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Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008

April 2008

Methodology

The *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Elizabeth Hamel and Carolina Gutiérrez. The survey was conducted April 3 through April 13, 2008, among a nationally representative random sample of 2,003 adults ages 18 and older, including 1,759 adults who say they are registered to vote. Of these registered voters, there are 460 self-identified Republicans, 656 self-identified Democrats, and 507 self-identified independents. Telephone interviews were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample and for registered voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points; for registered voters who self-identify as Republicans, Democrats, and independents it is plus or minus 5 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.

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.

- 1a. Thinking about the campaign for the presidential election in 2008, what two issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? **IF RESPONDENT GIVES ONE ISSUE PROBE FOR SECOND:** Is there another issue you'd like to hear about? (**OPEN-END**)

Based on Half Sample

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total RVs</u>	<u>Rep RVs</u>	<u>Dem RVs</u>	<u>Ind RVs</u>	
48	49	49	53	47	Economic issues (Net)
40	41	43	44	39	Economy (general)
4	3	4	4	1	Jobs
39	42	33	50	40	Iraq/War in Iraq
22	23	19	29	18	Health care (Net)
15	17	11	22	15	Health care (general)
3	3	4	4	1	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
1	1	*	1	1	Health care costs
*	*	--	--	1	Medicare/Elderly
3	3	3	3	1	Other health care mentions
11	10	11	11	8	Gas prices/Energy (Net)
10	9	11	11	7	Gas prices
1	1	--	1	1	Energy issues
9	6	10	4	6	Immigration/illegal immigration
4	4	2	6	5	Education/schools
4	4	9	3	2	Taxes
3	4	9	1	4	Terrorism/National security (Net)
2	3	8	1	2	National security
1	1	2	--	2	Terrorism/war on terror
*	*	*	--	--	Other terrorism/national security mentions
3	3	1	3	5	Frustration with government/Corruption (Net)
1	1	*	*	2	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
*	*	*	--	*	Campaigns/elections
*	*	--	1	--	Partisan politics/Party bickering
2	2	1	2	3	Other frustration with government mentions
2	3	8	1	1	Morality issues (Net)
1	1	4	--	*	Abortion
*	*	1	*	--	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
*	*	*	--	--	Moral issues (general)
*	*	1	--	--	Stem cells
1	1	2	1	1	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
2	2	3	1	2	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
*	*	--	1	*	Middle East
2	2	3	1	2	Other foreign affairs mentions
2	2	3	1	4	Social Security
2	2	4	*	2	Budget deficit/national debt
1	1	1	1	3	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
1	1	--	2	1	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare/health care)
1	*	--	1	*	Crime/violence
*	*	--	--	1	Katrina
*	--	--	--	--	Local Issues
4	4	4	2	6	Other
*	*	--	*	--	Nothing
12	10	9	7	14	Don't know/Refused

Note: Table will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

Q.1b Thinking ahead to the November 2008 presidential election, what is the single most important issue in your choice for president? **IF RESPONDENT GIVES ONE ISSUE PROBE FOR SECOND:** Is there one other issue that's nearly as important? (**OPEN-END**)

Based on Half Sample

<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Rep</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Dem</u> <u>RVs</u>	<u>Ind</u> <u>RVs</u>	
45	48	43	51	54	Economic issues (Net)
39	41	37	40	51	Economy (general)
5	4	3	8	2	Jobs
*	*	--	1	--	Poverty/homelessness
3	3	5	3	1	Other economy mentions
30	30	21	36	36	Iraq/War in Iraq
18	20	16	27	17	Health care (Net)
15	16	12	23	15	Health care (general)
2	2	3	2	1	The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage
*	*	1	*	*	Medicare/Elderly
*	*	--	*	--	Health care costs
1	1	1	1	1	Other health care mentions
14	14	19	12	12	Frustration with government/Corruption (Net)
5	5	5	4	6	Government ethics/scandals/corruption
*	1	2	*	--	Partisan politics/Party bickering
*	*	--	*	1	Campaigns/elections
9	9	13	8	7	Other frustration with government mentions
7	8	6	9	7	Gas prices/Energy (Net)
7	7	6	9	7	Gas prices
*	*	1	--	1	Energy issues
6	5	9	3	6	Immigration/illegal immigration
6	7	13	2	8	Terrorism/National security (Net)
4	5	11	*	6	National security
2	2	2	1	2	Terrorism/war on terror
*	*	--	*	--	Other terrorism/national security mentions
4	4	1	7	3	Education/schools
4	5	7	2	6	Taxes
3	4	8	1	2	Morality issues (Net)
2	2	4	*	2	Abortion
*	*	2	--	*	Moral issues (general)
*	*	--	--	*	Same sex marriage/gay marriage
1	1	4	1	1	Other mentions moral issues, values issues
3	3	3	3	4	Foreign affairs/not Iraq (Net)
2	2	2	2	1	Social Security
1	2	1	3	*	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
1	1	1	*	2	Budget deficit/national debt
*	--	--	--	--	Crime/violence
*	*	*	--	*	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare/health care)
*	*	1	--	--	Katrina
4	3	3	2	3	Other
*	*	--	*	--	Nothing
17	13	12	13	10	Don't know/Refused

Note: Table will add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

2. Now thinking specifically about HEALTH CARE, which ONE of the following health care issues would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about? **(READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-4, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY)**

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	
40	41	43	35	46	Reducing the costs of health care and health insurance
31	30	19	45	25	Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
15	15	16	12	18	Improving the quality of care and reducing medical errors
9	9	16	5	6	Reducing spending on government health programs like Medicare and Medicaid
2	1	3	1	1	None of these (VOL.)
2	2	2	1	3	Other issue (VOL.)
2	2	2	1	1	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

Thinking about your choice for president...

3. Thinking about all of the candidates for president in 2008, regardless of political party or who you intend to vote for, which candidate BEST represents your own views on health care? **(OPEN END)**

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	
26	26	8	44	20	Hillary Clinton
21	20	6	33	19	Barack Obama
17	19	51	3	16	John McCain
2	2	1	*	3	Other candidate
2	2	--	3	2	Democratic candidate, non-specific
1	1	2	--	1	Republican candidate, non-specific
8	8	9	4	12	No candidate represents my views
8	8	8	4	10	Can't name a candidate
16	14	16	8	18	Don't know/Refused

4. Thinking about how the issue of health care might affect your vote for president, would you ... **(READ)**

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	
15	14	10	16	15	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on health care (or)
65	67	66	68	69	Consider a candidate's position on health care as just one of many important factors (or)
13	14	18	10	14	Not see health care as a major issue in your vote (or)
7	6	6	7	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

5. The presidential candidates have proposed different approaches to improving the health care system in the U.S. Which of the following comes closest to your view? (**READ AND ROTATE**)

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	
55	54	35	70	50	The main goal of these efforts should be to make sure that EVERYONE is covered by health insurance (or)
41	42	61	26	48	These efforts should focus first on making health insurance more available and affordable in the private marketplace, even if everyone doesn't get covered (or)
4	4	4	4	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

6. Which of the following best describes the direction you would like to see the country take when it comes to health care? (**READ AND ROTATE**)

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
<u>Total</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	<u>RVS</u>	
45	43	37	50	41	Building on the current system, where most people get insurance through their employers and many of those with low incomes have their health care paid for by the government through public programs (or)
42	44	48	38	49	Moving toward a system in which most individuals would buy their own insurance but people with more modest incomes would receive a government tax credit to help them with the cost of the plan (or)
12	13	15	12	11	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

7. There has been a lot of news lately about problems with the economy. As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you and your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? (First/Next,) what about... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)? IF YES:** Was this a serious problem, or not?

	<u>Yes, serious problem</u>	<u>No, not a serious problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Problems paying for health care and health insurance				
Total:	28	14	58	1
Total RVs:	27	14	58	1
Republican RVs:	19	13	67	*
Democratic RVs:	32	13	53	1
Independent RVs:	27	14	59	*
b. Problems paying for gas				
Total:	44	20	35	*
Total RVs:	42	21	37	*
Republican RVs:	30	22	47	1
Democratic RVs:	47	21	32	*
Independent RVs:	43	23	34	*
c. Problems getting a good-paying job or a raise in pay				
Total:	29	11	59	1
Total RVs:	27	10	61	2
Republican RVs:	20	8	70	2
Democratic RVs:	30	12	57	1
Independent RVs:	29	9	61	1
d. Problems paying your rent or mortgage				
Total:	19	10	70	1
Total RVs:	18	9	72	1
Republican RVs:	12	7	80	1
Democratic RVs:	22	11	67	1
Independent RVs:	20	8	71	1
e. Losing money in the stock market				
Total:	16	19	63	2
Total RVs:	17	20	61	2
Republican RVs:	18	23	58	1
Democratic RVs:	17	17	63	3
Independent RVs:	15	21	63	1

Q.7 continued

Q.7 continued

7. There has been a lot of news lately about problems with the economy. As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you and your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? (First/Next,) what about... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)? IF YES:** Was this a serious problem, or not?

	Yes, serious <u>problem</u>	No, not a serious <u>problem</u>	Not a <u>problem</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
f. Problems with credit card debt or other personal debt				
Total:	18	11	71	*
Total RVs:	17	12	71	1
Republican RVs:	12	10	77	1
Democratic RVs:	19	12	68	1
Independent RVs:	18	13	69	--
g. Problems paying for food				
Total:	18	15	66	*
Total RVs:	16	15	68	*
Republican RVs:	12	11	77	1
Democratic RVs:	20	17	63	*
Independent RVs:	14	19	67	--

- 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?

Total	Total RVs	
11	11	Self-employed
37	37	Full-time for an employer
10	11	Part-time for an employer
22	25	Retired
12	10	Not employed
2	2	Homemaker (VOL.)
1	1	Student (VOL.)
3	3	Disabled (VOL.)
*	*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

- D8. 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)

Total	Total RVs	
84	87	Yes, insured
15	13	No, not insured
1	*	Don't know/Refused

8. Next, 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 – READ AND RANDOMIZE)?** (Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?)

Data Based on Total Respondents

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Having to pay more for your health care or health insurance	37	34	11	17	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	29	26	19	25	1
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	26	30	18	24	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	27	23	17	32	1
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	18	24	28	29	*
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	18	28	24	30	1
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	43	31	11	14	*
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	17	18	16	47	2
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	21	18	19	41	1
<i>Item J based on those who are employed (n=1,024)</i>					
j. Losing your job	21	18	21	40	*
<i>Item K based on those who are employed and insured (n=896)</i>					
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	13	16	19	50	1
<i>Items L & M based on those who are insured (n=1,782)</i>					
l. Losing your health insurance coverage	26	19	19	35	1
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	28	33	16	21	2

Now thinking about health care costs...

9. In the past year, have you or another family member living in your household... **(INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE)** because of the COST, or not? **(IF 'YES' ASK Q10 FOR SAME ITEM BEFORE CONTINUING WITH NEXT ITEM IN Q9)**

10. Did the condition get worse as a result of **(READ CORRESPONDING ITEM)**?

	Total <u>Yes</u>	Condition <u>got worse</u>	Did not <u>get worse/DK</u>	<u>No</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. Skipped a recommended medical test or treatment					
Total:	24	13	11	76	1
Total RVs:	23	12	11	76	*
Republican RVs:	15	7	8	84	1
Democratic RVs:	27	15	12	72	*
Independent RVs:	24	11	13	75	1
b. Not filled a prescription for a medicine					
Total:	23	14	9	76	*
Total RVs:	22	14	8	78	*
Republican RVs:	16	10	6	84	--
Democratic RVs:	27	17	10	73	*
Independent RVs:	21	14	7	78	1
c. Cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine					
Total:	19	12	7	80	*
Total RVs:	18	11	8	81	*
Republican RVs:	13	7	5	87	--
Democratic RVs:	23	13	10	77	*
Independent RVs:	17	11	6	83	*
d. Had problems getting mental health care					
Total:	8	5	3	90	2
Total RVs:	8	5	3	91	1
Republican RVs:	6	5	1	93	2
Democratic RVs:	10	7	3	89	1
Independent RVs:	6	2	4	92	1
e. Put off or postponed getting health care you needed					
Total:	29	20	10	70	1
Total RVs:	28	19	10	71	*
Republican RVs:	22	15	8	78	*
Democratic RVs:	32	23	9	67	1
Independent RVs:	30	18	12	69	1

11. In the past FIVE years, have you **(INSERT, READ AND RANDOMIZE. ITEM “C” SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW ITEM “B”)** because of medical bills, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Used up all or most of your savings			
Total:	17	82	*
Total RVs:	16	84	*
Republican RVs:	14	86	--
Democratic RVs:	19	80	1
Independent RVs:	15	85	*
b. Been unable to pay for basic necessities like food, heat or housing			
Total:	12	87	*
Total RVs:	11	89	*
Republican RVs:	9	91	--
Democratic RVs:	14	86	*
Independent RVs:	10	89	1
c. Had difficulty paying other bills			
Total:	20	79	*
Total RVs:	18	82	*
Republican RVs:	15	85	--
Democratic RVs:	22	78	*
Independent RVs:	18	82	--
d. Borrowed money or gotten a loan or another mortgage on your home			
Total:	10	89	*
Total RVs:	10	90	*
Republican RVs:	8	92	*
Democratic RVs:	11	89	--
Independent RVs:	11	88	1
e. Been contacted by a collection agency			
Total:	20	79	*
Total RVs:	19	81	*
Republican RVs:	15	85	--
Democratic RVs:	23	77	*
Independent RVs:	20	79	1
f. Declared bankruptcy			
Total:	3	97	*
Total RVs:	3	97	*
Republican RVs:	2	98	--
Democratic RVs:	3	97	--
Independent RVs:	3	97	*

12. In the past year, have you or anyone in your household ... **(FORM A ASK ITEMS IN ORDER, FORM B ASK IN REVERSE ORDER)** What about **(INSERT NEXT ITEM)**?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Doesn't apply</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Decided to stay in one job, rather than take another, mainly because the job you held at the time offered better health care benefits				
Total:	18	76	5	2
Total RVs:	17	77	5	2
Republican RVs:	13	79	6	2
Democratic RVs:	20	74	5	1
Independent RVs:	18	76	5	1
b. Decided to take a different job, rather than stay at a job, mainly because the new job offered better health care benefits				
Total:	12	82	5	2
Total RVs:	10	84	5	1
Republican RVs:	9	84	6	*
Democratic RVs:	11	82	5	1
Independent RVs:	9	85	5	1
c. Decided to get married, mainly to have access to your spouse's health care benefits				
Total:	5	92	3	*
Total RVs:	4	93	3	*
Republican RVs:	3	93	3	*
Democratic RVs:	6	90	3	*
Independent RVs:	3	95	2	--
d. Decided to get married, mainly so your spouse could have access to your health care benefits				
Total:	5	92	3	*
Total RVs:	4	92	3	*
Republican RVs:	3	93	4	*
Democratic RVs:	6	91	4	*
Independent RVs:	4	94	2	--

DEMOGRAPHICS (ASK ALL):

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

Total	Total RVs	
49	49	Male
51	51	Female

D2. What is your age?

Total	Total RVs	
18	13	18-29
37	37	30-49
26	28	50-64
17	19	65 and older
3	3	Undesignated

D3. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Total	Total RVs	
18	19	Excellent
35	37	Very good
27	27	Good
12	11	Only fair
7	6	Poor
1	*	Don't know/Refused

D4. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Total	Total RVs	
23	26	Republican
39	38	Democrat
29	28	Independent
4	4	Other/none (VOL.)
6	4	Don't know/Refused

D4b. Do you lean more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]?

D4/D4b Combo Table. Party ID including Leaners

Total	Total RVS	
33	36	Republican/Lean Republican
52	51	Democrat/Lean Democratic
15	13	Refused to Lean

D5. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

D5b. How often would you say you vote in presidential elections...always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom?

Total	Total RVs	
82	100	Yes, registered
65	79	Always vote in presidential elections
9	11	Nearly always vote in presidential elections
3	4	Vote part of the time in presidential elections
3	4	Seldom vote in presidential elections
2	1	Never vote/Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
17	*	Not registered
1	*	Don't know/Refused

D6. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Total	Total RVs	
22	21	Liberal
40	41	Moderate
31	33	Conservative
5	5	Don't know
1	1	Refused

D9. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (**DO NOT READ**)

Total	Total RVs	
4	2	None, or grade 1-8
10	8	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
31	31	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
3	4	Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school
23	24	Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)
17	19	College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)
10	11	Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
1	*	Refused

D10. Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?

Total	Total RVs	
36	34	Yes
64	65	No
*	*	Don't know/Refused

D11. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Total	Total RVs	
56	60	Married
6	4	Living with a partner
9	9	Divorced
2	2	Separated
7	5	Widowed
18	16	Never been married
1	1	Undesignated

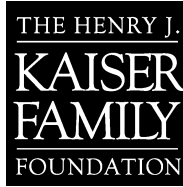
D12. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D13. 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?)**

Total	Total RVs	
71	75	White, Non Hispanic
28	23	Total Non-White
11	10	Black or African-American
12	8	Hispanic
2	2	Asian
3	3	Other or mixed race
2	2	Undesignated

D14. Last year -- that is, in 2007 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

Total	Total RVs	
15	12	Less than \$20,000
12	11	\$20,000 to less than \$30,000
18	19	\$30,000 to less than \$50,000
15	16	\$50,000 to less than \$75,000
11	12	\$75,000 to less than \$100,000
13	14	\$100,000 or more
5	4	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
11	12	(DO NOT READ) Refused



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