

Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: October 2009

October 2009

Methodology

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane and Carolina Gutiérrez. The survey was conducted October 8 through October 15, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,200 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (800) and cell phone (400, including 141 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on subgroups, 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.

Trends in this document come from surveys listed on the last page.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*).

“VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

[Question 1 and Question 2 rotated.]

1. Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country (we cannot afford to take on health care reform right now) OR (it is more important than ever to take on health care reform now)? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>	<u>10/08</u>
It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now	55	57	53	56	61	59	62	61	62
We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now	41	39	42	39	35	37	34	37	34
Don't know/Refused	4	4	6	5	4	4	4	2	5

2. Which comes closer to your opinion about what Congress and the president should do regarding health care reform this year? (READ OPTIONS 1-3 IN ORDER FOR FORM A, IN REVERSE ORDER FOR FORM B)

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>
They should continue trying to pass a major reform of the health care system	49	50
They should stop trying to pass a major reform this year and instead work on passing a more limited version	22	25
They should leave health care reform for another time	26	22
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	3

3. How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform? Very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not at all?

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
Very closely	34	36	33	27	25	23
Somewhat closely	44	45	45	46	47	46
Not too closely	16	15	15	19	21	21
Not at all	5	4	7	7	6	9
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*	*	1	1	*	1

4. Do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE. ALWAYS ASK A and B FIRST) would be (better off) or (worse off) if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES) [READ IF NECESSARY: "Would (ITEM) be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?]

		<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>	<u>Wouldn't make much difference</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. You and your family						
	10/09	41	27	28	2	3
	09/09	42	23	28	4	3
	08/09	36	31	27	2	4
	07/09	39	21	32	4	3
	06/09	39	16	36	3	5
	04/09	43	14	36	4	4
	02/09	38	11	43	4	3
b. The country as a whole						
	10/09	53	28	12	2	4
	09/09	53	26	14	4	4
	08/09	45	34	14	3	4
	07/09	51	23	16	4	6
	06/09	57	16	19	3	5
	04/09	56	15	21	3	5
	02/09	59	12	19	5	5
c. Seniors, that is those 65 years and older						
	10/09	44	29	20	2	6
	09/09	46	25	20	3	6
d. The country's small businesses						
	10/09	36	33	20	3	9

5. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT & RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

Based on half sample (n=623)

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of your own health care						
	10/09	29	27	37	2	5
	09/09	31	21	42	2	4
	08/09	29	31	36	2	3
	07/09	30	25	40	3	3
	02/09	29	14	52	2	2
b. The cost of health care for you and your family						
	10/09	34	30	29	2	5
	09/09	37	27	30	2	5
	08/09	34	30	30	2	4
	07/09	35	25	32	4	5
	02/09	39	16	39	2	5
c. Your choice of doctors and hospitals						
	10/09	28	26	39	1	5
	09/09	22	26	46	2	3
	08/09	21	33	40	2	3
	07/09	25	26	43	2	4
	02/09	24	18	52	3	4
d. Your wait times for non-emergency procedures and treatments						
	10/09	20	36	37	2	5
	09/09	19	35	38	2	6
	08/09	17	42	34	2	4
	07/09	19	34	40	3	4
	02/09	23	25	47	2	4

6. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT & RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

Based on half sample (n=577)

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of health care in America	10/09	39	31	26	2	2
	09/09	40	31	24	2	3
	08/09	37	36	22	2	3
	07/09	41	25	28	3	4
	02/09	47	17	28	3	4
b. The overall cost of health care	10/09	40	35	18	3	5
	09/09	45	31	16	2	6
	08/09	40	35	21	2	2
	07/09	41	29	22	4	4
	02/09	46	19	23	4	6
c. The average patient's choice of doctors and hospitals	10/09	31	34	30	2	3
	09/09	29	31	33	3	5
	08/09	26	36	33	2	3
	07/09	28	28	36	3	5
	02/09	35	22	32	5	6
d. Waiting times for non-emergency procedures and treatments	10/09	23	41	31	1	4
	09/09	20	40	31	2	6
	08/09	18	41	35	2	3
	07/09	23	33	38	2	5
	02/09	24	27	39	3	7

[Question 7a and Question 7b rotated.]

7a. Do you think passing health care reform would do more to HELP the country's SHORT TERM economic situation, do more to HURT the country's short term economic situation, or wouldn't it impact the economy in the short term?

	<u>10/09</u>
Help the country's short term economic situation	32
Hurt the country's short term economic situation	41
Wouldn't impact the country's short term economic situation	22
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

7b. Do you think passing health care reform would do more to HELP the country's LONG TERM economic situation, do more to HURT the country's long term economic situation, or wouldn't it impact the economy in the long term?

	<u>10/09</u>
Help the country's long term economic situation	49
Hurt the country's long term economic situation	37
Wouldn't impact the country's long term economic situation	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5

8. How much would you say you know about how the health care reform proposals being discussed in Congress would affect you and your family personally (READ)

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>
A lot	26	24
A fair amount	35	41
Only a little or	28	28
Nothing at all?	8	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	2

9. If Congress and the president do pass health care reform, do you think most Americans who currently can't afford to buy health insurance will get ENOUGH financial help from the government to be able to afford adequate coverage, or do you think the amount of government financial help will NOT be enough, and most of these people will still have trouble paying for adequate coverage?

Based on half sample (n=623)

	<u>10/09</u>
Will get enough financial help	40
Will not get enough financial help	52
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	7

10. If Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, when would you expect that people without insurance would begin to get financial help in buying coverage: this year, next year, 3 years from now, about 5 years from now, or further in the future than that?

Based on half sample (n=577)

	<u>10/09</u>
This year	13
Next year	36
Three years from now	25
Five years from now	7
Further in the future than that	11
Never (VOL.)	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	7

11. If Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, when would you expect that health insurance companies would have to begin accepting customers who have pre-existing health problems: this year, next year, 3 years from now, about 5 years from now, or further in the future than that?

	<u>10/09</u>
This year	17
Next year	34
Three years from now	23
Five years from now	8
Further in the future than that	9
Never (VOL.)	1
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	8

12. Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own feelings about the health care reform plans being discussed in Washington. The first is (INSERT & RANDOMIZE). Does this describe your own feelings about the health care reform plans being discussed in Washington, or not?

		<u>Describes</u>	<u>Does not describe</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Anxious	10/09	49	49	1
	09/09	50	48	2
b. Confused	10/09	49	50	1
	09/09	48	51	1
	08/09	46	53	2
c. Hopeful	10/09	62	36	2
	09/09	68	31	1
	08/09	63	36	1
d. Optimistic	10/09	56	42	2
	09/09	55	43	3
	08/09	50	47	3
e. Frustrated	10/09	60	40	1
	09/09	58	41	1
	08/09	57	41	2
f. Angry	10/09	40	59	1
	09/09	31	67	1
g. Positive	10/09	50	47	3
	09/09	52	45	3

13. Would you say it is more important for Democrats in Congress to (pass health care reform this year, even if they can't get much Republican support), or more important to (get bipartisan, Republican support, even if that delays or stops the health care reform process for this year)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>
More important for Democrats in Congress to get bipartisan, Republican support	44	47
More important for Democrats in Congress to pass health care reform this year	42	42
(DO NOT READ) Neither/Don't want health care reform	8	6
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	5

14. During the past seven days, did you see, hear or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system?

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
Yes	45	54	45	31	21	20	40
No	54	45	54	68	78	79	58
Don't know/Refused	1	1	1	2	1	1	2

15. As far as you could tell, were those ads (IN FAVOR OF) passing some sort of health care reform this year, or (OPPOSED TO) passing some sort of health care reform this year? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

Based on those who saw, heard or read ads related to health care reform

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Have seen ads in favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	32	35	40	47	62
Have seen ads opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	32	29	32	39	26
Have seen both ads in favor and opposed (VOL.)	34	33	21	n/a	n/a
Don't know/Refused	2	3	7	14	12
	(n=590)	(n=674)	(n=590)	(n=403)	(n=265)

- 14/15. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Have seen ads related to health reform	45	54	45	31	21
In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	14	19	18	14	13
Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	14	16	15	12	5
Have seen both (VOL.)	15	18	10	n/a	n/a
Don't know if ads were in favor or opposed to reform	1	2	3	4	3
Have not seen ads	54	45	54	68	78
Don't know/Refused	1	1	1	2	1

16. Thinking of the news media’s coverage of health care reform, would you say the mix of coverage has been mostly about (politics and controversies), mostly about (how policy reforms might affect your own family), or has been a balance of the two? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>
Mostly about politics and controversies	52	50
Mostly about how policy reforms might affect your own family	8	8
A balance of the two	35	37
(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	4	5

17. Now I’m going to read you two different ways of increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here’s the first one – (INSERT AND ROTATE). Do you favor or oppose this? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
a. Requiring all Americans to have health insurance, either from their employer or from another source, with financial help for those who can’t afford it								
	10/09	66	40	26	31	18	13	3
	09/09	68	40	28	29	15	14	3
	08/09	68	42	26	29	15	14	3
	07/09	68	37	30	29	15	13	4
	06/09	71	42	29	26	16	10	3
	04/09	72	48	24	25	13	13	3
	12/08	67	40	27	31	18	13	2
b. Creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans								
	10/09	57	29	27	39	26	12	5
	09/09	59	27	32	36	23	13	5

18. What if you heard that requiring all Americans to have health insurance could mean that some people would be required to buy health insurance that they find too expensive or did not want? Would you still favor that proposal, or would you oppose that proposal?

Based on those who favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor	32	42	40	28
Oppose	63	51	55	69
Don’t know/Refused	5	7	5	2
	(n=762)	(n=793)	(n=818)	(n=544)

17a/18. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Still favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source	21	29	29	19
Oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance	73	63	64	78
Originally	31	29	26	31
Once heard argument	41	35	39	47
Don't know/Refused	6	8	7	4

19. What if you heard that without such a requirement, insurance companies would still be allowed to deny coverage to people who are sick? Would you still oppose that proposal, or would you now favor that proposal?

Based on those who oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Still oppose	74	59	66
Favor	18	28	26
Don't know/Refused	8	14	9
	(n=400)	(n=371)	(n=345)

17a/19. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance from their employer or from another source	71	76	78
Originally	66	68	71
Once heard argument	6	8	7
Still oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance	23	17	17
Don't know/Refused	5	7	5

20. What if you heard that a public health insurance option could give the government plan an unfair advantage over private insurance companies? Would you still favor that proposal, or would you now oppose that proposal?

Based on those who favor creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Still favor	56	59	47
Oppose	38	34	45
Don't know/Refused	6	7	8
	(n=653)	(n=690)	(n=746)

17b/20. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Still favor requiring creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans	32	35	32
Oppose requiring creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans	60	56	59
Originally	39	36	29
Once heard argument	22	20	30
Don't know/Refused	8	9	9

21. What if you heard that a public health insurance option was a fallback that would only kick in if not enough people had affordable health plans available through the private marketplace? Would you still oppose that proposal, or would you now favor that proposal?

Based on those who oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans (n=488)

	<u>10/09</u>
Still oppose	72
Favor	22
Don't know/Refused	5

17b/21. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>
Favor requiring creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans	65
Originally	57
Once heard argument	9
Still oppose requiring creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans	28
Don't know/Refused	7

22. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured. How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? (ALWAYS READ FIRST TIME, AND REPEAT IF NECESSARY: Would you favor or oppose this to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured?) (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
a. Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$350,000 a year and individuals making more than \$280,000 ¹	10/09	63	40	22	33	24	10	4
	09/09	70	42	28	28	16	12	2
	08/09	63	38	25	34	20	14	3
<i>Compare to:</i> Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance is likely to require an increase in government spending and/or a tax increase to pay for it. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year.	07/09	64	40	24	33	22	11	4
	06/09	68	49	19	30	19	11	2
	04/09	71	49	22	28	18	10	1
	12/08	70	51	19	27	19	8	2
b. Having health insurance companies pay a fee based on how much business they have	10/09	50	25	25	41	24	18	8
	09/09	57	21	36	35	18	17	8
c. Having health insurance companies pay a tax for offering very expensive policies	10/09	55	31	24	39	25	13	7
	09/09	59	26	33	32	15	16	10

¹ December 2008 through July 2009 trend wording read “Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year.”

23. Earlier you said you favored having health insurance companies pay a new tax if they offer very expensive policies. What if you heard that this might result in these costs being passed on to the consumer? Would you still favor that proposal, or would you now oppose that proposal?

Based on those who favor insurance companies paying taxes on expensive policies (n=607)

	<u>10/09</u>
Still favor	38
Oppose	56
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6

22c/23. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>
Still favor insurance companies paying taxes on expensive policies	21
Oppose insurance companies paying taxes on expensive policies	69
Originally	39
Once heard argument	31
Don't know/Refused	10

24. Earlier you said you opposed having health insurance companies pay a new tax if they offer very expensive policies. What if you heard that this will discourage expensive health insurance policies which could help lower health care costs for everyone? Would you still oppose that proposal, or would you now favor that proposal?

Based on those who oppose insurance companies paying taxes on expensive policies (n=505)

	<u>10/09</u>
Still oppose	57
Favor	35
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	9

22c/24. Summary Table based on total

	<u>10/09</u>
Favor insurance companies paying taxes on expensive policies	68
Originally	55
Once heard argument	13
Still oppose insurance companies paying taxes on expensive policies	22
Don't know/Refused	10

25. Currently, the government determines how much doctors and hospitals get paid to treat people on Medicare. Would you favor or oppose limiting future increases in these payments as a way to help pay for health care reform?

Based on half sample in September and October

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>
Favor	45	52	47	53
Oppose	46	39	48	37
Don't know/Refused	9	9	6	10
	(n=623)	(n=649)		

26. Currently, the government determines how much doctors and hospitals get paid to treat people on Medicare. Would you favor or oppose limiting future increases in these payments as a way to help keep Medicare financially sound in the future?

Based on half sample

	<u>10/09</u>	<u>09/09</u>
Favor	56	64
Oppose	36	30
Don't know/Refused	9	6
	(n=577)	(n=554)

(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

Male	49
Female	51

D8. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	21
Very good	33
Good	30
Only fair	10
Poor	5
Don't know/Refused	1

D7. 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?

Self-employed	9
Full-time for an employer	42
Part-time for an employer	10
Retired	20
Not employed	13
Homemaker (VOL.)	1
Student (VOL.)	2
Disabled (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused	*

D2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: 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/Medi-CAL])?

Covered by health insurance	82
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	*

D2a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your or your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/Medi-CAL), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

Based on those who are insured (n=1,036)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	55
Plan you purchased yourself	13
Medicare	20
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	3
Some other government program	6
Somewhere else	1
Don't know/Refused	*

D9. What is your age? [ENTER AGE] / ASK IF REFUSED:

D10. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)

18-29	19
30-49	39
50-64	24
65 and older	17
Undesignated	*

D11. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Republican	27
Democratic	39
Independent	27
Or What? (<i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here)	6
Don't know/Refused	2

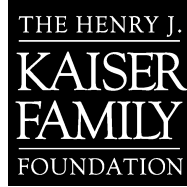
D13. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

None, or grade 1-8	3
High School incomplete (grade 9-11)	10
High School graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	30
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	5
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	18
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	9
Don't know/Refused	1

D14.	Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?	
	Yes	32
	No	67
	Don't know/Refused	*
D15.	Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?	
D16.	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?)	
	White, non-Hispanic	68
	Total non-White	29
	Black or African-American	11
	Hispanic	13
	Asian	2
	Other mixed race	3
	Undesignated	3
D17.	Last year -- that is, in 2008 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)	
	Less than \$20,000	14
	\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	10
	\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	13
	\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	11
	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	15
	\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	9
	\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	5
	\$100,000 or more	9
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	14

Trend Information:

- 09/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 11-18, 2009)
- 08/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (August 4-11, 2009)
- 07/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (July 7-14, 2009)
- 06/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 1-8, 2009)
- 04/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 2-8, 2009)
- 02/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 3-12, 2009)
- 12/08: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress* (December 4-14, 2008)
- 10/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 8-13, 2008)
- 09/93: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Survey of Public Knowledge and Awareness of Health Reform* (September 30-October 5, 1993)



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The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible analysis and information on health issues.