



Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: October 2011

October 2011

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 Liz Hamel, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted October 13-18, 2011, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,223 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (718) and cell phone (505, including 290 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for results based on the full 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 I read you some different issues, please tell me if you think the president and Congress are paying (too much attention), (too little attention), or about the right amount of attention to each. First (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE). READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Are the president and Congress paying (too much attention), (too little attention), or about the right amount of attention to this issue? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW)¹

		Too much attention	Too little attention	About the right amount	Don't know/Refused
a. The economy and jobs	10/11	6	71	21	3
	06/11	7	76	15	2
b. The federal budget deficit	10/11	13	62	21	5
	06/11	15	62	19	3
c. The war in Afghanistan	10/11	34	34	27	5
	06/11	28	34	35	4
d. Health care reform	10/11	21	50	23	6
	06/11	28	48	21	3
e. Taxes	10/11	24	44	27	5
	06/11	21	47	27	4
f. Medicare	10/11	9	57	28	6
	06/11	15	55	26	3
g. Medicaid	10/11	9	56	27	8
	06/11	14	52	29	6
h. Education	10/11	7	63	27	3
	06/11	10	67	21	2
i. Social Security	10/11	7	65	24	4
j. The national debt	10/11	14	65	17	4

¹ June 2011 tracking wording was “As I read you some different issues, please tell me if you think lawmakers in Washington are paying (too much attention), (too little attention), or about the right amount of attention to each. First (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE). READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Are lawmakers in Washington paying (too much attention), (too little attention), or about the right amount of attention to this issue?”

2. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. 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
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

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?)”

3. Do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) will be (better off) or (worse off) under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW) [READ IF NECESSARY: "Will (INSERT ITEM) be (better off) or (worse off) under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?"]

		Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	Don't know/ Refused
a.	You and your family					
	10/11	18	31	44	--	6
	09/11	27	32	34	--	7
	08/11	24	33	37	--	6
	07/11	27	29	39	--	5
	06/11	24	34	35	--	7
	05/11	28	28	38	--	6
	04/11	27	28	37	--	8
	03/11	26	30	39	--	5
	02/11	28	31	38	--	3
	01/11	20	32	44	--	4
	12/10	32	33	28	--	7
	11/10	25	31	34	--	9
	10/10	31	29	32	--	7
	09/10	32	28	33	--	7
	08/10	29	30	36	--	5
	07/10	32	29	33	--	6
	06/10	28	28	39	--	5
	05/10	29	30	32	--	9
	04/10	31	32	30	--	8
	03/10 ³	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

Q3 continued on next page

³ February 2009 through March 2010 trend wording was "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?"

Q3 continued

	Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	Don't know/ Refused
b. The country as a whole					
10/11	28	36	29	--	7
09/11	38	36	18	--	8
08/11	33	37	21	--	9
07/11	39	35	20	--	6
06/11	35	39	20	--	6
05/11	37	38	19	--	6
04/11	39	35	18	--	9
03/11	38	35	19	--	7
02/11	37	39	19	--	5
01/11	34	38	22	--	5
12/10	40	37	15	--	8
11/10	38	36	16	--	10
10/10	39	34	18	--	9
09/10	42	34	15	--	9
08/10	39	37	18	--	6
07/10	43	35	15	--	7
06/10	42	32	19	--	6
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

4. As you may know, the state of Massachusetts passed a health reform law in 2006 when Mitt Romney was the state's governor. Given what you know about it, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of the Massachusetts health reform law, or do you not know enough to say? [GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?] [ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES]

Based on half sample a (n=599)

	10/11
Very favorable	6
Somewhat favorable	6
Somewhat unfavorable	5
Very unfavorable	8
Don't know enough to say	71
Don't know/Refused	3

5. As you may know, the state of Massachusetts passed a health reform law in 2006. Given what you know about it, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of the Massachusetts health reform law, or do you not know enough to say? [GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?] [ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES]

Based on half sample b (n=624)

	10/11
Very favorable	4
Somewhat favorable	5
Somewhat unfavorable	3
Very unfavorable	9
Don't know enough to say	76
Don't know/Refused	2

Combo table of Q4 and Q5 based on total

	10/11
Very favorable	5
Somewhat favorable	6
Somewhat unfavorable	4
Very unfavorable	8
Don't know enough to say	74
Don't know/Refused	3

6. From what you have heard, do you think the Massachusetts health reform law is working well, not working well, or do you not know enough to say?

	10/11
Working well	8
Not working well	11
Don't know enough to say	80
Don't know/Refused	2

7. How similar or different do you think the Massachusetts law is from the national health reform law passed last year? Would you say the two plans are very similar, somewhat similar, somewhat different, very different, or do you not know enough to say?

	10/11
Very similar	4
Somewhat similar	13
Somewhat different	7
Very different	4
Don't know enough to say	71
Don't know/Refused	2

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	48
Female	52

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

Excellent	22
Very good	26
Good	32
Only fair	14
Poor	5
Don't know/Refused	1

D3. What best describes your employment situation today? (READ IN ORDER)

Employed full-time	43
Employed part-time	11
Unemployed and currently seeking employment	8
Unemployed and not seeking employment	2
A student	5
Retired	17
On disability and can't work	7
Or, a homemaker or stay at home parent?	6
Don't know/Refused	1

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	77
Not covered by health insurance	23
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=983)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	53
Plan you purchased yourself	10
Medicare	21
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	7
Some other government program	4
Somewhere else (SPECIFY)	1
Plan through your parents/mother/father (VOL.)	3
Don't know/Refused	1

Summary of D4 and D4a based on total

Covered by health insurance	77
Employer or spouse's employer	41
Self-purchased plan	8
Medicare	16
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	5
Other government program	3
Somewhere else	1
Plan through parents/mother/father (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	23
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	36
50-64	25
65 and older	17
Don't know/Refused	1

D7. What is your religion – Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

Protestant (Baptist, Christian, Episcopalian, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)	51
Roman Catholic/Catholic	23
Jewish	1
Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)	1
Orthodox Church (Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc.)	*
Islam/Muslim	1
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Other religion (SPECIFY)	2
No religion/Atheist/Agnostic	15
Don't know/Refused	4

D7a. Do you think of yourself as Christian, or not?

Based on other religion, don't know religion, or refused (n=86)

Yes, Christian	47
No, not Christian	22
Don't know/Refused	31

D7b. Do you happen to be a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

Based on Protestants and Christians (n=684)

Yes, born-again or Evangelical	49
No, not born-again or Evangelical	47
Don't know/Refused	5

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

Republican	22
Democrat	32
Independent	35
Or what/Other/None/No preference/Other party	6
Don't know/Refused	5

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

D8/D8a. Combo Table based on total

Republican/Lean Republican	36
Democrat/Lean Democratic	46
Other/Don't lean/Don't know	19
Five-Point Party ID	
Democrat	32
Independent Lean Democratic	14
Independent/Don't lean	18
Independent Lean Republican	14
Republican	22
Undesignated	*

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

Liberal	22
Moderate	36
Conservative	37
Don't know/Refused	6

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

Yes, supporter of Tea Party movement	22
No, not a supporter of Tea Party movement	66
Don't know/Refused	12

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

Yes	77
No	22
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=981)

Always	60
Nearly always	23
Part of the time	10
Seldom	4
Never vote (Vol.)	2
Other (Vol.)	*
Don't know/Refused	*

Summary of D9 and D10 based on total

Yes, registered to vote	77	
Always vote		46
Nearly always vote		18
Vote part of the time		8
Seldom vote		3
Never vote (Vol.)		2
Other (Vol.)		*
Don't know how often		*
No, not registered	22	
Don't know/Refused	1	

D10a. How likely are you to vote in the Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state next year? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

Based on registered voters (n=981)

Very likely	50
Somewhat likely	12
Not too likely	9
Not at all likely	26
Don't know/Refused	3

Summary of D9 and D10a based on total

Yes, registered to vote	77	
Very likely to vote		38
Somewhat likely to vote		10
Not too likely to vote		7
Not at all likely to vote		20
Don't know/Refused if will vote		2
No, not registered	22	
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)	31
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	3
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	17
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	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	67
Total non-White	31
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	13
Asian, non-Hispanic	4
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	2
Undesignated	2

D14. Last year—that is, in 2010—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	15
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	13
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	6
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	11
Don't know/Refused	15

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

Trend Information:

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)
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)
10/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 8-13, 2008)
09/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (September 8-13, 2008)
04/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (April 3-13, 2008)
02/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (February 7-16, 2008)
12/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (November 28-December 9, 2007)
10/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 1-10, 2007)
06/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (May 31-June 5, 2007)
03/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (March 8-13, 2007)
10/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 5-10, 2006)
08/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 3-8, 2006)
02/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 2-7, 2006)
10/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 4-9, 2005)
06/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (June 2-5, 2005)
04/05: *USA Today*/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University *Health Care Costs Survey* (April 25-June 9, 2005)
03/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (March 31-April 3, 2005)
02/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 3-6, 2005)
12/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (December 2-5, 2004)
10/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 14-17, 2004)
08/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 5-8, 2004)
06/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (June 4-8, 2004)
04/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (April 1-5, 2004)
02/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 5-8, 2004)



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