

Chartpack

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: November 2009

November 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 November 5 through November 12, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 adults ages 18 and older. Note that interviews were conducted both before and after the vote on the House leadership bill on November 7. Our analysis found no substantive differences in opinion before and after the House vote. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (802) and cell phone (401, including 112 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 4 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.

“VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

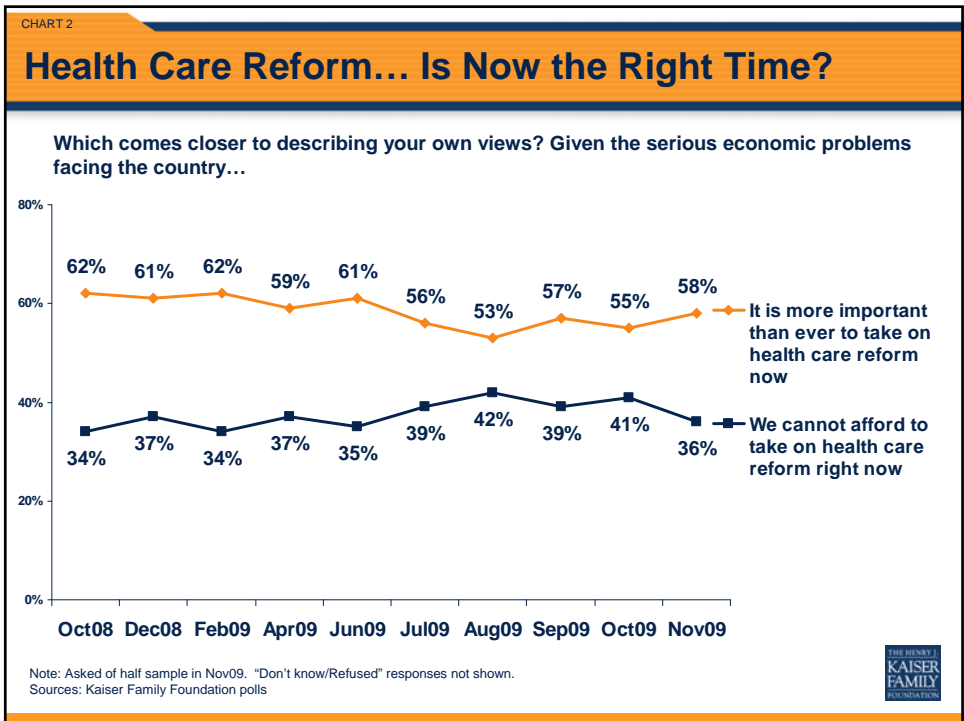
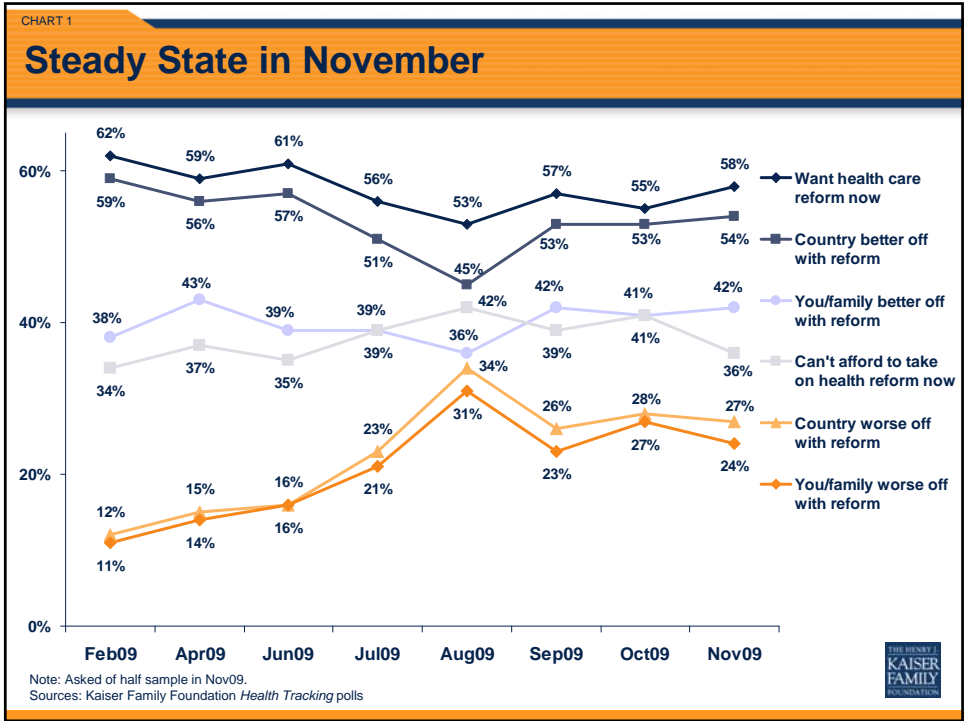
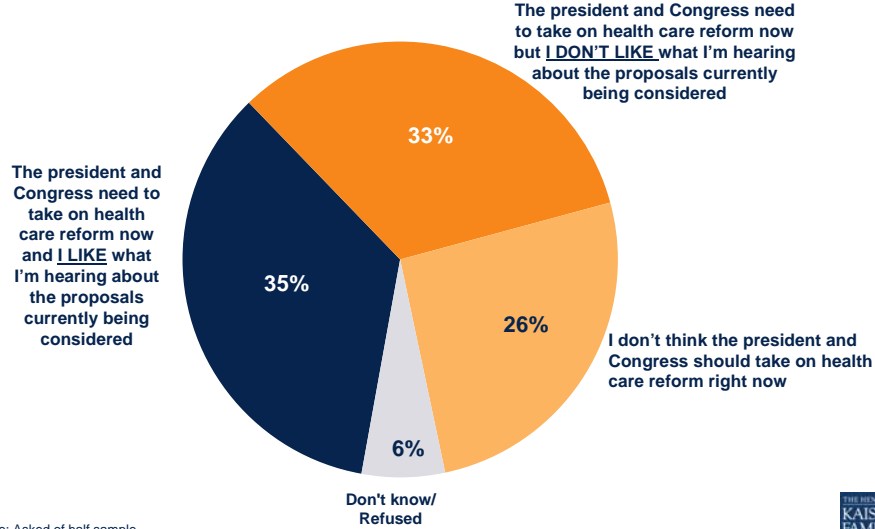


CHART 3

Reaction to Current Reform Proposals

Which comes closer to describing your views?



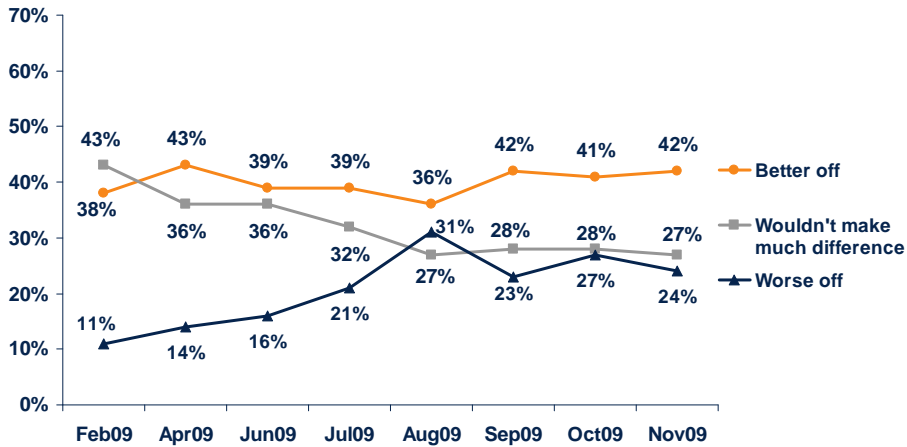
Note: Asked of half sample.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 4

Impact on Own Family: Time Trend

Do you think you and your family 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?



Note: Asked of half sample in Nov09. "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.," responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking polls

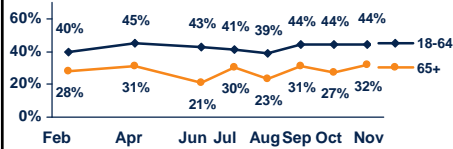


CHART 5

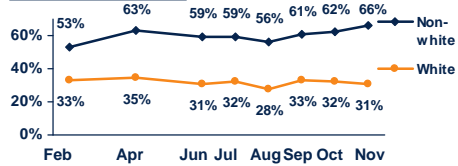
Major Differences Among Demographic Groups

% who responded "you and your family would be BETTER off if the president and Congress passed health care reform"

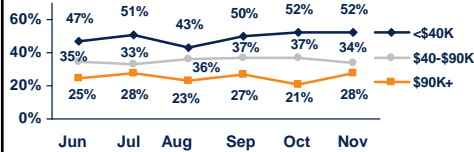
By age



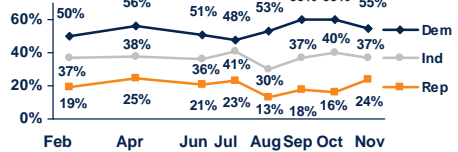
By race/ethnicity



By income



By party identification



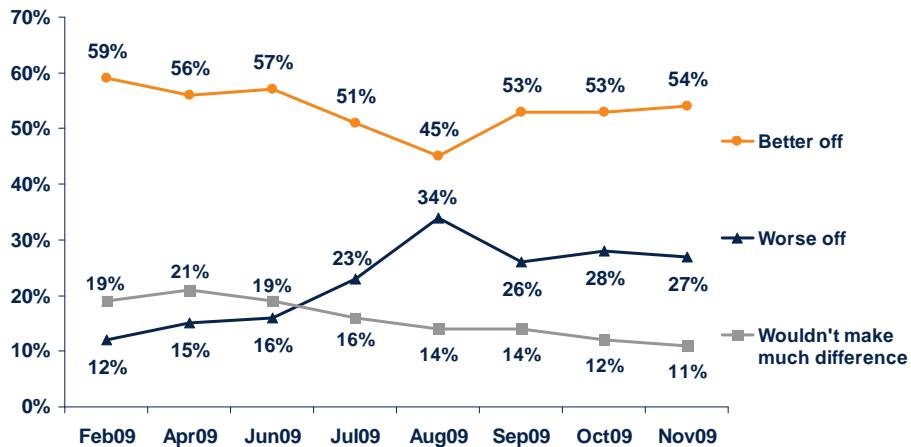
Asked of half sample in Nov09.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking polls



CHART 6

Impact on Country: Time Trend

Do you think the country as a whole 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?



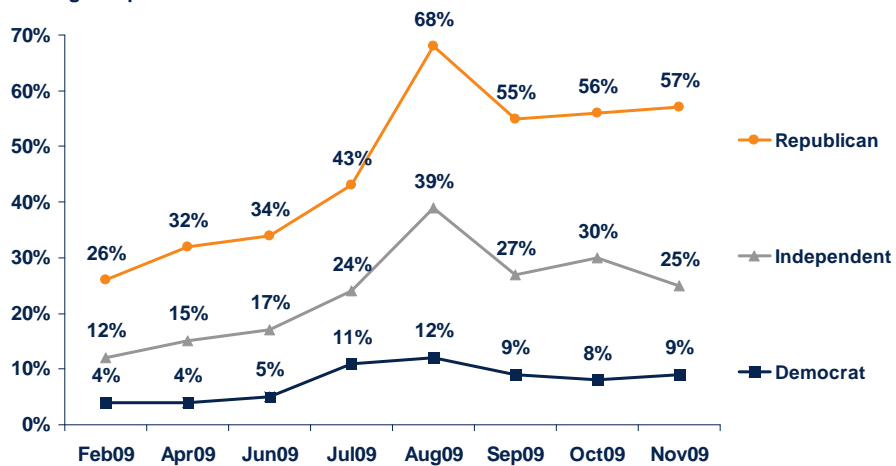
Note: Asked of half sample in Nov09. "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.," responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking polls



CHART 7

Country Worse Off: By Party ID

% who responded "the country as a whole would be WORSE off if the president and Congress passed health care reform"



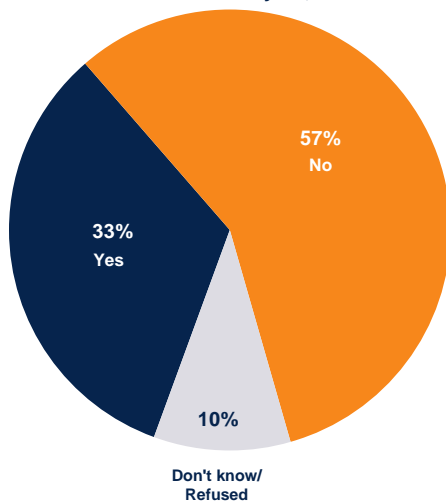
Note: Asked of half sample in Nov09.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking polls



CHART 8

Health Reform for Christmas?

From what you have seen and heard, do you think the president and Congress will pass a health care reform bill before the start of the new year, or not?



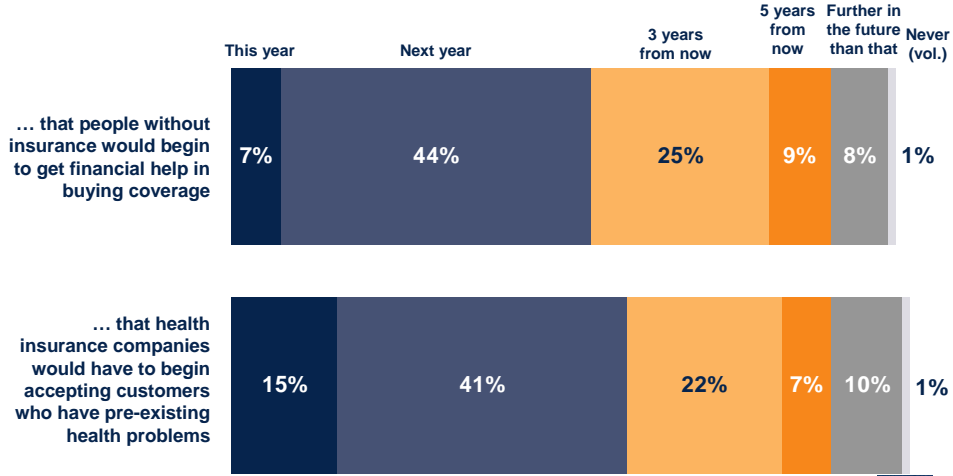
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 9

When Will Key Provisions Start if Reform Passes?

If Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, when would you expect ... ?



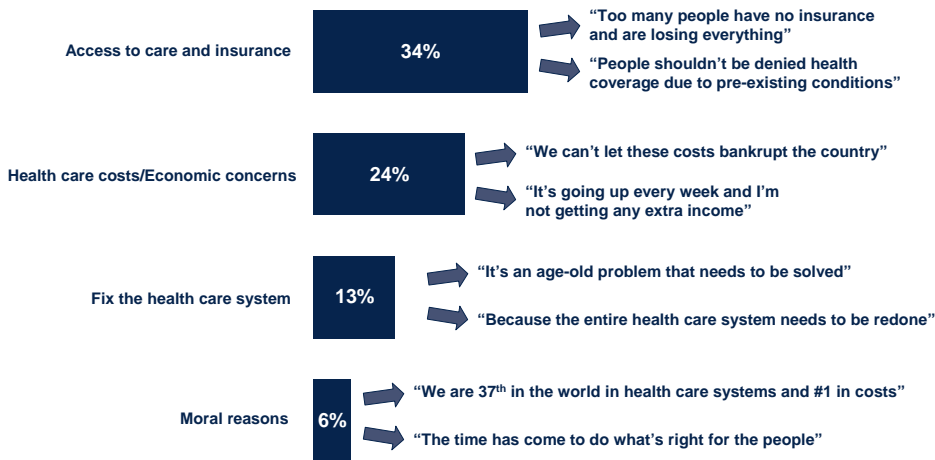
"Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 10

Major Reasons for Supporting Reform Now

AMONG THOSE WHO SAY WE NEED TO TAKE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM NOW:
What is the MAIN reason why you think the country needs to tackle health reform now? (open-end)



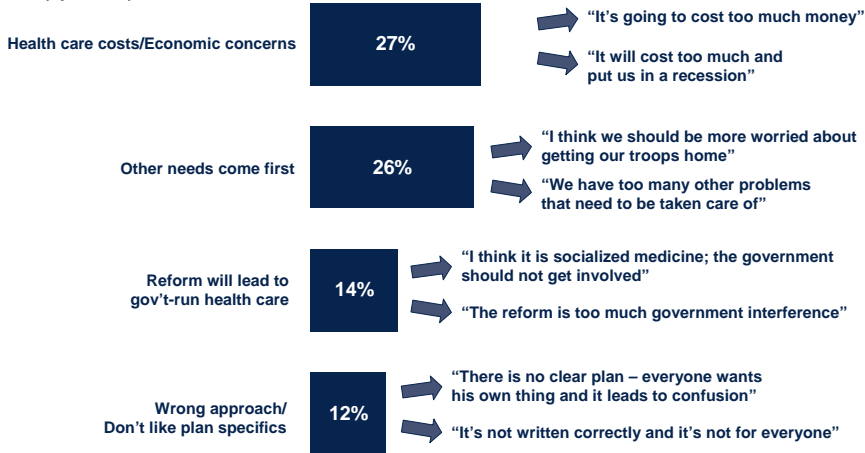
Note: Only responses of 5 percent or more shown. Asked of those who said "It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now" or "The president and Congress need to take on health care reform now, and I like what I'm hearing about the proposals currently being considered" or "The president and Congress need to take on health care reform now, but I don't like what I'm hearing about the proposals being considered."
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 11

Major Reasons for Opposing Reform Now

AMONG THOSE WHO SAY WE SHOULD NOT OR CANNOT TAKE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM NOW:
What is the MAIN reason why you think the country shouldn't take on health reform now?
 (open-end)



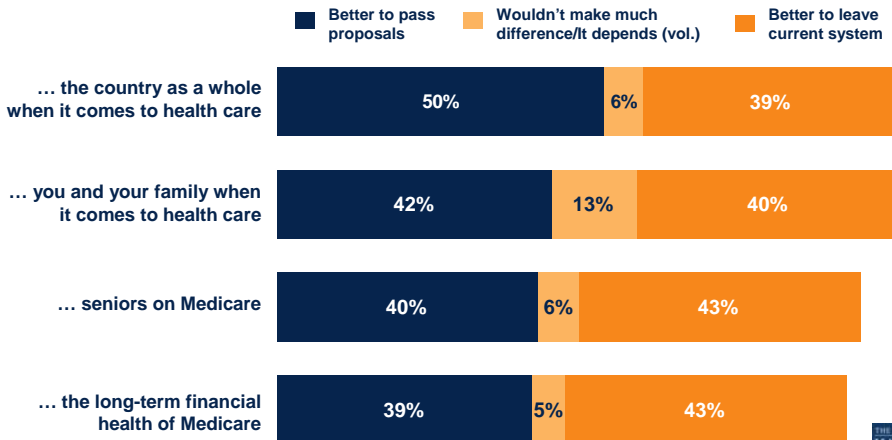
Note: Only responses of 5 percent or more shown. Asked of those who said "We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now" or "I don't think the president and Congress should take on health care reform right now."
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 12

Which Would Be Better? Reform vs. Status Quo

What do you think would be better for each of the following: if Congress passed the proposals they are currently considering, or if the current health care system were left in place with no changes?

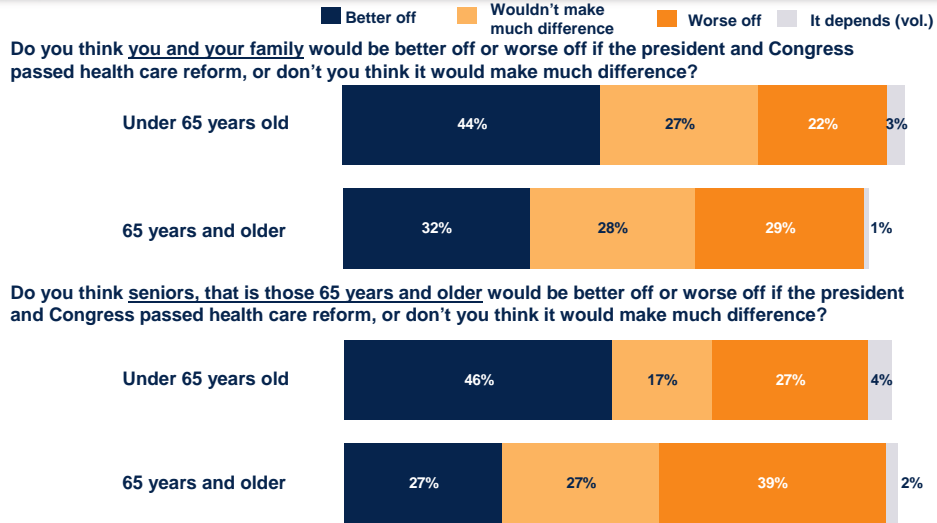


Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 13

Seniors Less Convinced Reform Will Benefit Them



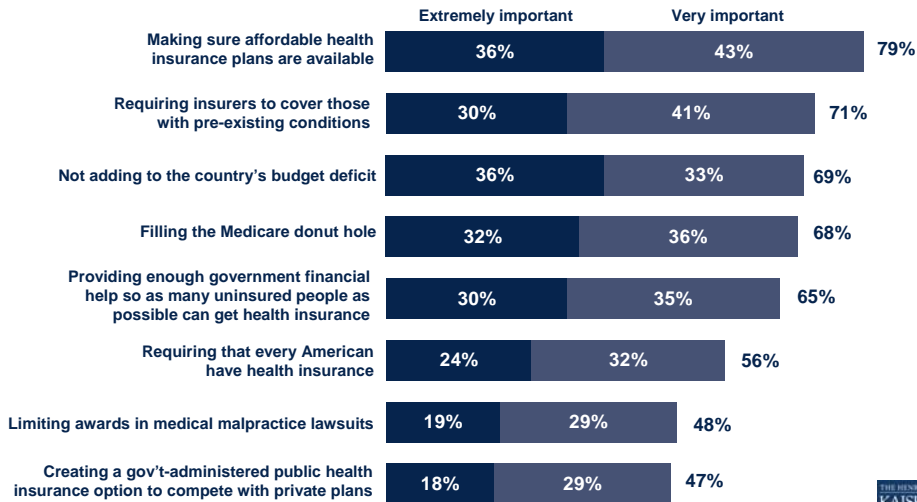
Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 14

Ranking the Elements of Reform

Percent who say it is **EXTREMELY** or **VERY** important to them personally that each of the following be a feature of any final reform plan:



Note: Question wording abbreviated.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 15

Partisan Differences on Ranking of Reform Elements

Percent who say it is EXTREMELY or VERY important to them personally that each of the following be a feature of any final reform plan:

Rank	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
1	Making sure affordable health insurance plans are available (87%)	Making sure affordable health insurance plans are available (78%)	Not adding to the country's budget deficit (77%)
2	Providing enough gov't financial help so as many uninsured people as possible can get health insurance (82%)	Requiring insurers to cover anyone who applies (70%)	Making sure affordable health insurance plans are available (72%)
3	Requiring insurers to cover anyone who applies (80%)	Not adding to the country's budget deficit (69%)	Filling the Medicare donut hole (66%)
4	Filling the Medicare donut hole (76%)	Filling the Medicare donut hole (63%)	Requiring insurers to cover anyone who applies (62%)
5	Requiring that every American have health insurance (70%)	Providing enough gov't financial help so as many uninsured people as possible can get health insurance (58%)	Limiting awards in medical malpractice lawsuits (54%)
6	Not adding to the country's budget deficit (61%)	Limiting awards in medical malpractice lawsuits (53%)	Providing enough gov't financial help so as many uninsured people as possible can get health insurance (48%)
7	Creating a gov't-administered public health insurance option to compete with private plans (59%)	Creating a gov't-administered public health insurance option to compete with private plans (46%)	Requiring that every American have health insurance (47%)
8	Limiting awards in medical malpractice lawsuits (42%)	Requiring that every American have health insurance (46%)*	Creating a gov't-administered public health insurance option to compete with private plans (31%)

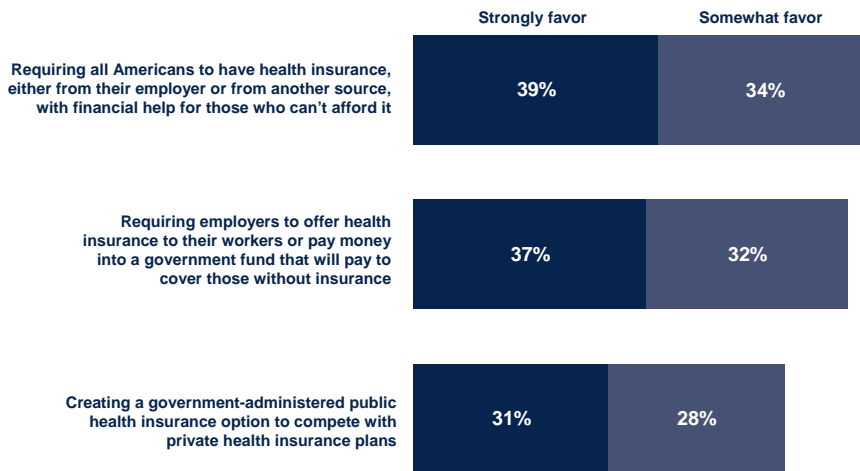
Note: Question wording abbreviated. * Indicates item is tied with the one directly above it.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 16

Support for Various Ways of Expanding Coverage

Now I'm going to read you some different ways to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose it.



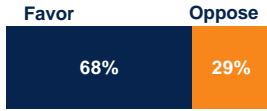
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



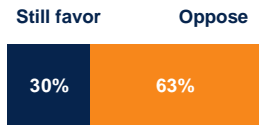
CHART 17

Employer Mandate: Opinions Moveable

Would you favor or oppose requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund that will pay to cover those without insurance?



Supporters were asked: What if you heard that paying for this may cause some employers to lay off some workers?



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that this would be more fair because today some employers pay for health insurance and some do not?



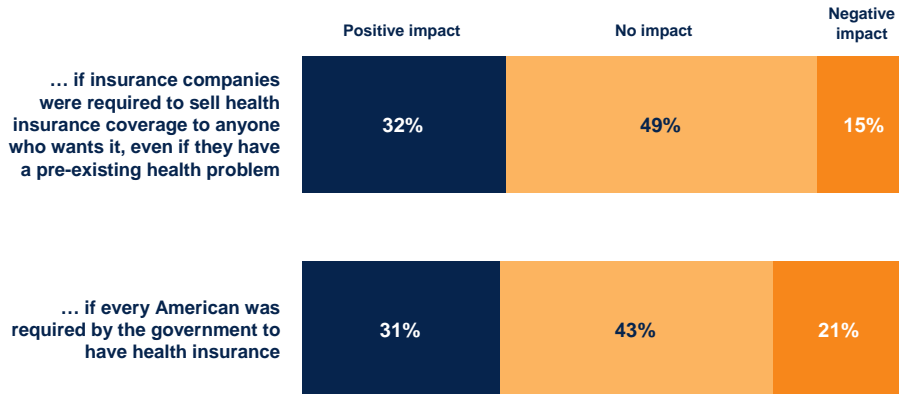
Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially favored. Graph below it based on total, where "oppose" includes those who initially opposed along with those who opposed after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially opposed. Graph below it based on total, where "favor" includes those who initially favored along with those who favored after hearing the follow up. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 18

Looking for Specific Impacts

Aside from whether you favor or oppose the following proposed changes, do you think they would have a positive impact, negative impact, or no direct impact on you and your family?



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



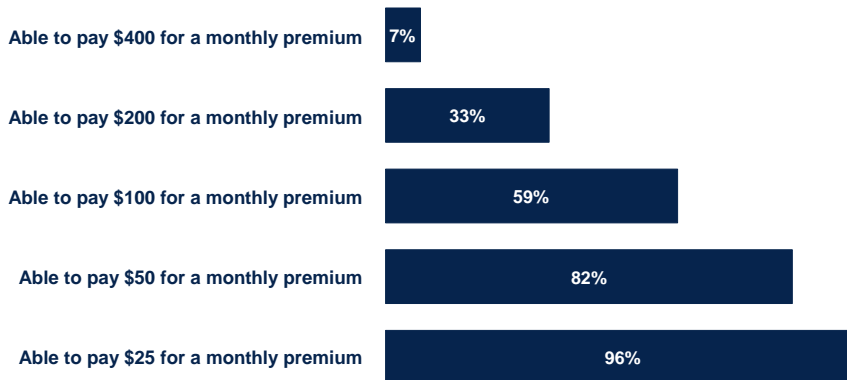
CHART 19

How Much Would Uninsured be Able to Pay for Coverage?

AMONG UNINSURED ADULTS AGES 18-64 (18% OF TOTAL):

If you were shopping for a health insurance policy, what is the highest amount you would be able to pay for a monthly premium, that is the amount you pay each month for health insurance?

Cumulative % who say they could pay each



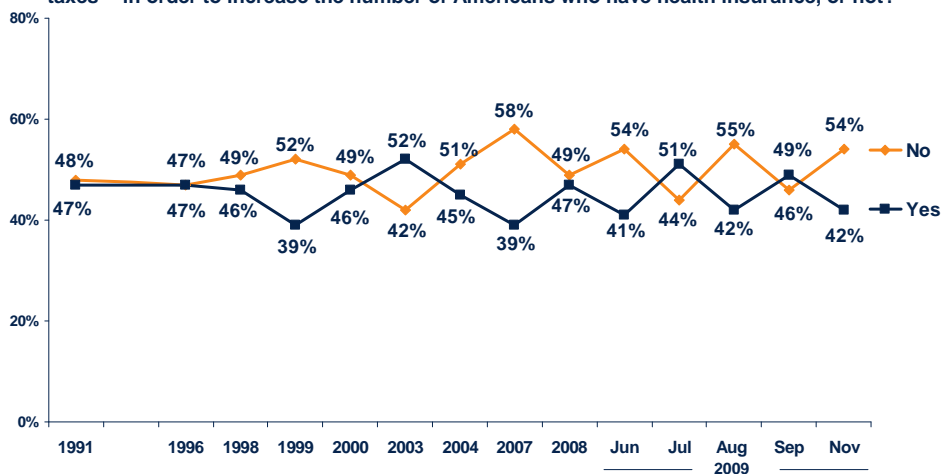
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 20

Willing to Pay More

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?



Note: Asked of half sample July - November 2009. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
 Sources: NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll (Jun. 1991), KFF/HSPH Polls (Nov. 1996; Nov. 1998; Oct. 1999; Nov. 2000; Feb. 2003; and Nov. 2004), Washington Post/KFF/HSPH Survey (May 2007), KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress* (Dec. 2008); Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, and Nov 2009)



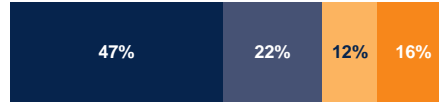
CHART 21

Some Tax Options

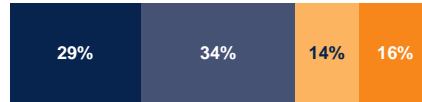
Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured.

■ Strongly favor
 ■ Somewhat favor
 ■ Somewhat oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose

Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$1 million a year and individuals making more than \$500,000



Having health insurance companies pay a tax for offering very expensive policies



Having health insurance companies pay a fee based on how much business they have



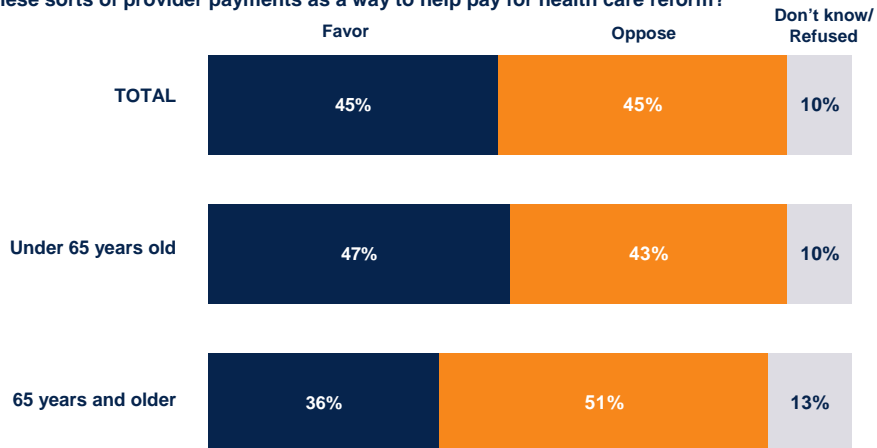
Note: Based on half sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 22

Seniors Less Likely to Back Provider Payment Limits

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



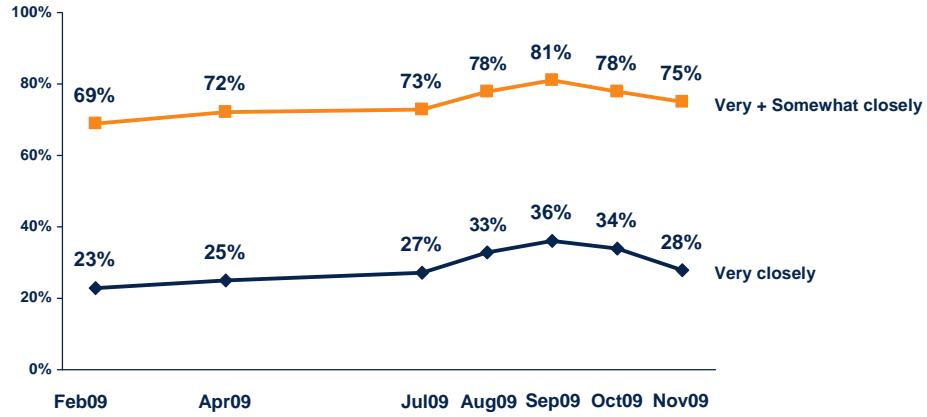
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 23

Public Attention in 2009

How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform?



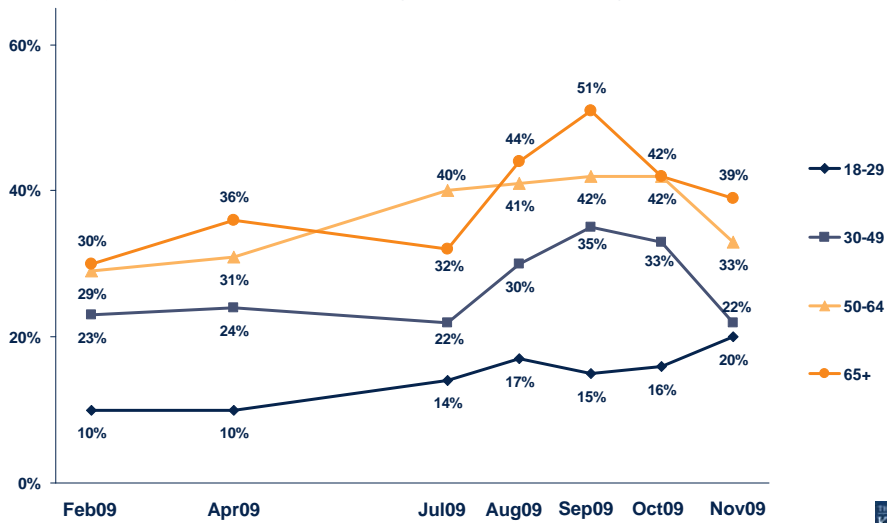
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking* polls



CHART 24

Paying Attention – by Age

% who say they are “very closely” following discussions in Washington about health care reform



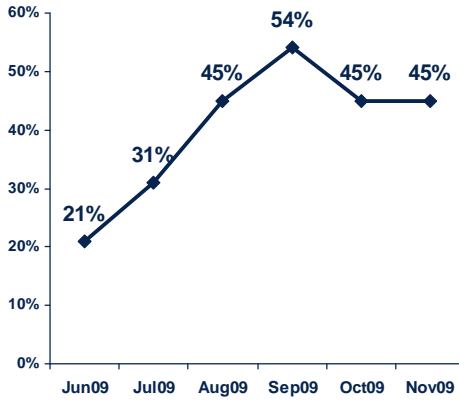
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking* polls



CHART 25

Reported Viewing of Ads

Percent who say during the past seven days, they have seen, heard or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system:



Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking* polls

AMONG THOSE WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN, HEARD, OR READ ANY HEALTH REFORM ADS: As far as you could tell, were those ads in favor of or opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year? (Nov09)

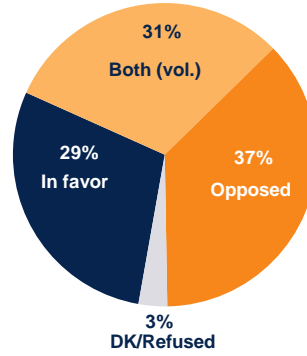
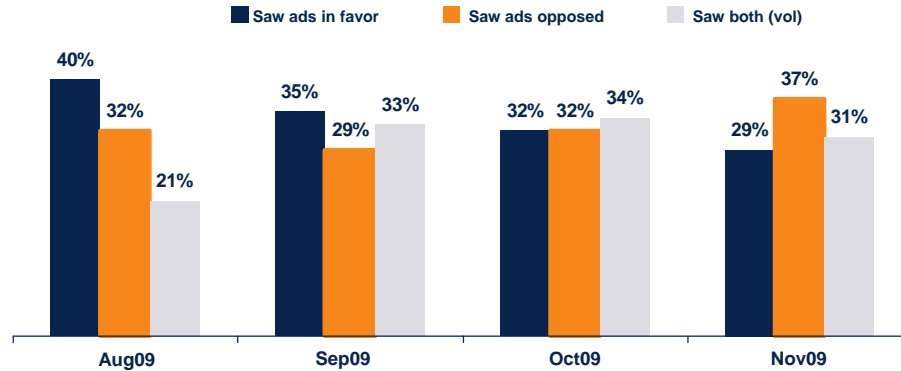


CHART 26

The Reported Mix Shifts: Ads in Favor vs. Opposed

BASED ON THOSE WHO REPORT HAVING SEEN OR HEARD A HEALTH REFORM AD IN THE PAST SEVEN DAYS (45 percent of the adult population in November)*

As far as you could tell, were those ads in favor of or opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year?



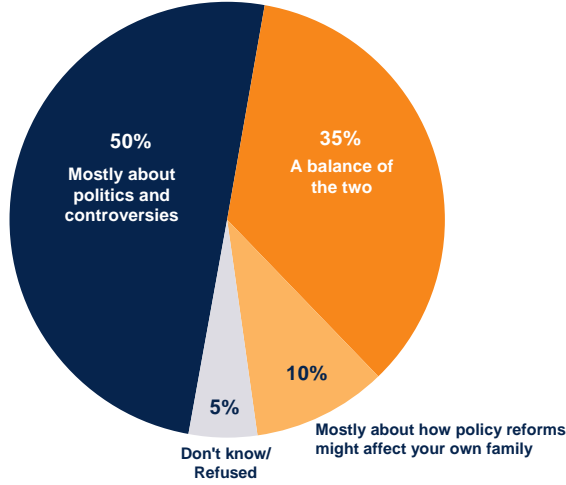
*Note: Based on 45 percent of the population in Aug. and Oct., and 54 percent in Sep. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking* polls



CHART 27

Media Coverage of Reform

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?



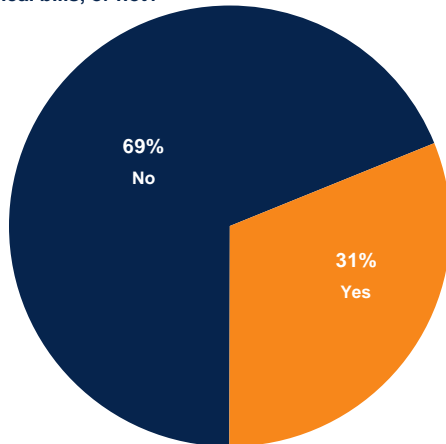
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 28

Problems Paying Medical Bills

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



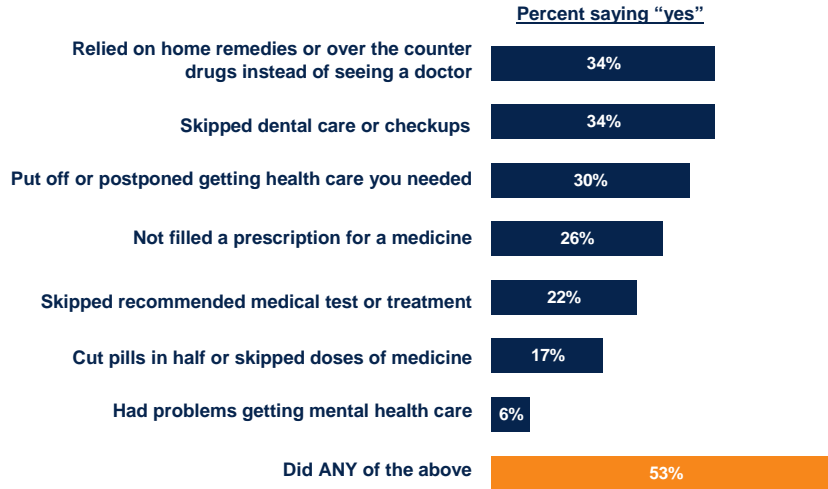
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)



CHART 29

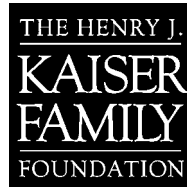
Putting Off Care Because of Cost

In the past 12 months, have you or another family member living in your household... because of the COST, or not?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted November 5-12, 2009)





The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Headquarters
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and
Barbara Jordan Conference Center
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

This publication (#8019) is available on the
Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible analysis and information on health issues.