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September/October 2003 Health Poll Report Survey

October 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 October 3 to October 5, 2003, 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.

OCTOBER 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=605) (Total Net Responses)

38	Economy (NET)
25	War (NET)
18	Health care (NET)
14	Miscellaneous (NET)
11	Terrorism/National Security (NET)
11	Taxes/Budget (NET)
10	Other Government Issues (NET)
6	Education (NET)
2	Crime (NET)
9	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=601)

39	COSTS (NET)
17	Cost of health care
16	Cost of prescription drugs/medicines
8	Cost of insurance/affordable insurance
4	Costs – other (incl. doctor and hospital costs)
23	SENIORS' ISSUES (NET)
10	Senior citizens' care/ issues (incl. Social Security)
8	Coverage of rx drugs (for elderly/Medicare)
7	Medicare
22	ACCESS TO CARE AND INSURANCE (NET)
17	Universal coverage / coverage for uninsured
2	Health care availability (general)
1	Health care for the poor
2	Access to health care – other (incl. staff cutbacks and difficulties w/pre-existing conditions)
13	MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NET)
6	Cancer/Cancer Research
4	AIDS/AIDS research/HIV
5	Medical Conditions/ Procedures – other
5	INSURANCE COMPANY CONCERNS (NET)
5	Health insurance (general)
1	HMO/Managed care concerns
11	OTHER POLICY (NET)
3	Children's care/issues
2	Quality of care
4	Other policy/social issues (incl. abortion, drug abuse, Medicaid, etc.)
12	OTHER ISSUE
15	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 Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>DK / Refuse</u>
Protecting patients' rights in HMOs and managed care plans	78	15	3	2	1
Making Medicare more financially sound for future generations	79	16	2	2	1
Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	78	15	2	3	1
Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians	51	31	8	6	4

Asked of those who said more than one issue would be “extremely important” for the President and Congress to deal with:

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

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

Note: also includes those who named only one issue as “extremely important”

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	59	28	7	6	1
b. Governor's recall election in California	33	26	17	23	1
c. Hurricane Isabel hits the East Coast	46	31	13	10	*
d. A plan by the governor of Illinois to have the state purchase prescription drugs from Canada	15	21	18	44	2
e. A report from the U.S. Census Bureau on the number of Americans without health insurance	25	29	18	26	1
f. Scientists discover a hormone that may control appetite	7	14	21	54	4
g. Debates in Congress about a bill to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare	25	30	17	28	1
h. New cases of West Nile Virus in the United States	26	35	21	18	1
i. Department of Agriculture recommends changes to the food guide pyramid to deal with obesity	16	23	21	38	2
j. A new report on trends in health insurance costs	18	25	19	36	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.

You may have heard news about a recent report on trends in health insurance costs. From what you've seen or heard in the news, did the report find that private health insurance premiums paid by employees and employers increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

- 45 Increased
- 7 Decreased
- 9 Stayed about the same
- 39 Don't know/Refused

Q.5 A government report about the number of uninsured Americans was also in the news recently. From what you've seen or heard, did the report say the number of Americans without health insurance has increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

- 60 Increased
- 10 Decreased
- 8 Stayed the same
- 23 Don't know/Refused

Q.6 To the best of your knowledge, did the report say the number of Americans without health insurance is...?

- 9 About 20 million
- 21 About 40 million
- 16 More than 60 million Americans
- 54 Don't know/Refused

Q.7 Next, I'd like to ask you some questions about HIV, the virus that causes AIDS... Bearing in mind the different ways people can be infected with HIV, how concerned are you PERSONALLY about becoming infected with HIV?

- 20 Very concerned
- 13 Somewhat concerned
- 20 Not too concerned
- 46 Not concerned at all
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.8 In thinking about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, over the past few years, do you think the epidemic's impact has shifted more towards women, has shifted more away from women, or do you think that the impact on women has remained pretty much the same?

- 32 Shifted more towards women
- 6 Shifted more away from women
- 46 The impact on women has remained pretty much the same
- 16 Don't know/Refused

Q.9 To the best of your knowledge, do you think that women account for about 10%, about 25%, or about 50% of new AIDS cases in the United States?

- 10 Account for about 10%
- 35 Account for about 25%
- 29 Account for about 50%
- 26 Don't know/Refused

Q.10 Thinking about the way the problem of HIV/AIDS affects the United States today; do you think the problem is about the same as it has been, that the country is making progress in this area, or that the country is losing ground?

Q.10a Would you say A LOT of (progress/ground) or a LITTLE?

- 21 About the same
- 40 Total Making progress
- 12 A Lot of progress
- 28 A Little progress
- 1 Don't know/Refused
- 30 Total Losing ground
- 13 A Lot of ground
- 14 A Little ground
- 2 Don't know/Refused
- 9 Don't know/Refused

Q.11 Thinking about everything you know about HIV/AIDS, does this information mainly come from things you've seen and heard from (INSERT)?

- 72 The media, such as radio, television, and newspapers
- 7 Your friends and family
- 7 Your doctor or other health professionals
- 3 The Internet
- 7 Some other source (SPECIFY)
- 4 Don't know/Refused

Q.12 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?

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

Q.13 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)?

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

Q.14 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	25	17	36	2
b. The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	35	28	12	22	3
c. You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	24	22	18	35	1
d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	23	27	17	31	2
e. You might not be able to afford the prescription drugs you need	24	20	19	36	1
f. You might be the victim of a violent crime	9	25	29	36	1
g. You might be the victim of a terrorist attack	10	21	24	44	1
h. Your income might not keep up with rising prices	33	28	13	24	1
i. You might lose your savings in the stock market	12	16	15	55	3
j. You might not be able to pay your rent or mortgage	15	16	17	51	1
<i>Item k based on those who are employed (n=740)</i>					
k. You might lose your job	11	20	22	47	1
<i>Item l based on those who are employed and insured (n=650)</i>					
l. You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	16	15	16	52	2

Question 14 continued..

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
Items m-n based on those who are insured (n=1,053)					
m. You might lose your health insurance coverage	16	17	19	46	1
n. Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	31	28	15	22	3

DEMOGRAPHICS:

D1. 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
- 32 Democrat
- 30 Independent
- 5 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
- 1 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
- 10 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 32 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 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)
- * Don't Know
- 1 Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 20 18-29
- 40 30-49
- 21 50-64
- 16 65+
- 3 Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2002 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 6 Less than \$10,000
- 12 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 12 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 20 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 8 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$200,000 or more
- 6 Don't know
- 12 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

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



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