



*Toplines*

# *July/August 2002 Health News Index Survey*

**August 2002**

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### **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 July 18 and July 21, 2002, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,208 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** urgent **HEALTH** problem facing the world **TODAY?** (**OPEN-END**) Is there another health problem you think is almost as urgent? (**RECORD UP TO 3 RESPONSES IN ORDER OF MENTION**)

50	AIDS or HIV
55	Cancer
10	Diabetes
6	Drugs
4	Elderly
5	Health care – access
9	Health care – cost
8	Health insurance/The uninsured
23	Heart disease
11	Hunger/Malnutrition
2	STDs
19	Other ( <b>SPECIFY</b> )
4	Lack of good nutrition/junk foods/ Obesity/weight disorder
4	Disease/More Research (Specific or Unspecific)
2	Pollution/Environment/Contamination
1	Alcoholism
1	Alzheimer's
1	High blood pressure
1	Cost of prescription drugs
1	Effects of smoking
1	Mental health
1	Problem – Not health related
2	Other problem
6	Don't know/Refused

*Note: adds to more than 100% due to multiple responses*

2. 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...?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans	75	17	4	3	2
b. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	81	13	3	2	1
c. Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations	80	16	3	1	1
d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	75	17	3	3	2

- 2.1 Which of the following issues you say are very important do you think is MOST important?

- 12 Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans
- 27 Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines
- 20 Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations
- 28 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- \* Other issue is most important (**VOL.**)
- 6 All the same/equally important (**VOL.**)
- 6 None Very Important
- 1 Don't know/Refused

3. 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...?

	<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	46	36	11	7	*
b. Corporate accounting scandals and related congressional investigations and hearings	36	28	17	19	1
c. A report from the National Institutes of Health on hormone replacement therapies for women	23	22	22	33	1
d. Discussions in Congress about a Medicare prescription drug benefit	24	31	20	24	1
e. Results from a recent National Institutes of Health study on birth control pills and breast cancer	14	24	23	37	1
f. The International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain and related reports on global HIV/AIDS	13	23	27	36	1

- 4a. Next, thinking about U.S. spending on foreign aid... Do you think the U.S. is now spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on foreign aid to developing countries?

***Based on One-Half of Respondents Only (n=600)***

54 Too much  
 12 Too little  
 25 Right amount  
 10 Don't know/Refused

- 4b. Next, thinking about U.S. spending on foreign aid to deal with the problem of HIV/AIDS in developing countries such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America... Do you think the U.S. is now spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on foreign aid to deal with the HIV/AIDS problem in developing countries?

*Based on One-Half of Respondents Only (n=608)*

30 Too much  
 24 Too little  
 27 Right amount  
 20 Don't know/Refused

5. Please tell me how much of a priority you think each of the following should be for U.S. spending on health care in Africa. (First,) what about...?

Should this be a high priority, a moderate priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all for U.S. spending on health care in Africa?

	<u>High Priority</u>	<u>Moderate Priority</u>	<u>Low Priority</u>	<u>Not at all a Priority</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment	59	24	8	7	1
b. Dealing with diseases like malaria and tuberculosis	48	35	10	6	1
c. Providing family planning and population control	44	31	12	11	2
d. Insuring that people have access to clean water	73	16	5	5	*
e. Dealing with problems caused by hunger	59	27	7	6	1

6. Which of the following do you think should be the MOST important priority for U.S. spending on health care in Africa?
- 25 HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
  - 4 Dealing with diseases like malaria and tuberculosis
  - 10 Providing family planning and population control
  - 22 Insuring that people have access to clean water
  - 21 Dealing with problems caused by hunger
  - 13 None High Priority
  - 4 Don't know/Refused
7. How serious a problem do you think AIDS in Africa is today? Is it...?
- 77 Very serious
  - 12 Somewhat serious
  - 1 Not too serious
  - 1 Not serious at all
  - 8 Don't know/Refused
8. In general, do you think that spending more money on HIV/AIDS PREVENTION in Africa will lead to meaningful progress, OR that spending more money won't make much difference?
- 41 Will lead to meaningful progress
  - 48 Won't make much difference
  - 5 It depends (**VOL**)
  - 6 Don't know/Refused
9. In general, do you think the news media are paying too much attention to HIV/AIDS, not enough attention, or about the right amount of attention?
- 10 Too much
  - 32 Too little
  - 53 Right amount
  - 4 Don't know/Refused

10. Now, I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I mentioned earlier. 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 did the report from the National Institutes of Health on hormone replacement therapy for women say?

- 35 A study of hormone replacement therapy was halted because women taking the drugs experienced an increased risk of breast cancer and heart disease. (*Correct answer*)
- 10 Hormone replacement therapy provides more benefits to women in menopause than researchers initially thought.
- 12 There is an increased risk of death for women taking hormone replacement therapy, and all those currently taking it should stop.
- 43 Don't know/Refused

11. Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, which of the following statements best summarizes the latest reports on global HIV/AIDS from the International AIDS conference in Barcelona?

- 5 HIV infection rates are declining worldwide
- 39 The projected number of worldwide AIDS cases in the next 20 years will be higher than researchers initially thought (*Correct answer*)
- 22 While HIV infection rates are rising, new treatments are widely available around the world and allowing many more people worldwide to live with the disease
- 33 Don't know/Refused

- Q.12 Thinking about what you have heard or seen in the news, which of the following statements comes closest to the findings about global HIV/AIDS prevention presented at the International AIDS conference in Barcelona?

- 44 Prevention programs could dramatically reduce the spread of HIV if given more funding (*Correct answer*)
- 23 Prevention programs are not effective and more funding for prevention will not have a big impact
- 34 Don't know/Refused



Q.13 To the best of your knowledge, which of the following statements about global HIV/AIDS is more accurate?

- 42 The majority of AIDS cases worldwide are among women and youth who get AIDS through heterosexual contact (*Correct answer*)
- 40 The majority of AIDS cases worldwide are among gay men and intravenous drug users who get AIDS through sharing contaminated needles
- 17 Don't know/Refused

Q.14 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)?

- 85 Yes, insured
- 14 No, not insured
- \* Don't know/Refused

15. Thinking about the next six months, please tell me how worried are you that each of the following might happen to you. (First,) how worried are you that...?  
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. You might not be able to get the health care services you think you need	23	20	20	36	1
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	33	29	13	23	1
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	24	20	19	37	1
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	23	27	19	30	1
<b><i>Items e-g based on those who are insured (n=1065)</i></b>					
e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	14	9	13	57	7
f. You might lose your health insurance coverage	16	14	19	50	*
g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	29	31	14	23	3

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

- 48 Male
- 52 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?

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

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

- 4 None, or grade 1-8
- 10 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college, no 4-year degree
- 17 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
- 9 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
- 41 30-49
- 21 50-64
- 16 65+
- 3 Don't Know/Refused

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

- 17 Yes
- 68 No
- 3 Don't know/Refused
- 12 Age 18-24 (not asked this Q)

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.

- 5 Less than \$10,000
- 11 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 15 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 20 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 12 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 6 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 6 Don't know
- 14 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**

- 75 White, Non Hispanic
- 23 Total Non-White
  - 11 Black or African-American
  - 8 Hispanic
  - 3 Asian
  - 1 Native American
  - 1 Other or mixed race
- 2 Don't Know/Refused



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