



Toplines

May/June 2004 Health Poll Report Survey

June 2004

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was designed and analyzed by Dr. Mollyann Brodie, Elizabeth Hamel, and Jaime A. Valdez of the Kaiser Family Foundation and Dr. Robert J. Blendon and John M. Benson at the Harvard School of Public Health. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between June 4 and June 8, 2004, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,202 adults ages 18 and over, including 253 adults ages 65 and older.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 6 percentage points. 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.1a Looking ahead to the presidential election in November, what issue will be most important to you in deciding who to vote for? Is there another issue that will be almost as important to you in deciding who to vote for?

Based on Half Sample A (n=585)

- 40 War (NET)
- 32 Economy (NET)
- 16 Miscellaneous (NET)
- 11 Health care (NET)
- 10 Other Government Issues (NET)
- 7 Terrorism/National Security (NET)
- 6 Taxes/Budget (NET)
- 5 Education (NET)
- 1 Crime (NET)
- 2 Other
- 25 Don't know/Refused

Q.1b Looking ahead to the presidential election in November, what HEALTH CARE issue will be most important to you in deciding who to vote for? Is there another issue that will be almost as important to you in deciding who to vote for?

Based on Half Sample B (n=617)

- 24 Costs (NET)
- 22 Seniors' issues (NET)
- 13 Access to health care and insurance (NET)
- 6 Insurance company concerns (NET)
- 3 Medical conditions/procedures (NET)
- 8 Other policy/social issues (NET)
- 2 No problems
- 32 Don't know/Refused

Q.4 Next, I'm going to read you a list of specific health care issues. For each one, please tell me how important it will be in your vote for president this year. Will it be extremely important in deciding your vote, very important, somewhat important, or not important?

| | <u>Extremely Important</u> | <u>Very Important</u> | <u>Somewhat Important</u> | <u>Not Important</u> | <u>DK/ Refused</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| a. The cost of health care and health insurance | 33 | 44 | 16 | 6 | 1 |
| b. The number of Americans without health insurance | 29 | 40 | 21 | 7 | 2 |
| c. Abortion | 23 | 25 | 21 | 25 | 6 |
| d. Medicare | 27 | 40 | 23 | 8 | 3 |
| e. Medical malpractice | 16 | 28 | 34 | 18 | 4 |
| f. Prescription drug benefits for seniors | 30 | 42 | 19 | 7 | 2 |
| g. The cost of prescription drugs | 31 | 40 | 20 | 8 | 1 |
| h. Problems with health care quality | 21 | 39 | 27 | 11 | 3 |
| i. Racial disparities in health care | 18 | 31 | 28 | 17 | 6 |
| j. Aid to developing countries to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS | 14 | 30 | 35 | 19 | 2 |
| k. Bioterrorism | 26 | 39 | 24 | 8 | 4 |

Q4.1 Which of the following issues you say are extremely important do you think is MOST important? (*Note: Also includes those who say only one issue will be extremely important*)

- 12 The cost of health care and health insurance
- 10 The number of Americans without health insurance
- 8 Abortion
- 8 Bioterrorism
- 6 The cost of prescription drugs
- 5 Prescription drug benefits for seniors
- 4 Medicare
- 2 Problems with health care quality
- 2 Racial disparities in health care
- 1 Aid to developing countries to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS
- 1 Medical malpractice
- * Other issue is most important (VOL)
- 5 All the same/equally important (VOL)
- 36 None extremely important
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.5 Who do you trust to do a better job handling (INSERT), (George W. Bush) or (John Kerry)?

| | <u>Bush</u> | <u>Kerry</u> | <u>Both Equally</u> | <u>Neither</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|-------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| a. The cost of health care and health insurance | 35 | 44 | 1 | 6 | 13 |
| b. The number of Americans without health insurance | 32 | 48 | 1 | 6 | 13 |
| c. Abortion | 39 | 37 | 1 | 6 | 17 |
| d. Medicare | 35 | 43 | 1 | 7 | 14 |
| e. Medical malpractice | 35 | 38 | 1 | 7 | 19 |
| f. Prescription drug benefits for seniors | 35 | 45 | 1 | 6 | 13 |
| g. The cost of prescription drugs | 34 | 44 | 1 | 7 | 15 |
| h. Problems with health care quality | 33 | 45 | 1 | 6 | 15 |
| i. Racial disparities in health care | 33 | 44 | 2 | 7 | 15 |
| j. Aid to developing countries to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS | 34 | 38 | 1 | 7 | 19 |
| k. Bioterrorism | 50 | 30 | 2 | 6 | 13 |

Q.6 How do you personally feel about (INSERT)? Are you enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

| | <u>Enthusiastic</u> | <u>Satisfied But Not Enthusiastic</u> | <u>Dissatisfied But Not Angry</u> | <u>Angry</u> | <u>Don't know/Refused</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| a. The Bush administration's health care policies | 4 | 35 | 37 | 15 | 8 |
| b. John Kerry's health care proposals | 6 | 36 | 23 | 5 | 30 |

Q.7 As you may know, at the end of 2003 President (George W.) Bush and the U.S. (United States) Congress approved a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs for seniors. How well would you say you understand this new law? Would you say you understand it very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 9 | 14 | Very well |
| 28 | 25 | Somewhat well |
| 30 | 28 | Not too well |
| 31 | 29 | Not well at all |
| 2 | 4 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.8 Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of this new Medicare law?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 28 | 24 | Favorable |
| 44 | 45 | Unfavorable |
| 8 | 4 | Neither/Neutral (VOL) |
| 20 | 27 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.9 As far as you know, does the new Medicare law include a prescription drug DISCOUNT CARD for people on Medicare, is this not something that's included in the law, or don't you know enough to say?

Q.10 And, to the best of your knowledge, when will these discount cards be available? Will they be available this year (2004), next year (2005), or the year after that (2006)?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 29 | 33 | Total yes, included |
| 18 | 22 | This year, 2004 |
| 4 | 4 | Next year, 2005 |
| 3 | 4 | The year after that, 2006 |
| 4 | 2 | DK/Refused |
| 3 | 2 | No, not included |
| 66 | 61 | Don't know enough to say |
| 2 | 4 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.9 As far as you know, does the new Medicare law include a prescription drug DISCOUNT CARD for people on Medicare, is this not something that's included in the law, or don't you know enough to say?

Q.11 To the best of your knowledge, does the discount card program include additional financial assistance for LOW-INCOME people on Medicare to help them with their drug costs, is this not something that's included, or don't you know enough to say?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 29 | 33 | Total yes, included |
| 9 | 17 | Yes, included |
| 3 | 2 | No, not included |
| 15 | 12 | Don't know enough to say |
| 1 | 1 | Don't know/Refused |
| 3 | 2 | No, not included |
| 66 | 61 | Don't know enough to say |
| 2 | 4 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.13 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>Total Closely</u> | <u>Very Closely</u> | <u>Fairly Closely</u> | <u>Total Not Closely</u> | <u>Not too Closely</u> | <u>Not at all Closely</u> | <u>DK/ Ref.</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Reports of prisoner abuse in Iraq involving U.S. soldiers | 83 | 51 | 32 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| b. Campaigns for the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election | 64 | 28 | 37 | 35 | 20 | 15 | * |
| c. Reports about the U.S. economy | 80 | 39 | 41 | 19 | 10 | 8 | 1 |
| d. Reports about the new Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards | 49 | 14 | 35 | 50 | 29 | 21 | 1 |
| e. News about so-called "Low-carb" diets | 51 | 23 | 28 | 48 | 21 | 27 | 1 |
| f. A decision by the FDA regarding over-the-counter sales of the "morning-after pill", also known as "Plan B" | 36 | 13 | 23 | 61 | 26 | 36 | 2 |
| g. A study by the Institutes of Medicine on the possible link between Autism and childhood vaccines | 30 | 11 | 18 | 69 | 25 | 44 | 2 |
| h. A new study finding that aspirin use in women may lower the risk of breast cancer | 52 | 20 | 32 | 47 | 21 | 27 | 1 |
| i. Presidential candidate John Kerry's health care proposals | 39 | 10 | 29 | 59 | 28 | 31 | 2 |
| j. A new study indicating a rise in high blood pressure among children | 35 | 14 | 22 | 64 | 23 | 41 | 1 |
| k. Reports about the number of people without health insurance in the U.S. | 64 | 27 | 37 | 36 | 21 | 14 | 1 |

Q.14a In the last month, have you seen or heard any news or information about the problem of people without health insurance in the U.S., or not?

Based on Half Sample A (n=585)

- 58 Yes, seen or heard information
- 41 No, have not seen or heard information
- * Don't know/Refused

Q.14b In the last month, have you seen or heard any news or information about a campaign called "Cover the Uninsured Week," or not?

Based on Half Sample B (n=617)

- 3 Yes, seen or heard information
- 96 No, have not seen or heard information
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.15 You may have heard news about a recent FDA decision regarding over-the-counter sales of the "morning-after pill," also known as "Plan B". To the best of your knowledge, did the FDA approve over-the-counter sales of the "morning-after pill," or not?

- 17 Yes, approved over-the-counter sales
- 33 No, did not approve over-the-counter sales (*correct answer*)
- 50 Don't know/Refused

Q.16 Candidates in the upcoming election are debating whether to change the law to allow Americans to buy less expensive prescription drugs from pharmacies in Canada. Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 66 | 63 | The new Medicare law should be changed to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs from Canada because this would make medicines more affordable for seniors without sacrificing safety or quality |
| 27 | 28 | The new Medicare law should NOT be changed to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs from Canada because this would expose Americans to unsafe foreign medicines and may cause U.S. drug companies to do less research and development |
| 4 | 5 | Neither/Neutral (VOL) |
| 3 | 4 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.17a Candidates in the upcoming election are debating whether to change the law so that the federal government could negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare. Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Based on Half Sample A (n=585)

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 64 | 59 | The law should be changed to allow the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies because this could make medicines more affordable for people on Medicare, and the federal government already negotiates lower prices for the Defense Department and Veterans Administration |
| 24 | 26 | The law should NOT be changed to allow the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies because it could mean government price controls on drugs and may cause U.S. drug companies to do less research and development |
| 4 | 5 | Neither/Neutral (VOL) |
| 8 | 10 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.17b Candidates in the upcoming election are debating whether to change the law so that the federal government could negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare. Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Based on Half Sample B (n=617)

| <u>Total</u> | <u>Seniors</u> | |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| 65 | 66 | The law should be changed to allow the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies because this could make medicines more affordable for people on Medicare, and the federal government already negotiates lower prices for the Defense Department and Veterans Administration |
| 26 | 25 | The law should NOT be changed. As millions of people on Medicare enroll in private plans for their drug coverage, the group buying power will create pressure on private companies to lower their prices for prescription drugs, and private competition should be given a chance to work |
| 3 | 3 | Neither/Neutral (VOL) |
| 7 | 6 | Don't know/Refused |

Q.18 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?

- 10 Self-employed
- 45 Full-time for an employer
- 9 Part-time for an employer
- 21 Retired
- 11 Not employed
- 2 Homemaker (VOL.)
- 1 Student (VOL.)
- 2 Disabled (VOL.)
- * Don't know/Refused

Q.19 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)?

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

Q.20 I'm going to read you a list of things that some people worry about and others do not. I'd like you to tell me how worried you are about each of the following things. (First,) how worried are you about...? 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. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance | 46 | 28 | 12 | 13 | 1 |
| b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need | 36 | 24 | 19 | 21 | * |
| c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse | 29 | 28 | 18 | 24 | 1 |
| d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need | 34 | 24 | 16 | 26 | * |
| e. Being the victim of a violent crime | 18 | 24 | 30 | 27 | * |
| f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack | 23 | 30 | 24 | 23 | 1 |
| g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices | 45 | 26 | 14 | 15 | * |
| h. Losing your savings in the stock market | 20 | 18 | 16 | 45 | 1 |
| i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage | 24 | 18 | 18 | 40 | 1 |
| j. Losing your job <i>[based on those who are employed (n=742)]</i> | 20 | 15 | 22 | 43 | 1 |
| k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits <i>[based on those who are employed and insured (n=646)]</i> | 15 | 12 | 21 | 49 | 2 |
| l. Losing your health insurance coverage <i>[based on those who are insured (n=1056)]</i> | 29 | 19 | 20 | 32 | * |
| m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you <i>[based on those who are insured (n=1056)]</i> | 35 | 33 | 12 | 18 | 3 |

Q.21 During the past three years, has the amount of money you pay directly each month or have deducted from your paycheck for your health insurance premiums gone up a lot, gone up a little, stayed the same, or gone down?

Based on those who are insured (n=1056)

- 31 Gone up a lot
- 37 Gone up a little
- 23 Stayed the same
- 2 Gone down
- 7 Don't know/Refused

Q.22 Was this a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for you and your family?

Based on those whose insurance premiums have gone up in past three years (n=725)

- 23 Major problem
- 41 Minor problem
- 35 Not a problem
- 1 Don't know/Refused

DEMOGRAPHICS:

D1. SEX

48 Male
52 Female

E1 Do you or someone in your immediate family currently work in a health care related job?

E1.1 Is that you or someone else?

26 Total Yes
10 Respondent
16 Someone else
* DK/Refused
74 No
* Don't know/Refused

E2 Are you or any other member of your household--that is, any other adult living in your home or apartment--a member of a labor union?

E2.1 Is that person you or someone else?

16 Total Yes
9 Respondent
6 Someone else
* DK/Refused
83 No
1 Don't know/Refused

V1. Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

- 81 Yes, registered to vote
- 18 No, not registered to vote
- 0 Don't have to register (VOL.)
- 1 Don't know/Refused

V2. As you may know, around half the public does not vote in presidential elections. How about you- did you vote in the presidential election in 2000, when George W. Bush ran against Al Gore, Ralph Nader, and Pat Buchanan, or did you skip that one?

- 70 Yes, voted
- 29 No, did not vote
- 1 Don't remember
- * Refused

V3. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the November (2004) election for president. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, or are the chances 50-50 or less that you will vote?

- 71 Absolutely certain
- 13 Probably will vote
- 15 50-50 or less
- 1 Don't know/Refused

D2. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 30 Republican
- 34 Democrat
- 27 Independent
- 5 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
- * Other party (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know
- 2 Refused

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

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 9 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college, no 4-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
- 11 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- 0 Don't Know
- * Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 18 18-29
- 41 30-49
- 23 50-64
- 17 65+
- 1 Undesignated

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2003 -- 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
- 10 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 14 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 19 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 11 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 9 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 1 \$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?
- 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 |
| 10 | Black or African-American |
| 9 | Hispanic |
| 3 | Asian |
| 2 | Other or mixed race |
| 2 | Undesignated |



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