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# *May/June 2005 Health Poll Report Survey*

June 2005

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### **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 June 2 and June 5, 2005, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,202 adults ages 18 and older.

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.

Q1. Thinking about everything you know about health and health care, does this information mainly come from things you've seen and heard from **(READ & ROTATE ITEMS 1-4)**?

- 40 The media, such as radio, television, and newspapers
- 20 Your doctor or other health professionals
- 14 Your friends and family
- 8 The Internet
- 4 Your workplace/Working in the medical field (VOL.)
- 2 Personal experience (VOL.)
- 8 Some other source
- 4 Don't know/Refused

Q2. 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 ROTATE)** Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	<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	46	35	10	8	*
b. Proposals by President Bush to change the Social Security System	39	35	13	13	*
c. A study finding that a low-fat diet may reduce the recurrence of breast cancer	12	22	23	42	1
d. Reports of polio outbreaks in Asia and Africa	5	16	27	52	1
e. An upcoming Supreme Court case about parental notification before a minor could get an abortion	18	25	22	34	*
f. The debate in Congress over funding for embryonic stem cell research	24	33	19	24	*

- Q3. I'd like your opinion of the job some different groups are doing in serving the needs of health care consumers. In answering, please consider everything that might be important to consumers, including quality, cost and convenience. First, in general, do you think **(INSERT ITEM, ROTATE LIST)** are doing a good job or a bad job in serving health care consumers? Next, do you think **(INSERT NEXT ITEM)** are doing a good job or a bad job?

	Good <u>job</u>	Bad <u>job</u>	Mixed <u>(vol.)</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Doctors	69	14	15	3
b. Pharmaceutical or drug companies	43	43	10	5
c. HMOs and other managed care health plans	30	46	9	16
d. Hospitals	64	19	12	6
e. Health insurance companies	34	48	12	6
f. Nurses	84	4	7	4
g. Nursing homes	35	29	14	22

- Q4. 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  
 8 Part-time for an employer  
 21 Retired  
 10 Not employed  
 2 Homemaker **(VOL.)**  
 1 Student **(VOL.)**  
 3 Disabled **(VOL.)**  
 \* Don't know/Refused

- Q5. 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)

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

Q6. 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/Next,) how worried are you about...(INSERT— AND ROTATE)

	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Not being able to pay medical costs when you are elderly	42	26	13	19	1
b. Not being able to pay for nursing home and home care services	28	25	17	29	1
c. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance	45	28	12	14	1
d. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	34	28	16	22	1
e. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	28	29	18	23	2
f. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	35	23	15	27	*
g. Being the victim of a violent crime	17	25	30	28	*
h. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	18	25	23	33	1
i. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	40	28	15	17	1
j. Losing your savings in the stock market	19	17	17	46	1
k. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	24	16	19	41	*
<b><i>Item L based on those who are employed (n=719)</i></b>					
l. Losing your job	17	16	24	43	*
<b><i>Item M based on those who are employed and insured (n=615)</i></b>					
m. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	18	14	21	47	1
<b><i>Items N-O based on those who are insured (n=1054)</i></b>					
n. Losing your health insurance coverage	30	19	18	33	*
o. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what treatment is best for you	36	29	14	19	2

**READ TO ALL:** I'd like to ask you some questions about health care and long-term care. By long-term care, I mean providing help for people who are ill or disabled, can no longer take care of themselves, and need help for an extended period of time.

Q7. When thinking about your financial needs in retirement, how much thought have you and/or your spouse given to how to pay for long-term care in a nursing home or home health care costs not covered by Medicare? Have you given this a lot of thought, a little thought, or no thought?

- 26 A lot of thought
- 41 A little thought
- 33 No thought
- \* Don't know/Refused

Q8. If you were hospitalized and required round-the-clock medical care in an institution would you prefer to keep getting care in the hospital, or would you prefer to get care at a nursing home, or wouldn't it make much difference to you?

- 39 Hospital
- 12 Nursing home
- 43 No difference
- 5 Don't know/Refused

Q9. During the past five years, do you think that the quality of nursing homes in this country has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

- 15 Gotten better
- 24 Gotten worse
- 45 Stayed about the same
- 16 Don't know/Refused

Q10. For most people who move into a nursing home, do you think being in the nursing home makes them better or worse off than they were before, or doesn't it make much difference?

- 19 Better
- 41 Worse off
- 23 No difference
- 17 Don't know/Refused

Q11. I'm going to read you some statements people have made about nursing homes. For each one, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the statement. (First/Next,) **INSERT AND ROTATE.** (IF AGREE/DISAGREE: Is that strongly agree/disagree or somewhat agree/disagree?)

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
<b>Items a-f based on one-half of respondents (n=599)</b>					
a. They provide high-quality services for people who need them	12	34	24	18	12
b. They provide an affordable way for people who need round-the-clock care to be able to get it	19	34	18	21	8
c. The staff at nursing homes are often poorly trained	34	26	17	9	13
d. Managers of nursing homes are not concerned about the well-being of their patients	19	21	29	18	13
e. Government is not enforcing quality standards for nursing homes	35	24	15	7	18
f. Nursing homes are not paid enough money by Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurers	31	17	14	12	26
<b>Items g-l based on one-half of respondents (n=603)</b>					
g. They provide frail and disabled people with a safe and protected environment they couldn't have at home	27	42	12	13	6
h. They have staff who are concerned about the well-being of their patients	24	44	13	11	7
i. There is too much waste, fraud, and abuse by managers of nursing homes	31	27	16	7	19
j. The families of those who use nursing homes are not involved enough in what's going on	37	27	17	9	10
k. There is not enough government regulation of the quality of nursing homes	38	25	15	10	12
l. Nursing homes don't have enough staff	50	24	8	3	14

Q12. Is your impression of nursing homes in this country based mainly on your own experience, on what you've learned from friends and family, or on what you've seen and heard on television or radio, in newspapers, or other things you have read?

- 31 Own experience
- 43 Experience of friends and family
- 21 Seen/heard on television, radio, newspapers
- 3 None of the above
- 2 Don't know/Refused

Q13. If you or a family member needed nursing home care, do you know where you would go for advice or information, or aren't you sure where you would go?

- 41 Yes, know where to go
- 57 Not sure where to go
- 2 Don't know/Refused

Q14. Please tell me how likely you would be to go to each of the following sources for advice or information about nursing home care. (First/Next,) how about (**INSERT-- AND ROTATE**)? (Would you be very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely to go to this source?)

	<u>Very Likely</u>	<u>Somewhat Likely</u>	<u>Not too Likely</u>	<u>Not at all Likely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Friends and family members	59	29	4	7	1
b. Your doctor	54	30	5	10	1
c. A community service agency	25	38	15	19	3
d. The state or local government programs that deal with problems of the aging	23	39	15	20	4
e. Books or reports on how to choose these services	25	37	14	23	2
f. Information on the Internet from government agencies	27	30	13	29	1

Q15. If you or a family member had a long term illness or disability and had to go into a nursing home, how would the bill mainly be paid? (**OPEN-ENDED. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE.**)

30 Insurance  
 16 Self/Savings/Personal funds/Cash  
 8 Medicare  
 3 Medicaid  
 3 Family/Children  
 2 Government/State  
 2 Social Security benefits  
 7 Other  
 30 Don't know/Refused

Q16. Do you have a private long-term care insurance policy, that is, insurance that pays for nursing home and home care services over a long period of time, or not?

21 Yes  
 68 No  
 11 Don't know/Refused

Q17. I'm going to read a list of reasons some people give for not purchasing long-term care insurance. For each one, please tell me whether it is a MAJOR reason you have not purchased long term care insurance, a MINOR reason, or not a reason. (First/Next,) **INSERT--ROTATE**

**ALWAYS READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY:** Is this a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason you have not purchased long term care insurance?

*Based on those who do not have long-term care insurance (n=823)*

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not a Reason</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. You don't think current long-term care insurance policies cover enough of the expenses	30	19	39	12
b. Your family will take care of your long-term care needs	24	19	52	5
c. Medicare will cover your long-term care costs	23	21	48	8
d. Long-term care insurance policies cost too much	59	14	20	6
e. Medicaid will cover your long-term care costs	21	22	49	8
f. It is not something you ever thought about	32	23	44	2

Q18. If the federal government were to give you a tax deduction or tax credit, would this make you more likely to purchase long-term care insurance, or wouldn't it make any difference?

48 Yes, more likely to purchase  
 48 No difference  
 4 Don't know/Refused

Q19. At any time during the past three years, was a member of your immediate family or someone you know well a resident in a nursing home?

- 46 Yes
- 53 No
- \* Don't know/Refused

Q20. Have you ever been in a nursing home, either as a patient or as a visitor?

- 84 Yes
- 16 No
- \* Don't know/Refused

### DEMOGRAPHICS:

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

D1. **RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX**

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

D2. What is your age? **(RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)**

- 20 18-29
- 39 30-49
- 23 50-64
- 17 65 and older
- 1 Refused
  
- 59 Total Under 50
- 40 Total 50 and older

D3. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 28 Republican
- 31 Democrat
- 31 Independent
- 6 No preference/Not interested in politics **(VOL.)**
- 1 Other party **(VOL.)**
- 1 Don't know
- 2 Refused

D4. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? **(DO NOT READ)**

- 3 None, or grade 1-8
- 11 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
- 24 Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
- 10 Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
- \* Refused

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2004 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

- 5 Less than \$10,000
- 10 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 11 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 21 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 16 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 11 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 6 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 10 **(DO NOT READ)** 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
- 26 Total Non-White
  - 11 Black or African-American
  - 10 Hispanic
  - 2 Asian
  - 3 Other or mixed race
- 2 Don't know/Refused



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