



Toplines

January/February 2005 Health Poll Report Survey

February 2005

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between February 3 and February 6, 2005, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 adults ages 18 and older.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents 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.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). “VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

Q1a. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem for the government to address? Is there another problem you think is almost as important for the government to address?

Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=605) (Total Net Responses)

WAR/FOREIGN POLICY (NET)	34
War/Situation with Iraq	17
War (general)	14
Foreign policy/Foreign relations	3
World peace/Peace in the Middle East	1
SOCIAL SECURITY (NET)	33
ECONOMY (NET)	21
The economy	6
Unemployment	9
Poverty/homelessness	5
Rising gas/fuel prices	--
HEALTH CARE (NET)	21
Health care/health care reform	14
Health insurance	3
Prescription drug costs	1
Medicare	2
TERRORISM/NATIONAL SECURITY (NET)	10
National security	5
Terrorism/Sept. 11 attacks	3
War on terrorism	1
TAXES/BUDGET (NET)	10
Taxes/tax reform	3
National budget/deficit	5
Reduce government spending	1
EDUCATION (NET)	4
CRIME (NET)	2
Crime/violence	1
Drug problems	1
OTHER GOVERNMENT ISSUES (NET)	6
Honesty in government	1
Size of government is too large	--

Q1b. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem in health or health care for the government to address? Is there another health problem you think is almost as important?

Based on One-Half of Respondents (n=596)

COSTS (NET)	42
Cost of health care	25
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	14
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	8
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	2
ACCESS TO CARE AND INSURANCE (NET)	21
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	12
Health care availability (general)	4
Health care for the poor	2
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	3
MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NET)	18
Cancer/Cancer Research	6
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	5
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	9
SENIORS' ISSUES (NET)	16
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	8
Medicare	6
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly/Medicare)	4
INSURANCE COMPANY CONCERNS (NET)	8
Health insurance (general)	7
HMO/Managed care concerns	1
OTHER POLICY (NET)	8
Quality of care	3
Children's care/issues	2
Other policy/social issues (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	4

NOTE: "Don't know" and responses mentioned by less than 5 percent are not shown

- Q2. Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. (First,) how closely did you follow this story...? **(INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE) REPEAT CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY:** Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Military action and peace keeping efforts in Iraq	50	35	9	6	1
b. The elections in Iraq	29	36	18	17	1
c. Proposals by President Bush to change the Social Security System	45	29	13	13	1
d. Recovery efforts following the tsunami in Asia	37	42	13	9	0
e. Changes to U.S. dietary guidelines recommending that Americans eat fewer calories, get more exercise, and eat more fruits and vegetables	24	28	20	28	*
f. The ongoing discussions about the potential health risks of pain medications such as Vioxx and Celebrex	27	29	21	22	1
g. Reports of new cases of mad cow disease in Canada	13	22	27	38	*
h. Ongoing efforts to manage the nation's supply of flu vaccine	22	34	25	18	1
i. A new study finding that everyday activity such as fidgeting, pacing and restlessness may be part of what determines whether a person is obese	6	13	17	62	1
j. Proposed legislation supported by President Bush that would reform the medical malpractice system	18	27	23	30	1
k. President Bush's State of the Union address	22	20	14	44	1

Q3. Now I'm going to read you some different health care issues. As I read each one, please tell me how important you think it is for the President and Congress to deal with this issue—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. (First,) How important is this issue... **(INSERT ITEM, READ & RANDOMIZE)?**

	Very <u>imp.</u>	Somewhat <u>imp.</u>	Not too <u>imp.</u>	Not at all <u>imp.</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	78	16	3	2	1
b. Reforming the medical malpractice system	53	31	9	5	3
c. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs	82	14	2	1	*
d. Lowering the cost of health insurance	85	12	2	1	*
e. Reducing medical errors or mistakes	72	20	5	2	1

Q3.1 Which of the following issues you say are very important do you think is MOST important?

- 30 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- 27 Lowering the cost of health insurance
- 17 Lowering the cost of prescription drugs
- 10 Reducing medical errors or mistakes
- 7 Reforming the medical malpractice system
- * **(VOL.)** Other issue is most important
- 5 **(VOL.)** All the same/equally important
- 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
- 3 None very important

Q3.2 Do you currently take any prescription medicine on a daily basis or not?

- 50 Yes
- 50 No
- * Don't know/Refused

- Q4. I am going to read you a list of companies and groups. For each one please tell me if you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of each. How about.. **(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE)**.. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion?

If favorable/unfavorable, ask: Is that very or somewhat?

Based on One-Half of Respondents only (n=605)

	Very <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>unfavor.</u>	Very <u>unfavor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. Hospitals	39	39	12	6	4
b. HMO's, or Health Maintenance Organizations, and other managed care plans	15	30	24	20	11
c. Health insurance companies	19	34	24	18	5
d. Banks	28	47	14	4	6
e. Oil companies	10	26	27	27	10
f. Pharmaceutical or drug companies	14	30	25	25	6
g. Airlines	18	40	15	8	18
h. Doctors	42	40	11	4	4
i. Tobacco companies	7	10	19	56	7

- Q5. We're interested in how often you think you can trust what certain groups have to say in their advertisements. Do you think you can trust what...(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE) ... say in their advertisements most of the time, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

Based on One-Half of Respondents Only (n=596)

	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Hardly ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Hospitals	37	48	10	3	3
b. Lawyers	11	39	27	21	2
c. Health insurance companies	17	47	23	11	2
d. Pharmaceutical or drug companies	18	47	21	13	2
e. Doctors	45	39	7	5	4
f. HMO's or managed care companies	16	37	20	17	10
g. Politicians	6	35	30	27	2

- Q6. What impact do you think new prescription drugs developed over the past **20** years have had on the health and quality of life of Americans in general? Have they had a positive impact on health and quality of life, a negative impact, or have they had no impact?

78 Positive
13 Negative
4 No impact
5 Don't know/Refused

- Q7. Do you think prescription drugs developed over the past **20** years have made a big difference, small difference or no difference in the lives of people with.. (INSERT. READ AND ROTATE). What about for people with...(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE).

READ AS NECESSARY: Have they made a big difference, a small difference, or no difference?

	<u>Big difference</u>	<u>Small difference</u>	<u>No difference</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Heart disease	72	18	3	6
b. Cancer	63	23	8	7
c. Obesity	18	37	32	13
d. Mental illness	42	33	9	16
e. HIV	52	22	9	18

Q7.1 Do you think prescription drugs developed over the past 20 years have made a big difference, a small difference, or no difference in the life of the average person?

- 58 Big difference
- 33 Small difference
- 7 No difference
- 3 Don't know/Refused

Q8a. How important a contribution do pharmaceutical companies make by researching and developing new drugs and treatments?

- 60 Very important
- 31 Somewhat important
- 3 Not too important
- 3 Not at all important
- 3 Don't know

Q8b. Which statement comes closer to your own view (**ROTATE 1 & 2**):

- 70 Pharmaceutical companies are most concerned about making profits, and they put profits ahead of people
- 24 Pharmaceutical companies are most concerned about developing new drugs and treatments that save lives and improve the quality of life for Americans, and profits come second, OR
- 7 (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know/Refused

Q8c. When you see prescription medicines advertised on television, how confident are you that the benefits outweigh the risks and side effects of the medicine?

- 5 Very confident
- 34 Somewhat confident
- 31 Not too confident
- 26 Not at all confident
- 3 Don't know/Refused

Q9. Which statement comes closer to your own view (**ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 & 2**):

- 59 Prescription drugs increase overall medical costs in the U.S. because they are so expensive (OR)
- 23 Prescription drugs help decrease overall medical costs in the U.S. by reducing the need for expensive medical procedures and hospitalizations. (OR)
- 11 Prescription drugs do not affect overall medical costs in the U.S.
- 7 Don't know/Refused

- Q10. Do you think consumers get excellent value for the dollar, a good value, only fair value for the dollar, or poor value for the dollar from each of the following? What about (**INSERT. READ AND ROTATE**)...

READ AS NECESSARY: Would you say this is an excellent value, good value, only fair value, or poor value?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Prescription drugs	6	27	39	27	2
b. Hospitals	6	30	39	22	3
c. Physician fees	4	28	39	25	4
d. Immunizations against disease	23	39	26	8	3

- Q11. Have you seen or heard any advertisements for prescription drugs, or not?

90 Yes
 9 No
 * Don't know/Refused

- Q12. As a result of seeing an ad for a prescription medicine, have you ever talked with a doctor about the specific medicine you saw or heard advertised, or not?

Based on those who have seen or heard ads (n=1097)

26 Yes
 74 No
 * Don't know/Refused

Q13. When you talked to your doctor about a prescription medicine you saw advertised please tell me if your doctor did any of the following. Did your doctor....?

Based on those who talked with dr. about advertised medicine (n=286)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Give you the prescription drug you asked about	52	47	1
b. Recommend a different prescription drug	44	54	2
c. Recommend an over-the-counter drug	34	65	1
d. Recommend no drug	26	72	2
e. Recommend that you make changes in your behavior or lifestyle	57	42	1
f. Something else	19	78	3

Q14. Do you think advertisements by pharmaceutical or drug companies provide useful information most of the time, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

Based on those who have seen or heard ads (n=1097)

22	Most of the time
42	Sometimes
25	Hardly ever
10	Never
1	Don't know

Q15. I'd like your opinion of current government regulation of prescription drugs in some different areas. Is there too much regulation in this area, not as much as there should be, or about the right amount of regulation? How about ...**(INSERT. READ AND ROTATE?)**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Not enough</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Making sure prescription drugs are safe for people to use	8	50	39	3
b. Making sure that statements about benefits and possible side effects made in advertisements for prescription drugs are not misleading	6	51	39	4
c. Limiting the price of prescription drugs	14	65	14	7

- Q16. What if you heard that limiting the prices of prescription drugs might lead to LESS research and development of new drugs since drug companies would be making smaller profits. Would you still think there should be more regulation of the prices charged for prescription drugs?

Based on those who think the government is not doing enough to limit price of Rx drugs (n=788)

- 70 Yes
- 23 No
- 6 Don't know/Refused

- Q17. Overall, how confident are you in the safety of prescription drugs sold in the United States? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

- 28 Very confident
- 52 Somewhat confident
- 13 Not too confident
- 5 Not at all confident
- 1 Don't know/Refused

- Q18. How confident are you in the Food and Drug Administration's ability to make sure prescription drugs for sale in the United States are safe?

- 22 Very confident
- 55 Somewhat confident
- 15 Not too confident
- 7 Not at all confident
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q19. In the past few years, has your confidence in the Food and Drug Administration's ability to ensure the safety of prescription drugs in the United States--increased, decreased or has it remained about the same?

- 8 Increased
- 27 Decreased
- 62 Remained about the same
- 2 Don't know/Refused

Now, on another topic...

Q20. 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?

- 11 Self-employed
- 40 Full-time for an employer
- 10 Part-time for an employer
- 21 Retired
- 12 Not employed
- 2 Homemaker (VOL.)
- 1 Student (VOL.)
- 3 Disabled (VOL.)
- * Don't know/Refused

Q21. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? 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)? **USE VARIANT WORDING IN CALIFORNIA:** (Medi-Cal)

- 83 Yes, insured
- 17 No, not insured
- * Don't know/Refused

- Q22. I'm going to read you a list of things that some people worry about and others do not. I'd like you to tell me how worried you are about each of the following things. (First,) how worried are you about...? (**INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE**)

READ FOR FIRST ITEM AND THEN AS NECESSARY: Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance	41	32	11	15	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	34	28	16	22	*
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	23	33	19	24	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	31	26	17	25	*
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	15	26	29	30	*
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	17	27	24	31	*
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	40	31	13	17	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	17	18	15	48	1
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	21	19	19	40	*
Item J based on those who are employed (n=687)					
j. Losing your job	15	15	24	45	*
Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=599)					
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	15	14	19	52	*
Items L-M based on those who are insured (n=1046)					
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	26	22	19	32	*
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you	29	34	17	18	1

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

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

D2. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

- 19 18-29
- 39 30-49
- 24 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 1 Refused

- 58 Total Under 50
- 41 Total 50 and older

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 30 Republican
- 35 Democrat
- 29 Independent
- 4 (VOL.) No preference/Not interested in politics
- * (VOL.) Other party
- 1 Don't know
- 2 Refused

D4. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 17 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- * Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2004 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?
Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 7 Less than \$10,000
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 20 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 6 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 8 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D7. 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? CODE AS WHITE (1) OR BLACK (2). IF RESPONDENTS REFUSED TO PICK WHITE OR BLACK HISPANIC, RECORD HISPANIC AS "OTHER," CODE 4)**

- 73 White, Non Hispanic
- 26 Total Non-White
 - 10 Black or African-American
 - 11 Hispanic
 - 3 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 1 Don't know/Refused



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