



Toplines

Kaiser Family Foundation

January/February 2004 Health Poll Report Survey

February 2004

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Poll Report Survey* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between February 5 and February 8, 2004, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 adults ages 18 and over, including 237 adults ages 65 and older.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 6.7 percentage points. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). “VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

INTRODUCTION: Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. We're taking an important national survey about some things in the news. May I please speak with the YOUNGEST MALE age 18 or older, who is now at home? **(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I speak with the OLDEST FEMALE age 18 or older who is now at home) **(REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF RESPONDENT DID NOT ANSWER THE TELEPHONE.)**

NOTE: Due to rounding, percentage may not add to 100%.

NOTE: an asterisk () indicates values less than 0.5%.*

Q.1a To begin... What do you think is the most important problem for the government to address? Is there another problem you think is almost as important for the government to address?

Based on Form A Respondents (n=588) (Total Net Responses)

- 37 Economy (NET)
- 20 War (NET)
- 22 Health care (NET)
- 17 Miscellaneous (NET)
- 14 Terrorism/National Security (NET)
- 11 Taxes/Budget (NET)
- 8 Other Government Issues (NET)
- 12 Education (NET)
- 5 Crime (NET)
- 9 Other
- 10 Don't know/Refused

Q.1b To begin... What do you think is the most important problem in health or health care for the government to address? Is there another health problem you think is almost as important for the government to address?

Based on Form B Respondents (n=613) (Total Net Responses)

- 44 Costs (NET)
- 24 Seniors' issues (NET)
- 23 Access (NET)
- 17 Medical conditions/procedures (NET)
- 6 Insurance company concerns (NET)
- 9 Other policy (NET)
- 8 Other
- 2 No problems
- 14 Don't know/Refused

Q.2 When it comes to dealing with health care, which party do you think would do a better job- the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, both about the same, or neither?

Current

- 32 Democratic Party
- 16 Republican Party
- 26 Both about the same
- 17 Neither
- 9 Don't know/Refused

Q.3 Now, I'm going to read you some different health care issues. As I read each one, please tell me how important you think it is for the President and Congress to deal with this issue – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. (First,) how important is this issue...?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance	77	16	3	2	2
b. Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians	53	31	7	5	5
c. Lowering the cost of prescription drugs	82	13	2	2	1
d. Lowering the cost of health insurance	82	13	2	2	1
e. Improving the quality of medical care	70	20	5	3	2
f. Reducing racial disparities in medical care	58	22	5	8	7
g. Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members who need long-term help	75	21	2	1	1
h. Protecting the privacy of medical records	61	28	6	3	1

Q3.1 Which of the following issues you say are very important do you think is MOST important? (Summary – includes those who named only one issue as very important)

- 25 Lowering the cost of health insurance
- 21 Increasing the number of Americans covered by health insurance
- 15 Lowering the cost of prescription drugs
- 11 Helping families with the cost of caring for elderly or disabled family members who need long-term help
- 9 Improving the quality of medical care
- 5 Lowering the cost of medical malpractice insurance for physicians
- 3 Protecting the privacy of medical records
- 1 Reducing racial disparities in medical care
- 1 **(VOL.)** Other issue is most important
- 6 **(VOL.)** All the same/equally important
- 1 None Very Important
- 1 Don't know/Refused

Q.4 Now, I'd like to ask you a question about a story that has been in the news recently. If you're not sure of the answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question.

You may have heard news about recent debates in Congress on a bill that would add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. To the best of your knowledge, has this bill been passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush, or not?

Current

- 23 Yes, has been passed and signed into law
- 24 No, has NOT been passed
- 53 Don't know/Refused

Q.5 Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. (First,) how closely did you follow this story...?

	<u>Total Closely</u>	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Total Not Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a. Military action and peace keeping efforts in Iraq	87	55	32	12	6	6	*
b. Campaigns for the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination	54	24	30	45	22	23	*
c. Reports about the U.S. economy	75	38	38	24	12	13	*
d. President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address	46	23	23	53	18	35	1
e. Discovery of the first case of Mad Cow disease in the U.S.	73	34	39	27	16	11	1
f. The outbreak of bird flu in Asia	39	13	26	61	26	34	1
g. Reports of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, also known as SARS, in Asia	58	21	37	41	23	18	*
h. The winter flu outbreak in the U.S.	70	32	38	30	17	12	*
i. The FDA's rejection of a plan to re-introduce silicone gel breast implants in the U.S.	17	5	12	82	23	59	1
j. A recent study reporting higher toxicity levels found in farm-raised salmon compared to wild salmon	28	10	18	71	21	50	1
k. The Democratic Presidential candidates' health care proposals	39	15	24	59	24	35	1
l. Continued discussions of the recently passed Medicare prescription drug law	49	17	32	50	25	25	1

Q.6 Now, I have a few more questions about some of the news stories that I mentioned earlier. If you're not sure of an answer, that's okay. Just tell me and I'll go to the next question.

You may have heard news about President (George W.) Bush's recent State of the Union Address. To the best of your knowledge, did the President talk about his plan to increase health care coverage for more Americans, or is this something he did not talk about in the State of the Union address?

- 22 Yes, talked about plan to increase health care coverage
- 14 No, did not talk about plan to increase health care coverage
- 64 Don't know/Refused

Q.7 As you may know, President (George W.) Bush and the U.S. (United States) Congress recently approved a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs for seniors. How well would you say you understand this new law? Would you say you understand it very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?

- 7 Very well
- 26 Somewhat well
- 34 Not too well
- 30 Not well at all
- 3 Don't know/Refused

Q.8 Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of this new Medicare law?

- 25 Favorable
- 38 Unfavorable
- 13 Neither/Neutral (VOL)
- 24 Don't know/Refused

Q.9 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?

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

Q.10 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)?

- 86 Yes, insured
- 13 No, not insured
- * Don't know/Refused

Q.11 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,) how worried are you about...? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

	<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	47	31	10	12	1
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need	38	24	18	19	*
c. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse	29	29	19	22	1
d. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need	36	23	18	22	1
e. Being the victim of a violent crime	19	25	29	26	*
f. Being the victim of a terrorist attack	20	27	27	26	1
g. Your income not keeping up with rising prices	40	29	14	16	1
h. Losing your savings in the stock market	23	17	15	43	1
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage	27	16	19	37	*
j. Losing your job based on those who are employed (n=731)	21	16	23	40	*
k. Having to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits based on those who are employed and insured (n=636)	17	14	16	51	1
l. Losing your health insurance coverage based on those who are insured (n=1,055)	32	19	19	29	*
m. Your HEALTH PLAN being more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you based on those who are insured (n=1,055)	35	32	15	15	3

DEMOGRAPHICS:

D1. SEX

- 48 Male
- 52 Female

V1. Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey...

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

- 76 Yes, registered to vote
- 23 No, not registered to vote
- * Don't have to register (**VOL.**)
- * Don't know/Refused

V2. As you may know, around half the public does not vote in presidential elections. How about you- did you vote in the presidential election in 2000, when George W. Bush ran against Al Gore, Ralph Nader, and Pat Buchanan, or did you skip that one?

- 67 Yes, voted
- 32 No, did not vote
- 1 Don't remember
- * Refused

V3. For PRESIDENT (in 2000), did you happen to vote for...?

Based on those who voted in 2000 Presidential Election (n=871)

- 42 Al Gore, the Democrat
- 44 George W. Bush, the Republican
- 2 Ralph Nader, the Green Party candidate,
- * Pat Buchanan, the Reform Party candidate, OR
- 2 Someone else?
- 9 Refused

V4. Do you remember for sure whether you voted in the November 2002 congressional election in your district?

- 49 Yes, voted
- 41 No, did not vote
- 10 Don't remember
- * Refused

V5. In the 2002 election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your district, did you happen to vote for...?

Based on those who voted in 2002 Congressional Election (n=635)

- 40 The Democratic candidate,
- 41 The Republican candidate,
- 2 Some other candidate, OR
- 3 Did you choose NOT to vote for Congress?
- 15 Refused

D2. Finally, I have just a few questions we will use to describe the people who took part in our survey... In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

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

V6. [IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT] Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or not a very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

- 25 Total Republican
 - 14 Strong
 - 11 Not strong
- 33 Total Democrat
 - 18 Strong
 - 14 Not Strong
- 32 Independent
- 9 Other/DK/Ref

V7. [IF NOT REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT] Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

37	Total Republican/Lean
25	Republican
11	Lean Republican
47	Total Democrat/Lean
33	Democrat
14	Lean Democrat
10	Non-Lean Independent
6	Other/DK/Ref

V8. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

28	Total Liberal
9	Very liberal
19	Somewhat liberal
29	Moderate
35	Total Conservative
12	Very conservative
23	Somewhat conservative
9	DK/Ref

D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

4	None, or grade 1-8
9	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
24	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
14	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
22	Some college, no 4-year degree
16	College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
11	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)
*	Don't Know
*	Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 20 18-29
- 39 30-49
- 24 50-64
- 17 65+
- 1 Undesignated

D5. Last year -- that is, in 2003 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 10 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 13 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 19 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 15 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 11 \$75,000 to under \$100,000
- 8 \$100,000 to under \$200,000
- 2 \$200,000 or more
- 5 Don't know
- 8 Refused

D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D7. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic**

- 71 White, Non Hispanic
- 26 Total Non-White
 - 11 Black or African-American
 - 10 Hispanic
 - 2 Asian
 - 3 Other or mixed race
- 2 Undesignated



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