

Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: April 2010

April 2010

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, Carolina Gutiérrez, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted April 9 through April 14, 2010, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,208 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (801) and cell phone (407, including 171 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 may be 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. As far as you know, has a health care reform bill been passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama, or not?

	<u>04/10</u>
Yes, bill has been signed into law	81
No, bill has not been signed into law	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9

2. [IF 'NO' OR 'DON'T KNOW' READ: President Obama did sign a health reform bill into law last month...] Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? [ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENS] (Is that a very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable opinion?)

	<u>04/10</u>
Very favorable	23
Somewhat favorable	23
Somewhat unfavorable	10
Very unfavorable	30
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	14

3. We're interested in how people are learning about the health reform law and how it will affect them. Have you gotten any information about the health reform law from (READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-c, THEN ASK ITEM D, THEN RANDOMIZE ITEMS e-i), or not? How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM), have you gotten any information about the health reform law from here, or not?

	<u>Yes, have gotten info.</u>	<u>No, have not gotten info.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. cable TV news channels such as CNN, FOX, or MSNBC, or their websites	67	32	1
b. broadcast network news channels such as ABC, NBC, or CBS, or their websites	60	39	1
c. newspapers or newspaper websites	49	50	1
d. other websites or blogs	26	74	*
e. conversations with friends and family	73	26	*
f. listening to the radio	54	46	--
g. elected officials	19	81	*
h. an employer	11	88	1
i. a community organization	9	91	*

3R. Of the information sources you named, which would you say has been your most important source of news and information about the health reform law? Would you say [READ ITEMS THAT RECEIVED ‘YES’ RESPONSE IN Q3 IN SAME ORDER]

	<u>04/10</u>
Cable TV news channels such as CNN, FOX, or MSNBC, or their websites	36
Network news channels such as ABC, NBC, or CBS, or their websites	16
Newspapers or newspaper websites	12
Conversations with friends and family	10
Listening to the radio	9
Other websites or blogs	6
Elected officials	1
An employer	1
A community organization	1
None most important source/Something else (VOL.)	1
None have been a source	5
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	1

Note: Question asked of those who said more than one item was a source of information about the health reform law; tables includes those who said only one or no item was a source.

4. Do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) will be (better off) or (worse off) under the new health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

		<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>	<u>Won't make much difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Depends</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. You and your family	04/10	31	32	30	--	8
<i>Compare to pre-passage¹</i>	03/10	35	32	28	2	3
	02/10	34	32	26	3	5
	01/10	32	33	29	3	4
	12/09	35	27	32	3	3
	11/09	42	24	27	3	4
	10/09	41	27	28	2	3
	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	04/10	45	35	11	--	9
<i>Compare to pre-passage¹</i>	03/10	45	34	14	3	4
	02/10	45	34	12	4	5
	01/10	42	37	12	3	5
	12/09	45	31	17	4	3
	11/09	54	27	11	3	5
	10/09	53	28	12	2	4
	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

Continued on next page

¹ Previous wording: Do you think (INSERT GROUP) 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?"

Q4 continued...

		<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>	<u>Won't make much difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Depends</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
c. Seniors, that is those 65 years and older	04/10	36	33	20	--	12
<i>Compare to pre-passage¹</i>	12/09	40	31	21	4	4
	11/09	43	29	19	4	6
	10/09	44	29	20	2	6
	09/09	46	25	20	3	6
d. Middle class Americans	04/10	34	36	21	--	8
i. People with pre-existing medical conditions	04/10	65	16	9	--	9
<i>Items e, f based on half sample (n=581)</i>						
e. Small businesses	04/10	34	39	13	--	14
f. Lower income Americans	04/10	64	19	9	--	8
<i>Items g, h based on half sample (n=627)</i>						
g. Large businesses	04/10	25	31	28	--	15
h. The uninsured	04/10	67	15	10	--	8

5. Under the new health reform law, do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) will get better, worse or will it stay about the same?

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Will stay about the same</u>	<u>(VOL.) Depends</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of your own health care	04/10	23	27	43	--	6
<i>Compare to pre-passage²</i>	03/10	28	29	36	2	5
	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	04/10	25	37	32	--	6
<i>Compare to pre-passage²</i>	03/10	31	32	29	2	6
	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 ability to get and keep health insurance	04/10	34	19	40	--	7
<i>Compare to pre-passage²</i>	03/10	35	22	36	2	5

² Trend wording was slightly different: "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?"

Questions 6 and 7 were rotated.

6. How much would you say you know about how the health reform law will affect you and your family personally... (READ)

	<i>Compare to pre-passage</i> ³			
	<u>04/10</u>	<u>03/10</u>	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>
A lot	18	27	26	24
A fair amount	38	37	35	41
Only a little or	34	26	28	28
Nothing at all?	8	8	8	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2	2	3	2

7. Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?

	<u>04/10</u>
Yes, have enough information	43
No, do not have enough information	56
Don't know/Refused	2

³ Trend wording was slightly different: "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?"

8. I'm going to read you a list of specific reform proposals. For each, please tell me whether you think it was included in the health reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the president, or not. First, to the best of your knowledge, would you say the law will or will not (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)?

	<u>Yes, law will do this</u>	<u>No, will not do this</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
<i>Items a-h based on half sample (n=581)</i>			
a. Prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history or health condition	64	27	10
b. Provide tax credits to small businesses that offer coverage to their employees	66	17	17
c. Fine all but small employers if they don't offer health insurance to their workers	61	23	16
d. Require insurance companies that are spending too little of their customer's money on health care services and too much on administrative costs and profits to give those customers a rebate	37	32	31
e. Limit future increases in Medicare payments to health care providers such as hospitals and home health agencies as a way to help pay for health reform	59	24	18
f. Expand the existing Medicaid program to cover low-income, uninsured adults regardless of whether they have children	64	16	20
g. Allow children to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26	70	21	9
h. Prohibit insurance companies from charging women higher premiums than men	43	32	25
<i>Items i-p based on half sample (n=627)</i>			
i. Prohibit insurance companies from setting lifetime limits on the total amount they will spend on a person's health care	56	25	20
j. Provide financial help to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage	75	17	8
k. Require nearly all Americans to have health insurance or else pay a fine	71	21	8
l. Gradually close the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so seniors will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications when they reach the gap	56	23	21
m. Increase the Medicare payroll tax for high income Americans as a way to help pay for health reform	66	20	14
n. Impose a tax in 2018 on insurers who offer the most expensive health plans, also called Cadillac plans, to help pay for health reform	58	17	25
o. Create health insurance exchanges or marketplaces where small businesses and people who don't get coverage through their employers can shop for insurance and compare prices and benefits	62	21	17
p. Create an insurance option, or high-risk pool, for those people whose pre-existing health conditions currently make it difficult for them to find and buy affordable health insurance	64	22	14

8. I'm going to read you a list of specific reform proposals. For each, please tell me whether you think it was included in the health reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the president, or not. First, to the best of your knowledge, would you say the law will or will not (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)?

9. As far as you know, will that provision begin taking effect this year, next year, 3 or 4 years from now, or further in the future than that?

a. Expand the existing Medicaid program to cover low-income, uninsured adults regardless of whether they have children

04/10

Yes, law will do this	64
This year	9
Next year	19
Three or four years from now	22
Further in the future	8
DK/Ref	6
No, law will not do this	16
Don't know/Refused	20

b. Allow children to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26

04/10

Yes, law will do this	70
This year	20
Next year	16
Three or four years from now	21
Further in the future	4
DK/Ref	10
No, law will not do this	21
Don't know/Refused	9

c. Provide financial help to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage

04/10

Yes, law will do this	75
This year	12
Next year	19
Three or four years from now	33
Further in the future	5
DK/Ref	7
No, law will not do this	17
Don't know/Refused	8

Continued on next page

Q8/9 Continued...

8. I'm going to read you a list of specific reform proposals. For each, please tell me whether you think it was included in the health reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the president, or not. First, to the best of your knowledge, would you say the law will or will not (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)?
9. As far as you know, will that provision begin taking effect this year, next year, 3 or 4 years from now, or further in the future than that?

d. Require nearly all Americans to have health insurance or else pay a fine

	<u>04/10</u>
Yes, law will do this	71
This year	9
Next year	15
Three or four years from now	35
Further in the future	6
DK/Ref	6
No, law will not do this	21
Don't know/Refused	8

e. Gradually close the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so seniors will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications when they reach the gap

	<u>04/10</u>
Yes, law will do this	56
This year	10
Next year	13
Three or four years from now	20
Further in the future	7
DK/Ref	5
No, law will not do this	23
Don't know/Refused	21

10. As far as you know, has the independent Congressional Budget Office which analyzes the cost of legislation said the health reform law will (increase) the federal budget deficit over the next ten years, (decrease) the deficit over the next ten years, or is it not expected to have much impact on the deficit? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESSES)

	<u>04/10</u>	<i>Compare to pre- passage⁴</i> <u>03/10</u>
Increase the deficit over the next 10 years	45	55
Decrease the deficit over the next 10 years	25	15
Is not expected to have much impact on the deficit	16	20
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	13	10

⁴ Trend wording was slightly different: "As far as you know, has the independent Congressional Budget Office which analyzes the cost of legislation said the health reform legislation currently being discussed in Congress will (increase) the federal budget deficit over the next ten years, (decrease) the deficit over the next ten years, or is it not expected to have much impact on the deficit?"

11. Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own feelings about the health reform law. The first is (INSERT & RANDOMIZE – ALWAYS ASK ITEM d LAST). Does this describe your own feelings about the health reform law, or not?

		<u>Describes</u>	<u>Does not describe</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Anxious	04/10	42	56	3
<i>Compare to pre-passage⁵</i>	12/09	47	52	1
	10/09	49	49	1
	09/09	50	48	2
b. Confused	04/10	55	45	1
<i>Compare to pre-passage⁵</i>	12/09	48	52	*
	10/09	49	50	1
	09/09	48	51	1
	08/09	46	53	2
c. Pleased	04/10	45	52	3
d. Angry	04/10	30	69	1
<i>Compare to pre-passage⁵</i>	12/09	35	64	1
	10/09	40	59	1
	09/09	31	67	1
e. Disappointed	04/10	45	52	3
f. Relieved	04/10	40	58	2

⁵ Trend wording was slightly different: "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."

12. Would you say you are very angry, or somewhat angry?

Based on those who say “angry” describes their feelings (n=382)

	<u>04/10</u>
Very angry	54
Somewhat angry	45
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	1

Summary of 11d/12 based on total

	<u>04/10</u>
Total say angry describes their feelings	30
Very angry	16
Somewhat angry	13
DK/Ref.	*
Not Angry	69
Don’t know/Refused	1

13. Do you feel angry mostly (because of the way the policymaking process worked), or mostly (because you don’t like the actual content of the final health reform law) (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)?

Based on those who say “angry” describes their feelings (n=382)

	<u>04/10</u>
Because of the way the policymaking process worked	29
Because you don’t like the actual content of the final health reform law	23
Both (VOL.)	41
Neither (VOL.)	4
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	4

Summary of 11d/13 based on total

	<u>04/10</u>
Total say angry describes their feelings	30
Because of the way the policymaking process worked	9
Because you don’t like the actual content of the final health reform law	7
Both (VOL.)	12
Neither/DK/Ref.	2
Not Angry	69
Don’t know/Refused	1

14. Though many elements of health reform will take some time to implement, several changes will begin this year. For each of these I name, please tell me if your opinion of it is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable. First (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) would you say your opinion of that provision is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable?

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Items a-e based on half sample (n=581)</i>					
a. Creating an insurance option, or high-risk pool, for those people whose pre-existing health conditions currently make it difficult for them to find and buy affordable health insurance	43	33	8	9	7
b. Prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to children who have a pre-existing health problem	52	19	9	18	2
c. Prohibiting insurance companies from setting lifetime limits on the total amount they will spend on a person's health care	39	28	15	14	5
d. Beginning federal reviews of health plan premium increases and requiring plans to justify those increases	33	32	12	14	9
e. Requiring insurance companies that are spending too little of their customer's money on health care services and too much on administrative costs and profits to give those customers a rebate	37	31	13	13	6
<i>Items f-k based on half sample (n=627)</i>					
f. Allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26	47	27	12	12	1
g. Making it harder for insurance companies to drop someone's coverage when that person has a major health problem	60	21	5	11	4
h. Requiring that all new health plans provide their customers access to basic preventive health care services, such as screenings and immunizations, without charging the customer any co-payment	56	26	9	6	4
i. Providing a \$250 rebate to seniors on Medicare who have hit the so-called "doughnut hole" where they are paying the full cost of their medicines	48	30	10	7	5
j. Providing tax credits to businesses with fewer than 25 workers that provide health insurance to their employees	48	38	6	3	4
k. Limiting future increases in Medicare payments to health care providers such as hospitals and home health agencies as a way to help pay for health reform	23	34	18	18	8

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

D2. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	18
Very good	35
Good	30
Only fair	12
Poor	5
Don't know/Refused	1

D2a. Are you, yourself, now receiving regular medical treatment or making regular doctor visits for any chronic health problem--such as asthma, high blood pressure or cancer?

Yes	30
No	69
Don't know/Refused	*

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	9
Full-time for an employer	38
Part-time for an employer	10
Retired	22
Not employed	14
Homemaker (VOL.)	2
Student (VOL.)	2
Disabled (VOL.)	3
Don't know/Refused	*

D4. 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])?

Covered by health insurance	82
Not covered by health insurance	17
Don't know/Refused	*

D4a. 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 have health insurance (n=1,042)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	53
Plan you purchased yourself	10
Medicare	22
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	5
Some other government program	4
Somewhere else	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

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

D6. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)

18-29	19
30-49	37
50-64	25
65 and older	18
Undesignated	1

D8. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Republican	21
Democratic	36
Independent	33
Or What? (<i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here)	5
Don't know/Refused	5

D9. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	19
Moderate	38
Conservative	36
Don't know/Refused	7

D10. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

Yes	82
No	17
Don't know/Refused	1

D11. 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)	30
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)	11
Don't know/Refused	1

D12. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D13. 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	68
Total non-White	30
Black or African-American	11
Hispanic	14
Asian	3
Other mixed race	2
Undesignated	2

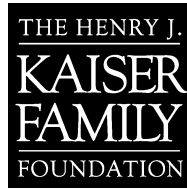
D14. Last year -- that is, in 2009 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	17
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	9
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	13
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	14
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	16

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

Trend Information:

- 03/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (March 10-15, 2010)
- 02/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 11-15, 2010)
- 01/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (January 7-12, 2010)
- 12/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (December 7-13, 2009)
- 11/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (November 5-12, 2009)
- 10/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (October 8-15, 2009)
- 09/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 11-18, 2009)
- 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)
- 03/09: National Public Radio/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public and the Health Care Delivery System* (March 12-22, 2009)
- 02/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 3-12, 2009)
- 04/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (April 6-11, 2006)
- 02/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 2-7, 2006)
- 12/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (December 6-11, 2005)
- 08/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 4-8, 2005)
- 04/05: *USA Today*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University *Health Care Costs Survey* (April 25-June 9, 2005)
- 12/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (December 2-5, 2004)



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