

Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: June 2014

METHODOLOGY

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The survey was conducted June 12-18, 2014, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,202 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (601) and cell phone (601, including 347 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI). Both the random digit dial landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone. KFF paid for all costs associated with the survey.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population using data from the Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), and region along with data from the 2010 Census on population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the January-June 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting.

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Numbers of respondents and margin of sampling error for key subgroups are shown in the table below. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margin of sampling errors for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Group	N (unweighted)	M.O.S.E.
Total	1,202	±3 percentage points
Those ages 18-64 with employer-sponsored insurance	476	±5 percentage points
Military household	471	±5 percentage points
Non-military household	731	±4 percentage points

All trends shown in this document come from Kaiser Health Tracking Polls except:

01/11: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 112th Congress* (January 4-14, 2011)

1. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? [GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?] [INTERVIEWER NOTE: If respondent asks if the health reform law refers to the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, please answer “yes”] (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/Refused
06/14	19	20	15	30	16
05/14	19	19	12	33	17
04/14	19	19	16	30	16
03/14	18	20	14	32	15
02/14	16	19	14	33	18
01/14	17	17	15	35	16
12/13	17	17	12	36	18
11/13	15	18	13	36	18
10/13	21	17	13	31	18
09/13	20	19	13	30	17
08/13	17	20	14	28	20
06/13	15	20	13	30	23
04/13	16	19	12	28	24
03/13	17	20	13	27	23
02/13	18	18	13	29	23
11/12	19	24	12	27	19
10/12	20	18	14	29	19
09/12	25	20	12	28	14
08/12	21	17	13	30	19
07/12	20	18	13	31	17
06/12	25	16	11	30	18
05/12	17	20	12	32	19
04/12	20	22	9	34	15
03/12	18	23	11	29	19
02/12	17	25	16	27	15
01/12	18	19	14	30	19
12/11 ¹	19	22	15	28	17
11/11	17	20	15	29	19
10/11	12	22	20	31	15
09/11	18	23	14	29	16
08/11	16	23	17	27	17
07/11	20	22	12	31	15
06/11	15	27	16	30	12
05/11	19	23	15	29	14
04/11	20	21	14	27	18
03/11	21	21	15	31	13
02/11	16	27	19	29	8
01/11	19	22	16	34	9
12/10	22	20	14	27	18
11/10	19	23	12	28	18
10/10	18	24	15	29	15
09/10	19	30	15	25	11
08/10	19	24	13	32	12
07/10	21	29	10	25	14
06/10	20	28	16	25	10
05/10	14	27	12	32	14
04/10 ²	23	23	10	30	14

¹ May 2010 through December 2011 trend wording was “As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year...”

² April 2010 trend wording was “[President Obama did sign a health reform bill into law last month...] Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? (Is that a very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable opinion?)”

2. Is your impression of the health care law based mainly on (your own experience), (what you've seen and heard on television, radio, and in newspapers), (what you've learned from friends and family), or some other source? (READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	06/14	02/14	02/13
Your own experience	26	23	22
What you've seen and heard on television, radio, and newspapers	37	44	45
What you've learned from friends and family	22	18	14
Some other source	5	5	11
All/Combination of the above (VOL.)	1	3	--
Internet/Online research/Website (VOL.)	2	2	--
Don't know/Refused	7	5	8

3. Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you and your family, or not?

	Yes, have enough information	No, do not have enough information	Don't know/Refused
06/14	57	40	3
03/14	52	46	2
02/14	59	39	2
01/14	54	44	2
12/13	54	44	2
11/13	52	46	2
10/13	55	44	2
09/13	47	51	2
08/13	47	51	2
04/13	49	49	2
03/13 ³	41	57	2
04/12	51	47	1
03/12	39	59	2
11/11	44	55	1
03/11	47	52	1
04/10	43	56	2

³ April 2010 through March 2013 trend wording was "Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?"

4. Do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) (is/are) (better off) or (worse off) as a result of the health reform law, or has it not made much difference? How about (INSERT ITEM)? [READ IF NECESSARY: “(Is/Are) (INSERT ITEM) (better off) or (worse off) as a result of the health reform law, or has it not made much difference?”] (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW; Insert “is” for item b; insert “are” for items a, c, d, e)

		Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	Don't know/Refused
a. You and your family	06/14	18	26	53	4
	01/14	12	24	62	2
b. The country as a whole	06/14	33	40	21	6
	01/14	27	40	27	6
c. The uninsured	06/14	43	29	17	11
	01/14	42	30	20	8
d. People who get health insurance through an employer	06/14	26	31	35	8
e. People who buy health insurance on their own	06/14	31	37	20	13

READ TO ALL: Next, thinking about veterans who have served in the U.S. military...

5. Do you think the health care that U.S. veterans receive from Veterans Affairs, or VA, medical facilities, is generally (better), (worse), or about the same as they would receive if they got health care from private doctors and hospitals? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

Based on Form 1 half sample (n=595)

	06/14
Better	20
Worse	44
About the same	25
Don't know/Refused	12

6. Do you think the health care that U.S. veterans receive from Veterans Affairs, or VA, medical facilities, is generally (better), (worse), or about the same as the health care that most Americans receive? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

Based on Form 2 half sample (n=607)

	06/14
Better	17
Worse	47
About the same	25
Don't know/Refused	12

7. Next, please tell me how closely you have followed these stories that have been in the news recently. (First/Next,) (INSERT--READ AND RANDOMIZE). READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Did you follow this story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

		Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	Don't know/ Refused
a.	The Senate confirmation of Sylvia Burwell as the new Secretary of Health and Human Services					
	06/14	6	17	26	50	1
b.	Reports of long waiting lists for those seeking medical care at some Veterans Affairs, or V.A., medical facilities					
	06/14	31	31	16	20	2
c.	The release of 2015 health insurance premium rates by insurers in some states					
	06/14	8	19	25	46	1
d.	News about the release of U.S. prisoner of war, Bowe Bergdahl, in exchange for five Taliban detainees held at Guantanamo Bay					
	06/14	35	30	16	16	2
e.	News about the World Cup in Rio do Janeiro, Brazil					
	06/14	12	15	25	47	1
f.	The deadly shootings by a college student near Santa Barbara, CA					
	06/14	21	33	26	19	2
g.	Results of Virginia's primary election where House Majority Leader Eric Cantor was defeated by Tea Party-backed candidate, Dave Brat					
	06/14	17	19	20	43	1
h.	The decision by some states to switch from a state-run health insurance marketplace to the federal marketplace					
	06/14	13	23	23	40	1

READ: On another topic...

8. Do you think the reports of long waiting times at Veterans Affairs, or VA, medical facilities are (isolated to a few facilities) or are they (signs of widespread problems throughout the VA system)? (ROTATE CHOICES IN PARENTHESSES)

	06/14
Isolated to a few facilities	22
Signs of widespread problems throughout the VA system	63
Don't know/ Refused	15

9. To the best of your knowledge, [did/was] General Eric Shinseki (resign as Secretary of Veterans Affairs), [was/did] he (fired from his post as Secretary of Veterans Affairs), or is he still the Secretary of Veterans Affairs? (ROTATE CHOICES IN PARENTHESSES)

	06/14
Resigned	41
Was fired	12
Is still the Secretary of Veterans Affairs	10
Don't know/ Refused	37

D5. What is your age? (RECORD EXACT AGE AS TWO-DIGIT CODE.)

D6. (ASK IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED AGE) Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ LIST)...

	06/14
18-29	21
30-49	35
50-64	26
65 and older	18
Don't know/Refused	*

D4. 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])?

	06/14
Covered by health insurance	86
Not covered by health insurance	14
Don't know/Refused	*

D4a. Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or (Medicaid/[INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC MEDICAID NAME]), or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

Based on those who are insured (n=1,076)

	06/14
Plan through your employer	37
Plan through your spouse's employer	13
Plan you purchased yourself	10
Medicare	20
Medicaid/[STATE-SPECIFIC MEDICAID NAME]	9
Somewhere else	3
Plan through your parents/mother/father (VOL.)	6
Don't know/Refused	2

10. Did you purchase your plan directly from an insurance company, from the marketplace known as healthcare.gov (or [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME]), or through an insurance agent or broker?

Based on purchased own insurance plan and ages 18-64 (sample size insufficient to report)

11. Do you know if the plan you purchased through a broker was a plan from the state or federal health insurance marketplace known as healthcare.gov (or [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME]), or was it a plan purchased directly from an insurance company and not through an exchange or marketplace?

Based on purchased through an agent or broker (sample size insufficient to report)

Summary D4, D4a, Q10, and Q11 based on ages 18-64 (n=873)

	06/14
Covered by health insurance	83
Employer	37
Spouse's employer	12
Self-purchased plan	9
Directly from an insurance company	2
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	3
Through an insurance agent or broker	3
Plan purchased from a state or federal marketplace	*
Plan purchased directly from an insurance company	2
Don't know/Refused	1
Somewhere else (VOL.)	*
Don't know/Refused	*
Medicare	7
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	8
Somewhere else	3
Plan through parents/mother/father (VOL.)	6
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	16
Don't know/Refused	*

12. Some employers that provide health insurance also offer wellness programs that promote healthy behaviors such as eating nutritious food, exercising, and controlling blood pressure. In general, do you think this is an appropriate role for employers, or not?

	06/14
Appropriate role for employers	76
Not an appropriate role for employers	21
Don't know/Refused	4

13. Some employers require workers to pay more for their health insurance premiums if they do NOT participate in a wellness program. Do you think it is appropriate for employers to do this, or not?

	06/14
Appropriate	35
Not appropriate	62
Don't know/Refused	3

14. Some employers require workers to pay more for their health insurance premiums if they are unable to meet certain health goals, such as specific targets for blood pressure or blood sugar, or maintaining a healthy weight. Do you think it is appropriate for employers to require workers to pay more for health insurance if they don't meet certain health goals, or is this not appropriate?

Based on Form 1 half sample (n=595)

	06/14
Appropriate	22
Not appropriate	74
Don't know/Refused	4

15. Some employers require workers to pay more for their health insurance if they are unable to meet certain health goals, such as specific targets for blood pressure or blood sugar, or maintaining a healthy weight. Which comes closer to your view? {new}

Based on Form 2 half sample (n=607)

	06/14
It is appropriate for employers to do this because workers who are unhealthy drive up health care costs and are more likely to be absent from work	26
It is NOT appropriate for employers to do this because it is an invasion of worker's privacy and may unfairly penalize some people who are unable to meet health goals	70
Don't know/Refused	4

16. As far as you know, does your employer have a wellness program that either provides incentives for workers to participate in healthy behaviors or requires workers to meet certain health goals, or does your employer not have either of these types of programs?

Based on those ages 18-64, insured through an employer (n=476)

	06/14
Yes, employer has wellness program	48
No, employer does not have wellness program	47
Don't know/Refused	4

17. To the best of your knowledge, what type of wellness program does your employer have? A wellness program that provides incentives for workers to participate in healthy behaviors, a wellness program that requires workers to meet certain health goals, or both?
INTERVIEWER: DO NOT PROBE "DON'T KNOW" RESPONSES.

Based on those ages 18-64, whose employer has wellness program (n=240)

	06/14
A wellness program that provides incentives for workers to participate in healthy behaviors	56
A wellness program that requires workers to meet certain health goals	4
Both	32
Don't know/Refused	7

Summary Q16 and Q17 based on those ages 18-64, insured through an employer (n= 476)

	06/14
Yes, employer has wellness program	48
Provides incentives for workers to participate in healthy behaviors	27
Requires workers to meet certain health goals	2
Both	16
Don't know/Refused	3
No, employer does not have wellness program	47
Don't know/Refused	4

18. Do you personally participate in the wellness program that your employer offers, or not?

Based on those ages 18-64, whose employer has wellness program (n=240)

	06/14
Yes	63
No	37
Don't know/Refused	*

Summary Q16 and Q18 based on those ages 18-64, insured through an employer (n= 476)

	06/14
Yes, employer has wellness program	48
Participate in wellness program	30
Do not participate in wellness program	18
Don't know/Refused	*
No, employer does not have wellness program	47
Don't know/Refused	4

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

19. In general, the term “pre-existing condition” is used by insurance companies to describe an illness or medical condition that a person had before they began looking for insurance. For example, if you were looking to buy health insurance but had a history of asthma, diabetes or high blood pressure, those would be considered pre-existing conditions, along with illnesses such as cancer. Given that definition, would you say that you or someone else in your household would be considered to have a “pre-existing condition” of some sort, or not?

Yes, someone in household has pre-existing condition	53
No, no one in household has pre-existing condition	45
Don't know/Refused	2

- D1. Record respondent's sex

Male	48
Female	52

- D2. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	21
Very good	30
Good	30
Only fair	14
Poor	4
Don't know/Refused	*

- D2b. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	47
Living with a partner	7
Widowed	7
Divorced	11
Separated	3
Never been married	25
Don't know/Refused	1

- D3. What best describes your employment situation today? (READ IN ORDER)

Employed full-time	46
Employed part-time	11
Unemployed and currently seeking employment	4
Unemployed and not seeking employment	3
A student	5
Retired	17
On disability and can't work	7
Or, a homemaker or stay at home parent?	4
Don't know/Refused	1

D8. In politics today, do you consider yourself a [ROTATE: Republican, Democrat/Democrat, Republican], an Independent, or what?

Republican	22
Democrat	30
Independent	33
Or what/Other/None/No preference/Other party	10
Don't know/Refused	5

D8a. Do you LEAN more towards the [ROTATE: Republican Party or the Democratic Party/Democratic Party or the Republican Party]? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS D8)

Summary D8 and D8a based on total

Republican/Lean Republican	38
Democrat/Lean Democratic	45
Other/Don't lean/Don't know	17

Five-Point Party ID

Democrat	30
Independent Lean Democratic	15
Independent/Don't lean	16
Independent Lean Republican	16
Republican	22
Undesignated	1

D8b. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	23
Moderate	35
Conservative	35
Don't know/Refused	7

D8c. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

Yes, supporter of Tea Party movement	21
No, not a supporter of Tea Party movement	69
Don't know/Refused	10

D9. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

Yes	77
No	22
Don't know/Refused	1

20. Have you or has anyone in your household ever served in the U.S. military, the National Guard or the military reserves? [IF YES] Was that you, or someone else in your household?

Yes, respondent is a veteran or active	13
Yes, other household member is veteran or active	21
Yes, both respondent and other household member (VOL.)	2
No veterans or active in household	64
Don't know/Refused	*

D11. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? (DO NOT READ)

Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)	3
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma)	6
High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)	32
Some college, no degree (includes some community college)	17
Two year associate degree from a college/university	13
Four year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree	17
Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree	1
Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree	11
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

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?)

White, non-Hispanic	66
Total non-White	33
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	14
Asian, non-Hispanic	3
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	4
Undesignated	1

D12a. Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

Based on Hispanics (n=135)

U.S.	48
Puerto Rico	3
Another country	48
Don't know/Refused	*

D14. Last year—that is, in 2013—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	18
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	12
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	4
\$100,000 or more	14
Don't know/Refused	11

END OF INTERVIEW: That's all the questions I have. Thanks for your time.



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