



Toplines

November/December 2001 Health News Index Survey

December 2001

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 November 29, 2001 and December 2, 2001, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,001 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)	27
Cost of health care	14
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	8
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	5
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	2
ACCESS (NET)	25
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	10
Health insurance (general)	6
Health care availability (general)	5
Health care for the poor	3
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	1
POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)	24
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	11
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	5
Medicare	6
Children's care/issues	3
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	4
MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)	18
Cancer/Cancer Research	8
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	6
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	7
QUALITY OF CARE (NET)	6
HMO/Managed care concerns	4
Quality of care – other	2
OTHER	8
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	11

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	64	25	7	3	1
b. The crash of American Airlines flight 587 in Queens, New York	47	34	13	5	1
c. Reports of an economic slowdown in the U.S.	43	33	14	10	1
d. Reports of anthrax cases around the country and the ongoing investigation	50	33	13	4	*
e. Ongoing news about patients who have received the new self-contained artificial heart	12	28	29	29	1
f. New federal action challenging Oregon's assisted suicide law	7	15	24	50	4
g. Concerns about possible future bioterrorism involving smallpox	34	31	19	14	1
h. The economic stimulus package being debated in Congress	14	28	25	30	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.

From what you've seen or heard in the news, is anthrax a disease that is contagious, meaning that it can be passed from one person to another, or is it not contagious?

- 18 Yes, anthrax is contagious
 75 No, anthrax is not contagious (*correct answer*)
 6 Don't know/Refused

4. Thinking about what you've heard in the news about treatments for anthrax, does a treatment exist for people who have been exposed to anthrax, or is there no treatment?

87 Yes, a treatment exists (*correct answer*)
6 No, a treatment does not exist
7 Don't know/Refused

5. You may have heard stories in the news recently about two different types of anthrax: cutaneous anthrax, which is contracted through the skin, and inhalation anthrax, which is breathed in through the nose or mouth. As far as you know, which form of anthrax is more often fatal, the skin form, the inhalation form, or do you think they are equally likely to be fatal?

4 Skin (cutaneous) anthrax is more often fatal
78 Inhalation anthrax is more often fatal (*correct answer*)
13 They are equally likely to be fatal
5 Don't know/Refused

6. From what you've seen or heard in the news recently, how many people have died from inhalation anthrax since the terrorist attacks on September 11?

80 Less than 10 (*correct answer*)
8 10 to 25
1 More than 25
11 Don't know/Refused

7. Now I have some questions about the disease smallpox. From what you may have seen or heard in the news recently, is smallpox a disease that is contagious, meaning that it can be passed from one person to another, or is it not contagious?

78 Yes, smallpox is contagious (*correct answer*)
6 No, smallpox is not contagious
16 Don't know/Refused

8. As far as you know, which statement best describes what the U.S. government is planning to do regarding the smallpox threat? Is the United States government making plans to stockpile enough doses of smallpox vaccine for every American, does the government already have enough doses for every American, or is there no plan in place for stockpiling smallpox vaccine?
- 57 The U.S. government is planning to stockpile enough doses of smallpox vaccine for every American (*correct answer*)
 - 9 The government already has enough smallpox vaccine for every American
 - 13 The government has no plan in place for stockpiling smallpox vaccine
 - 21 Don't know/Refused
9. Since hearing news about anthrax being sent through the mail, have you, a family member, or a close friend tried to obtain CIPRO or other antibiotics as a precaution against anthrax?
- 2 Yes
 - 96 No
 - 2 Don't know/Refused
10. In the last month, have you taken any special precautions when opening mail due to concerns about anthrax, or not?
- 34 Yes
 - 66 No
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
11. How worried are you personally about the possibility of becoming infected with anthrax?
- 7 Very worried
 - 16 Somewhat worried
 - 36 Not too worried
 - 41 Not at all worried
 - * Don't know/Refused

12. 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)

86 Yes, insured
 14 No, not insured
 * Don't know/Refused

13. 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...? (**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?

Items e-g based on those who are insured (n=873)

	<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	16	19	22	41	2
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	28	26	19	25	2
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	19	19	20	41	1
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	17	27	21	33	2
e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	8	8	15	61	8
f. You might lose your health insurance coverage	11	12	20	56	1
g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	23	29	19	25	4

14. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say...(READ)?
- 14a. (IF TELEVISION ASK) Would you say your MOST important source of news and information about health issues is specifically...(READ)

- 56 Television
- 15 News shows on major broadcast TV networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS
 - 25 Cable TV channels such as CNN, MSNBC, or Fox News Channel,
 - 6 Local TV news,
 - 5 Morning shows like Today or Good Morning America
 - 4 TV in general (VOL.)
 - 1 Don't know/Refused
- 16 Newspapers
- 8 Talking with friends and family
- 7 Radio
- 6 The Internet
- 3 Magazines
- 3 Other most important source (VOL.)
- 2 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?

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

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

- 4 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 34 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 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
- 1 Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 22 18-29
- 41 30-49
- 20 50-64
- 17 65+
- 0 Don't know
- 1 Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2000 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 7 Less than \$10,000
- 10 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 21 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 7 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 6 Don't know
- 10 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

- 74 White, Non Hispanic
- 24 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 9 Hispanic
 - 1 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 2 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 (#7267) 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.