



Toplines

May/June 2000 Health News Index Survey

June 2000

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 May 26 and June 4, 2000, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,200 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.

*Note: Questions 2 –7 are based on a national random sample of 580 adults
Margin of error: plus or minus 4 percentage points*

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?

<u>Total Mention</u>	
18	Health care costs
9	Medicare/Medicaid
7	Seniors health issues
8	Cost of prescription drugs/ medicines
6	HMO/Managed care concerns
5	Health care availability (general)
7	Cancer
6	Health insurance (general)
5	AIDS/HIV

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

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...?*

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not Too Closely</u>	<u>Not At All Closely</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
a. The wildfires that burned through Los Alamos, New Mexico	29	35	22	14	1
b. New York City Mayor Giuliani's announcement that he has prostate cancer and his withdrawal for the U.S. Senate race	22	27	24	25	2
c. Debate in Congress about prescription drug benefits and the Medicare program	20	25	25	29	1
d. A government agency report about increased risks to human health from the chemical Dioxin	10	15	21	50	4
e. News about cancer rates and death rates related to cancer in the U.S.	20	26	23	29	2
f. The Mother's Day million mom march in support of gun control laws	22	32	23	23	1
g. News concerning the artificial sweetener saccharin and cancer	11	18	25	44	2
h. Presidential candidate George W. Bush's proposals about how to make the Social Security program more financially sound	17	27	20	34	2
i. The debate over the China trade bill recently passed by Congress	17	23	24	34	1

3. Now I have a few more questions about some of the news stories 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. As far as you know, does the traditional Medicare program NOW pay for prescription drugs for people aged 65 and older, or not?

Yes	30
No	38
Don't know/Refused	32

4. Still thinking about prescription drug benefits and Medicare, from what you've seen or heard in the news, which ONE of the following was proposed by Congressional Democrats in the last month: ...

Having the Medicare program cover some of the costs for prescription drugs	30
Providing subsidies to help people on Medicare buy private insurance to help cover their prescription drug costs	18
Don't know/Refused	51

5. You might recall news reports about changes in the cancer rate in the United States over the past 10 years. From what you may have seen or heard in the news, are cancer rates ...

Higher	44
Lower, OR...	26
About the same as they were 10 years ago?	14
Don't know/Refused	16

6. You may have seen or heard news about the artificial sweetener saccharin. From what you've seen or heard in the news, has saccharin been kept on the federal list of human cancer-causing chemicals or has it been dropped from the list?

Kept on the list	19
Dropped from the list	35
Don't know/Refused	46

7. From what you've seen or heard in the news in the last month regarding presidential candidate George W. Bush's proposals to make the Social Security program more financially sound, please tell me whether or not Bush proposed doing each of the following. Did he propose..., or not?

	<u>Yes, Proposed</u>	<u>No, Not Proposed</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Reducing Social Security benefits	12	37	51
b. Allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market	41	12	48
c. Increasing Social Security payroll taxes	11	33	56

8. Now I have some questions about the problem of AIDS and H-I-V, the virus that causes AIDS...Which ONE of the following parts of the world today do you think has the largest number of people with HIV and AIDS? Is it...

70 Africa
 3 Latin America
 17 The United States
 2 Eastern Europe
 8 Don't know/Refused

- 9a. In general, do you favor or oppose the U.S. government spending money to help solve the problem of AIDS in other countries?
 Do you (favor/oppose) this strongly, or only somewhat?

61 Favor
 35 Strongly
 25 Only somewhat
 1 Don't know/Refused
 33 Oppose
 17 Strongly
 16 Only somewhat
 * Don't know/Refused
 7 Don't know/Refused

10. How much, if anything, have you personally seen, heard, or read about the problem of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa – that is, the part of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. Have you heard...

16 A lot
 28 Some
 28 Only a little, OR
 26 Nothing at all?
 1 Don't know/Refused

11. Thinking about the way the problem of AIDS is affecting this part of Africa TODAY, do you think AIDS is a MORE urgent problem for this part of Africa than it was a few years ago, a LESS urgent problem, or is it about the SAME as it has been in the past?

60 More urgent
 2 Less urgent
 22 About the same
 16 Don't know/Refused

12. As I read each of the following groups, please tell me if you think they should be doing MORE to help solve the problem of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, should be doing LESS, or if they are doing ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT. (First,) How about...? Should they be doing more, doing less, or are they doing about the right amount?

	Should do <u>more</u>	Should do <u>less</u>	Doing the <u>right amount</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a. African men and women themselves	78	1	8	13
b. The governments of the African countries affected	77	1	7	15
c. The United Nations	57	5	18	20
d. The United States government	46	11	28	15
e. Pharmaceutical companies	63	3	19	15
f. Local, community-based organizations in these African countries	66	2	14	19

- 13a. In general, do you favor or oppose the U.S. government spending money to help solve the problem of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa?
Do you (favor/oppose) this strongly, or only somewhat?

64	Favor
33	Strongly
30	Only somewhat
*	Don't know/Refused
29	Oppose
15	Strongly
14	Only somewhat
1	Don't know/Refused
7	Don't know/Refused

14. Now I'm going to name some different ways in which the U.S. government might provide financial help to fight AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose each one. (First,) would you favor or oppose the U.S. government...?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a. Spending money on AIDS prevention and education in Africa	76	20	3
b. Spending money on AIDS treatment and care in Africa, including making AIDS medications more widely available	72	23	5
c. Reducing the amount of money these African countries owe to the United States, so they can use the money to deal with the problem of AIDS	51	40	9

15. Which one of the following do you think should be the TOP priority for U.S. government financial help to fight AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa?

- 52 Spending for prevention and education
- 22 Spending for treatment and care
- 11 Reducing the amount of money these African countries owe
- 13 Other/None of these
- 2 Don't know/Refused

16. In general, do you think that spending more money to fight AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa will lead to meaningful progress, OR that spending more money won't make much difference?

- 50 Spending will lead to progress
- 40 Spending won't make much difference
- 10 Don't know/Refused

17. Now I'm going to read you a list of 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>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
a. The President of South Africa questioning whether HIV is the virus that causes AIDS	6	8	19	62	5
b. The Clinton administration calling the AIDS epidemic in Africa a national security threat for the United States	7	17	22	50	3
c. Some U.S. pharmaceutical companies agreeing to offer AIDS drugs at lower prices in developing countries, including sub-Saharan Africa	6	16	22	53	4

18. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (First/Next)... Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The United States and other countries should reduce the amount of money African countries owe, so they can use the money to deal with the problem of AIDS	53	41	6
b. Pharmaceutical companies should be willing to cut drug prices in developing countries to help the fight against AIDS	81	15	4
c. The AIDS epidemic in Africa is a threat to the national security of the United States	45	44	11

19. Please tell me which ONE of the following is the MAIN reason why you agree that the AIDS epidemic in Africa is a threat to the national security of the United States...
Based on those who said the AIDS epidemic is a threat to national security, N=532.

67	It could lead to the uncontrolled spread of the disease worldwide
12	It could result in large numbers of refugees trying to enter the United States
8	It could hurt the U.S. economy
8	It could cause the governments of the affected countries to collapse
1	Other/None of these
3	Don't know/Refused

22. Which ONE of the following has been your MOST important source of news and information about health issues? Would you say . . .

- 49 Television
- 20 Newspapers
- 9 Radio
- 5 Magazines
- 5 The Internet, OR
- 10 Talking with friends and family?
- 1 Other most important source
- 1 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?

- 25 Republican
- 33 Democrat
- 32 Independent
- 6 No preference/Not interested in politics
- * Other party
- 2 Don't know
- 3 Refused

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

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

D4. What is your age?

- 22 18-29
- 40 30-49
- 19 50-64
- 16 65+
- * Don't know
- 2 Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 1999 -- 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
- 11 \$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
- 7 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 6 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 5 Don't know
- 9 Refused

D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

- 8 Yes
- 91 No
- Don't know
- 1 Refused

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?**)

- 79 White
- 12 Black or African-American
- 2 Asian
- 5 Other or mixed race
- 1 Don't know
- 2 Refused



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