



Topline

***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll:
Early Reaction to Supreme Court Decision on the ACA***

June 2012

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Early Reaction to Supreme Court Decision on the ACA* is the first of two polls to be released this month looking at public opinion on the Affordable Care Act in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in the case challenging the law. The poll was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted June 28-30, 2012, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,239 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (712) and cell phone (527, including 314 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Braun Research, Inc. under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population data from the Census Bureau's 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), and region along with data from the 2000 Census on population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the January-June 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. Weighted and unweighted values for key demographic variables are shown in the table below.

Sample Demographics		
	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender		
Male	54.2%	50.1%
Female	45.8%	49.9%
Age		
18-24	8.9%	12.7%
25-34	11.0%	16.4%
35-44	11.3%	16.0%
45-54	17.7%	19.2%
55-64	22.5%	16.3%
65+	26.5%	17.5%
Education		
Less than HS Grad.	6.0%	12.3%
HS Grad.	26.0%	34.2%
Some College	22.8%	24.3%
College Grad.	44.7%	28.8%
Race/Ethnicity		
White/not Hispanic	75.3%	67.8%
Black/not Hispanic	8.2%	11.0%
Hisp - US born	6.3%	6.6%
Hisp - born outside	3.7%	6.3%
Other/not Hispanic	4.4%	6.2%
Party Identification		
Democrat	30.8%	32.1%
Independent	35.9%	36.8%
Republican	25.4%	21.9%
Other	4.7%	4.9%

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margin of sampling errors for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

The response rate calculated based on the American Association of Public Opinion Research's Response Rate 3 formula was 17 percent for the landline sample and 14 percent for the cell phone sample.

1. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? [GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?] (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/ Refused
06/12	25	16	11	30	18
05/12	17	20	12	32	19
04/12	20	22	9	34	15
03/12	18	23	11	29	19
02/12	17	25	16	27	15
01/12	18	19	14	30	19
12/11 ¹	19	22	15	28	17
11/11	17	20	15	29	19
10/11	12	22	20	31	15
09/11	18	23	14	29	16
08/11	16	23	17	27	17
07/11	20	22	12	31	15
06/11	15	27	16	30	12
05/11	19	23	15	29	14
04/11	20	21	14	27	18
03/11	21	21	15	31	13
02/11	16	27	19	29	8
01/11	19	22	16	34	9
12/10	22	20	14	27	18
11/10	19	23	12	28	18
10/10	18	24	15	29	15
09/10	19	30	15	25	11
08/10	19	24	13	32	12
07/10	21	29	10	25	14
06/10	20	28	16	25	10
05/10	14	27	12	32	14
04/10 ²	23	23	10	30	14

¹ May 2010 through December 2011 trend wording was "As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year..."

² April 2010 trend wording was "[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?)"

2. To the best of your knowledge, has the United States Supreme Court announced their final ruling on the case challenging parts of the health care law, or not?

	06/12
Yes, announced ruling	64
No, did not announce ruling	18
Don't know/Refused	17

3. As far as you know did the Supreme Court decide to (strike down) the health care law or (uphold) the health care law? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

Based on those who say Supreme Court announced ruling (n=885)

	06/12
Strike down the health care law	4
Uphold the health care law	91
Other decision (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused	3

Summary of Q2 and Q3 based on total

	06/12
Aware that Supreme Court announced ruling and decided to uphold health care law	59
Unaware of ruling	41
No, Court did not announce ruling	18
Don't know if Court has ruled	17
Yes, Court announced ruling and Court decided to strike down the law/made other decision (VOL.)/don't know what the Court decided	6

4. [IF Q2=2,9 or Q3=1,3,9 READ: Though not everyone has had a chance to hear about it]/[IF Q3=2 READ: As you noted], the Supreme Court recently decided to uphold the health care law. Do you approve or disapprove of the Court's decision in this case?

	06/12
Approve	47
Disapprove	43
Don't know/Refused	10

5. Overall, how would you say you feel about the Court's decision? Would you say you feel (ROTATE ORDER 1-4,4-1)?

	06/12
Angry	17
Disappointed but not angry	29
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	28
Enthusiastic	18
Some other emotion (VOL.)	3
Don't care (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused	3

6. How big of a role do you think each of the following played in the Supreme Court’s decision in the case challenging parts of the health care law? What about (INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE)? Do you think this played a major role, a minor role, or no role at all in the Justices’ decision on this case? READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS: What about (INSERT NEXT ITEM, RANDOMIZE)? [READ AS NECESSARY: Did this play a major role, a minor role, or no role at all in the Supreme Court Justices’ decision on the health care law?]

		Major role	Minor role	No role	Don’t know/ Refused
a. National politics	06/12	49	26	18	7
	04/12 ³	49	32	14	4
	03/12	50	35	10	5
b. Whether the Justices’ themselves hold liberal or conservative views	06/12	47	27	15	11
	04/12	56	27	11	7
	03/12	51	29	12	7
c. The Justices’ past personal experiences	06/12	31	31	22	16
	04/12	39	40	16	6
	03/12	38	39	16	7
d. The Justices’ analysis and interpretation of the law	06/12	57	19	11	13
	04/12	65	24	6	5
	03/12	54	31	8	6
e. Whether a Justice was appointed by a Republican or Democratic president	06/12	40	25	24	11
	04/12	50	28	17	5
	03/12	44	31	18	6
f. The views of average Americans	06/12	29	29	35	7
	04/12	30	36	30	3
	03/12	27	40	30	2

7. Which of these do you think played the MOST important role in the Justices’ decision on this case? (READ ITEMS RATED AS “MAJOR” IN Q6 IN SAME ORDER)

Summary Q6 and Q7 based on total, includes those who rated only one item as “major”

	06/12	04/12 ⁴	03/12
The Justices’ analysis and interpretation of the law	27	30	19
National politics	19	12	16
Whether the Justices’ themselves hold liberal or conservative views	15	21	22
Whether a Justice was appointed by a Republican or Democratic president	10	16	11
The views of average Americans	9	7	9
The Justices’ past personal experiences	4	4	6
None of these/Some other factor (VOL.)	2	1	1
None played a major role	12	8	13
Don’t know/Refused	2	2	3

³ March through April 2012 trend wording was “When the Supreme Court rules on the case challenging parts of the health care law, how big of a role do you think each of the following WILL play in their decision? Will this play a major role, a minor role, or no role at all in the Justices’ decision on this case?”

⁴ March through April 2012 trend wording was “Which of these do you think will play the MOST important role in the Justices’ decision on this case?”

8. Does this decision by the Supreme Court make you (more) likely to vote this November than you otherwise would have been, (less) likely to vote than you otherwise would have been, or does it not really change your plans for voting? (ROTATE WORDS IN PARENTHESES)

	06/12
More likely to vote	22
Less likely to vote	2
Doesn't really change plans for voting	70
Don't vote, not registered to vote, don't plan to vote (VOL.)	3
Don't know/Refused	2

9. Which comes closer to your view? Now that the Supreme Court has ruled to uphold the health care law, opponents of the law should (READ AND ROTATE)...

	06/12
Continue trying to block the law from being implemented	38
Stop their efforts to block the law and move on to other national problems	56
Don't know/Refused	7

10. What would you like to see Congress do when it comes to the health care law? They should expand the law, they should keep the law as is, they should repeal the law and replace it with a Republican-sponsored alternative, (or) they should repeal the law and not replace it? (READ AND ROTATE 1-4, 4-1. ENTER ONE ONLY)

	Expand law	Keep law as is	Repeal and replace with Republican alternative	Repeal and NOT replace	Don't know/ Refused
06/12	28	25	18	20	10
05/12	27	20	18	21	13
03/12	28	19	18	23	12
02/12	35	19	18	19	9
01/12	31	19	18	22	11
12/11	30	20	16	22	11
11/11	32	18	15	24	11
09/11	33	19	16	21	12
07/11	33	20	16	21	10
06/11	31	20	19	19	12
05/11	30	21	19	19	10
04/11	33	19	15	20	14
03/11	30	21	18	21	10
02/11	30	20	19	20	10
01/11	28	19	23	20	10

11. I'm going to read you a list of federal government programs and for each one, please tell me how important you think this program is. Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important? What about... (INSERT. READ AND RANDOMIZE)? READ AS NECESSARY: Is this very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

		Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Not at all Important	Don't know/Refused
a. Medicaid	06/12	69	23	4	2	2
	05/05	74	19	2	2	2
	03/99	67	26	4	2	1
b. Medicare	06/12	80	15	2	1	1
	05/05	83	14	1	1	2
	03/99	80	17	2	1	*
c. Defense and military spending	06/12	60	28	6	5	1
	05/05	57	31	6	4	2
	03/99 ⁵	48	39	8	3	2
d. Social Security	06/12	81	14	2	2	1
	05/05	88	9	2	1	1
	03/99	85	12	2	1	*
e. Foreign aid	06/12	23	42	17	15	2
	05/05	20	47	15	12	5

READ: Next, I'd like to ask you a question about Medicaid, which is the government program that provides health insurance and long term care to certain low-income adults and children...

12. How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

	06/12	05/11	01/11 ⁶
Very important	38	27	39
Somewhat important	18	22	20
Not too important	13	18	16
Not at all important	30	31	23
Don't know/Refused	1	2	2

⁵ March 1999 trend wording for item was "Defense spending"

⁶ January 2011 trend wording was "How important for you and your family is Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance and long term care to certain low-income adults and children?"

DEMOGRAPHICS

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	50
Female	50

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	18
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 are insured (n=1,081)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	55
Plan you purchased yourself	11
Medicare	19
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	5
Some other government program	4
Somewhere else (SPECIFY)	3
Plan through your parents/mother/father (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused	1

Summary D4 and D4a based on total

Covered by health insurance	82
Employer or spouse's employer	45
Self-purchased plan	9
Medicare	16
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	4
Other government program	3
Somewhere else	2
Plan through parents/mother/father (VOL.)	1
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	1

D5. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

D6. (ASK IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED AGE) Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ LIST)...?

18-29	21
30-49	33
50-64	28
65 and older	17
Don't know/Refused	*

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

Republican	22
Democrat	32
Independent	37
Or what/Other/None/No preference/Other party	5
Don't know/Refused	4

D8a. Do you LEAN more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]?
(ROTATE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS D8)

Summary D8 and D8a based on total

Republican/Lean Republican	35
Democrat/Lean Democratic	45
Other/Don't lean/Don't know	20

Five-Point Party ID

Democrat	32
Independent Lean Democratic	13
Independent/Don't lean	20
Independent Lean Republican	13
Republican	22
Undesignated	1

D8b. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	23
Moderate	38
Conservative	35
Don't know/Refused	4

D8c. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

Yes, supporter of Tea Party movement	26
No, not a supporter of Tea Party movement	63
Don't know/Refused	11

D9. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

Yes	81
No	18
Don't know/Refused	1

D10. How often would you say you vote...always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom?

Based on registered voters (n=1,074)

Always	57
Nearly always	28
Part of the time	9
Seldom	4
Never vote (VOL.)	1
Other (VOL.)	*
Don't know/Refused	*

Summary D9 and D10 based on total

Yes, registered to vote	81
Always vote	46
Nearly always vote	23
Vote part of the time	7
Seldom vote	4
Never vote (VOL.)	1
Other (VOL.)	*
Don't know how often	*
No, not registered	18
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 (grades 9-11)	9
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	29
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., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	11
Don't know/Refused	*

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, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	13
Asian, non-Hispanic	4
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	2
Undesignated	2

D12a. Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

Based on Hispanics (n=124)

U.S.	38
Puerto Rico	6
Another country	49
Don't know/Refused	7

D14. Last year—that is, in 2011—what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	16
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	11
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	7
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	4
\$100,000 or more	13
Don't know/Refused	16

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

TREND INFORMATION:

- 05/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 8-14, 2012)
- 04/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 4-10, 2012)
- 03/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 29 – March 5, 2012)
- 02/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 13-19, 2012)
- 01/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (January 12-17, 2012)
- 12/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (December 8-13, 2011)
- 11/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (November 10-15, 2011)
- 10/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (October 13-18, 2011)
- 09/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 7-12, 2011)
- 08/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 10-15, 2011)
- 07/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 13-18, 2011)
- 06/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 9-14, 2011)
- 05/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 12-17, 2011)
- 04/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 7-12, 2011)
- 03/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (March 8-13, 2011)
- 02/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 8-13, 2011)
- 01/11: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 112th Congress* (January 4-14, 2011)
- 12/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (December 1-6, 2010)
- 11/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (November 3-6, 2010)
- 10/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (October 5-10, 2010)
- 09/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 14-19, 2010)
- 08/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 16-22, 2010)
- 07/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 8-13, 2010)
- 06/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 17-22, 2010)
- 05/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 11-16, 2010)
- 04/10: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 9-14, 2010)
- 05/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser 2005 Medicaid Survey* (April 1-May 1, 2005)
- 03/99: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health/NPR survey (March 4-24, 1999)



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