



Toplines

March/April 2002 Health News Index Survey

April 2002

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health News Index Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between March 28 and March 31, 2002, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,003 adults ages 18 and over.

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.

1. 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?

COSTS (NET)	24
Cost of health care	11
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	9
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	4
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	1
ACCESS (NET)	23
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	8
Health insurance (general)	5
Health care availability (general)	5
Health care for the poor	4
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	1
POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)	21
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	8
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	4
Medicare	6
Children's care/issues	2
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	4
MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)	17
Cancer/Cancer Research	8
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	5
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	9
QUALITY OF CARE (NET)	6
HMO/Managed care concerns	4
Quality of care – other	2
OTHER	4
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	19

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

Percentages add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

2. 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)**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. The U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan	51	32	10	7	1
b. The ongoing investigation into the bankruptcy of the Enron Corporation	23	28	21	25	2
c. Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis	41	35	13	9	1
d. Discussions over FDA approval of the new colon cancer drug Erbitux	7	12	19	57	5
e. Ongoing discussions about mammograms for women	21	26	19	32	2
f. A report by the National Academies' Institute of Medicine about how racial minorities are treated in the health care system	9	18	23	47	3
g. Ongoing discussions of prescription drug discount cards	15	20	23	39	3

3. Now, I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I just mentioned. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question.

Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, what steps have been taken recently to help provide the elderly with some relief from the cost of prescription drugs?

- 21 Congress passed a bill to provide a new national drug discount program
- 26 Some private pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies are establishing their own drug discount card programs (*correct*)
- 53 Don't know/Refused

4. Thinking about what you have seen or heard in the news recently about mammograms, what was the recent debate about?
- 27 Whether or not mammograms have been proven to save lives (*correct*)
 - 36 The introduction of a better breast cancer screening test as an alternative to mammograms
 - 37 Don't know/Refused
5. Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, which of the following statements summarizes the findings of the Institute of Medicine's recent report on how racial minorities are treated in the health care system?
- 9 Differences between the way whites and people from minority groups are treated in our health care system are almost non-existent today
 - 34 People from minority groups are sometimes treated differently than whites, even if both have medical insurance (*correct*)
 - 12 People from racial minority groups living in rural areas receive better health care than those living in urban areas
 - 45 Don't know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS:**D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:**

- 49 Male
- 51 Female

D2. Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey... In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 28 Republican
- 27 Democrat
- 33 Independent
- 6 No preference/Not interested in politics (**VOL.**)
- * Other party (**VOL.**)
- 3 Don't know
- 2 Refused

D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 10 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 34 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college, no 4-year degree
- 15 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- * Don't Know
- * Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 20 18-29
- 42 30-49
- 20 50-64
- 17 65+
- * Don't know
- 1 Refused

D4.1 Is there anyone now living in your household who is between the ages of 15 to 24 years?

Based on those age 25 and older [N=896]

- 18 Yes
- 81 No
- * Don't know/Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2001 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 6 Less than \$10,000
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 19 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 8 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 7 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 7 Don't know
- 13 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**

- 73 White, Non Hispanic
- 25 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 9 Hispanic
 - 1 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 3 Don't Know/Refused



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

2400 Sand Hill Road

Menlo Park, CA 94025

Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Office:

1330 G Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

Additional copies of this publication (#7269) are available on the
Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation dedicated to providing information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.