

**Topline**

***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: August 2009***

**August 2009**

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## **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 August 4 through August 11, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (801) and cell phone (402, including 123 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. 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>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <u>06/09</u> | <u>04/09</u> | <u>02/09</u> | <u>12/08</u> | <u>10/08</u> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now | 53           | 56           | 61           | 59           | 62           | 61           | 62           |
| We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now         | 42           | 39           | 35           | 37           | 34           | 37           | 34           |
| Don't know/Refused   | 6            | 5            | 4            | 4            | 4            | 2            | 5            |

2. How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform? Very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not at all?

|                                  | <u>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <u>04/09</u> | <u>02/09</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Very closely                     | 33           | 27           | 25           | 23           |
| Somewhat closely                 | 45           | 46           | 47           | 46           |
| Not too closely                  | 15           | 19           | 21           | 21           |
| Not at all                       | 7            | 7            | 6            | 9            |
| (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused | 1            | 1            | *            | 1            |

3. Do you think (INSERT AND ROTATE A AND B. ALWAYS ASK C LAST) 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              | 08/09 | 36                | 31               | 27                                   | 2                        | 4             |
|                                     | 07/09 | 39                | 21               | 32                                   | 4                        | 3             |
|                                     | 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           | 08/09 | 45                | 34               | 14                                   | 3                        | 4             |
|                                     | 07/09 | 51                | 23               | 16                                   | 4                        | 6             |
|                                     | 06/09 | 57                | 16               | 19                                   | 3                        | 5             |
|                                     | 04/09 | 56                | 15               | 21                                   | 3                        | 5             |
|                                     | 02/09 | 59                | 12               | 19                                   | 5                        | 5             |
| c. The Medicare program for seniors | 08/09 | 38                | 30               | 19                                   | 3                        | 10            |

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.

4. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

*Based on half sample (n=600)*

|  |       | <u>Better</u> | <u>Worse</u> | <u>Would stay<br/>about the same</u> | <u>It<br/>depends<br/>(VOL.)</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref</u> |
|--|-------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. The quality of your own health care                         |       |               |              |                                      |                                  |                    |
|  | 08/09 | 29            | 31           | 36                                   | 2                                | 3                  |
|  | 07/09 | 30            | 25           | 40                                   | 3                                | 3                  |
|  | 02/09 | 29            | 14           | 52                                   | 2                                | 2                  |
| b. The cost of health care for you and your family             |       |               |              |                                      |                                  |                    |
|  | 08/09 | 34            | 30           | 30                                   | 2                                | 4                  |
|  | 07/09 | 35            | 25           | 32                                   | 4                                | 5                  |
|  | 02/09 | 39            | 16           | 39                                   | 2                                | 5                  |
| c. Your choice of doctors and hospitals                        |       |               |              |                                      |                                  |                    |
|  | 08/09 | 21            | 33           | 40                                   | 2                                | 3                  |
|  | 07/09 | 25            | 26           | 43                                   | 2                                | 4                  |
|  | 02/09 | 24            | 18           | 52                                   | 3                                | 4                  |
| d. Your wait times for non-emergency procedures and treatments |       |               |              |                                      |                                  |                    |
|  | 08/09 | 17            | 42           | 34                                   | 2                                | 4                  |
|  | 07/09 | 19            | 34           | 40                                   | 3                                | 4                  |
|  | 02/09 | 23            | 25           | 47                                   | 2                                | 4                  |

5. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

*Based on half sample (n=603)*

|   |       | <u>Better</u> | <u>Worse</u> | <u>Would stay<br/>about the same</u> | <u>It<br/>depends<br/>(VOL.)</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref</u> |
|---|-------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. The quality of health care in America                        | 08/09 | 37            | 36           | 22                                   | 2                                | 3                  |
|   | 07/09 | 41            | 25           | 28                                   | 3                                | 4                  |
|   | 02/09 | 47            | 17           | 28                                   | 3                                | 4                  |
| b. The overall cost of health care                              | 08/09 | 40            | 35           | 21                                   | 2                                | 2                  |
|   | 07/09 | 41            | 29           | 22                                   | 4                                | 4                  |
|   | 02/09 | 46            | 19           | 23                                   | 4                                | 6                  |
| c. The average patient's choice of doctors<br>and hospitals     | 08/09 | 26            | 36           | 33                                   | 2                                | 3                  |
|   | 07/09 | 28            | 28           | 36                                   | 3                                | 5                  |
|   | 02/09 | 35            | 22           | 32                                   | 5                                | 6                  |
| d. Waiting times for non-emergency<br>procedures and treatments | 08/09 | 18            | 41           | 35                                   | 2                                | 3                  |
|   | 07/09 | 23            | 33           | 38                                   | 2                                | 5                  |
|   | 02/09 | 24            | 27           | 39                                   | 3                                | 7                  |

5e. And if the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think the nation would end up spending more on health care, less on health care, or would it stay about the same?

|                                  | <u>08/09</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| More                             | 61           |
| Less                             | 16           |
| It would stay about the same     | 17           |
| It depends (VOL.)                | 2            |
| (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused | 4            |

5e. And if the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think the nation would end up spending more on health care, less on health care, or would it stay about the same?

5f. Do you think (IF Q5e=1: spending more on health care/IF Q5e=2: spending less on health care/IF Q5e=3: keeping health care spending about the same) is mostly a good thing or mostly a bad thing for the country?

|                              | <u>08/09</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| End up spending more         | 61           |
| Good thing                   | 23           |
| Bad thing                    | 33           |
| Neither/depends              | 3            |
| DK/Ref.                      | 2            |
| End up spending less         | 16           |
| Good thing                   | 12           |
| Bad thing                    | 4            |
| Neither/depends              | *            |
| DK/Ref.                      | *            |
| Keep spending about the same | 17           |
| Good thing                   | 11           |
| Bad thing                    | 4            |
| Neither/depends              | 1            |
| DK/Ref.                      | 1            |
| It depends (VOL.)            | 2            |
| Don't know/Refused           | 4            |

6. Which worries you more? (ROTATE)

|  | <u>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| That Congress and the president will pass a reform bill that won't be good for you and your family | 51           | 54           |
| That Congress and the president won't be able to pass health care reform this year                 | 39           | 39           |
| Neither (VOL.)   | 4            | 4            |
| (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused   | 6            | 3            |

7. Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own feelings about the health care reform plans being discussed in Washington. The first is [INSERT AND RANDOMIZE]. Does this describe your own feelings about the health care reform plans being discussed in Washington, or not?

|                |       | <u>Describes</u> | <u>Does not describe</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|----------------|-------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| a. Afraid      | 08/09 | 41               | 58                       | 1              |
| b. Pessimistic | 08/09 | 42               | 54                       | 4              |
| c. Confused    | 08/09 | 46               | 53                       | 2              |
| d. Hopeful     | 08/09 | 63               | 36                       | 1              |
| e. Optimistic  | 08/09 | 50               | 47                       | 3              |
| f. Frustrated  | 08/09 | 57               | 41                       | 2              |

8. Please tell me how important each of the following elements of health care reform currently being discussed is to you personally: very, somewhat, not too or not at all...First, (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE). READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: How important is that to you personally – is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

|  |       | <u>Very important</u> | <u>Somewhat important</u> | <u>Not too important</u> | <u>Not at all important</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|--|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| a. Helping Americans who haven't been able to afford health insurance to get coverage by expanding Medicaid and offering financial assistance to qualified families making up to \$88,000 per year who don't have coverage at work                   | 08/09 | 51                    | 29                        | 10                       | 8                           | 3              |
| b. Protecting consumers in the health insurance market by requiring insurance companies to cover people even if they are not in good health and stopping companies from dropping people or charging them higher rates when they become seriously ill | 08/09 | 66                    | 26                        | 4                        | 3                           | 2              |
| c. Reining in the amount of money the country spends on health care by changing the way doctors and hospitals deliver care and are paid  | 08/09 | 49                    | 35                        | 7                        | 5                           | 4              |
| d. Strengthening prevention programs that try to head off people's health problems before they occur   | 08/09 | 63                    | 28                        | 4                        | 4                           | 1              |

(ASK IF "VERY IMPORTANT" TO MORE THAN ONE ITEM ABOVE)

9. Of the things you said are very important, which do you think is the MOST IMPORTANT element of health care reform?

8/9. Very important/Most important element of health care reform summary table based on total (includes those who said only one item is "very important")

|  | <u>08/09</u> |
|--|--------------|
| Helping more Americans afford health care insurance                    | 32           |
| Protecting consumers in their dealings with health insurance companies | 24           |
| Strengthening prevention programs                                      | 19           |
| Reining in the amount of money the country spends on health care       | 9            |
| None of these/Something else (VOL.)                                    | 15           |
| (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused                                       | 2            |



10. 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>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <u>06/09</u> | <u>02/09</u> | <u>09/93</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yes                | 45           | 31           | 21           | 20           | 40           |
| No                 | 54           | 68           | 78           | 79           | 58           |
| Don't know/Refused | 1            | 2            | 1            | 1            | 2            |

11. 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? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

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

|   | <u>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <u>06/09</u> |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year | 40           | 47           | 62           |
| Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year  | 32           | 39           | 26           |
| Have seen both (VOL.)   | 21           | n/a          | n/a          |
| Don't know/Refused  | 7            | 14           | 12           |
|   | (n=590)      | (n=403)      | (n=265)      |

10/11. Summary Table based on total

|   | <u>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <u>06/09</u> |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Have seen ads   | 45           | 31           | 21           |
| In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year | 18           | 14           | 13           |
| Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year  | 15           | 12           | 5            |
| Have seen both (VOL.)   | 10           | n/a          | n/a          |
| Don't know  | 3            | 4            | 3            |
| Have not seen ads   | 54           | 68           | 78           |
| Don't know/Refused  | 1            | 2            | 1            |

12. 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/<br>Ref. |
|---|-------|-----------------|----------|---------------|------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|
|   |       | Total           | Strongly | Some-<br>what | Total            | Strongly | Some-<br>what |             |
| a. Creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans                   |       |                 |          |               |                  |          |               |             |
|   | 08/09 | 59              | 25       | 33            | 38               | 22       | 16            | 3           |
|   | 07/09 | 59              | 26       | 33            | 36               | 21       | 14            | 5           |
|   | 04/09 | 67              | 35       | 32            | 29               | 17       | 11            | 4           |
| <b>Items b-d based on half sample (n=600)</b>   |       |                 |          |               |                  |          |               |             |
| 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 |       |                 |          |               |                  |          |               |             |
|   | 08/09 | 68              | 42       | 26            | 29               | 15       | 14            | 3           |
|   | 07/09 | 68              | 37       | 30            | 29               | 15       | 13            | 4           |
|   | 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   |       |                 |          |               |                  |          |               |             |
|   | 08/09 | 70              | 33       | 37            | 26               | 11       | 15            | 4           |
|   | 07/09 | 69              | 30       | 39            | 28               | 14       | 14            | 3           |
|   | 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  |       |                 |          |               |                  |          |               |             |
|   | 08/09 | 75              | 46       | 29            | 22               | 13       | 9             | 3           |
|   | 07/09 | 77              | 44       | 33            | 21               | 11       | 10            | 2           |
|   | 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           |

*Continued on next page*

Q.12 continued

| <i>Items e-g based on half sample (n=603)</i>   |       | -----Favor----- |          |               | -----Oppose----- |          |               | DK/<br>Ref. |
|---|-------|-----------------|----------|---------------|------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|
|   |       | Total           | Strongly | Some-<br>what | Total            | Strongly | Some-<br>what |             |
| e. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program                      | 08/09 | 80              | 47       | 32            | 17               | 9        | 8             | 4           |
|   | 07/09 | 74              | 40       | 34            | 23               | 12       | 10            | 3           |
|   | 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           |
| f. Having a national health plan – or single-payer plan – in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan <sup>1</sup> | 08/09 | 48              | 24       | 24            | 49               | 34       | 14            | 3           |
|   | 07/09 | 50              | 24       | 27            | 44               | 27       | 17            | 5           |
|   | 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           |
| g. Requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund that will pay to cover those without insurance  | 08/09 | 68              | 38       | 30            | 28               | 15       | 13            | 4           |
|   | 07/09 | 64              | 29       | 35            | 33               | 18       | 15            | 3           |
|   | 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           |

13. Which worries you more? (ROTATE)

|   | 08/09 | 07/09 |
|---|-------|-------|
| That under a new health reform bill, government agencies would play too big a role in deciding what medical procedures people can or can't get? | 48    | 45    |
| That currently, insurance companies play too big a role in deciding what medical procedures people can or can't get, or                         | 38    | 36    |
| Both equally (VOL.)   | 9     | 12    |
| Neither (VOL.)  | 2     | 3     |
| (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused  | 3     | 4     |

<sup>1</sup> Trend wording read "Having a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan."

14. 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?

*Based on half sample (n=600)*

|                    | <u>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <u>06/09</u> | <u>12/08</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yes, willing       | 42           | 51           | 41           | 47           |
| No, not willing    | 55           | 44           | 54           | 49           |
| Don't know/Refused | 3            | 5            | 5            | 4            |

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)? 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?)

*Based on half sample (n=603)*

|   |       | -----Favor----- |                 |                       | -----Oppose----- |                 |                       | DK/<br>Ref. |
|---|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|   |       | <u>Total</u>    | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Some-<br/>what</u> | <u>Total</u>     | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Some-<br/>what</u> |             |
| a. Increasing the cigarette tax   | 08/09 | 63              | 45              | 18                    | 36               | 26              | 10                    | 2           |
|   | 07/09 | 65              | 43              | 21                    | 34               | 21              | 13                    | 1           |
|   | 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 people from families making more than \$350,000 a year and individuals making more than \$280,000 <sup>2</sup>   | 08/09 | 63              | 38              | 25                    | 34               | 20              | 14                    | 3           |
|   | 07/09 | 64              | 40              | 24                    | 33               | 22              | 11                    | 4           |
|   | 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. |       |                 |                 |                       |                  |                 |                       |             |

<sup>2</sup> Trend wording read “Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year.”

Q.15 continued

|  |       | -----Favor----- |                 |                       | -----Oppose----- |                 |                       | DK/<br>Ref. |
|--|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|  |       | <u>Total</u>    | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Some-<br/>what</u> | <u>Total</u>     | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Some-<br/>what</u> |             |
| c. Increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks   |       |                 |                 |                       |                  |                 |                       |             |
|  | 08/09 | 53              | 27              | 26                    | 44               | 26              | 18                    | 3           |
|  | 07/09 | 53              | 25              | 28                    | 45               | 27              | 18                    | 2           |
|  | 06/09 | 52              | 31              | 22                    | 44               | 26              | 18                    | 3           |
|  | 04/09 | 46              | 23              | 23                    | 53               | 32              | 21                    | 1           |
| d. Increasing taxes on alcohol, wine and beer  |       |                 |                 |                       |                  |                 |                       |             |
|  | 08/09 | 67              | 39              | 28                    | 32               | 21              | 10                    | 2           |
|  | 07/09 | 62              | 39              | 22                    | 37               | 24              | 13                    | 2           |
|  | 06/09 | 68              | 48              | 19                    | 31               | 20              | 11                    | 2           |
|  | 04/09 | 68              | 46              | 22                    | 31               | 19              | 12                    | 1           |
| e. Increasing taxes on unhealthy snack foods   |       |                 |                 |                       |                  |                 |                       |             |
|  | 08/09 | 51              | 25              | 25                    | 47               | 28              | 19                    | 2           |
|  | 07/09 | 55              | 30              | 25                    | 43               | 24              | 18                    | 2           |
|  | 06/09 | 55              | 34              | 21                    | 42               | 25              | 17                    | 3           |
|  | 04/09 | 52              | 28              | 24                    | 46               | 29              | 17                    | 2           |
| f. Limiting the amount of money higher income people can deduct from their taxes when they make contributions to charities |       |                 |                 |                       |                  |                 |                       |             |
|  | 08/09 | 49              | 25              | 24                    | 48               | 25              | 22                    | 3           |
| g. Creating a new tax on health insurance companies  |       |                 |                 |                       |                  |                 |                       |             |
|  | 08/09 | 44              | 17              | 27                    | 49               | 28              | 22                    | 7           |

16. 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----- |                 |                       | DK/<br>Ref. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|                             | <u>Total</u>    | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Some-<br/>what</u> | <u>Total</u>     | <u>Strongly</u> | <u>Some-<br/>what</u> |             |
| 08/09                       | 45              | 18              | 27                    | 50               | 32              | 18                    | 5           |
| 07/09                       | 41              | 16              | 25                    | 53               | 35              | 18                    | 6           |
| 06/09                       | 40              | 17              | 23                    | 54               | 35              | 19                    | 6           |
| 04/09                       | 41              | 17              | 24                    | 52               | 36              | 16                    | 6           |
| <i>Compare to:</i><br>12/08 | 39              | 17              | 22                    | 58               | 43              | 15                    | 3           |

(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?

17. 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>08/09</u> | <u>06/09</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Favor              | 47           | 53           |
| Oppose             | 48           | 37           |
| Don't know/Refused | 6            | 10           |

18. Which of the following do you think is the best way to pay doctors for the work they do:  
[ROTATE OPTIONS]

|   | <u>08/09</u> |
|---|--------------|
| Your doctor gets paid a fee each time they see you for each service they perform                                      | 44           |
| Your doctor gets paid a set amount for treating a specific health problem, no matter how many visits it might require | 27           |
| Your doctor gets paid a yearly amount for your care, regardless of how much care you receive                          | 22           |
| Doesn't matter/Wouldn't be much difference (VOL.)   | 3            |
| Don't know/Refused  | 3            |

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

|                     | <u>08/09</u> | <u>07/09</u> | <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> |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Yes                 | 24           | 21           | 26           | 26           | 22           | 32           | 25           | 23           | 19            | 21           |
| No                  | 76           | 79           | 73           | 73           | 78           | 68           | 75           | 77           | 80            | 79           |
| Don't know/ Refused | *            | *            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | *            | -            | *             | -            |

Note: slight variations in question wording

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

20. In the past twelve months, have you (INSERT. READ AND RANDOMIZE. ITEM “C” SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW ITEM “B”) because of medical bills, or not?

*Based on those who had problems paying medical bills in past 12 months*

|  |       | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> | <u>(N)</u> |
|--|-------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| a. Used up all or most of your savings                                 | 08/09 | 48         | 52        | 1             | (259)      |
|  | 02/09 | 58         | 41        | 1             | (237)      |
| b. Been unable to pay for basic necessities like food, heat or housing | 08/09 | 28         | 72        | -             |            |
|  | 02/09 | 31         | 67        | 2             |            |
| c. Had difficulty paying other bills                                   | 08/09 | 52         | 47        | *             |            |
|  | 02/09 | 63         | 37        | 1             |            |
| d. Borrowed money or gotten a loan or another mortgage on your home    | 08/09 | 24         | 76        | *             |            |
|  | 02/09 | 18         | 81        | 1             |            |
| e. Been contacted by a collection agency                               | 08/09 | 45         | 55        | -             |            |
|  | 02/09 | 57         | 43        | 1             |            |
| f. Declared bankruptcy   | 08/09 | 9          | 91        | -             |            |
|  | 02/09 | 4          | 96        | -             |            |

Q19/20 Combination Table based on total

|   | <u>08/09</u> | <u>02/09</u> |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Had problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months                                       | 24           | 22           |
| Had difficulty paying other bills because of medical bills                                    | 12           | 13           |
| Used up all or most savings because of medical bills  | 11           | 13           |
| Been contacted by a collection agency because of medical bills                                | 11           | 12           |
| Been unable to pay for basic necessities like food, heat, or housing because of medical bills | 7            | 7            |
| Borrowed money or gotten a loan or another mortgage because of medical bills                  | 6            | 4            |
| Declared bankruptcy because of medical bills  | 2            | 1            |
| Have done any of the above  | 19           | 19           |
| No problems paying medical bills  | 76           | 78           |
| Don't know/Refused  | *            | 1            |



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>08/09</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Covered by health insurance     | 81           |
| Not covered by health insurance | 19           |
| 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=1,032)***

|  | <u>08/09</u> |
|--|--------------|
| Plan through your/your spouse's employer | 57           |
| Plan you purchased yourself              | 11           |
| Medicare                                 | 20           |
| Medicaid/Medi-CAL                        | 5            |
| Some other government program            | 4            |
| Somewhere else                           | 2            |
| Don't know/Refused                       | 1            |

D2b. How would you rate your overall health insurance coverage--excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

***Based on those who are insured***

|                    | <u>08/09</u> | <u>06/08</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Excellent          | 36           | 32           |
| Good               | 54           | 55           |
| Not so good        | 5            | 8            |
| Poor               | 4            | 3            |
| Don't know/Refused | 1            | 1            |
|                    | (n=1,032)    | (n=1,096)    |

21. For each specific item I name, please tell me whether you are very satisfied with it, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. (First/Next)... [READ AND RANDOMIZE. ITEM “C” SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW ITEM “B”.] READ IF NECESSARY: Are you very satisfied with it, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

*Based on those who are insured*

|   |       | <u>Very satisfied</u> | <u>Somewhat satisfied</u> | <u>Somewhat dissatisfied</u> | <u>Very dissatisfied</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> | <u>(N)</u> |
|---|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| a. The quality of the health care you receive   |       |                       |                           |                              |                          |                |            |
|   | 08/09 | 66                    | 29                        | 3                            | 1                        | 1              | (1,032)    |
|   | 06/08 | 56                    | 33                        | 6                            | 5                        | 1              | (1,096)    |
|   | 09/06 | 56                    | 37                        | 4                            | 3                        | *              | (1,090)    |
| b. The amount you pay for your health insurance coverage                                |       |                       |                           |                              |                          |                |            |
|   | 08/09 | 42                    | 40                        | 10                           | 7                        | 2              |            |
| c. The amount you spend out-of-pocket on health care costs your insurance doesn't cover |       |                       |                           |                              |                          |                |            |
|   | 08/09 | 36                    | 35                        | 16                           | 11                       | 2              |            |
| d. The number and kind of treatments your health insurance will cover                   |       |                       |                           |                              |                          |                |            |
|   | 08/09 | 49                    | 38                        | 6                            | 5                        | 1              |            |
| e. The amount of paperwork and number of calls required to manage your health insurance |       |                       |                           |                              |                          |                |            |
|   | 08/09 | 49                    | 33                        | 10                           | 6                        | 2              |            |
| f. Your choice of doctors and hospitals   |       |                       |                           |                              |                          |                |            |
|   | 08/09 | 67                    | 25                        | 4                            | 3                        | 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. 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             | 10 |
| Full-time for an employer | 44 |
| Part-time for an employer | 12 |
| Retired                   | 18 |
| Not employed              | 11 |
| Homemaker (VOL.)          | 1  |
| Student (VOL.)            | 1  |
| Disabled (VOL.)           | 3  |
| Don't know/Refused        | *  |

### D4. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Excellent          | 23 |
| Very good          | 36 |
| Good               | 26 |
| Only fair          | 11 |
| Poor               | 4  |
| Don't know/Refused | 1  |

### D5. What is your age? [ENTER AGE] / ASK IF REFUSED:

#### D5a. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| 18-29        | 19 |
| 30-49        | 40 |
| 50-64        | 24 |
| 65 and older | 17 |

### D7. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Republican   | 21 |
| Democratic   | 39 |
| Independent  | 28 |
| Or What? ( <i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here) | 7  |
| Don't know/Refused                                     | 3  |

D8. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Liberal            | 24 |
| Moderate           | 37 |
| Conservative       | 34 |
| Don't know/Refused | 5  |

D9. 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)  | 9  |
| 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)  | 25 |
| 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) | 10 |
| Don't know/Refused   | *  |

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

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Yes                | 33 |
| No                 | 67 |
| Don't know/Refused | *  |

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?)

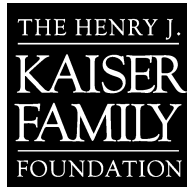
|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| White, non-Hispanic       | 69 |
| Total non-White           | 29 |
| Black or African-American | 11 |
| Hispanic                  | 13 |
| Asian                     | 3  |
| Other mixed race          | 2  |
| Undesignated              | 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               | 16 |
| \$20,000 to less than \$30,000   | 11 |
| \$30,000 to less than \$40,000   | 12 |
| \$40,000 to less than \$50,000   | 9  |
| \$50,000 to less than \$75,000   | 17 |
| \$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 | 13 |

Trend Information:

- 07/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 7-14, 2009)
- 06/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 1-8, 2009)
- 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)
- 06/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (June 3-8, 2008)
- 09/06: ABC News/Kaiser Family Foundation/USA Today *Health Care in America 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)



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