



**Topline**

***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: July 2010***

**July 2010**

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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 Liz Hamel, Sarah Cho, Claudia Deane, Carolina Gutiérrez, and Theresa Boston. The survey was conducted July 8 through July 13, 2010, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,504 adults ages 18 and older, including 406 adults ages 65 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (1,100) and cell phone (404, including 125 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 those ages 18 to 64 it is plus or minus 4 percentage points, and for those ages 65 and older it is plus or minus 6 percentage points. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be 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. As you may know, a new health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year. Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it? [ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES] [Is that a very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?]

Total	07/10			06/10	05/10	04/10 <sup>1</sup>
	Under 65	65+				
21	21	22	Very favorable	20	14	23
29	32	16	Somewhat favorable	28	27	23
10	10	10	Somewhat unfavorable	16	12	10
25	23	36	Very unfavorable	25	32	30
14	14	17	Don't know/Refused	10	14	14

2. Given that you have an unfavorable view of the health reform law, which comes closer to your view of what should happen now (READ AND ROTATE):

**Based on those who have an unfavorable view of the new health reform law**

Total	07/10			06/10
	Under 65	65+		
21	21	20	The law should be given a chance to work, with Congress making necessary changes along the way	29
77	78	76	The law should be repealed as soon as possible	66
2	1	4	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5
(n=632)	(n=437)	(n=188)		(n=526)

**Based on Total respondents**

Total	07/10			06/10
	Under 65	65+		
35	33	46	Have an unfavorable view of the new health reform law	41
7	7	9	The law should be given a chance to work, with Congress making necessary changes along the way	12
27	25	35	The law should be repealed as soon as possible	27
1	*	2	Don't know/Refused	2
65	67	54	Have a favorable view of the new health reform law/undetermined view	59

<sup>1</sup> Trend wording was slightly different: “[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?)”

3. Do you think (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) will be (better off) or (worse off) under the new health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES ACROSS INTERVIEWS, BUT NOT WITHIN SAME INTERVIEW)

	Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	DK/ Ref.
a. You and your family					
07/10 Total	32	29	33	--	6
Under 65	35	27	32	--	6
65+	20	35	37	--	7
06/10	28	28	39	--	5
05/10	29	30	32	--	9
04/10	31	32	30	--	8
03/10 <sup>2</sup>	35	32	28	2	3
02/10	34	32	26	3	5
01/10	32	33	29	3	4
12/09	35	27	32	3	3
11/09	42	24	27	3	4
10/09	41	27	28	2	3
09/09	42	23	28	4	3
08/09	36	31	27	2	4
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					
07/10 Total	43	35	15	--	7
Under 65	46	33	14	--	7
65+	31	43	18	--	7
06/10	42	32	19	--	6
05/10	43	35	13	--	9
04/10	45	35	11	--	9
03/10	45	34	14	3	4
02/10	45	34	12	4	5
01/10	42	37	12	3	5
12/09	45	31	17	4	3
11/09	54	27	11	3	5
10/09	53	28	12	2	4
09/09	53	26	14	4	4
08/09	45	34	14	3	4
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

*Continued on the next page...*

<sup>2</sup> March 2010 and earlier trend wording was slightly different: "Do you think (INSERT) 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?"

Q.3 continued...

	Better off	Worse off	Not much difference	(VOL.) Depends	DK/ Ref.
c. Seniors, that is those ages 65 and older					
07/10 Total	36	36	18	--	10
Under 65	39	33	18	--	10
65+	23	48	20	--	9
04/10	36	33	20	--	12
12/09	40	31	21	4	4
11/09	43	29	19	4	6
10/09	44	29	20	2	6
09/09	46	25	20	3	6
d. The Medicare Program					
07/10 Total	33	30	22	--	15
Under 65	35	27	22	--	15
65+	25	43	19	--	13
08/09	38	30	19	3	10

4. What is the main reason you think the Medicare program will be worse off under the new health reform law? (OPEN-END)

**Based on those who say the Medicare program will be worse off under new law**

	Total	Under 65	65+
Cuts to Medicare NET	19	18	22
Cuts to the Medicare program/general Medicare cuts	13	13	13
Medicare benefits/services will be cut or get worse	6	5	9
General cost concerns about health care reform	13	13	15
Government too involved/government run program will make things worse/too socialist	10	10	9
Will hurt seniors/not taking care of seniors	8	8	8
Health care reform law will take away options/flexibility/freedom	4	5	3
Health care reform law will ration medical care	4	4	3
Everybody should be accountable for themselves/too much freeloading	4	3	5
Limits people's health care provider choice	4	3	6
Dissatisfaction with health care reform process/politics	3	2	4
Because health care reform will make the deficit worse/bankrupt the country	3	3	2
Bad for health care providers/hospitals	2	2	4
Don't know enough about the law	2	2	2
Other reason	11	13	7
Don't know/Refused	13	15	10
	(n=524)	(n=340)	(n=179)

5. Do you feel you understand what the impact of the health reform law will be on you and your family, or not?

Total	07/10			06/10		05/10	
	Under 65	65+					
63	64	60	Yes, understand impact	70	61		
32	32	34	No, do not understand impact	28	35		
4	4	6	Don't know/Refused	2	3		

6. Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own feelings about the health reform law. The first is (INSERT & RANDOMIZE). Does this describe your own feelings about the health reform law, or not?

		Describes	Does not describe	DK/Ref.
<b>a. Anxious</b>				
	07/10 Total	39	59	3
	Under 65	38	60	2
	65+	42	54	4
	06/10	42	56	2
	05/10	36	63	2
	04/10	42	56	3
	12/09 <sup>3</sup>	47	52	1
	10/09	49	49	1
	09/09	50	48	2
<b>b. Confused</b>				
	07/10 Total	43	55	2
	Under 65	43	56	2
	65+	45	52	3
	06/10	42	57	1
	05/10	44	54	2
	04/10	55	45	1
	12/09	48	52	*
	10/09	49	50	1
	09/09	48	51	1
	08/09	46	53	2
<b>c. Pleased</b>				
	07/10 Total	42	54	4
	Under 65	44	53	3
	65+	35	58	7
	06/10	41	55	4
	05/10	39	57	4
	04/10	45	52	3
<b>d. Angry</b>				
	07/10 Total	28	70	2
	Under 65	26	72	2
	65+	37	60	3
	06/10	31	67	2
	05/10	30	69	2
	04/10	30	69	1
	12/09	35	64	1
	10/09	40	59	1
	09/09	31	67	1

*Continued on next page...*

<sup>3</sup> December 2009 and earlier trend wording was slightly different: "Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own feelings about the health care reform plans being discussed in Washington."

Q.6 continued...

		Describes	Does not describe	DK/Ref.
e. Disappointed	07/10 Total	42	55	3
	Under 65	39	58	2
	65+	52	43	5
	06/10	48	50	3
	05/10	45	53	2
	04/10	45	52	3
f. Relieved	07/10 Total	38	59	3
	Under 65	40	58	2
	65+	30	63	7
	06/10	36	61	3
	05/10	32	65	3
	04/10	40	58	2

7. I'm going to read you a list of specific ways the new health reform law may or may not impact Medicare. For each, please tell me if you think it is something the law does or does not do. First, to the best of your knowledge, would you say the new law does or does not (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Would you say the law does or does not (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

		Yes, law does this	No, law does not do this	DK/Ref.
a. Gradually close the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so people on Medicare will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications when they reach the gap	07/10 Total	49	30	21
	Under 65	49	31	20
	65+	50	25	24
b. Eliminate co-pays and deductibles that people previously had to pay for many preventive services under Medicare	07/10 Total	38	42	20
	Under 65	39	41	20
	65+	33	45	22
c. Reduce Medicare payments to private plans, also known as Medicare Advantage plans, that provide coverage to some people on Medicare	07/10 Total	45	30	25
	Under 65	45	30	25
	65+	42	31	27
d. Increase the premiums some higher income people on Medicare pay to receive coverage for doctor visits and prescription drugs	07/10 Total	54	28	18
	Under 65	55	28	17
	65+	52	28	20

Continued on next page...

Q.7 continued...

		Yes, law does this	No, law does not do this	DK/Ref.
e.	Increase the Medicare payroll tax on earnings for upper income Americans			
	07/10 Total	58	25	17
	Under 65	59	25	17
	65+	56	25	19
f.	Limit future increases in Medicare payments to health care providers such as hospitals and home health agencies			
	07/10 Total	49	32	20
	Under 65	50	31	19
	65+	44	37	19
g.	Provide a bonus to physicians who provide primary care services to people on Medicare			
	07/10 Total	36	40	24
	Under 65	38	40	23
	65+	26	44	30
h.	Cut benefits that were previously provided to all people on Medicare			
	07/10 Total	43	42	15
	Under 65	41	44	15
	65+	50	34	16
i.	Allow a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care for people on Medicare			
	07/10 Total	41	43	16
	Under 65	43	42	16
	65+	36	48	17
j.	Cut payments to doctors who see Medicare patients			
	07/10 Total	43	40	17
	Under 65	41	42	17
	65+	52	32	17

8. Do you think the health reform law will (strengthen) the financial condition of the Medicare trust fund that pays for hospital services, (weaken) the financial condition of the Medicare trust fund, or will it not have much of an impact? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	07/10 Total	Under 65	65+
Strengthen	26	29	14
Weaken	37	35	45
Not much impact	27	27	30
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	10	10	11



Questions 9, 10, and 11 were asked in random order.

9. With the new law, do you think it will be (easier), (harder) or about the same as it is now for the average person on Medicare to find a doctor who is willing to see them? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES. KEEP ROTATION ORDER THE SAME FOR EACH RESPONDENT IN Q9/10)

	07/10 Total	Under 65	65+
Easier	25	28	13
Harder	42	39	57
Same as it is now	28	29	25
Don't know/Refused	5	5	6

10. With the new law, do you think it will be (easier), (harder) or about the same as it is now for the average person on Medicare to get the health care services they need? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES. KEEP ROTATION ORDER THE SAME FOR EACH RESPONDENT IN Q9/10)

	07/10 Total	Under 65	65+
Easier	28	32	14
Harder	39	36	53
Same as it is now	27	28	25
Don't know/Refused	5	4	7

11. With the new law, do you think the average person on Medicare will have to spend (more) out of their own pocket, (less) out of their own pocket, or about the same amount they spend now on health care? (ROTATE OPTIONS IN PARENTHESES)

	07/10 Total	Under 65	65+
More	40	37	50
Less	23	25	11
About the same	32	32	33
Don't know/Refused	6	6	6

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	49
	Female	51
D2.	In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?	
	Excellent	25
	Very good	31
	Good	30
	Only fair	10
	Poor	4
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1
D2a.	Are you, yourself, now receiving regular medical treatment or making regular doctor visits for any chronic health problem—such as asthma, high blood pressure or cancer?	
	Yes	31
	No	68
	(DO NOT READ) 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?	
	Self-employed	11
	Full-time for an employer	44
	Part-time for an employer	9
	Retired	19
	Not employed	11
	Homemaker (VOL.)	1
	Student (VOL.)	1
	Disabled (VOL.)	3
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1
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])?	
	Covered by health insurance	83
	Not covered by health insurance	17
	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D4a. 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 have health insurance (n=1,323)**

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	56
Plan you purchased yourself	12
Medicare	19
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	4
Some other government program	5
Somewhere else (SPECIFY)	3
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D5. What is your age? [ENTER AGE]

D6 [ASK IF D5=REFUSED] Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of (READ)

18-29	19
30-49	37
50-64	25
65 and older	18
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D7. Are you currently married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	63
Living with a partner	6
Widowed	5
Divorced	7
Separated	2
Never been married	16
(DO NOT READ) 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	37
Independent	30
Or what (Other and None included here)	7
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	4

D9. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	22
Moderate	39
Conservative	33
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	6

D10. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

Yes	83
No	16
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	1

D10b. How often would you say you vote in mid-term elections, when there is an election for Congress but not for president... always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom?

**Based on those who are registered to vote (n=1,328)**

Always	47
Nearly always	26
Part of the time	17
Seldom	7
Never vote (VOL.)	2
Other (VOL.)	*
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	*

**D10/D10b. Summary table based on Total**

Yes, registered to vote <b>NET</b>	83
Always vote in mid-term elections	39
Nearly always vote in mid-term elections	22
Vote part of the time in mid-term elections	14
Seldom vote in mid-term elections	6
Never vote/Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2
No, not registered to vote	16
Don't know/Refused	1

D11. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ)

None, or grade 1-8	2
High school incomplete (grades 9-11)	10
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	30
Technical, trade or vocational school AFTER high school	5
Some college, no four-year degree (includes associate degree)	24
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other four-year degree)	18
Post-graduate or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a Master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	9
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	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	69
Total non-White	28
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	13
Asian, non-Hispanic	2
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	2
Undesignated	2

D14. Last year – that is, in 2009 – 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	15
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	15
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	13
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	7
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	11
(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	14

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

Trend Information:

- 06/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (June 17-22, 2010)
- 05/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (May 11-16, 2010)
- 04/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (April 9-14, 2010)
- 03/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (March 10-15, 2010)
- 02/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (February 11-15, 2010)
- 01/10: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (January 7-12, 2010)
- 12/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (December 7-13, 2009)
- 11/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (November 5-12, 2009)
- 10/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (October 8-15, 2009)
- 09/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (September 11-18, 2009)
- 08/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (August 4-11, 2009)
- 07/09: Kaiser Family Foundation Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (July 7-14, 2009)
- 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)



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