



Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: September 2009

September 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 September 11 through September 18, 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 147 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.

Question 1 and Question 2 rotated.

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>09/09</u>	<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	57	53	56	61	59	62	61	62
We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now	39	42	39	35	37	34	37	34
Don't know/Refused	4	6	5	4	4	4	2	5

2. Which comes closer to your opinion about what Congress and the president should do regarding health care reform this year? (READ OPTIONS 1-3 IN ORDER FOR HALF SAMPLE, IN REVERSE ORDER FOR OTHER HALF SAMPLE)

	<u>09/09</u>
They should continue trying to pass a major reform of the health care system	50
They should stop trying to pass a major reform this year and instead work on passing a more limited version	25
They should leave health care reform for another time	22
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3

3. 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>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
Very closely	36	33	27	25	23
Somewhat closely	45	45	46	47	46
Not too closely	15	15	19	21	21
Not at all	4	7	7	6	9
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*	1	1	*	1

4. 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						
	09/09	42	23	28	4	3
	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						
	09/09	53	26	14	4	4
	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. Seniors, that is those 65 years and older						
	09/09	46	25	20	3	6

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=649)

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of your own health care						
	09/09	31	21	42	2	4
	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						
	09/09	37	27	30	2	5
	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						
	09/09	22	26	46	2	3
	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						
	09/09	19	35	38	2	6
	08/09	17	42	34	2	4
	07/09	19	34	40	3	4
	02/09	23	25	47	2	4

6. 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=554)

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of health care in America						
	09/09	40	31	24	2	3
	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						
	09/09	45	31	16	2	6
	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 and hospitals						
	09/09	29	31	33	3	5
	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 procedures and treatments						
	09/09	20	40	31	2	6
	08/09	18	41	35	2	3
	07/09	23	33	38	2	5
	02/09	24	27	39	3	7

7. Which worries you more? (ROTATE)

	<u>09/09</u>	<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	51	54
That Congress and the president won't be able to pass health care reform this year	41	39	39
Neither (VOL.)	5	4	4
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	6	3

8. How much would you say you know about how the health care reform proposals being discussed in Congress would affect you and your family personally (READ)

	<u>09/09</u>
A lot	24
A fair amount	41
Only a little or	28
Nothing at all?	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

9. 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. Anxious	09/09	50	48	2
b. Confused	09/09	48	51	1
	08/09	46	53	2
c. Hopeful	09/09	68	31	1
	08/09	63	36	1
d. Optimistic	09/09	55	43	3
	08/09	50	47	3
e. Frustrated	09/09	58	41	1
	08/09	57	41	2
f. Angry	09/09	31	67	1
g. Positive	09/09	52	45	3

10. Would you say it is more important for Democrats in Congress to (pass health care reform this year, even if they can't get much Republican support), or more important to (get bipartisan, Republican support, even if that delays or stops the health care reform process for this year)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>09/09</u>
More important for Democrats in Congress to get bipartisan, Republican support	47
More important for Democrats in Congress to pass health care reform this year	42
(DO NOT READ) Neither/Don't want health care reform	6
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5

11. Many Republican members of Congress are opposing the health care reform proposals being discussed in Washington. Do you think they are opposed to these plans mainly (because they think they will be bad for the country) or mainly (for political reasons)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>09/09</u>
For political reasons	57
Because they think they will be bad for the country	31
Both (VOL.)	9
Neither/Other (VOL.)	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

12. 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>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
Yes	54	45	31	21	20	40
No	45	54	68	78	79	58
Don't know/Refused	1	1	2	1	1	2

13. 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>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Have seen ads in favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	35	40	47	62
Have seen ads opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	29	32	39	26
Have seen both ads in favor and opposed (VOL.)	33	21	n/a	n/a
Don't know/Refused	3	7	14	12
	(n=674)	(n=590)	(n=403)	(n=265)

12/13. Summary Table based on total

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Have seen ads related to health reform	54	45	31	21
In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	19	18	14	13
Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	16	15	12	5
Have seen both (VOL.)	18	10	n/a	n/a
Don't know if ads were in favor or opposed to reform	2	3	4	3
Have not seen ads	45	54	68	78
Don't know/Refused	1	1	2	1

14. Thinking of the news media's coverage of health care reform, would you say the mix of coverage has been mostly about (politics and controversies), mostly about (how policy reforms might affect your own family), or has been a balance of the two? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>09/09</u>
Mostly about politics and controversies	50
Mostly about how policy reforms might affect your own family	8
A balance of the two	37
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5

15. 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/ Ref.
		Total	Strongly	Some- what	Total	Strongly	Some- what	
a. 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								
	09/09	68	40	28	29	15	14	3
	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
Items b-d based on half sample (n=649)								
b. Creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans*								
	09/09	57	30	28	37	22	16	6
	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
c. Offering tax credits to help people buy private health insurance								
	09/09	67	33	34	26	12	14	7
	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								
	09/09	74	46	28	20	7	13	6
	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

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Q.15 continued

<i>Items e-h based on half sample (n=554)</i>		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
e. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program								
	09/09	82	52	30	16	9	7	2
	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								
	09/09	40	17	23	56	37	19	5
	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								
	09/09	67	35	32	28	15	12	5
	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
h. Creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans*								
	09/09	59	27	32	36	23	13	5

*Note: Items marked with an asterisk were asked of separate half samples as a wording experiment.

16. 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>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor	42	40	28
Oppose	51	55	69
Don't know/Refused	7	5	2
	(n=793)	(n=818)	(n=544)

15a/16. Summary Table based on total

	<u>09/09</u>	<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	29	19
Oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance	63	64	78
Originally	29	26	31
Once heard argument	35	39	47
Don't know/Refused	8	7	4

17. 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

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Still oppose	59	66
Favor	28	26
Don't know/Refused	14	9
	(n=371)	(n=345)

15a/17. Summary Table based on total

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source	76	78
Originally	68	71
Once heard argument	8	7
Still oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance	17	17
Don't know/Refused	7	5

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

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Strongly favor	54	46	58
Somewhat favor	26	31	20
Somewhat oppose	10	10	10
Strongly oppose	7	10	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	4	2

19. What if you heard this requirement 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. Would you still favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness, or would you now oppose that proposal?

Based on those who favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>
Still favor	69	63
Oppose	24	32
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	7	5
	(n=953)	(n=912)

- 18/19. Summary Table based on total

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>
Still favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	56	48
Oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	36	44
Originally	17	20
Once heard argument	19	24
Don't know/Refused	9	8

20. What if you heard that some people with very expensive illnesses like cancer would have no way of getting insurance otherwise? Would you still oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness, or would you now favor that proposal?

Based on those who oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>
Still oppose	54	46
Favor	36	44
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	10	10
	(n=212)	(n=243)

- 18/20. Summary Table based on total

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>
Favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	86	85
Originally	80	76
Once heard argument	6	9
Still oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	9	9
Don't know/Refused	5	6

NO QUESTION 21.

22. 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=649)

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Yes, willing	49	42	51	41	47
No, not willing	46	55	44	54	49
Don't know/Refused	5	3	5	5	4

23. 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=554)

		-----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								
	09/09	71	50	21	27	19	8	3
	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 ¹								
	09/09	70	42	28	28	16	12	2
	08/09	63	38	25	34	20	14	3
<i>Compare to:</i>	07/09	64	40	24	33	22	11	4
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.								
	06/09	68	49	19	30	19	11	2
	04/09	71	49	22	28	18	10	1
	12/08	70	51	19	27	19	8	2

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¹ December 2008 through July 2009 trend wording read “Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year.”

Q.23 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>	
c. Increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks								
	09/09	55	29	26	42	25	17	3
	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								
	09/09	69	43	26	30	20	11	1
	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								
	09/09	57	31	26	41	24	17	2
	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								
	09/09	51	21	30	44	25	19	5
	08/09	49	25	24	48	25	22	3
g. Having health insurance companies pay a fee based on how much business they have								
	09/09	57	21	36	35	18	17	8
h. Having health insurance companies pay a tax for offering very expensive policies								
	09/09	59	26	33	32	15	16	10

24. When you think of the Medicare program, do you think of it more as a (government program) or more as a (private insurance program)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>09/09</u>
A government program	83
A private insurance program	11
Neither/Other (VOL.)	1
Both (VOL.)	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

25. How much of a role would you say the government plays in each of the following – a major role, a minor role, or no role? First (READ AND RANDOMIZE),

[READ IF NECESSARY: Would you the say the government plays a major role, a minor role, or no role in this?]

		<u>Major role</u>	<u>Minor role</u>	<u>No role</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Deciding how much hospitals and doctors get paid to provide care for Medicare patients	09/09	63	24	8	5
b. Deciding how much seniors in the Medicare program will pay for their health insurance premiums and co-pays	09/09	66	24	5	5
c. Deciding which doctors and hospitals people on Medicare can go to	09/09	45	35	15	5
d. Deciding what tests and treatments are paid for under Medicare	09/09	60	26	9	6

26. 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?

Based on half sample (n=649)

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Favor	52	47	53
Oppose	39	48	37
Don't know/Refused	9	6	10

27. 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 keep Medicare financially sound in the future?

Based on half sample (n=554)

	<u>09/09</u>
Favor	64
Oppose	30
Don't know/Refused	6

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

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
09/09	33	67	*
08/09	24	76	*
07/09	21	79	*
06/09	26	73	1
04/09	26	73	1
02/09	22	78	1
10/08	32	68	1
09/06	25	75	*
04/05	23	77	-
04/03*	19	80	*
03/02	21	79	-

Note: slight variations in question wording

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

29. 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	09/09	28	71	1
	07/09	21	78	*
	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	09/09	26	73	*
	07/09	20	80	*
	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	09/09	21	78	1
	07/09	15	84	*
	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	*

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Q.29 continued

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
d. Had problems getting mental health care	09/09	9	90	1
	07/09	7	92	1
	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	09/09	33	67	*
	07/09	27	72	*
	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	09/09	35	65	*
	07/09	29	71	*
	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	09/09	44	56	*
	07/09	33	67	*
	06/09	37	63	1
	04/09	42	57	1
	02/09	35	65	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>09/09</u>
Covered by health insurance	82
Not covered by health insurance	18
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=1,023)

	<u>09/09</u>
Plan through your/your spouse's employer	58
Plan you purchased yourself	9
Medicare	19
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	5
Some other government program	6
Somewhere else	2
Don't know/Refused	1

D5. As far as you know, did that employer offer you a choice of different health plans, or only one plan?

Based on those who are insured through an employer

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>04/03</u>
Choice of different plans	57	58
Only one plan	39	39
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	2
	(n=580)	(n=1,542)

D5a. And about how many different health plans were offered for you to choose between?

Based on those who have a choice of different health plans (n=341)

	<u>09/09</u>
Two plans	35
Three to five plans	50
More than five plans	11
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

D5/a. Summary Table based on those insured through an employer (n=580)

	<u>09/09</u>
Only one plan	39
Choice of different plans	57
Two plans	20
Three to five plans	28
More than five plans	6
DK/Ref.	2
Don't know/Refused	3

D6. Would you say you do or do not have a good idea of the total cost of your health insurance policy, including the cost to you as well as to your OR your spouse's employer?

Based on those who are insured through an employer (n=580)

	<u>09/09</u>
Have a good idea of the total cost of own health insurance policy	66
Do not have a good idea of the total cost of own health insurance policy	31
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

30. For people who don't get health insurance through their jobs, about how much do you think it would cost to buy a health insurance policy on their own for a family of four? You can tell me your best guess, either how much it would cost per month or per year? (Is that per month or per year?) (If not sure: "Just your best guess...")

	<u>09/09</u>	<u>10/07</u>
Less than \$3,000 a year/LT 250 a month	16	13
\$3,000 to LT 6,000 a year/250 to LT 500 a month	20	23
\$6,000 to LT 9,000 a year/500 to LT 750 a month	21	20
\$9,000 to LT 12,000 a year/750 to LT 1,000 a month	7	9
\$12,000 to LT 15,000 a year/1,000 to LT 1,250 a month	11	11
\$15,000 or more a year/1,250 or more a month	6	12
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	19	11

31. Do you think a family of four making \$66,000 a year that doesn't get health insurance through an employer can afford to buy their family health insurance coverage ON THEIR OWN, or don't you think they could afford that?

Based on half sample (n=649)

	<u>09/09</u>
Yes	42
No	52
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6

32. Do you think a family of four making \$88,000 a year that doesn't get health insurance through an employer can afford to buy their family health insurance coverage ON THEIR OWN, or don't you think they could afford that?

Based on half sample (n=554)

	<u>09/09</u>
Yes	55
No	38
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	7

33. If you heard that a new health care REFORM proposal (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS) would that make you more likely to support it, less likely or wouldn't it make a difference? (Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?)

		<u>Much more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat less likely</u>	<u>Much less likely</u>	<u>No diff.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
Items a-g based on half sample (n=554)							
a. Limited your own choice of doctors	09/09	5	9	25	40	19	2
	07/09	6	10	20	42	20	1
	12/08	6	4	20	36	33	1
b. Would save the country money over time	09/09	37	27	5	7	21	3
	07/09	35	28	4	7	21	4
c. Would provide financial help to buy health insurance to those who need it	09/09	37	37	5	6	14	2
	07/09	32	31	6	8	20	3
d. Was going to increase taxes	09/09	7	13	23	33	21	3
	07/09	9	11	21	37	20	2
	12/08	6	6	18	28	41	-
e. Would result in cuts in Medicare payments that might make doctors less willing to take Medicare patients	09/09	4	11	26	36	19	4
	07/09	7	11	26	36	17	3
f. Would help close the Medicare "donut hole" or "coverage gap" so seniors would no longer have a period where they are responsible for paying the full cost of their medicines	09/09	37	28	8	5	18	3
g. Would mean that health insurance companies could no longer charge women more than men for the same policy	09/09	40	19	6	7	25	3
Items h-o based on half sample (n=649)							
h. Would help ensure the long-term financial health of Medicare	09/09	37	32	4	2	22	3
	07/09	39	28	5	5	19	3
i. Would be paid for in a way that would not increase the federal budget deficit	09/09	42	21	6	6	22	3
	07/09	37	26	8	7	19	3

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Q.33 continued

		<u>Much more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat less likely</u>	<u>Much less likely</u>	<u>No diff.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
j. Would mean that people with a history of illness would not be denied coverage and could get it at the same price as healthier people	09/09	41	24	9	3	18	4
	07/09	38	28	8	8	16	3
k. Was going to increase people's insurance premiums or other out of pocket costs	09/09	8	11	26	31	20	4
	07/09	7	9	26	40	16	2
	12/08	3	6	26	35	27	2
l. Would get the government too involved in your personal health care decisions	09/09	7	10	21	38	21	2
	07/09	10	10	23	36	18	3
	12/08	6	3	20	45	24	2
m. Would reduce the quality of care provided to seniors under Medicare	09/09	9	10	23	40	14	3
	07/09	10	15	17	41	16	2
n. Would improve the health care situation for our children and grandchildren	09/09	55	22	4	2	14	3
o. Would fulfill a moral obligation by making sure people don't have to go without needed health care just because they can't afford it	09/09	39	29	6	4	20	2

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

D7. 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	9
Full-time for an employer	45
Part-time for an employer	8
Retired	20
Not employed	12
Homemaker (VOL.)	2
Student (VOL.)	2
Disabled (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused	*

D8. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	16
Very good	38
Good	31
Only fair	12
Poor	3
Don't know/Refused	*

D8a. In general, the term "pre-existing condition" is used by insurance companies to describe an illness or medical condition that a person had before they began looking for insurance. For example, if you were looking to buy health insurance but had a history of asthma, diabetes or high blood pressure, those would be considered pre-existing conditions, along with illnesses such as cancer. Given that definition, would you say that you or someone else in your household would be considered to have a "pre-existing condition" of some sort, or not?

Yes	57
No	41
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2

D9.	What is your age? [ENTER AGE] / ASK IF REFUSED:	
D10.	Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)	
	18-29	19
	30-49	39
	50-64	25
	65 and older	17
	Undesignated	*
D11.	In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?	
	Republican	21
	Democratic	40
	Independent	32
	Or What? (<i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here)	4
	Don't know/Refused	3
D12.	Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?	
	Liberal	25
	Moderate	40
	Conservative	32
	Don't know/Refused	4
D13.	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)	30
	Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	5
	Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
	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	*
D14.	Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?	
	Yes	34
	No	66
	Don't know/Refused	*

D15. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D16. 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	31
Black or African-American	11
Hispanic	14
Asian	4
Other mixed race	2
Undesignated	1

D17. 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	14
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	13
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	11
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	9
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	9
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	13

END OF INTERVIEW: That's all the questions I have. Thanks for your time.

Trend Information:

- 08/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 4-11, 2009)
- 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)
- 04/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (April 3-13, 2008)
- 10/07: Kaiser Family Foundation/NPR/Harvard *Public Views of SCHIP Survey* (October 8-13, 2007)
- 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)
- 01/00: *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*/Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of the Uninsured* (January 10-February 9, 2000)
- 09/93: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Survey of Public Knowledge and Awareness of Health Reform* (September 30-October 5, 1993)



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