



Toplines

July/August 2003 Health Poll Report Survey

August 2003

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 August 7 to August 10, 2003, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,202 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.

AUGUST 2003 KAISER HEALTH POLL REPORT

Q.1a 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=588) (Total Responses)

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 39 | Economy (NET) |
| 17 | War (NET) |
| 14 | Miscellaneous (NET) |
| 13 | Terrorism/National Security (NET) |
| 13 | Health care (NET) |
| 10 | Taxes/Budget (NET) |
| 9 | Education (NET) |
| 9 | Other Government Issues (NET) |
| 5 | Crime (NET) |
| 6 | Other |
| 13 | Don't know/Refused |

Note: adds to more than 100% because of multiple responses

Q.1b 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=614)

- 42 **COSTS (NET)**
- 21 Cost of health care
- 17 Cost of prescription drugs/medicines
- 6 Cost of insurance/affordable insurance
- 2 Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)
- 22 **SENIORS' ISSUES (NET)**
- 11 Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)
- 6 Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly/Medicare)
- 6 Medicare
- 19 **ACCESS TO CARE AND INSURANCE (NET)**
- 12 Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured
- 4 Health care availability (general)
- 2 Health care for the poor
- 2 Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)
- 11 **MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NET)**
- 4 Cancer/Cancer Research
- 3 AIDS/AIDS research/HIV
- 7 Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other
- 8 **INSURANCE COMPANY CONCERNS (NET)**
- 7 Health insurance (general)
- 2 HMO/Managed care concerns
- 9 **OTHER POLICY (NET)**
- 2 Children's care/issues
- 3 Quality of care
- 3 Other policy/social issues (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)
- 9 **OTHER ISSUE**
- 12 **DON'T KNOW/REFUSED**

Note: adds to more than 100% because of multiple responses

Q.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</u> <u>Important</u> | <u>Somewhat</u> <u>Important</u> | <u>Not too</u> <u>important</u> | <u>Not at all</u> <u>important</u> | <u>DK /</u> <u>Refuse</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines | 79 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations | 82 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance | 74 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians | 48 | 33 | 9 | 5 | 4 |

Q2.1 Which of the following issues you say are very important do you think is MOST important? (Summary)

- 31 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- 26 Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines
- 25 Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations
- 8 Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians
- 1 Other issue is most important (VOL.)
- 4 All the same/equally important (VOL.)
- 4 None Very Important
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.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. Military action and peace keeping efforts in Iraq | 58 | 30 | 7 | 5 | * |
| b. Civil war and social unrest in Liberia | 17 | 32 | 22 | 29 | 1 |
| c. Charges of sexual assault against NBA star Kobe Bryant | 22 | 26 | 24 | 27 | 1 |
| d. Debates in Congress about a bill to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare | 22 | 30 | 18 | 29 | 1 |
| e. President Bush's recent visit to several African countries | 16 | 29 | 25 | 29 | 1 |
| f. Discussions in Washington about limits on jury awards in medical malpractice lawsuits | 11 | 22 | 23 | 43 | 1 |
| g. A new FDA rule requiring all food labels to list the amount of trans fat | 13 | 22 | 22 | 41 | 2 |
| h. A report from the Centers for Disease Control on AIDS in the U.S. | 14 | 25 | 25 | 35 | 1 |
| i. Debates in Congress on a bill that would allow prescription drugs to be imported from other countries | 18 | 27 | 23 | 31 | 1 |

Q.4 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, which of the following best describes the status of the recent bill that would make changes to Medicare, including adding prescription drug coverage?

- 5 The bill was passed and signed into law by President Bush
- 26 Different versions of the bill passed in the House and the Senate and the details are being negotiated now
- 6 The bill did not pass in the House or the Senate
- 63 Don't know/Refused

Q.5 The Centers for Disease Control recently released a report on AIDS in the United States. From what you've seen or heard in the news, did the report find that the rate of new AIDS cases had increased, decreased, or stayed the same between 2001 and 2002?

- 43 Increased
- 11 Decreased
- 8 Stayed the same
- 39 Don't know/Refused

Q.6 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?

- 9 Self-employed
- 44 Full-time for an employer
- 8 Part-time for an employer
- 20 Retired
- 12 Not employed
- 2 Homemaker (VOL.)
- 1 Student (VOL.)
- 3 Disabled (VOL.)
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.7 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)?

- 87 Yes, insured
- 12 No, not insured
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.8 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 | 22 | 25 | 18 | 34 | * |
| b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase | 33 | 30 | 13 | 22 | 2 |
| c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it | 25 | 22 | 15 | 37 | * |
| d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse | 25 | 28 | 19 | 27 | 1 |
| e. You might not be able to afford the prescription drugs you need | 26 | 19 | 18 | 37 | * |
| f. You might be the victim of a violent crime | 9 | 21 | 30 | 39 | 1 |
| g. You might be the victim of a terrorist attack | 8 | 23 | 27 | 41 | 1 |
| h. Your income might not keep up with rising prices | 33 | 32 | 13 | 20 | 1 |
| i. You might lose your savings in the stock market | 13 | 15 | 15 | 55 | 2 |
| j. You might not be able to pay your rent or mortgage | 16 | 16 | 20 | 47 | 1 |
| Item k based on those who are employed (n=733) | | | | | |
| k. You might lose your job | 12 | 16 | 20 | 52 | 0 |
| Item l based on those who are employed and insured (n=655) | | | | | |
| l. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits | 14 | 15 | 16 | 54 | 2 |
| Items m-n based on those who are insured (n=1,066) | | | | | |
| m. You might lose your health insurance coverage | 17 | 18 | 21 | 44 | * |
| n. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you | 33 | 29 | 13 | 23 | 3 |

DEMOGRAPHICS:

D1. SEX

- 47 Male
- 53 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
- 35 Democrat
- 25 Independent
- 7 No preference/Not interested in politics (**VOL.**)
- 1 Other party (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don't know
- 1 Refused

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

- 2 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college, no 4-year degree
- 16 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)
- 0 Don't Know
- * Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 19 18-29
- 39 30-49
- 23 50-64
- 17 65+
- 2 Refused

D6. 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.

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 9 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 20 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 17 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 5 Don't know
- 11 Refused

D7. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D8. 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**

- 72 White, Non Hispanic
- 26 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 10 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 2 Don't Know/Refused



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