

**Topline**

***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: July 2009***

**July 2009**

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## **Methodology**

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane and Carolina Gutiérrez. The survey was conducted July 7 through July 14, 2009, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,205 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (800) and cell phone (405, including 126 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 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.

Trends in this document come from surveys listed on the last page.

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.

1. All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country?

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
Satisfied	33	19
Dissatisfied	61	73
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	9

2. I'm going to read you a list of some different things the president and Congress might try to act on this year. As I read each one, tell me if you think it should be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important. What about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS)? Should this be one of their TOP priorities, very important but not a top priority, somewhat important, or not that important?

		<u>One of their TOP priorities</u>	<u>Very important but not a top priority</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Improving the country's economic and job situation <sup>1</sup>						
	07/09	62	31	6	1	1
	06/09	60	30	5	3	1
	04/09	66	26	4	3	1
	02/09	71	24	3	1	1
	12/08	73	21	4	2	*
b. Reforming health care						
	07/09	39	35	13	12	1
	06/09	44	32	12	9	2
	04/09	43	31	15	9	1
	02/09	39	38	14	8	1
	12/08	43	34	15	8	1
c. Making Medicare and Social Security more financially sound						
	07/09	43	40	12	3	2
	06/09	47	38	10	4	1
	04/09	46	37	12	4	1
	02/09	49	37	11	2	1

*Continued on next page*

<sup>1</sup> 12/08 and 2/09 trend wording read "Improving the country's economic situation".

Q.2 continued

		One of their TOP <u>priorities</u>	Very important but not a <u>top priority</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not that <u>important</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
<b>Items d-f based on half sample (n=609)</b>						
d. Reducing the federal budget deficit						
	07/09	34	39	18	4	5
	06/09	39	37	14	6	4
	04/09	45	34	15	4	2
	02/09	36	41	16	5	3
	12/08	39	37	18	6	1
e. Working to create more clean energy sources						
	07/09	26	40	21	12	1
	06/09	30	39	21	9	1
	04/09	26	42	22	10	1
	02/09	31	41	20	7	1
	12/08	36	36	21	6	*
f. Fighting terrorism						
	07/09	38	38	18	5	1
	06/09	44	34	13	7	2
	04/09	43	37	13	7	1
	02/09	42	41	12	4	1
	12/08	48	36	13	2	*
<b>Items g-h based on half sample (n=596)</b>						
g. Improving public schools <sup>2</sup>						
	07/09	39	41	12	6	1
	06/09	37	44	12	5	2
	04/09	38	40	16	5	2
	02/09	35	38	19	6	1
	12/08	37	40	14	7	*
h. Dealing with continued conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan						
	07/09	29	33	22	15	2
	06/09	31	32	19	14	4
	04/09	31	35	21	10	3

<sup>2</sup> 12/08 and 2/09 trend wording read “Providing more support to improve public schools.”

READ ALL: Now I'd like to turn to the subject of health care.

3. Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country (we cannot afford to take on health care reform right now) OR (it is more important than ever to take on health care reform now)? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>	<u>10/08</u>
It is more important than ever to take on health care reform now	56	61	59	62	61	62
We cannot afford to take on health care reform right now	39	35	37	34	37	34
Don't know/Refused	5	4	4	4	2	5

4. How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform? Very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not at all?

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
Very closely	27	25	23
Somewhat closely	46	47	46
Not too closely	19	21	21
Not at all	7	6	9
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1	*	1

5. Do you think (INSERT AND ROTATE) would be (better off) or (worse off) if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>Better off</u>	<u>Worse off</u>	<u>Wouldn't make much difference</u>	<u>(VOL.) It depends</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. You and your family					
07/09	39	21	32	4	3
06/09	39	16	36	3	5
04/09	43	14	36	4	4
02/09	38	11	43	4	3
b. The country as a whole					
07/09	51	23	16	4	6
06/09	57	16	19	3	5
04/09	56	15	21	3	5
02/09	59	12	19	5	5

Note: Americans' expectations of the effect of the Clinton Health Care Reform Plan on them, seven months after the plan's introduction

Effect on you personally: Worse off (37%) No difference (40%) Better off (19%) Don't know (4%)

Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today Poll, 16 April 1994

6. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT & RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

*Based on half sample (n=609)*

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of your own health care	07/09	30	25	40	3	3
	02/09	29	14	52	2	2
b. The cost of health care for you and your family	07/09	35	25	32	4	5
	02/09	39	16	39	2	5
c. Your choice of doctors and hospitals	07/09	25	26	43	2	4
	02/09	24	18	52	3	4
d. Your wait times for non-emergency procedures and treatments	07/09	19	34	40	3	4
	02/09	23	25	47	2	4

7. If the president and Congress do pass health care reform, do you think that would make (INSERT & RANDOMIZE) better, worse or would it stay about the same?

*Based on half sample (n=596)*

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Would stay about the same</u>	<u>It depends (VOL.)</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. The quality of health care in America	07/09	41	25	28	3	4
	02/09	47	17	28	3	4
b. The overall cost of health care	07/09	41	29	22	4	4
	02/09	46	19	23	4	6
c. The average patient's choice of doctors and hospitals	07/09	28	28	36	3	5
	02/09	35	22	32	5	6
d. Waiting times for non-emergency procedures and treatments	07/09	23	33	38	2	5
	02/09	24	27	39	3	7

8. When thinking about rising health care costs, which ONE of the following concerns you most... (READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>10/08</u>
Increases in the amount people pay for their health insurance premiums and other out-of-pocket costs	35	44
Increases in what the nation as a whole spends on health care	20	14
Increases in spending on government health insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid	15	16
Increases in the health insurance premiums that employers pay to cover their workers	14	14
All of these (VOL.)	7	5
None of these (VOL.)	3	2
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	6

9. Which comes closer to your opinion? (READ AND ROTATE)

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>
If policymakers made the right changes, they could reform the health care system without spending more money to do it	55	60	58
To make any real reforms to the health care system, policymakers will need to spend more money, either by raising some taxes, taking from other programs or increasing the deficit	39	34	36
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6	6	6

10. Which worries you more? (ROTATE)

	<u>07/09</u>
That Congress and the president will pass a reform bill that won't be good for you and your family	54
That Congress and the president won't be able to pass health care reform this year	39
Neither (VOL.)	4
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3

11. During the past seven days, did you see, hear or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system?

	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>09/93</u>
Yes	31	21	20	40
No	68	78	79	58
Don't know/Refused	2	1	1	2

12. As far as you could tell, were those ads (IN FAVOR OF) passing some sort of health care reform this year, or (OPPOSED TO) passing some sort of health care reform this year? (ROTATE WORDING IN PARENTHESES)

*Based on those who saw, heard or read ads related to health care reform*

	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>
In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	47	62
Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	39	26
Don't know/Refused	14	12
	(n=403)	(n=265)

11/12. Summary Table based on total

	<u>7/09</u>	<u>6/09</u>
In favor of passing some sort of health care reform this year	14	13
Opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year	12	5
Don't know/Not aware of ads	74	82

13. Now I'm going to read you some different ways to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance. As I read each one, please tell me whether you would favor it or oppose it. Here's the (first/next) one – (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE – ALWAYS ASK ITEM A LAST). Do you favor or oppose this? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
<i>Items b-e based on half sample (n=609)</i>								
<i>Items f-h based on half sample (n=596)</i>								
a. Creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans								
	07/09	59	26	33	36	21	14	5
	04/09	67	35	32	29	17	11	4
b. Requiring all Americans to have health insurance, either from their employer or from another source, with financial help for those who can't afford it								
	07/09	68	37	30	29	15	13	4
	06/09	71	42	29	26	16	10	3
	04/09	72	48	24	25	13	13	3
	12/08	67	40	27	31	18	13	2
c. Offering tax credits to help people buy private health insurance								
	07/09	69	30	39	28	14	14	3
	06/09	69	41	28	28	14	14	3
	04/09	67	36	31	29	13	17	4
	12/08	65	33	32	33	17	16	2
	09/08	65	-	-	27	-	-	8

*Continued on next page*



Q.13 continued

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		Total	Strongly	Some- what	Total	Strongly	Some- what	
d. Expanding Medicare to cover people between the ages of 55 and 64 who do not have health insurance								
	07/09	77	44	33	21	11	10	2
	06/09	75	53	22	23	13	9	2
	04/09	79	53	26	18	9	9	3
	12/08	76	47	29	22	11	11	2
	09/08	70	-	-	24	-	-	5
e. Having a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance through an expanded, universal form of Medicare-for-all*								
	07/09	58	34	24	38	25	13	3
f. Expanding state government programs for low-income people, such as Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program								
	07/09	74	40	34	23	12	10	3
	06/09	75	46	29	22	12	10	3
	04/09	77	51	26	20	10	10	2
	12/08	73	43	30	25	11	14	2
g. Having a national health plan – or single-payer plan – in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan <sup>3</sup> *								
	07/09	50	24	27	44	27	17	5
	06/09	47	28	19	49	36	14	4
	04/09	49	29	19	47	30	17	4
	12/08	46	28	18	53	39	14	2
h. Requiring employers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay money into a government fund that will pay to cover those without insurance								
	07/09	64	29	35	33	18	15	3
	06/09	69	42	27	28	16	11	3
	04/09	71	44	27	25	14	11	4
	12/08	71	47	24	26	15	11	4

\*Note: Items marked with an asterisk were asked of separate half samples as a wording experiment.

<sup>3</sup> Trend wording read “Having a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan.”

14. If there were a government-administered public plan offered, how likely would you be to look into purchasing it as health insurance coverage for your own family?

	<u>7/09</u>
Very likely	23
Somewhat likely	31
Not too likely	19
Not at all likely	23
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

15. If there were a government-administered public plan, do you think it would be more likely (to cause private companies to become more efficient and provide better products at a lower price) or more likely (to drive private companies out of the health insurance business)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>7/09</u>
More likely to cause private companies to become more efficient and provide better products	45
More likely to drive private companies out of the health insurance business	43
Neither/Both (VOL.)	5
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	7

16. Earlier you said you favored creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans. What if you heard that a public health insurance option could (INSERT AND ROTATE)? Would you still favor that proposal, or would you now oppose that proposal?

***Based on those who favor creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans***

		<u>Still favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a. Give the government plan an unfair advantage over private insurance companies					
	07/09	59	34	7	(690)
	04/09	47	45	8	(746)
b. Be the first step toward single-payer, government-run health care					
	07/09	66	23	11	
	04/09	61	31	8	

13a/16a. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Still favor creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	35	32
Oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	56	59
Originally	36	29
Once heard argument (Could give the government plan an unfair advantage over private insurance companies)	20	30
Don't know/Refused	9	9

13a/16b. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Still favor creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	39	41
Oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	49	50
Originally	36	29
Once heard argument (Could be the first step toward single-payer, government-run health care)	14	21
Don't know/Refused	12	10

17. Earlier you said you were opposed to creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans. What if you heard that a public health insurance option could (INSERT AND ROTATE)? Would you still oppose that proposal, or would you now favor that proposal?

***Based on those who oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans***

	<u>Still oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>	<u>(N)</u>
a. Give people more choice among health insurance plans				
07/09	57	37	7	(450)
04/09	57	38	5	(399)
b. Help drive down costs because private insurers would be competing with the public plan				
07/09	56	35	9	
04/09	54	40	6	

13a/17a. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Favor creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	72	78
Originally	59	67
Once heard argument (Could give people more choice among health insurance plans)	13	11
Still oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	20	16
Don't know/Refused	8	6

13a/17b. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>
Favor creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	72	78
Originally	59	67
Once heard argument (Could help drive down costs because private insurers would be competing with the public plan)	13	11
Still oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans	20	15
Don't know/Refused	8	6

18. If you heard that a new health care REFORM proposal (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS) would that make you more likely to support it, less likely or wouldn't it make a difference? (Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely?)

		<u>Much more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat less likely</u>	<u>Much less likely</u>	<u>No diff.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
<b>Items a-g based on half sample (n=609)</b>							
a. Limited your own choice of doctors	07/09	6	10	20	42	20	1
	12/08	6	4	20	36	33	1
b. Was going to increase the federal budget deficit	07/09	11	12	16	29	28	3
c. Would save the country money over time	07/09	35	28	4	7	21	4
d. Would provide financial help to buy health insurance to those who need it	07/09	32	31	6	8	20	3
e. Was going to increase taxes	07/09	9	11	21	37	20	2
	12/08	6	6	18	28	41	-
f. Would provide financial incentives for doctors and hospitals treating Medicare patients to provide higher quality care	07/09	32	27	9	8	21	3
g. Would result in cuts in Medicare payments that might make doctors less willing to take Medicare patients	07/09	7	11	26	36	17	3
<b>Items h-n based on half sample (n=596)</b>							
h. Would help ensure the long-term financial health of Medicare	07/09	39	28	5	5	19	3
i. Would be paid for in a way that would not increase the federal budget deficit	07/09	37	26	8	7	19	3
j. Let people keep their own doctors and health plans if they wanted to	07/09	48	26	3	4	17	2
k. Would mean that people with a history of illness would not be denied coverage and could get it at the same price as healthier people	07/09	38	28	8	8	16	3
l. Was going to increase people's insurance premiums or other out of pocket costs	07/09	7	9	26	40	16	2
	12/08	3	6	26	35	27	2

*Continued on next page*

Q.18 continued

		<u>Much more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat more likely</u>	<u>Somewhat less likely</u>	<u>Much less likely</u>	<u>No diff.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
m. Would get the government too involved in your personal health care decisions	07/09	10	10	23	36	18	3
	12/08	6	3	20	45	24	2
n. Would reduce the quality of care provided to seniors under Medicare	07/09	10	15	17	41	16	2

19. Which worries you more? (ROTATE)

	<u>7/09</u>
That under a new health reform bill, government agencies would play too big a role in deciding what medical procedures people can or can't get?	45
That currently, insurance companies play too big a role in deciding what medical procedures people can or can't get, or	36
Both equally (VOL.)	12
Neither (VOL.)	3
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

20. Do you favor or oppose the federal government requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness? (Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?)

	<u>7/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Strongly favor	46	58
Somewhat favor	31	20
Somewhat oppose	10	10
Strongly oppose	10	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4	2

21. What if you heard this requirement might mean that healthier people would end up paying somewhat more for their health insurance than they do now, while sicker people would pay somewhat less. Would you still favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness, or would you now oppose that proposal?

***Based on those who favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies (n=912)***

	<u>7/09</u>
Still favor	63
Oppose	32
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5

20/21. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>
Still favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	48
Oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	44
Originally	20
Once heard argument	24
Don't know/Refused	8

22. What if you heard that some people with very expensive illnesses like cancer would have no way of getting insurance otherwise? Would you still oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness, or would you now favor that proposal?

***Based on those who oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies (n=243)***

	<u>7/09</u>
Still oppose	46
Favor	44
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	10

20/22. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>
Favor requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	85
Originally	76
Once heard argument	9
Still oppose requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies	9
Don't know/Refused	6

23. 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, or not?

*Based on half sample (n=609)*

	<u>7/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>12/08</u>
Yes, willing	51	41	47
No, not willing	44	54	49
Don't know/Refused	5	5	4

24. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured. How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Would you favor or oppose this to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

*Based on half sample (n=596)*

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
a. Increasing the cigarette tax								
	07/09	65	43	21	34	21	13	1
	06/09	68	54	14	30	21	9	1
	04/09	65	51	14	34	26	9	1
<i>Compare to:</i>	12/08	72	63	9	27	22	5	1
Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance is likely to require an increase in government spending and/or a tax increase to pay for it. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose increasing the cigarette tax.								
b. Increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year								
	07/09	64	40	24	33	22	11	4
	06/09	68	49	19	30	19	11	2
	04/09	71	49	22	28	18	10	1
<i>Compare to:</i>	12/08	70	51	19	27	19	8	2
Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance is likely to require an increase in government spending and/or a tax increase to pay for it. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose increasing income taxes for people from families making more than \$250,000 a year.								

*Continued on next page*

Q.24 continued

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
c. Increasing taxes on soda and sugary soft drinks								
	07/09	53	25	28	45	27	18	2
	06/09	52	31	22	44	26	18	3
	04/09	46	23	23	53	32	21	1
d. Increasing taxes on alcohol, wine and beer								
	07/09	62	39	22	37	24	13	2
	06/09	68	48	19	31	20	11	2
	04/09	68	46	22	31	19	12	1
e. Increasing taxes on unhealthy snack foods								
	07/09	55	30	25	43	24	18	2
	06/09	55	34	21	42	25	17	3
	04/09	52	28	24	46	29	17	2
f. Having a Value Added Tax, or VAT, which is like a national sales tax								
	07/09	35	12	23	59	41	19	6
<i>Compare to:</i>	12/08	50	18	32	48	32	16	3
Increasing the number of Americans who have health insurance is likely to require an increase in government spending and/or a tax increase to pay for it. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose having a Value Added Tax, or VAT, which is like a national sales tax.								
g. Limiting the amount of money higher income people can deduct from their taxes when they make contributions to charities								
	07/09	50	22	28	44	25	19	6



25. Right now, workers do not pay taxes on the money that their employer puts into their health insurance benefits. Some policymakers are proposing that workers with the most generous health care benefits SHOULD pay taxes on a share of the money the employer puts into that health insurance, with those taxes helping to pay for health care reform including covering more of the uninsured. Do you favor or oppose changing the law so that workers with the most generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			DK/ Ref.
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	
07/09	41	16	25	53	35	18	6
06/09	40	17	23	54	35	19	6
04/09	41	17	24	52	36	16	6
<i>Compare to:</i> 12/08	39	17	22	58	43	15	3

(Many people are not aware that/As you indicated) right now, the average worker does not pay taxes on any money that his or her employer puts into his or her health insurance benefits. Some policymakers are proposing that workers who have very generous health care benefits from their employers SHOULD pay taxes on a share of the money the employer puts into that health insurance, with those taxes being used to help pay to cover the uninsured. Do you favor or oppose changing the law so that workers with very generous health care benefits would pay taxes on the money their employer puts toward their coverage?

26. Do you think health insurance companies should or should not be permitted to charge higher premiums for people who engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking or being very overweight?

	<u>7/09</u>
Yes, should	47
No, should not	49
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

27. What if you heard that permitting insurance companies to charge these people higher premiums could help control health care costs and promote healthier behaviors. Would you still say insurance companies should not be allowed to charge higher premiums, or would you now say they should be permitted to do so?

***Based on those who say insurance companies should not be able to charge more (n=574)***

	<u>7/09</u>
Still say they should not	80
Yes, should	17
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3

26/27. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>
Say insurance companies should be able to charge more	56
Originally	47
Once heard argument	8
Still say they should not be able to charge more	40
Don't know/Refused	5

28. What if you heard that permitting insurance companies to charge these people higher premiums could make it harder for low-income people and those who are experiencing real health problems to get insurance. Would you still say insurance companies should be permitted to charge them higher premiums, or would you now say they should not be permitted to do so?

***Based on those who say insurance companies should be able to charge more (n=585)***

	<u>7/09</u>
Still say they should	58
No, should not	38
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

26/28. Summary Table based on total

	<u>07/09</u>
Still say insurance companies should be able to charge more	28
Say they should not be able to charge more	67
Originally	49
Once heard argument	18
Don't know/Refused	5

29. Some estimates suggest that reforming health care could cost roughly one trillion dollars over the next ten years, which equals about one hundred billion dollars a year. Would say this is (too much) to spend to reform health care, (too little), or about the right amount? (ROTATE WORDING IN PARENTHESES)

	<u>7/09</u>
Too much	42
Too little	9
About the right amount	36
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	12

30. What if you heard that (INSERT AND ROTATE), would you still say \$1 trillion was too much, or would you say it was about the right amount?

***Based on those who say one trillion dollars is too much to spend to reform health care***

		<u>Still say too much</u>	<u>About right amount</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>	
<b><i>Items a-b based on half sample (n=261)</i></b>					
a. spending this amount would mean nearly everyone in the U.S. would have health insurance coverage	07/09	69	29	3	
b. one trillion dollars over ten years is a relatively small amount, about three percent of the country's projected health spending over that time period	07/09	74	24	2	
<b><i>Item c based on half sample (n=248)</i></b>					
c. this spending on health reform would eventually be offset by longer term savings	07/09	72	23	4	
30. Based on total					
		<u>Still say too much</u>	<u>About right amount</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
<b><i>Items a-b based on half sample (n=609)</i></b>					
a. spending this amount would mean nearly everyone in the U.S. would have health insurance coverage	07/09	29	48	9	13
b. one trillion dollars over ten years is a relatively small amount, about three percent of the country's projected health spending over that time period	07/09	31	46	9	13
<b><i>Item c based on half sample (n=596)</i></b>					
c. this spending on health reform would eventually be offset by longer term savings	07/09	31	46	9	14

D2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? (READ IF NECESSARY: 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/Medi-CAL])?

	<u>07/09</u>
Covered by health insurance	80
Not covered by health insurance	19
Don't know/Refused	*

D2a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your or your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/Medi-CAL), some other government program, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

***Based on those who are insured (n=1,023)***

	<u>07/09</u>
Plan through your/your spouse's employer	56
Plan you purchased yourself	12
Medicare	20
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	4
Some other government program	5
Somewhere else	2
Don't know/Refused	1

D3. 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?

	<u>07/09</u>
Self-employed	13
Full-time for an employer	42
Part-time for an employer	10
Retired	19
Not employed	9
Homemaker (VOL.)	2
Student (VOL.)	2
Disabled (VOL.)	3
Don't know/Refused	*

31. 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)? READ FOR FIRST ITEM AND THEN AS NECESSARY:** Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

<i>Items a-d based on Form A half sample (n=609)</i>		<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						
	07/09	31	38	17	13	1
	04/09	37	35	16	11	*
	02/09	45	32	14	9	*
	10/08	38	34	13	14	1
	09/08	34	33	15	17	1
	04/08	37	34	11	17	1
	02/08	36	32	17	13	2
	12/07	41	32	13	13	1
	10/07	39	34	13	13	2
	06/07	41	34	14	11	1
	03/07	40	34	11	14	1
	10/06	47	27	13	12	1
	08/06	46	28	10	15	1
	02/06	38	33	11	17	2
	10/05	40	32	12	16	1
	06/05	45	28	12	14	1
	03/05	49	29	9	12	*
	02/05	41	32	11	15	1
	12/04	47	29	10	14	*
	10/04	47	31	9	12	1
	08/04	45	30	8	15	1
	06/04	46	28	12	13	1
	04/04	47	30	9	13	1
	02/04	47	31	10	12	1

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
b. Not being able to afford the health care services you think you need					
07/09	34	28	21	17	*
04/09	34	32	20	14	*
02/09	38	29	18	15	*
10/08	31	29	17	23	1
09/08	28	28	20	24	1
04/08	29	26	19	25	1
12/07	35	30	15	19	1
10/07	34	28	17	20	1
06/07	36	27	19	18	*
03/07	35	27	16	21	1
10/06	39	24	17	19	1
08/06	34	27	16	22	1
02/06	32	25	18	24	1
10/05	34	27	15	24	1
06/05	34	28	16	22	1
03/05	42	24	13	21	1
02/05	34	28	16	22	*
12/04	37	27	15	20	1
10/04	38	26	16	21	*
08/04	40	23	14	22	1
06/04	36	24	19	21	*
04/04	39	25	14	21	1
02/04	38	24	18	19	*

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
c. Being the victim of a terrorist attack					
07/09	20	29	27	23	1
10/08	19	27	25	29	1
09/08	18	29	25	27	1
04/08	18	28	24	30	1
12/07	22	29	26	23	1
10/07	22	29	23	25	*
06/07	25	29	25	19	1
03/07	23	28	22	25	1
10/06	23	27	25	24	*
08/06	21	27	23	28	1
02/06	21	26	22	30	*
10/05	18	28	25	29	*
04/05	19	23	23	34	1
02/05	17	27	24	31	*
12/04	22	26	23	29	1
10/04	23	33	22	21	1
08/04	20	29	22	28	1
06/04	23	30	24	23	1
04/04	20	29	23	27	1
02/04	20	27	27	26	1

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
d. Losing your savings in the stock market					
07/09	22	22	14	40	1
10/08	32	19	11	36	2
09/08	19	17	18	45	2
04/08	17	18	16	47	2
12/07	21	17	17	42	2
10/07	16	16	18	47	3
06/07	14	13	22	48	3
03/07	18	18	17	44	3
10/06	14	14	21	49	2
08/06	15	17	16	50	2
02/06	15	18	18	47	2
10/05	14	19	16	50	2
06/05	19	17	17	46	1
04/05	20	14	14	52	1
02/05	17	18	15	48	1
12/04	17	15	17	49	2
10/04	22	18	12	46	1
08/04	21	17	14	47	2
06/04	20	18	16	45	1
04/04	18	16	14	50	2
02/04	23	17	15	43	1

*Continued on next page*



Q.31 continued

		<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
<b>Items e-i based on Form B half sample (n=596)</b>						
e. Not being able to afford the prescription drugs you need						
	07/09	27	25	25	22	1
	10/08	25	24	20	31	1
	09/08	27	22	20	31	*
	04/08	27	23	17	32	1
	12/07	31	26	19	24	*
	10/07	31	25	18	26	1
	06/07	33	23	22	22	*
	03/07	33	26	16	24	1
	10/06	37	21	15	26	1
	08/06	31	25	17	27	1
	02/06	28	22	18	30	1
	10/05	32	21	17	30	*
	06/05	35	23	15	27	*
	04/05	35	25	15	25	1
	02/05	31	26	17	25	*
	12/04	35	22	17	26	*
	10/04	35	25	16	23	1
	08/04	38	24	14	23	1
	06/04	34	24	16	26	*
	04/04	37	21	16	25	1
	02/04	36	23	18	22	1
f. Not having enough money for retirement						
	07/09	35	31	17	16	1
	04/09	43	30	14	12	1

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
g. The quality of health care services you receive getting worse					
07/09	28	33	18	21	1
10/08	26	27	21	25	2
09/08	24	28	22	26	1
04/08	26	30	18	24	1
12/07	33	29	17	19	1
10/07	29	30	18	20	2
06/07	32	28	19	20	1
03/07	30	31	16	21	2
10/06	33	29	18	20	1
08/06	25	31	18	24	2
02/06	27	31	16	24	3
10/05	28	28	18	24	1
06/05	28	29	18	23	2
04/05	32	28	15	24	1
02/05	23	33	19	24	1
12/04	34	26	18	22	1
10/04	30	28	16	26	1
08/04	30	26	14	29	1
06/04	29	28	18	24	1
04/04	31	28	18	21	1
02/04	29	29	19	22	1

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
h. Your income not keeping up with rising prices					
07/09	37	35	17	12	*
04/09	46	32	13	9	*
02/09	53	28	12	8	*
10/08	47	32	10	11	1
09/08	41	32	13	13	1
04/08	43	31	11	14	*
02/08	42	32	15	9	1
12/07	46	28	13	13	*
10/07	41	30	14	14	1
06/07	45	30	12	13	1
03/07	42	31	14	13	1
10/06	45	27	13	14	1
08/06	46	28	11	15	*
02/06	36	32	14	17	1
10/05	40	30	13	16	1
06/05	40	28	15	17	1
03/05	46	27	10	15	1
02/05	40	31	13	17	1
12/04	41	30	13	16	1
10/04	46	25	11	17	*
08/04	42	29	11	17	1
06/04	45	26	14	15	*
04/04	44	27	12	16	1
02/04	40	29	14	16	1

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
i. Not being able to pay your rent or mortgage					
07/09	29	25	19	25	2
10/08	25	21	16	36	1
09/08	21	20	21	39	*
04/08	21	18	19	41	1
12/07	27	20	19	33	*
10/07	24	19	19	37	1
06/07	25	19	20	34	1
03/07	27	18	18	36	1
10/06	30	15	20	34	1
08/06	22	20	17	40	1
02/06	23	17	19	41	*
10/05	22	20	19	39	*
06/05	24	16	19	41	*
04/05	29	17	15	37	1
02/05	21	19	19	40	*
12/04	26	16	17	40	1
10/04	27	16	17	39	1
08/04	31	17	14	37	*
06/04	24	18	18	40	1
04/04	28	15	17	39	*
02/04	27	16	19	37	*

*Continued on next page*

*Q.31 continued*

<i>Based on those who are employed (n=767)</i>	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
j. Losing your job					
07/09	28	27	23	22	*
10/08	27	19	22	32	*
09/08	21	15	23	41	1
04/08	21	18	21	40	*
12/07	23	16	23	38	*
10/07	19	17	23	40	1
06/07	19	15	25	41	*
03/07	18	15	23	44	1
10/06	24	17	21	38	1
08/06	17	17	23	43	*
02/06	20	16	21	43	*
10/05	16	18	22	43	*
06/05	17	16	24	43	*
04/05	23	15	20	42	*
02/05	15	15	24	45	*
12/04	21	18	22	39	*
10/04	18	15	21	46	*
08/04	25	16	17	41	1
06/04	20	15	22	43	1
04/04	23	15	18	44	*
02/04	21	16	23	40	*

*Continued on next page*

Q.31 continued

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
<b>Based on those who are insured (n=1,023)</b>					
k. Losing your health insurance coverage					
07/09	29	23	24	22	1
04/09	30	27	22	21	*
02/09	34	20	22	24	*
10/08	29	20	19	31	1
09/08	23	20	22	35	*
04/08	26	19	19	35	1
12/07	29	22	21	27	1
10/07	29	21	19	30	1
06/07	34	20	20	25	1
03/07	29	19	19	32	1
10/06	32	18	16	33	1
08/06	30	20	19	31	*
02/06	26	19	21	34	*
10/05	27	22	19	33	*
06/05	30	19	18	33	*
03/05	35	17	17	30	1
02/05	26	22	19	32	*
12/04	34	20	19	27	*
10/04	29	20	18	33	*
08/04	34	17	16	32	*
06/04	29	19	20	32	*
04/04	33	19	17	30	1
02/04	32	19	19	29	*

32. In the past 12 months, did you or another family member in your household have any problems paying medical bills, or not?

	<u>07/09</u>	<u>06/09</u>	<u>04/09</u>	<u>02/09</u>	<u>10/08</u>	<u>09/06</u>	<u>04/05</u>	<u>04/03*</u>	<u>03/02</u>	<u>01/00</u>
Yes	21	26	26	22	32	25	23	19	21	20
No	79	73	73	78	68	75	77	80	79	80
Don't know/ Refused	*	1	1	1	1	*	-	*	-	*

Note: slight variations in question wording

\*Note: in 2003, sample included only adults ages 18-64

33. In the past 12 months, have you or another family member living in your household... (READ AND RANDOMIZE) because of the COST, or not?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Skipped a recommended medical test or treatment	07/09	21	78	*
	06/09	27	73	1
	04/09	27	73	*
	02/09	23	77	*
	10/08	31	68	*
	04/08	23	76	*
	04/05	17	82	*
	01/00	15	85	-
b. Not filled a prescription for a medicine	07/09	20	80	*
	06/09	26	74	1
	04/09	29	71	1
	02/09	21	78	*
	10/08	27	72	*
	04/08	22	78	*
	04/05	20	79	*
	01/00	13	87	*
c. Cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine	07/09	15	84	*
	06/09	19	80	1
	04/09	18	81	1
	02/09	15	85	*
	10/08	22	78	*
	04/08	18	81	*
	04/05	16	84	*

*Continued on next page*

*Q.33 continued*

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
d. Had problems getting mental health care	07/09	7	92	1
	06/09	8	91	1
	04/09	8	90	2
	02/09	7	92	*
	10/08	12	87	2
	04/08	8	90	2
	04/05	7	93	1
	01/00	4	96	1
e. Put off or postponed getting health care you needed	07/09	27	72	*
	06/09	31	68	1
	04/09	33	67	*
	02/09	27	72	1
	10/08	36	64	*
	04/08	29	70	1
f. Skipped dental care or checkups	07/09	29	71	*
	06/09	35	64	1
	04/09	36	64	*
	02/09	34	66	*
g. Relied on home remedies or over the counter drugs instead of going to see a doctor	07/09	33	67	*
	06/09	37	63	1
	04/09	42	57	1
	02/09	35	65	1



## DEMOGRAPHICS:

(READ) 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

Male	48
Female	52

### D4. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	17
Very good	40
Good	29
Only fair	11
Poor	3
Don't know/Refused	*

### D5. What is your age? [ENTER AGE] / ASK IF REFUSED:

#### D5a. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)

18-29	19
30-49	39
50-64	24
65 and older	18
Undesignated	1

### D7. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/ Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Republican	22
Democratic	41
Independent	27
Or What? ( <i>Other</i> and <i>None</i> included here)	6
Don't know/Refused	5

### D8. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	25
Moderate	40
Conservative	30
Don't know/Refused	4

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

None, or grade 1-8	1
High School incomplete (grade 9-11)	8
High School graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	31
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	4
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	25
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	20
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	9
Don't know/Refused	1

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

Yes	31
No	69
Don't know/Refused	*

D11. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

D12. 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?)

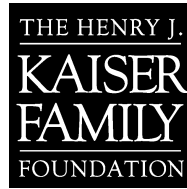
White, non-Hispanic	71
Total non-White	27
Black or African-American	12
Hispanic	10
Asian	4
Other mixed race	1
Undesignated	1

D13. Last year -- that is, in 2008 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ)

Less than \$20,000	13
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	11
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	9
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	4
\$100,000 or more	10
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	15

Trend Information:

- 06/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (June 1-8, 2009)
- 04/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 2-8, 2009)
- 02/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 3-12, 2009)
- 12/08: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress* (December 4-14, 2008)
- 10/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 8-13, 2008)
- 09/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (September 8-13, 2008)
- 04/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (April 3-13, 2008)
- 02/08: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (February 7-16, 2008)
- 12/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (November 28-December 9, 2007)
- 10/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (October 1-10, 2007)
- 06/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (May 31-June 5, 2007)
- 03/07: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008* (March 8-13, 2007)
- 10/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 5-10, 2006)
- 09/06: ABC News/Kaiser Family Foundation/USA Today *Health Care in American 2006 Survey* (September 7-12, 2006)
- 08/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 3-8, 2006)
- 02/06: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 2-7, 2006)
- 10/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 4-9, 2005)
- 06/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (June 2-5, 2005)
- 04/05: USA Today/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University *Health Care Costs Survey* (April 25-June 9, 2005)
- 03/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (March 31-April 3, 2005)
- 02/05: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 3-6, 2005)
- 12/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (December 2-5, 2004)
- 10/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (October 14-17, 2004)
- 08/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (August 5-8, 2004)
- 06/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (June 4-8, 2004)
- 04/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (April 1-5, 2004)
- 02/04: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Poll Report* (February 5-8, 2004)
- 04/03: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Insurance Survey* (April 30-July 20, 2003)
- 03/02: National Public Radio/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government *National Survey on Health Care* (March 28-May 1, 2002)
- 01/00: *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*/Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of the Uninsured* (January 10-February 9, 2000)



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*The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible analysis and information on health issues.*