

Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: May 2010

May 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, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted May 11 through May 16, 2010, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,210 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (803) and cell phone (407, including 125 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 you may know, a new health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year. Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? [ROTATE TERMS IN PARENTHESES] (Is that a very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable opinion?)

	<u>5/10</u>	<u>04/10</u> ¹
Very favorable	14	23
Somewhat favorable	27	23
Somewhat unfavorable	12	10
Very unfavorable	32	30
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	14	14

- 2FAV. Could you tell me in your own words what is the main reason you have a favorable opinion of the new health reform law? (OPEN-END)

Based on those who have a favorable opinion (n=503)

	<u>5/10</u>
Expanding Access (NET)	47
Expanding access to health insurance	23
Expanding access to health care	15
Will help self or family	4
Will help low income families	3
Adult children will be able to get health insurance	2
Will make health care more affordable/control costs	12
Country will be better off generally	6
Insurance Reform (NET)	5
Will help people with pre-existing conditions	4
Insurance reform generally	1
A step in the right direction	4
Reform was needed	3
Will help seniors	1
Approve of government role	1
People will have more choice of health insurance coverage	*
Other reason for a favorable view	6
Don't know/Refused	14

¹ Trend wording was slightly different: “[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? (Is that a very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable opinion?)”

2UNFAV. Could you tell me in your own words what is the main reason you have an unfavorable opinion of the new health reform law? (OPEN-END)

Based on those who have an unfavorable opinion (n=569)

	<u>5/10</u>
Financial and Cost Considerations (NET)	27
Will cost too much/Not paid for	15
Health insurance and health care will become more expensive	6
Taxes will go up	5
Government-related issues	17
Harm to seniors/Medicare	6
Individuals should pay for their own insurance/People will freeload	5
Against individual mandate	5
Opposed to process	4
Don't understand law/Don't know enough about it	4
Concerned about impact on own situation	4
Will end up hurting people's existing health care arrangements	3
Doesn't go far enough to fix the problems	3
Unconstitutional	2
Illegal immigrants will/will not be covered	2
Abortion	1
Hurts small businesses	1
Only helps low income families	1
Bad for doctors	1
Death counseling provisions/ Death panels	*
Other reason for an unfavorable view	10
Don't know/Refused	5

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-e, THEN ASK ITEM f, THEN RANDOMIZE ITEMS g-l), or not?

		Yes, have <u>gotten info.</u>	No, have not <u>gotten info.</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a. cable TV news channels such as CNN, FOX, or MSNBC, or their websites	05/10	63	36	1
	04/10	67	32	1
b. national broadcast network news channels such as ABC, NBC, or CBS, or their websites ²	05/10	55	44	1
	04/10	60	39	1
c. local TV news stations or their websites	05/10	47	52	1
d. shows like The Daily Show with Jon Stewart or The Colbert Report or their websites	05/10	12	87	1
e. newspapers or newspaper websites	05/10	48	51	1
	04/10	49	50	1
f. other websites or blogs	05/10	20	79	1
	04/10	26	74	*
g. conversations with friends and family	05/10	68	31	*
	04/10	73	26	*
h. listening to the radio	05/10	45	55	*
	04/10	54	46	--
i. elected officials	05/10	20	79	*
	04/10	19	81	*
j. an employer	05/10	11	89	*
	04/10	11	88	1
k. a community organization	05/10	9	91	1
	04/10	9	91	*
l. your doctor or another health care professional	05/10	19	81	*

² Trend wording for item b was slightly different: "broadcast network news channels such as ABC, NBC, or CBS, or their websites."

3a Summary.

Have you gotten any information about the health reform law from cable TV news channels such as CNN, FOX, or MSNBC, or their websites, or not?

Would you say you are mainly getting information from (CNN), (FOX News), (MSNBC), or some other cable news channel? (ROTATE TERMS IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>05/10</u>
Yes, have gotten information from this source	63
Mainly CNN	22
Mainly FOX News	25
Mainly MSNBC	6
Mainly some other cable news channel	6
Don't know where mainly get information from	4
No, have not gotten information from this source	36
Don't know/Refused	1

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>05/10</u>	<u>04/10</u>
Cable TV news channels such as CNN, FOX, or MSNBC, or their websites	30	36
Newspapers or newspaper websites	12	12
Conversations with friends and family	11	10
National broadcast network news channels such as ABC, NBC, or CBS, or their websites ³	10	16
Local TV news stations or their websites	8	NA
Listening to the radio	7	9
Other websites or blogs	5	6
Your doctor or another health care professional	3	NA
Elected officials	2	1
Shows like The Daily Show or The Colbert Report or their websites	1	NA
An employer	1	1
A community organization	1	1
None most important source/Something else (VOL.)	2	1
None have been a source ⁴	7	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	1

³ Trend wording slightly different: "Network news channels such as ABC, NBC, or CBS, or their websites."

⁴ Includes those who said no to all items in Q3.

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 TERMS 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						
	05/10	29	30	32	--	9
	04/10	31	32	30	--	8
	03/10 ⁵	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						
	05/10	43	35	13	--	9
	04/10	45	35	11	--	9
	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

⁵ Trend wording was slightly different: "Do you think (INSERT) 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?"

5. Do you feel you understand what the impact of the health reform law will be on you and your family, or not?

	<u>05/10</u>
Yes, understand	61
No, do not understand	35
Don't know/Refused	3

6. 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). 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				
	05/10	36	63	2
	04/10	42	56	3
	12/09 ⁶	47	52	1
	10/09	49	49	1
	09/09	50	48	2
b. Confused				
	05/10	44	54	2
	04/10	55	45	1
	12/09	48	52	*
	10/09	49	50	1
	09/09	48	51	1
	08/09	46	53	2
c. Pleased				
	05/10	39	57	4
	04/10	45	52	3
d. Angry				
	05/10	30	69	2
	04/10	30	69	1
	12/09	35	64	1
	10/09	40	59	1
	09/09	31	67	1
e. Disappointed				
	05/10	45	53	2
	04/10	45	52	3
f. Relieved				
	05/10	32	65	3
	04/10	40	58	2

⁶ 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."

7. Generally, how confident are you that you have enough money or health insurance to pay for the usual medical costs that you and your family require? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	<u>05/10</u>	<u>04/05</u>
Very confident	29	33
Somewhat confident	38	33
Not too confident	15	14
Not at all confident	16	19
Don't know/Refused	2	1

8. How confident are you that you would have enough money or health insurance to pay for a major illness, such as a heart attack, cancer, or a serious injury that required hospitalization? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	<u>05/10</u>	<u>04/05</u>
Very confident	27	25
Somewhat confident	33	34
Not too confident	18	17
Not at all confident	20	23
Don't know/Refused	2	1

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	19
Very good	33
Good	32
Only fair	12
Poor	3
Don't know/Refused	*

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	28
No	72
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	11
Full-time for an employer	40
Part-time for an employer	10
Retired	19
Not employed	15
Homemaker (VOL.)	1
Student (VOL.)	1
Disabled (VOL.)	2
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	84
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know/Refused	1

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=1,065)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	56
Plan you purchased yourself	12
Medicare	18
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	4
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	36
50-64	27
65 and older	18
Undesignated	*

D7. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	59
Living with a partner	7
Widowed	5
Divorced	6
Separated	2
Never been married	20
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

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

Republican	21
Democratic	35
Independent	32
Or What? (<i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here)	7
Don't know/Refused	5

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

Liberal	19
Moderate	40
Conservative	34
Don't know/Refused	6

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

D10b. How often would you say you vote in mid-term elections, when there is an election for Congress but not for president...always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom?

Based on those who are registered to vote (n=1,047)

Always	48
Nearly always	26
Part of the time	15
Seldom	8
Never vote (VOL.)	3
Other (VOL.)	*
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	--

D10/10b Summary table based on total

Yes, registered	82
Always vote in mid-term elections	39
Nearly always vote in mid-term elections	21
Vote part of the time in mid-term elections	12
Seldom vote in mid-term elections	6
Never vote/Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4
Not registered	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)	31
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	4
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	16
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	13
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	69
Total non-White	29
Black or African-American	11
Hispanic	13
Asian	3
Other mixed race	2
Undesignated	2

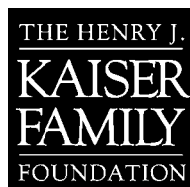
D14. Last year -- that is, in 2009 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	13
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	13
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	4
\$100,000 or more	12
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	14

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

Trend Information:

- 04/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 9-14, 2010)
- 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)
- 02/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 3-12, 2009)
- 04/05: *USA Today*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University *Health Care Costs Survey* (April 25-June 9, 2005)



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This publication (#8075-T) is available on the
Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

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