



*Toplines*

***January/February 2002 Health News Index  
Survey***

**February 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 January 31, 2002 and February 3, 2002, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,203 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?

<b>COSTS (NET)</b>	<b>26</b>
Cost of health care	10
Cost of prescription drugs/medicines	8
Cost of insurance/affordable insurance	6
Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)	4
<b>ACCESS (NET)</b>	<b>24</b>
Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured	8
Health insurance (general)	6
Health care availability (general)	6
Health care for the poor	3
Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)	3
<b>POLICY/SOCIAL ISSUES (NET)</b>	<b>29</b>
Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)	11
Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly and disabled)	10
Medicare	5
Children's care/issues	3
Policy/Social issues – other (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)	6
<b>MEDICAL CONDITIONS/PROCEDURES (NET)</b>	<b>14</b>
Cancer/Cancer Research	5
AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	3
Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other	8
<b>QUALITY OF CARE (NET)</b>	<b>7</b>
HMO/Managed care concerns	3
Quality of care – other	4
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW/REFUSED</b>	<b>16</b>

*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	56	31	7	5	1
b. Reports of an economic slowdown in the U.S.	41	32	14	11	2
c. The ongoing investigation into the bankruptcy of the Enron Corporation	26	32	19	22	1
d. Scientists develop new pig cloning techniques	11	20	26	40	2
e. Ongoing discussions of prescription drug discount cards	17	22	23	36	2
f. Supreme Court decision regarding workplace disability laws	11	15	22	49	3
g. Ongoing news about the anthrax investigation and anthrax contamination in federal buildings	35	37	19	8	1
h. President Bush's State of the Union address	35	21	14	29	1

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 action was taken recently regarding prescription drug discount cards?

- 10 Congress passed a bill to provide a new national drug discount program
- 15 A private pharmaceutical company announced a new drug discount card program  
(*correct answer*)
- 75 Don't know/Refused

4. As you may know, a private pharmaceutical company recently announced a drug discount card program. Thinking about what you have seen or heard in the news about this program, will it be available to low-income seniors, to all low-income families, or to all Americans?

17 Low-income seniors (*correct answer*)  
8 All low-income families  
20 All Americans  
55 Don't know/Refused

5. 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)

84 Yes, insured  
16 No, not insured  
\* Don't know/Refused

6. 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=1,028)*

	<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	21	19	37	1
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	31	25	15	28	2
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	26	16	18	39	1
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	23	26	19	29	2
e. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	14	9	12	58	7
f. You might lose your health insurance coverage	17	10	18	54	1
g. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	30	27	17	23	3

7. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say...(READ)?
- 7a. (IF TELEVISION ASK) Would you say your MOST important source of news and information about health issues is specifically...(READ)

- 49 Television
- 15 News shows on major broadcast TV networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS
  - 19 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
- 19 Newspapers
- 11 Talking with friends and family
- 8 Radio
- 5 The Internet
- 4 Magazines
- 2 Other most important source (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know/Refused

#### 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
- 31 Democrat
- 30 Independent
- 5 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?

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 2 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)
- 8 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 1 Don't Know
- \* Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 19 18-29
- 41 30-49
- 22 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=1,052]***

- 20 Yes
- 80 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.

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 13 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 17 \$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
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 7 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



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