
	04/09	15	12	73	*
	02/09	18	10	72	*
	12/08	20	13	66	*
	10/08	22	12	65	*
	09/08	18	12	69	1
	07/08	16	9	74	*
	06/08	16	10	73	*
	04/08	18	11	71	*
g. Had problems paying for food					
	06/09	13	10	77	1
	04/09	11	8	81	-
	02/09	13	9	77	*
	12/08	17	12	70	*
	10/08	22	14	63	*
	09/08	20	16	64	*
	07/08	18	14	68	*
	06/08	19	14	67	*
	04/08	18	15	66	*
h. Lost a job					
	06/09	17	5	77	1
	04/09	18	8	74	1
	02/09	19	4	77	1
i. Had work hours cut or had to take a pay cut					
	06/09	23	11	66	1
	04/09	25	13	61	1
	02/09	23	10	66	2
j. Lost health insurance coverage					
	06/09	12	4	82	1
	04/09	12	5	82	1
	02/09	12	4	83	1
k. Delayed retirement or returned to work from retirement					
	06/09	7	7	85	1
	04/09	7	7	84	2

26. In the past 12 months, did you or another family member in your household have any problems paying medical bills, or not?

	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>10/08</u>	<u>09/06</u>	<u>04/05</u>	<u>04/03*</u>	<u>03/02</u>	<u>01/00</u>	<u>05/97</u>
Yes	26	26	22	32	25	23	19	21	20	18
No	73	73	78	68	75	77	80	79	80	78
Don't know/ Refused	1	1	1	1	*	-	*	-	*	3

Note: slight variations in question wording

*Note: in 2003, sample included only adults ages 18-64

27. In the past 12 months, have you or another family member living in your household... (READ AND RANDOMIZE) because of the COST, or not?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Skipped a recommended medical test or treatment	06/09	27	73	1
	04/09	27	73	*
	02/09	23	77	*
	10/08	31	68	*
	04/08	23	76	*
	04/05	17	82	*
	01/00	15	85	-
b. Not filled a prescription for a medicine	06/09	26	74	1
	04/09	29	71	1
	02/09	21	78	*
	10/08	27	72	*
	04/08	22	78	*
	04/05	20	79	*
	01/00	13	87	*
c. Cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine	06/09	19	80	1
	04/09	18	81	1
	02/09	15	85	*
	10/08	22	78	*
	04/08	18	81	*
	04/05	16	84	*

Continued on next page

Q.27 continued

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
d. Had problems getting mental health care	06/09	8	91	1
	04/09	8	90	2
	02/09	7	92	*
	10/08	12	87	2
	04/08	8	90	2
	04/05	7	93	1
	01/00	4	96	1
e. Put off or postponed getting health care you needed	06/09	31	68	1
	04/09	33	67	*
	02/09	27	72	1
	10/08	36	64	*
	04/08	29	70	1
f. Skipped dental care or checkups	06/09	35	64	1
	04/09	36	64	*
	02/09	34	66	*
g. Relied on home remedies or over the counter drugs instead of going to see a doctor	06/09	37	63	1
	04/09	42	57	1
	02/09	35	65	1

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

Male	49
Female	51

D3. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	19
Very good	31
Good	32
Only fair	13
Poor	4
Don't know/Refused	1

D4. What is your age? [ENTER AGE] / ASK IF REFUSED:

D4a. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)

18-29	20
30-49	36
50-64	27
65 and older	17
Undesignated	*

D5. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	53
Living with a partner	8
Widowed	7
Divorced	10
Separated	3
Never been married	19
Don't know/Refused	1

D6.	In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?	
	Republican	23
	Democratic	37
	Independent	31
	Or What? (<i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here)	5
	Don't know/Refused	5
D7.	Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?	
	Liberal	22
	Moderate	34
	Conservative	37
	Don't know/Refused	7
D8.	What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)	
	None, or grade 1-8	3
	High School incomplete (grade 9-11)	10
	High School graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	31
	Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	4
	Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	23
	College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	18
	Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	9
	Don't know/Refused	1
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?	
	Self-employed	11
	Full-time for an employer	38
	Part-time for an employer	12
	Retired	18
	Not employed	15
	Homemaker (VOL.)	3
	Student (VOL.)	1
	Disabled (VOL.)	3
	Don't know/Refused	1

D10. Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?

Yes	33
No	67
Don't know/Refused	1

D11. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D12. 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?)

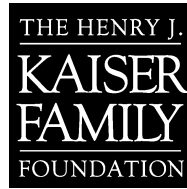
White, non-Hispanic	69
Total non-White	29
Black or African-American	11
Hispanic	13
Asian	3
Other mixed race	1
Undesignated	2

D13. Last year -- that is, in 2008 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	15
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	13
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	12
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	11
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	15

Trend Information:

- 04/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 2-8, 2009)
- 02/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 3-12, 2009)
- 12/08: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress* (December 4-14, 2008)
- 10/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 8-13, 2008)
- 09/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (September 8-13, 2008)
- 07/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (July 29-August 6, 2008)
- 06/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (June 3-8, 2008)
- 04/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (April 3-13, 2008)
- 09/06: ABC News/Kaiser Family Foundation/*USA Today Health Care in American 2006 Survey* (September 7-12, 2006)
- 04/05: *USA Today*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University *Health Care Costs Survey* (April 25-June 9, 2005)
- 04/03: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Insurance Survey* (April 30-July 20, 2003)
- 03/02: National Public Radio/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government *National Survey on Health Care* (March 28-May 1, 2002)
- 01/00: *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*/Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of the Uninsured* (January 10-February 9, 2000)
- 05/97: *U.S. News and World Report*/Kaiser Family Foundation *Americans' Report Card on Health* (May 31-July 19, 1997)
- 09/93: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health: *Survey on Health Care Issues* (September 30 – October 5, 1993)



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