#### Methodology

The Kaiser/Harvard National Survey on Health and the 2000 Elections is product of the Kaiser-Harvard Program on the Public and Health/Social Policy. It was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health. The survey was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates with 1,515 adults (age 18 or older) nationwide between December 3 - 13, 1999. The survey included 1,257 registered voters who are reported on in this release. Since registered voters accounted for 81% of all interviews, it is not surprising to note that the responses of registered voters are nearly identical to those of the total public, which can be found in the survey topline document noted below. The margin of sampling error for the national sample and for the register voter sample is plus or minus 3 percent. The margin of sampling error may be higher for some of the sub-groups noted in the analysis. Note that in addition to sampling error there are other possible sources of measurement error.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, is a nonprofit, independent national health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries. Copies of the survey toplines (publication #xxxx) and chartpack (#xxx) are available online at <a href="https://www.kff.org">www.kff.org</a>, or by calling the Foundation's publications request line at 1-800-656-4533.

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# THE KAISER/HARVARD NATIONAL SURVEY ON HEALTH AND THE 2000 ELECTIONS

#### FINAL TOTAL ADULTS & REGISTERED VOTER TOPLINE

NOTE: Some results will not add to 100% because of rounding

Total = Total Adults

Reg. Voters = Registered Voters

1a. I'm going to start by reading you a list of four things that might influence your vote in next year's presidential election. Please tell me which ONE of them you think will be MOST important when you decide who to vote for. Will it be...

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 34 36 The candidates' stands on the issues
- 24 The candidates' leadership abilities
- 24 The candidates' character and moral values
- 11 10 The candidates' experience
- 2 1 Not interested in politics/Don't plan to vote (VOL.)
- 1 None of these/Other factor (VOL.)
- 4 4 Don't know/Refused
- 1b. And which of these will be NEXT MOST important in deciding your vote for president?

- 29 The candidates' leadership abilities
- 24 The candidates' stands on the issues
- 21 The candidates' character and moral values
- 18 The candidates' experience
- 2 None of these/Other factor (VOL.)
- 1 1 Don't know/Refused
- 6 5 Named no/other first most important factor

- 1a. Please tell me which ONE of them you think will be MOST important when you decide who to vote for. Will it be...
- 1b. And which of these will be NEXT MOST important in deciding your vote for president?

#### First or Second Most Important Factor

## Total Reg. Voters

- 56 60 The candidates' stands on the issues
- 54 53 The candidates' leadership abilities
- 46 The candidates' character and moral values
- 29 28 The candidates' experience
- 2. Now I'm going to read you a short list of issues that might be discussed during next year's presidential campaign. After I read them all, tell me which one or two will be MOST important in deciding your vote for president. Here are the choices...

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 30 29 Education
- 20 20 Health care, other than Medicare
- 19 19 The economy and jobs
- 18 17 Social Security
- 16 17 Taxes
- 13 Crime and violence
- 12 Gun control
- 10 10 Moral values
- 9 9 Foreign policy
- 9 9 Medicare
- 7 6 Drugs
- 1 Other issue (VOL.)
- 1 None/Issues will not be important (VOL.)
- 2 2 Don't know/Refused

Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

3. What MEDICARE issue or concern, in particular, do you think will be MOST important in deciding your vote? (OPEN-ENDED: RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. IF **RESPONDENT GIVES ONLY ONE ANSWER, ASK:**) Is there any other Medicare issue or concern that will be almost as important?

Based on those who say Medicare is a deciding issue; n=133 for total and n=108 for registered voters

#### Reg. Voters Total 17 Continued Medicare availability 15 10 10 Improvement of Medicare program 9 Lack of coverage for seniors 6 **Cutting Medicare benefits** 6 Prescription coverage 10 23 Other<sup>1</sup> 20 32 32 Don't know/Refused Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

4. What HEALTH CARE issue or concern – other than Medicare – do you think will be MOST important in deciding your vote? (OPEN-ENDED; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. IF **RESPONDENT GIVES ONLY ONE ANSWER, ASK:**) Is there any other health care issue or concern that will be almost as important?

Based on those who say health care other than Medicare is a deciding issue; n=249 for registered voters and n=298 for total

#### Total Reg. Voters 23 Cost of health care 23 21 23 Uninsured/Lack of insurance 11 10 HMO/Managed Care 6 Medicare/Seniors 4 4 Quality of health care 18 Other<sup>2</sup> 18 26 23 Don't know/Refused Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

- 5a. Now I have a question about next year's election for U.S. CONGRESS. If the election for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the...for Congress in your district?
- As of TODAY, do you LEAN more toward...? 5b. 2000 Congressional Preference

### Total Reg. Voters

40

42 Total Republican

34 36 Republican

6 Lean Republican 6

44 Total Democrat 45

39 38 Democrat

<sup>1</sup> In question 3, all responses mentioned by fewer than five percent are included under "Other."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In question 4, all responses mentioned by fewer than four percent are included under "Other."

## 6 6 Lean Democrat

## 16 14 Total undecided/Don't know

6. As you may know, the federal government has a budget SURPLUS this year. I'm going to read you a list of some things that might be done with the available money. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it should be a TOP priority, OR important but a LOWER priority, OR not too important, OR if you think this should not be done.

|    |   |          | Important                                      |                  |            |      |
|----|---|----------|--|------------------|------------|------|
|    |   | A top    | but lower                                      |                  | Should not | DK/  |
|    |   | priority | priority                                       | <u>important</u> | be done    | Ref. |
| a. | To cut taxes  |          | <u>.                                      </u> |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 43       | 32   | 15               | 8          | 2    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 42       | 33   | 16               | 8          | 2    |
| b. | To pay off the national debt more quickly                         |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 34       | 36   | 21               | 7          | 2    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 35       | 35   | 21               | 7          | 2    |
| c. | To increase spending to improve public schools                    |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 57       | 27   | 9                | 6          | 1    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 57       | 26   | 10               | 7          | 1    |
| d. | To provide health insurance to people who are currently uninsured |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 46       | 34   | 12               | 6          | 2    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 45       | 34   | 13               | 6          | 2    |
| e. | To make the Social Security program financially sound             |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 64       | 25   | 6                | 3          | 1    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 63       | 26   | 6                | 4          | 1    |
| f. | To make the Medicare program financially sound                    |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 55       | 32   | 9                | 3          | 2    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 54       | 31   | 9                | 4          | 1    |
| g. | To increase spending on national defense                          |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 26       | 35   | 23               | 14         | 2    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 27       | 35   | 22               | 14         | 2    |
| h. | To provide coverage for prescription medicines for the elderly    |          |  |                  |            |      |
|    | Total   | 55       | 29   | 10               | 4          | 1    |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 54       | 30   | 10               | 4          | 1    |
|    |   |          |  |                  |            |      |

6/7. You said the following should be TOP priorities for using the federal budget surplus.... Which ONE of these do you think should be the MOST important priority?

## **Top Priority**

| <u>Total</u> | Reg. Vo | <u>ters</u>   |
|--------------|---------|---|
| 22           | 22      | To increase spending to improve public schools                    |
| 18           | 19      | To make the Social Security program financially sound             |
| 12           | 12      | To cut taxes  |
| 11           | 10      | To provide health insurance to people who are currently uninsured |
| 10           | 10      | To provide coverage for prescription medicines for the elderly    |
| 9            | 10      | To pay off the national debt more quickly                         |
| 6            | 5       | To make the Medicare program financially sound                    |
| 5            | 5       | To increase spending on national defense                          |
| 7            | 7       | No top priorities named/Don't know                                |

8. Now I'm going to read you a list of health care issues you might consider in deciding who to vote for in next year's presidential election. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it will be very important in deciding your vote for president, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. How important will this issue be in deciding your vote...?

|    |   | Very<br><u>important</u> | Somewhat important | Not too important | Not at all important | DK/<br>Ref. |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| a. | Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans     |                          |                    | *                 | <u> </u>             |             |
|    | Total   | 44                       | 33                 | 14                | 6                    | 3           |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 44                       | 34                 | 14                | 6                    | 2           |
| b. | Providing coverage for prescription medicines for the elderly |                          |                    |                   |                      |             |
|    | Total   | 51                       | 33                 | 12                | 4                    | 1           |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 50                       | 33                 | 13                | 4                    | 1           |
| c. | Making Medicare financially sound                             |                          |                    |                   |                      |             |
|    | Total   | 52                       | 35                 | 9                 | 3                    | 1           |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 52                       | 34                 | 9                 | 3                    | 1           |
| d. | Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage           |                          |                    |                   |                      |             |
|    | Total   | 47                       | 33                 | 13                | 5                    | 2           |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 46                       | 33                 | 14                | 5                    | 1           |

8/9. You said the following issues will be very important... Which ONE of these do you think will be MOST important in deciding your vote?

## Most Important Issue

### Total Reg. Voters

- 23 22 Helping the uninsured get health insurance coverage
- 20 20 Making Medicare financially sound
- 16 17 Protecting consumer rights in HMOs and managed care plans
- 18 17 Providing coverage for prescription medicines for the elderly
- 24 No issues very important/Don't know
- 10. Now, I have a few more questions about politics... I'm going to read you the names of 10 candidates who say they are running for president in the year 2000. Regardless of who you might vote for, please tell me which ONE of these candidates you think would do the best job handling health care issues. The candidates are...

- 27 28 George W. Bush
- 22 21 Al Gore
- 11 12 Bill Bradley
- 7 John McCain
- 3 2 Pat Buchanan
- 2 2 Steve Forbes
- 2 2 Orrin Hatch
- 1 2 Gary Bauer
- 2 2 Donald Trump
- 1 1 Alan Keyes
- 2 Other candidate (VOL.)
- 3 None would do a good job (VOL.)
- 17 15 Don't know/Refused
- 11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way... (is/are) handling health care issues?

| <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u>          | <u>DK/Ref</u> .                  |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                |                            |                                  |
| 25             | 50                         | 24                               |
| 25             | 53                         | 22                               |
|                |                            |                                  |
| 35             | 42                         | 22                               |
| 35             | 45                         | 20                               |
|                |                            |                                  |
| 45             | 39                         | 16                               |
| 44             | 43                         | 13                               |
|                | 25<br>25<br>25<br>35<br>35 | 25 50<br>25 53<br>35 42<br>35 45 |

12. Now I'd like to know which party you think generally does a better job of dealing with each of the following issues. Which party do you think does a better job of dealing with...:the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, both parties about the same, or do you think neither party does a good job?

|    |  | Rep.<br><u>Party</u> | Dem.<br><u>Party</u> | Both about the same | Neither party | DK/<br><u>Ref</u> . |
|----|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| a. | Patient rights in HMOs and managed care plans  |                      |                      |                     |               |                     |
|    | Total  | 17                   | 32                   | 17                  | 15            | 19                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                   | 18                   | 32                   | 16                  | 16            | 18                  |
| b. | Social Security                                |                      |                      |                     |               |                     |
|    | Total  | 24                   | 34                   | 17                  | 12            | 13                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                   | 26                   | 34                   | 17                  | 12            | 11                  |
| c. | Medicare                                       |                      |                      |                     |               |                     |
|    | Total  | 19                   | 37                   | 18                  | 12            | 14                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                   | 20                   | 37                   | 18                  | 12            | 12                  |
| d. | Taxes  |                      |                      |                     |               |                     |
|    | Total  | 34                   | 28                   | 13                  | 12            | 12                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                   | 37                   | 28                   | 13                  | 12            | 11                  |
| e. | Health insurance for the uninsured             |                      |                      |                     |               |                     |
|    | Total  | 14                   | 40                   | 14                  | 16            | 16                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                   | 14                   | 41                   | 14                  | 17            | 14                  |
| f. | Prescription medicine coverage for the elderly |                      |                      |                     |               |                     |
|    | Total  | 16                   | 33                   | 18                  | 16            | 18                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                   | 16                   | 33                   | 17                  | 16            | 17                  |

13. Now I have a few questions about some recent news stories ... You might recall news reports about a change in health coverage policies by one of the nation's largest health insurers, the UnitedHealth Group. From what you've seen or heard, which ONE of the following changes in policy did the UnitedHealth Group recently announce? Did the company say it...or don't you know enough to say?

#### Total Reg. Voters

6

- 7 Will no longer offer coverage to seniors in the Medicare program
- 29 Will give physicians the final word on decisions about whether patient treatments are necessary (*correct answer*)
- 3 Will increase the amount they pay to doctors
- 57 54 Don't know enough to say
- 4 3 Refused

14. 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. How closely did you follow this story...?

|    |   | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly closely | Not too closely | Not at all <u>closely</u> | DK/<br><u>Ref</u> . |
|----|---|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| a. | Controversies surrounding the World Trade<br>Organization meeting in Seattle  |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 29                     | 27             | 19              | 20                        | 4                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 32                     | 28             | 19              | 18                        | 3                   |
| b. | The crash of EgyptAir flight 990 and the continuing investigation of its cause  |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 39                     | 34             | 16              | 8                         | 3                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 41                     | 35             | 15              | 7                         | 2                   |
| c. | Debates involving the Republican and<br>Democratic candidates for president in New<br>Hampshire                           |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 16                     | 18             | 21              | 39                        | 5                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 18                     | 20             | 21              | 38                        | 4                   |
| d. | President Clinton's proposal for protecting the privacy of patient's medical information                                  |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 21                     | 22             | 23              | 29                        | 5                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 22                     | 24             | 23              | 28                        | 4                   |
| e. | A report by the Institute of Medicine of the<br>National Academy of Sciences about medical<br>errors in hospitals         |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 26                     | 25             | 21              | 24                        | 4                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 29                     | 26             | 21              | 21                        | 3                   |
| f. | Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore's proposal to provide health insurance to people currently uninsured            |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 17                     | 21             | 26              | 31                        | 5                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 18                     | 22             | 25              | 30                        | 4                   |
| g. | Democratic presidential candidate Bill<br>Bradley's proposal to provide health<br>insurance to people currently uninsured |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 14                     | 20             | 26              | 35                        | 6                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 15                     | 21             | 25              | 34                        | 5                   |
|    | -   |                        |                |                 |                           |                     |

Continued...

## Question 14 continued...

|    |   | Very<br><u>Closely</u> | Fairly closely | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | DK/<br><u>Ref</u> . |
|----|---|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| h. | The UnitedHealth Group's announcement of a new policy allowing doctors to have the final decision on whether patient treatments |                        |                |                        |                           |                     |
|    | are necessary.  Total   | 24                     | 24             | 21                     | 27                        | 4                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 26                     | 24             | 21                     | 26                        | 3                   |
| i. | A research study's findings about the amount of time children spend watching television and using other media  Total            | 25<br>26               | 25<br>26       | 20<br>20               | 26<br>25                  | 4 3                 |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 20                     | 20             | 20                     | 25                        | 3                   |
| j. | A research study's findings about<br>employers' costs of providing health<br>insurance to their workers                         |                        |                |                        |                           |                     |
|    | Total   | 15                     | 21             | 24                     | 34                        | 5                   |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 16                     | 22             | 25                     | 33                        | 5                   |
|    |   |                        |                |                        |                           |                     |

15. Recently the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences delivered a report about medical errors in hospitals. To the best of your knowledge, did this report say that these medical errors were...

- 42 46 A big problem that causes a lot of deaths (*correct answer*)
- 12 13 A small problem that causes relatively few deaths
- 43 40 Don't know enough to say
- 2 1 Refused

16. And to the best of your knowledge, did this report call for each of the following actions, or not?

|    |   | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | DK/Ref. |
|----|---|------------|-----------|---------|
| a. | A new government agency to protect patients   |            |           |         |
|    | against medical errors in hospitals?          |            |           |         |
|    | Total   | 32         | 19        | 49      |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                  | 32         | 20        | 48      |
| b. | More severe punishments of doctors and nurses |            |           |         |
|    | who commit medical errors?                    |            |           |         |
|    | Total   | 29         | 22        | 49      |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                  | 29         | 22        | 48      |
| c. | Tougher malpractice laws against doctors and  |            |           |         |
|    | hospitals who commit medical errors?          |            |           |         |
|    | Total   | 32         | 20        | 47      |
|    | Reg. Voters:                                  | 33         | 21        | 46      |
|    |   |            |           |         |

Correct answers: a=yes, b=no, c=no

17. Democratic presidential candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley have each proposed health care reform to expand health insurance coverage for Americans who currently go without. Whose proposal do you think...: Al Gore's or Bill Bradley's, or do you not know enough about their proposals to say?

|                         | Gore's   | Bradley's   | About the same   | Don't know<br>enough<br>to say   | Ref.   |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Would cover more people | <u> </u>   | <u> </u>  |  |  |  |
| Total                   | 21   | 15  | 4  | 57   | 3  |
| Reg. Voters:            | 21   | 17  | 4  | 56   | 3  |
| Has a bigger price tag  |  |   |  |  |  |
| Total                   | 22   | 15  | 3  | 58   | 2  |
| Reg. Voters:            | 23   | 16  | 3  | 56   | 2  |
|                         | Total Reg. Voters:  Has a bigger price tag Total | Would cover more people Total 21 Reg. Voters: 21  Has a bigger price tag Total 22 | Would cover more people Total Reg. Voters:  Has a bigger price tag Total  Total  21 15 17  Has a bigger price tag Total  22 15 | Would cover more people Total Reg. Voters:  Has a bigger price tag Total 22 15 3 | Gore's<br>proposalBradley's<br>proposalAbout the<br>sameenough<br>to sayWould cover more people<br>Total<br>Reg. Voters:211545717456Has a bigger price tag<br> |

18. Which ONE of the following three statements comes closest to your opinion about what the government should do for people who don't have health insurance? Do you think the government should...

- 11 12 Keep things the way they are now
- 43 Make a LIMITED effort to provide health insurance for some of the uninsured, which would not require a tax increase
- 39 Make a MAJOR effort to provide health insurance for nearly all uninsured Americans,

which would require a tax increase

- 7 6 Don't know/Refused
- 19. Which of the following two options do you think would be the better way to guarantee health insurance coverage for Americans?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 43 Building on the current system in which most working people get health coverage through an employer, and the government covers the cost of insurance for the poor and unemployed
- 38 Switching to a system in which all individuals would buy their own health insurance but would receive a tax credit or subsidy to help them with the cost of the plan
- 11 11 Neither (VOL.)
- 9 8 Don't know/Refused
- 20a. Would you be willing to pay FIFTY DOLLARS more per month--either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes--in order to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance coverage, or not?
- 20b. Would you be willing to pay an extra THIRTY DOLLARS a month, or not?
- 20c. Would you be willing to pay an extra FIVE DOLLARS a month, or not?

## Total Reg. Voters

- 74 73 Total willing to pay more
- 39 40 Willing to pay \$50
- 13 Willing to pay \$30
- 22 20 Willing to pay \$5
- 22 24 Not willing to pay more
- 4 3 Don't know
- 21. I'm going to read you some different ways to guarantee health insurance for more Americans. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it.

| 0  | A national health plan, financed by taxpayers, in which                    | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | DK/Ref. |
|----|--|--------------|---------------|---------|
| a. | all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan.     |              |               |         |
|    | Total  | 39           | 51            | 10      |
|    | Reg. Voters:   | 39           | 52            | 9       |
| b. | Requiring businesses to offer private health insurance for their employees |              |               |         |
|    | Total  | 74           | 19            | 7       |
|    | Reg. Voters:   | 74           | 20            | 6       |
|    |  |              |               |         |

c. Offering uninsured Americans income tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase private health insurance on their own

| Total        | 69 | 23 | 9 |
|--------------|----|----|---|
| Reg. Voters: | 69 | 23 | 8 |

Continued...

#### Question 21 continued...

d. Expanding Medicare to cover people under age 65 who do not have health insurance

| Total        | 57 | 34 | 9 |
|--------------|----|----|---|
| Reg. Voters: | 56 | 36 | 8 |

e. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, to provide coverage for people without health insurance

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |    |    |   |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| Total                               | 70 | 23 | 7 |
| Reg. Voters:                        | 70 | 25 | 6 |

21/22. Which ONE of these ways to guarantee health insurance would you MOST prefer?

#### **Most Preferred Option**

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 25 Requiring businesses to offer health insurance for their employees
- 21 Expanding state government programs for low-income people to provide coverage for people without health insurance
- 19 Offering tax deductions or other financial assistance to help the uninsured pay for private insurance
- 16 17 A single government plan to provide health insurance for all Americans
- 8 Expanding Medicare to cover people under age 65 who do not have health insurance
- 11 10 Do not favor any/Don't know
- 23a. I'd like your opinion of a proposal to deal with the problem of uninsured children... Under this proposal, ALL parents would be required to buy health insurance for their children. Low- and moderate-income parents would receive some government assistance to help them pay for it. Keeping in mind that this would cost the government and taxpayers money, would you favor or oppose requiring all parents to buy health insurance for their children?
- 23b. Do you (favor/oppose) this requirement strongly, or only somewhat?

#### Reg. Voters

- 56 56 Total favor
- 33 Strongly
- 23 Not strongly
- 36 37 Total oppose
- 18 19 Strongly

- 18 18 Not strongly
- 8 7 Don't know/Refused
- 24. As you may know, a few years ago, Congress passed a law to help states cover more uninsured children. What is your opinion of a proposal to extend this health insurance coverage to the parents of the eligible child as well? Keeping in mind that this would cost the government and the taxpayers money, would you favor or oppose extending this government subsidized insurance coverage to parents?

- 50 50 Favor
- 37 38 Oppose
- 13 12 Don't know/Refused
- 25. A law has been debated in Congress that would require HMOs, other managed care plans, and health insurance companies to provide people with more information about their health plan, make it easier for people to see medical specialists, allow appeals to independent reviewers when someone is denied coverage for a particular medical treatment, and give people the right to sue their health plan. Do you favor or oppose such a law?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 71 72 Favor
- 18 17 Oppose
- 11 11 Don't know/Refused
- 26. If this law sometimes called the Patient Bill of Rights were enacted, do you think people like you would be better off, worse off, or not much affected either way?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 44 45 Better off
- 7 Worse off
- 37 Not much affected
- 11 11 Don't know/Refused
- 27a. If this Patient Bill of Rights were enacted, what effect—if any—do you think it would have on health insurance premiums for people like you? Do you think it would lead to health insurance premiums...
- 27b. Do you think premiums would go (up/down) a lot or only a little?

- 65 66 Total go up
- 36 37 Go up a lot
- 26 Go up only a little/some
- 2 2 Don't know how much
- 5 5 Total go down
- 2 Go down a lot

- 3 Go down only a little/some
- \* \* 3 Don't know how much
- 21 Not much affected either way
- 10 9 Don't know/Refused
- 28. Would you still favor this Patient Bill of Rights if you heard it would increase the cost of health insurance premiums usually shared by employers and workers by about 20 dollars per month for a typical family that is, a little over 200 dollars per year?

- 52 53 Would still favor
- 31 Total would oppose
- 18 17 Oppose initially
- 13 Switched to oppose
- 16 Don't know/Refused
- 29. Next, I have a few questions about Medicare, the federal program that provides health insurance primarily to people aged 65 and older. From what you know, what is the financial status today of Medicare? Would you say...

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 14 15 It is in good shape financially and no real changes are needed
- 31 32 It faces some financial problems and minor changes are needed
- 26 27 It faces serious financial problems that require major changes to the existing program
- 17 It faces so many financial problems that the whole program needs to be completely rebuilt
- 12 10 Don't know/Refused
- 30. Medicare does not currently pay for prescription medicines. Which ONE of the following three statements comes closest to your opinion about what the government should do about Medicare coverage for prescription medicines? Do you think the government should...

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 20 21 Keep things the way they are now and not add a prescription drug benefit
- 42 Expand Medicare to cover prescription medicines for only LOW-INCOME seniors even if it means an increase in premiums or taxes to cover the costs
- 28 Guarantee prescription medicine coverage to EVERYONE on Medicare even if it means a larger increase in premiums or taxes to cover the costs
- 11 10 Don't know/Refused
- 31. I'm going to read you two different ways Medicare might be expanded to provide prescription medicine coverage for seniors. Keeping in mind that either one would cost the taxpayers money, please tell me which, if any, you would personally prefer. Would you rather see coverage that would ...

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> An asterisk indicates values less than .5%.

- 42 43 Expand Medicare to provide prescription medicine coverage to seniors, with government subsidies to help cover their costs
- 27 Offer prescription medicine coverage under private health insurance plans to seniors, with government subsidies to help cover their costs
- 19 Do you feel neither should be done at this time
- 12 10 Don't know/Refused
- 32. In the last session of Congress, a Patient Bill of Rights was debated but was not enacted. Which ONE of the following in government do you think is MOST responsible for this legislation not being enacted?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 13 President Clinton
  - 8 9 Democrats in Congress
- 26 27 Republicans in Congress
- 25 All equally responsible (VOL.)
- 3 None are responsible (VOL.)
- 25 23 Don't know/Refused
- 33. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid?

## Total Reg. Voters

- 86 89 Yes
- 12 10 No
- 2 1 Don't know/Refused
- 34. What is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Do you have...
- 35a. Is that MediCARE, the program that provides health insurance for seniors and some disabled people, OR MediCAID, the government program that provides health insurance for low-income people, OR some OTHER government program that provides health insurance?

Based on those who are currently insured; n=1,119 for registered voters and n=1303 for total

- 66 67 Employer-provided
- 13 13 Self-purchased
- 18 18 Government program
- 13 14 Medicare
- 3 Medicaid
- 2 Other government program/Don't know
- 1 Other main source (VOL.)
- 1 1 Don't know/Refused
- 35b. Do you also have a private health insurance plan that provides additional coverage beyond

#### Medicare?

# Based on those whose main health insurance is Medicare; n=150 for registered voters and n=165 for total

## Total Reg. Voters

- 66 68 Yes
- 34 31 No
- \* \* Don't know/Refused
- 36c. How much of a problem is it for you to pay for this additional health insurance plan? Is it...

Based on those who have additional coverage beyond Medicare; n=104 for registered voters and n=111 for total

## Total Reg. Voters

- 23 A serious problem
- 28 27 A problem, but not too serious
- 41 42 Not much of a problem
- 6 7 I don't pay for it (VOL.)
- 3 1 Don't know/Refused
- 37. Thinking about the next six months, how worried are you that each of the following might happen to you. How worried are you that...? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

|    |   | Very<br>worried | Somewhat worried | Not too worried | Not at all worried | DK/<br><u>Ref</u> . | Currently uninsured |
|----|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. | You might not be able to get the health care services you think you need                    |                 |                  |                 |                    |                     |                     |
|    | Total   | 24              | 19               | 18              | 37                 | 3                   | NA                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 23              | 19               | 17              | 39                 | 2                   | NA                  |
| b. | The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase          |                 |                  |                 |                    |                     |                     |
|    | Total   | 28              | 24               | 18              | 26                 | 4                   | NA                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 27              | 25               | 18              | 27                 | 3                   | NA                  |
| c. | You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it |                 |                  |                 |                    |                     |                     |
|    | Total   | 25              | 16               | 18              | 38                 | 3                   | NA                  |
|    | Reg. Voters:  | 23              | 16               | 18              | 41                 | 2                   | NA                  |

d. The quality of health care services you receive will get worse

38. How much of a problem is it for you to pay for prescription medicines that you need? Is it....

#### Total Reg. Voters

19 19 A serious problem

18 A problem, but not serious

60 62 Not much of a problem

3 2 Don't know/Refused

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS:**

D1. Sex

#### Total Reg. Voters

48 47 Male

52 53 Female

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

#### Total Reg. Voters

30 33 Republican

30 30 Democrat

- 32 Independent
  2 No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
  1 Other party (VOL.)
  1 Don't know

- 1 Refused

D3. Which Democratic presidential candidate do you think would do a better job handling health care issues...?

Based on those who consider themselves Democrats; n=366 for registered voters and n=433 for total

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 48 47 Al Gore
- 24 23 Bill Bradley
- 8 9 Both the same (VOL.)
- 16 17 Don't know/Refused
- D4. In general, would you describe your political views as...

### Total Reg. Voters

- 11 12 Very conservative
- 27 28 Conservative
- 40 40 Moderate
- 12 12 Liberal
- 5 Very liberal
- 4 2 Don't know/Refused
- D5. Many people are not registered to vote because they're too busy or move around too often... Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 81 99 Yes, registered
- 16 0 No, not registered
- 1 Don't have to register (VOL.)
- 2 0 Don't know/Refused
- D6a. Thinking back to the last election for U.S. Congress in November 1998, did things come up to keep you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

#### Total Reg. Voters

1

- 66 76 Yes, voted
- 30 21 No, did not vote
  - 1 Too young to vote in 11/98 (VOL.)
- 2 2 Don't remember if voted
- 1 \* Refused

D6b. Did you happen to vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 29 33 Republican
- 28 32 Democrat
- 3 4 Other party/Independent candidate (VOL.)
- 4 5 Don't remember which candidate
- 2 Refused
- 34 24 Did not vote
- D7a. How likely is it that you will vote in your state's primary election for president next year -- or attend a caucus in your state to support a particular presidential candidate? Would you say it is...
- D7b. Are you ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN you will vote in a presidential primary or attend a caucus, or is there a chance that something might come up to keep you from participating?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 72 81 Very likely
- 66 75 Absolutely certain
- 6 Not absolutely certain
- 9 Somewhat likely
- 7 4 Not too likely
- 6 4 Not at all likely
- 3 2 Don't know/Refused
- D8. Are you the parent of any children BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 TO 17?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 26 27 Yes
- 73 72 No
- 1 \* Don't know/Refused
- D9. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 16 14 Less than high school graduate
- 36 35 High school graduate
- 23 24 Some college
- 23 27 College graduate or higher
- 1 1 Don't Know/Refused
- D10. What is your age?

- 22 19 18-29
- 40 41 30-49
- 20 21 50-64

- 16 18 65+
  - 2 1 Don't know/Refused
- D11. What is your religious preference -- Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, an Orthodox Church such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, some other religion, or no religion?
- D12. Do you think of yourself as a Christian, or not?
- D13. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

- 60 61 Total Protestant/Christian
- 32 33 Evangelical
- 28 Non-evangelical
- 22 22 Catholic
- 1 1 Jewish
- 2 2 Mormon
- \* \* Orthodox Church
- 3 Other religion
- 8 8 No religion
- 3 2 Don't know/Refused
- D14. Last year -- that is, in 1998 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

#### Total Reg. Voters

- 18 16 Under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 22 23 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 14 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 13 14 \$75,000+
- 20 19 Don't know/Refused
- D15. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Latin American background?
- D16. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race? Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?

- 76 78 White, non-Hispanic
- 22 21 Total minority
- 10 10 Black/African-American
- 10 9 Hispanic
- 1 1 Asian
- 1 1 Other/Mixed race
- 2 1 Don't know/Refused