



Kaiser Family Foundation/Field Institute survey of Californians on the Health Care Initiatives, propositions 214 and 216

August 14-21, 1996 September 23-30, 1996

Questionnaire and Toplines

1. Are you currently covered by medical insurance or some other form of government or private health plan that will pay all or part of your doctor bills or hospitalization should you require it?

	August 1996	September 1996
Yes, covered	81%	82%
No, not covered	19%	18%
Don't know	*	*

2. Is your (main health)(Medicare) coverage a fee-for-service plan that allows you to go to almost any doctor or hospital, or is it an H-M-O, a P-P-O, or another type of plan that directs you to a list of doctors and hospitals who are on the plan?

	August 1996	September 1996
Fee for service	25%	26%
HMO, PPO, other	70%	68%
Directed plan		
Don't know	5%	6%

3. As a way to reduce health care costs, the current trend in California is moving away from traditional fee-for-service type health insurance that allows plan members to go to almost any doctor or hospital and toward more managed care plans like H-M-O's that direct plan members to a list of doctors and

hospitals that are on the plan. Generally speaking, do you think this is a good thing, a bad thing or doesn't it make much difference?

August 1996

Good thing	31%
Bad thing	33%
No difference	24%
No opinion	12%

4. How much confidence do you have in managed care organizations like H-M-O's to provide the right kind of incentives to doctors so that they put the interests of their patients first? Do you have a great deal of confidence, some confidence, only a little confidence or none at all?

August 1996

Great deal	12%
Some	34%
Only a little	27%
None at all	19%
No opinion	8%

5. Do you think current government rules that regulate managed care health plans like H-M-O's are too strict, about right or not strict enough?

August 1996

Too strict	17%
About right	21%
Not strict enough	27%
No opinion	35%

6. Have you seen, read or heard anything about either of the two initiatives that will appear on the November statewide election ballot in California having to do with health care, which are referred to as the Patient Protection Acts?

	August 1996	September 1996
Yes	23%	29%
No	75%	67%
Not sure	2%	4%

if yes, ask:

7. Do you know what proposition numbers these two initiatives will have in the November general election? (if yes) Which numbers? (do not read prop numbers) (answer can be a multiple if answered both prop. 214 and 216)

	August 1996 (N=230)	September (N=294)
Yes, cites Prop. 214	12%	25%
Yes, cites Prop. 216	9%	12%
No, can't cite either/Give incorrect prop. #	87%	70%
No answer	*	1%

8. One of the initiatives is Proposition 214. It is titled "Health Care. Consumer Protection. Initiative Statute." The following is how Prop. 214 is described on the ballot:

- It regulates health care businesses.
- Prohibits discouraging of health care professionals from informing patients or advocating treatment.
- It requires health care businesses to establish criteria for payment and facility staffing.
- The fiscal impact: Increased state and local government costs for existing health programs and benefits, probably in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

If the election were being held today, would you be inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 214?

	August 1996	September 1996
Yes	22%	24%
No	42%	39%
Undecided	36%	37%

9. The other initiative is Proposition 216. It is titled "Health Care. Consumer Protection. Restructuring Taxes. Initiative Statute." The following is how Prop. 216 is described on the ballot:

- It regulates health care businesses.
- Prohibits discouraging of health care professionals from informing patients.
- It prohibits conditioning coverage on arbitration agreement.
- It establishes a non-profit public corporation as a consumer advocate and imposes restructuring taxes.
- The fiscal impact: New tax revenues, potentially hundreds of millions of dollars annually, to fund specified health care services. Additional state and local costs for existing health programs and benefits, probably tens to hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

If the election were being held today, would you be inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 216?

	August 1996	September 1996
Yes	24%	25%
No	43%	44%
Undecided	33%	31%

Based on those who have seen, read, or heard anything about either of the two initiatives (N=294):

10. As far as you know, what are the main differences between Prop. 214 and Prop. 216? (probe) Anything else?

	September 1996
Don't know, Not clear, Not much difference	73%
Some specific answer provided	27%

11. How well do you feel you understand these initiatives at

this point in time -- very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all?

	August 1996	September 1996
Very well	6%	8%
Somewhat well	27%	25%
Not too well	41%	42%
Not at all	25%	22%
No opinion	1%	3%

12. Have you seen, read or heard any advertising on television, radio, in newspapers or in the mail specifically about either Proposition 214 or Proposition 216? (if yes) Which one?

	August 1996	September 1996
Yes, about 214	3%	6%
Yes, about 216	1%	2%
Yes, both	11%	20%
Yes, not sure which	7%	9%
No	76%	62%
Don't know	2%	1%

if Yes to prop. 214 or both, ask:

13. Was the advertising that you saw or heard about Prop. 214 for or against the initiative?

	August 1996 (N=141)	September 1996 (N=259)
For	13%	19%
Against	57%	61%
Both	12%	5%
Not sure	18%	15%

if Yes to prop. 216 or both, ask:

14. Was the advertising that you saw or heard about Prop. 216 for or against the initiative?

	August 1996 (N=122)	September 1996 (N=217)
For	11%	12%
Against	56%	63%
Both	8%	8%
Not sure	25%	17%

if Yes but not sure which, ask:

15. Was the advertising that you saw or heard about these initiatives for or against the initiatives?

	August 1996 (N=72)	September 1996 (N=91)
For	20%	13%
Against	26%	40%
Both	8%	11%
Not sure	46%	36%

16. I am going to read some claims that supporters and opponents have made about Props. 214 and 216. For each please tell me whether each claim would make you more inclined to support or oppose these initiatives. (read items in random order) Does this make you more inclined to support, more inclined to oppose or have no effect on how you would vote?

August 1996

	More inclined to support	More inclined to oppose	No effect	No opinion
a. Supporters claim that Props. 214 and 216 will ensure that doctors place their patients' well-being above all other considerations when deciding upon the most appropriate types of medical treatments.	69%	5%	17%	9%

b. Opponents claim that Props. 214 and 216 will increase health insurance premiums to both businesses and consumers.	7%	49%	33%	11%
c. Opponents claim that Props. 214 and 216 will clog the health care system with unnecessary and costly rules and regulations.	10%	45%	35%	10%
d. Supporters claim that Props. 214 and 216 will ensure that patients receive full and complete information from their doctors about their medical condition and all available treatment options.	67%	3%	23%	7%
e. Opponents claim that Props. 214 and 216 will increase the number of uninsured Californians because it will lead to higher health insurance premiums that fewer people can afford.	7%	52%	30%	11%
f. Supporters claim that Props. 214 and 216 will prohibit health plans from issuing gag orders that punish doctors who speak out or seek to protect patients' rights.	45%	21%	22%	12%
g. Opponents claim that Prop. 214 and 216 will return California to the days of runaway medical care cost increases.	9%	44%	37%	10%
h. Supporters claim that Props. 214 and 216 will provide patients with greater access to specialists when they need them.	62%	6%	23%	9%
i. Opponents claim that Props. 214 and 216 will create more government bureaucracy in the health care system.	12%	50%	25%	13%
j. Opponents claim that the backers of Props. 214 and 216 are special interest groups seeking to protect the jobs of union workers in the health care industry.	26%	23%	40%	11%

k. Supporters claim that Props. 214 and 216 will ensure that doctors' offices and hospitals are adequately staffed to assure high quality care.	63%	7%	24%	6%
l. Opponents claim that Prop. 216 will unfairly tax hospitals, health providers and their executives, increasing the cost of health care to everyone.	12%	50%	29%	9%
m. Supporters claim that Prop. 216 will provide greater funding of health services to the poor through taxes and fees placed on hospital and health corporation mergers and on excessive salaries paid to their executives.	41%	21%	28%	10%

17. If Propositions 214 or 216 were to pass, do you think (read items in group) will likely go up, will likely go down, will stay about the same or haven't you formed an opinion yet?

September 1996

	Go up	Go down	Same	No opinion
a. The overall quality of health care available to you	14%	11%	22%	53%
b. The amount you pay for health care	36%	4%	19%	41%
c. Your ability to select the doctors you want to see	15%	11%	31%	43%
d. Your degree of security about having or keeping your health coverage	14%	10%	33%	43%
e. The amount of time you have to wait for an appointment or to see your doctor	19%	6%	36%	39%
f. Your degree of confidence that your doctor will tell you all you need to know about your medical condition and all possible treatment options	13%	13%	38%	36%
g. Your access to specialists when you need them	12%	17%	31%	40%
h. The amount of government involvement in health care	40%	7%	14%	39%

18. I am going to read the names of some individuals and groups who may speak out or take positions about Propositions 214 and 216. For each, please tell me whether you believe they are supporting or opposing these initiatives or whether you aren't sure which side they are on. (read items in random order) Do you believe (they are) (he or she is) supporting or opposing these initiatives, or aren't you sure which side they are on?

August 1996

	Supporting	Opposing	Neither/ Neutral	Aren't sure/ Don't know
a. Consumer protection groups	40%	13%	1%	46%
b. Spokespersons representing the insurance industry	17%	36%	*	47%
c. Spokespersons representing the hospital industry	21%	30%	1%	48%
d. Spokespersons representing HMOs and managed care providers	21%	37%	*	42%
e. Doctors' organizations, like the California Medical Association	24%	28%	1%	47%
f. Nursing organizations, like the California Nurses Association	33%	16%	1%	50%
g. Ralph Nader (Nay-der)	27%	12%	1%	60%
h. Your own doctor	22%	21%	2%	54%
i. Spokespersons representing the hospital workers' union	35%	16%	1%	48%
j. Your own health insurance company	15%	33%	1%	51%
k. The California Chamber of Commerce	17%	17%	1%	65%
l. The League of Women Voters	29%	9%	2%	60%
m. The American Association for Retired People	38%	18%	*	44%
n. State and local public health officials	32%	13%	1%	54%
o. Christopher Reeve, the actor	31%	6%	1%	62%

19. Next I am going to read back these individuals and groups to you. This time please tell me how reliable you feel this individual or group would be as a source of information about Props. 214 and 216. (read items in random order) Would you consider information from this source to be very reliable, somewhat reliable, not too reliable or not at all reliable?

August 1996

	Very reliable	Somewhat reliable	Not too reliable	Not at all reliable	No opinion
a. Consumer protection groups	30%	42%	9%	6%	13%
b. Spokespersons representing the insurance industry	4%	28%	29%	27%	12%
c. Spokespersons representing the hospital industry	8%	42%	25%	12%	13%
d. Spokespersons representing HMOs and managed care providers	9%	33%	27%	18%	13%
e. Doctors' organizations, like the California Medical Association	17%	49%	16%	8%	10%
f. Nursing organizations, like the California Nurses Association	22%	53%	10%	4%	11%
g. Ralph Nader (Nay-der)	18%	33%	13%	9%	27%
h. Your own doctor	39%	35%	7%	4%	15%
i. Spokespersons representing the hospital workers' union	12%	45%	20%	10%	13%
j. Your own health insurance company	14%	40%	19%	9%	18%
k. The California Chamber of Commerce	9%	40%	19%	12%	20%
l. The League of Women Voters	22%	43%	12%	7%	16%
m. The American Association for Retired People	27%	44%	12%	6%	11%
n. State and local public health officials	13%	47%	19%	11%	11%
o. Christopher Reeve, the actor	23%	32%	11%	10%	24%

These are all the questions I have. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Methodology - These two surveys were designed by The Kaiser Family Foundation and The Field Institute and conducted by The Field Institute. The first survey was conducted August 14-21, 1996, with 1,002 California adults; and the second September 23-30, 1996 with 1,001 California adults. The interviews were completed by telephone using random probability sampling methods. The survey was conducted in either English or Spanish. The sampling error is +/- 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Note that findings based on subgroups of these populations are subject to somewhat larger margins of error.

96-1606-03