

## OCTOBER 1999 HEALTH NEWS INTEREST INDEX

### -- TOPLINE RESULTS--

October 8, 1999

*job # 99050*

n=1,033 national adults, 18 years and older

Margin of error: plus or minus percentage points 3.5 (square root of design effect = 1.05)

Field period: October 8-12, 1999

**INTRODUCTION:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. We're taking an opinion survey about some important issues in the news. I'd like to ask a few questions of 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: Because percentages are rounded they may not total 100%.*

#### D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:

48 Male

52 Female

NOTE: an asterisk (\*) indicates a trend question.

- \*1. To begin... What do you think is the most important problem in health or health care for the government to address? (**OPEN-ENDED. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. IF RESPONDENT ONLY GIVES ONE ANSWER ASK:)** Is there another health problem you think is almost as important? (**BE SURE TO DISTINGUISH 1ST AND 2ND RESPONSE**)

Current Total Mention		Aug-99 Total Ment.	Jun-99 Total Ment.	Apr-99 Total Ment.	Feb-99 Total Ment.	Dec-98 Total Ment.	Oct-98 Total Ment.	Jun-98 Total Ment.	Apr-98 Total Ment.	Feb-98 Total Ment.	Dec-97 Total Ment.
12	Health care costs	14	16	13	18	16	14	14	17	15	12
11	HMO/Managed care concerns	10	6	6	7	7	12	4	5	2	5
10	Universal coverage/for everyone /and uninsured	6	4	9	8	11	9	9	6	8	9
8	Medicare/Medicaid	11	8	8	10	7	8	8	8	9	7
7	Seniors health issues	11	7	8	10	8	9	7	7	6	6
5	Cancer/Cancer research	6	7	8	7	9	8	10	5	4	11
5	Health insurance	4	3	3	4	3	4	3	5	3	4
5	Cost of insurance	5	4	5	3	6	3	5	4	4	5

NOTE: "Don't know" and responses mentioned by less than 5 percent are not shown

\*2. Next, please tell me which political party – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party – you think would do a better job of dealing with each of the following health care issues. (First,) which party would do a better job of ... **(INSERT—READ AND ROTATE)**?

		<u>Rep Party</u>	<u>Dem. Party</u>	<u>Both Equally</u>	<u>Neither/ Other</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a.	Making sure that managed care and health insurance plans provide people with the care they need.					
	Current:	25	48	4	12	11
	11/98 <sup>1</sup> :	28	50	3	6	13
b.	Dealing with the problem of people without health insurance					
	Current:	24	50	4	12	11
	11/98:	23	57	2	6	12

3. Now please think about the news you've seen or heard about the Democratic presidential candidates over the past month or so... From what you've seen or heard, did ... **(INSERT—READ AND ROTATE)** make any proposals about health care reform during the past month, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a. Al Gore	21	26	53
b. Bill Bradley	17	25	58

3c. To the best of your knowledge, did the Federal Government enact a new law that protects the rights of patients in managed care and HMOs, or is that law still being debated in congress?

- 14 Have enacted law
- 56 Still being debated
- 30 Don't know/Refused

<sup>1</sup> Trend for question 2 item a and b are from 1998 Post Election Survey

4. In the past month or so, you might have seen or heard news about new health care reform legislation in the state of California. Please tell me whether or not each of the following is part of the new California legislation, as far as you know. (First,) what about... **(INSERT—READ AND ROTATE)**? Is this part of the new legislation, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a) Giving California consumers the right to sue HMOs	38	11	51
b) Expanding health insurance coverage for uninsured Californians	23	13	64

***Correct answers: a=yes, b=no.***

5. A government report about the number of uninsured Americans was also in the news recently. From what you've seen or heard, did the report say that the number of Americans without health insurance has increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

60 Increased  
 11 Decreased  
 10 Stayed about the same  
 19 Don't know/Refused

***Correct answer: Increased***

6. Now I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month. 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...? (INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE)

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not At All Closely</u>	<u>Don't Know Refused</u>
a. The earthquake in Taiwan	24	36	21	16	3
b. Hurricane Floyd and its aftermath	45	34	10	8	3
c. Political instability and violence in East Timor	12	19	21	43	5
d. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley's health care proposals	6	10	26	52	6
e. Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore's health care proposals	8	13	26	47	6
f. New California laws that give consumers the right to sue HMO's	12	20	27	36	5
g. The encephalitis outbreak in the New York city area	24	31	19	23	3
h. President Clinton's gun buyback program targeted at inner cities	15	28	25	27	4
i. The Federal Government's civil lawsuit against the tobacco industry to recover billions of tax dollars spent on smoking related health-care	23	39	20	14	4
j. The continuing debate in Congress about the "Patient's Bill of Rights"					
Current:	15	25	27	29	5
8/99 <sup>2</sup>	11	24	25	37	3
k. A new government report that the number of Americans without health insurance has increased	20	28	26	24	4

<sup>2</sup> Trend for question 6 item j are from the August 12, 1999 Health News Interest Index

- \*7. Now I have some questions about uninsured Americans – that is, people with no health insurance at all. Would you say that more uninsured Americans are... **(READ AND ROTATE OPTIONS 1-2)**

<u>Current</u>		<u>11/98</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>7/96</u>	<u>2/94</u>
49	Employed people and people from families in which someone is employed? Or that more of them are...	48	42	34
41	Unemployed people and people from families in which no one is employed?	43	50	56
9	Don't know/Refused	9	8	10

8. To the best of your knowledge, about how many Americans have no health insurance...**(READ)**

- 14 About 15 million
- 25 About 30 million
- 21 About 40 million
- 23 More than 50 million
- 17 Don't know/Refused

***Correct answer About 40 million***

9. 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 would cover more people, Al Gore's or Bill Bradley's, or don't you know enough about their proposals to say?

- 11 Gore's proposal
- 9 Bradley's proposal
- 2 About the same (vol.)
- 75 Don't know enough to say
- 3 Refused

<sup>3</sup> Trend for question 7 7/96 & 2/94 Kiaser/Harvard/PSRA Health Policy Survey & 1998 Post Election Survey

- \*10. I'm going to read you some different ways to guarantee health insurance for more Americans. As I read each one, please tell whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here's the (first/next) one... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a.	A national health plan, financed by taxpayers, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan.			
	Current:	41	47	11
	11/98 <sup>4</sup>	42	53	5
b.	A new law that would require businesses to offer private health insurance for their employees			
	Current:	73	20	6
	11/98:	78	20	2
c.	A new law that would offer uninsured Americans income tax deductions, tax credits, or other financial assistance to help them purchase private health insurance on their own			
	Current:	71	21	9
	11/98:	72	25	3

- \*11. Which ONE of these ways to guarantee health insurance would you MOST prefer?  
**(READ "SHORT VERSION" OF RELEVANT ITEMS LISTED BELOW)**

<u>Current</u>		<u>11/98</u>
25	A single government plan to provide health insurance for all	22
34	A new law requiring businesses to offer health insurance for their	39
28	A new law offering tax deductions or other financial assistance to help the uninsured pay for private insurance	32
10	Don't favor any	5
4	Don't know/Refused (vol.)	2

<sup>4</sup> Trend for questions 10 & 11 from 1998 Post Election Survey

- \*12. Would you be willing to pay more – either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes – in order to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance coverage, or not?

<u>Current</u>		<u>11/98<sup>5</sup></u>	<u>7/96</u>
39	Yes	48	60
52	No	47	36
9	Don't	5	4

13. How much more would you be willing to pay to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance...**(READ; DO NOT ACCEPT AN ANSWER UNTIL R HEARS ALL FOUR CHOICES.)**

- 15 About 50 dollars a year
- 12 About 100 dollars a year
- 4 About 200 dollars a year
- 4 More than 200 dollars a year
- 2 Less than 50 dollars a year (vol.)
- 52 Not will to pay more
- 12 Don't know/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
- 35 Democrat
- 31 Independent
- 6 No preference/Not interested in politics (vol.)
- 0 Other Party (vol.)
- 1 Don't know
- 2 Refused

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<sup>5</sup> Trend for question 12 7/96 Kiaser/Harvard/PSRA Health Policy Survey & 1998 Post Election Survey



D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (**DO NOT READ**)

- 4 None, or grade 1-8
- 12 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 33 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 4 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
- 23 Some college, no 4-year degree
- 16 College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
- 7 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward A master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
- 2 Refused

D4. What is your age?

- 20 18-29
- 42 30-49
- 35 Total 50+
- 19 50-64
- 16 65+
- 0 Don't know
- 2 Refused

D5. 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... (**READ**)

- 8 Less than \$10,000
- 10 \$10,000 to under \$20,000
- 14 \$20,000 to under \$30,000
- 21 \$30,000 to under \$50,000
- 14 \$50,000 to under \$75,000
- 6 \$75,000 or under \$100,000
- 4 \$100,000 or more
- 5 Don't know (vol.)
- 18 Refused (vol.)

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

- 8 Yes
- 90 No
- \* Don't know
- 2 Refused

- 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? CODE AS WHITE (1) OR BLACK (2). IF RESPONDENTS REFUSED TO PICK WHITE OR BLACK HISPANIC, RECORD HISPANIC AS "OTHER," CODE 4)**

82 White  
 11 Black or African-American  
 1 Asian  
 3 Other or mixed race  
 \* Don't know  
 3 Refused

- D8. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by or retired from the federal government? Please include working for any part of the federal government but not the military.

**INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Postal Workers are included in federal government. This does NOT include local or state government.

10 Yes  
 88 No  
 \* Don't know  
 1 Refused

**END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:**

Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. Have a nice day/evening.