



Toplines

November/December 2002 Health News Index Survey

December 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 December 6 and December 10, 2002, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,206 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.

Q.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)	36
Cost of health care	18
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	15
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	8
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	2
ACCESS (NET)	26
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	13
Health insurance (general)	5
Health care availability (general)	4
Health care for the poor	3
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	3
POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)	24
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	9
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	7
Medicare	5
Children's care/issues	2
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	5
MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)	12
Cancer/Cancer Research	5
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	4
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	6
QUALITY OF CARE (NET)	6
HMO/Managed care concerns	3
Quality of care – other	3
OTHER	10
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	20

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

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 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	68	23	3	2	4
b. Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines	81	14	2	2	2
c. Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations	81	15	1	1	2
d. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	74	19	3	2	2
e. Making healthcare more affordable	88	9	1	1	1

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

- 5 Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans
- 16 Helping people age 65 and over pay for prescription medicines
- 10 Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations
- 13 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- 47 Making health care more affordable
- * Other issue is most important (VOL.)
- 6 All the same/equally important (VOL.)
- 2 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. The U.S. war on terrorism	61	28	6	3	1
b. United Nations weapons inspections and possible U.S. military action against Iraq	55	30	9	5	1
c. Reports of an uncertain economic future in the U.S. stock market	31	29	16	24	1
d. FBI investigation of Tenet Healthcare Corporation, a hospital chain accused of fraudulent business practices	14	17	20	48	1
e. A new experimental vaccine that may protect women against cervical cancer	25	25	16	33	1
f. Reports of a new inexpensive blood test used to predict a person's risk of heart disease	16	23	21	39	2
g. Reports of food safety concerns over outbreaks of bacteria traced to meat packing facilities	29	32	19	19	1
h. A study published in <i>The New England Journal of Medicine</i> exploring a possible link between childhood vaccines and Autism	12	17	20	49	2

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 recently about a new experimental vaccine that might protect against cervical cancer, please tell me if you think each one of the following is associated with cervical cancer, or if you don't know enough to say. (First,) what about... (INSERT)?

	<u>Yes, Associated</u>	<u>No, Not Associated</u>	<u>Don't Know Enough to Say</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Human papilloma virus, or HPV, the sexually transmitted virus that causes genital warts	33	3	63	1
b. Abortion	17	19	64	*
c. Obesity	16	17	67	1
d. High blood pressure	9	24	67	*

Q.5 I'm going to read you some different ways to guarantee health insurance for more Americans. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here's the (first/next) one...(INSERT).

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Refuse</u>
a. A national health plan, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan	43	45	11	1
b. Requiring businesses to offer private health insurance for their employees	75	20	4	*
c. Offering uninsured Americans income tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase private health insurance on their own	70	24	5	*
d. Expanding the Medicare program to cover people under age 65 who do not have health insurance	61	32	6	1
e. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, to provide coverage for people without health insurance	78	17	4	*
f. Expanding neighborhood health clinics	78	15	6	1

Q.6 Of those options you just said you favored, which ONE do you MOST prefer? Is it...?
(Summary)

- 21 A single (government) plan to provide health insurance for all Americans
- 16 A new law requiring businesses to offer health insurance for their employees
- 16 A new law offering tax deductions or other financial assistance to help the uninsured pay for private insurance
- 10 Expanding Medicare to cover people under age 65 who do not have health insurance
- 23 Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, to provide coverage for people without health insurance
- 11 Expanding neighborhood health clinics
- 1 None Favor
- 3 Don't know
- * Refused

Q.7 We're interested in what sources you've been using for information about health and health care. Please tell me how much health information you got from each of the following sources IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS -- a lot of information, some information, only a little, or none. (First,) in the past 12 months, how much health information did you get from ..(INSERT)?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Only a Little</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Television	35	35	18	11	*
b. Radio	11	26	23	39	*
c. Newspapers	26	33	20	21	*
d. Magazines	17	27	24	32	*
e. Street signs, flyers or billboards, including advertisements on public transportation	3	13	25	58	1
f. Your employer, that is, through your job	16	18	13	51	2
g. Your church or place of worship	5	9	16	69	1
h. Your doctor or another health care provider	25	28	19	27	*
i. The Internet, or computer online services	16	18	13	53	1
j. Family members and friends	19	33	24	24	*

Q.8 From what ONE source did you get the MOST information about health and health care?
Was it...? (Summary)

- 19 Television
- 3 Radio
- 9 Newspapers
- 6 Magazines
- * Street signs, flyers, or billboards
- 9 Your employer
- 1 Your church or place of worship
- 12 Your doctor or another health care provider
- 8 The Internet, or computer online services
- 6 Family members and friends
- 1 Other source
- 24 Did not get a lot of information from any source
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.9 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)?

- 88 Yes, insured
- 12 No, not insured
- * Don't know/Refused

Q.10 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	21	24	17	37	1
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	35	26	14	24	1
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	27	18	16	39	*
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	23	27	18	31	1
<i>Items e-g based on those who are insured (n=1,087)</i>					
e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	16	10	10	60	4
f. You might lose your health insurance coverage	18	16	17	49	1
g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	28	32	13	25	2

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?

- 29 Republican
- 33 Democrat
- 27 Independent
- 6 No preference/Not interested in politics (**VOL.**)
- * Other party (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don't know
- 2 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)
- 5 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)
- 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
- 22 50-64
- 17 65+
- 1 Don't know/Refused

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

- 20 Yes
- 67 No
- 1 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.

- 7 Less than \$10,000
- 13 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 22 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 9 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 7 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 5 Don't know
- 7 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
 - 2 Asian
 - 1 Native American
 - 2 Other or mixed race
- 2 Don't know/Refused



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