



Chartpack

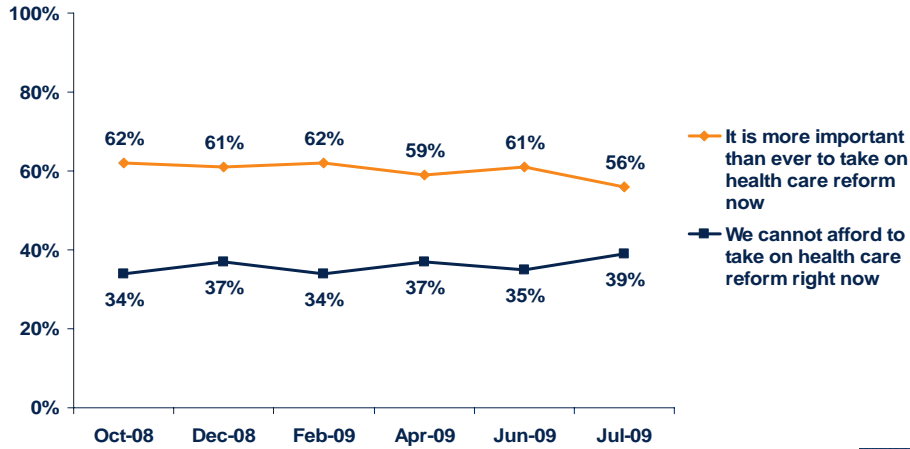
Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: July 2009

July 2009

CHART 1

Health Care Reform... Is Now the Right Time?

Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country...



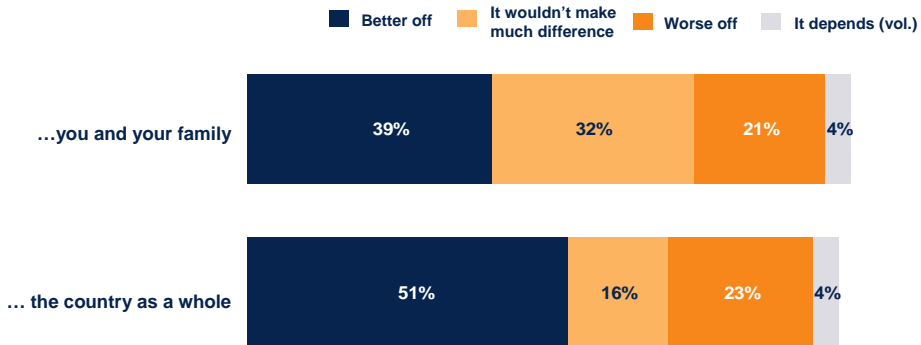
Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys



CHART 2

Reform's Impact on Own Family, Country

Do you think (you and your family/the country as a whole) 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?



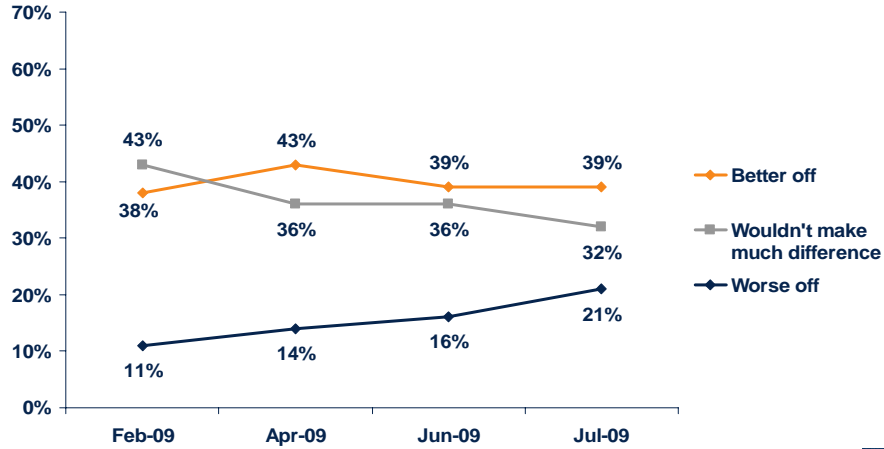
Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 3

Impact on Own Family: Time Trend

Do you think you and your family 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?



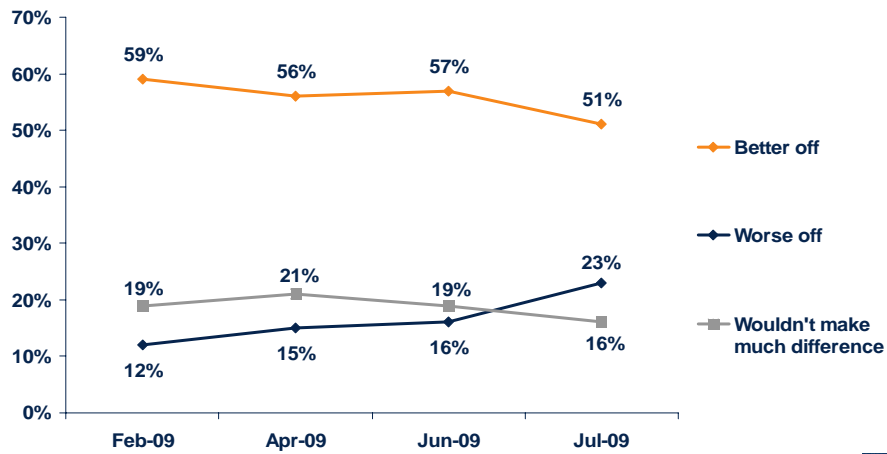
Note: "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.," responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys



CHART 4

Impact on Country: Time Trend

Do you think the country as a whole 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?

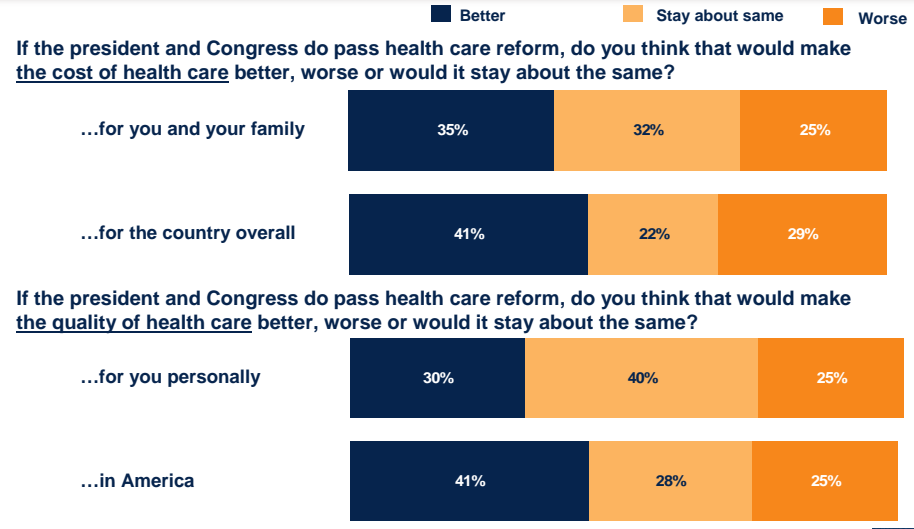


Note: "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.," responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys



CHART 5

More Detailed Look: Impact of Reform on Cost, Quality

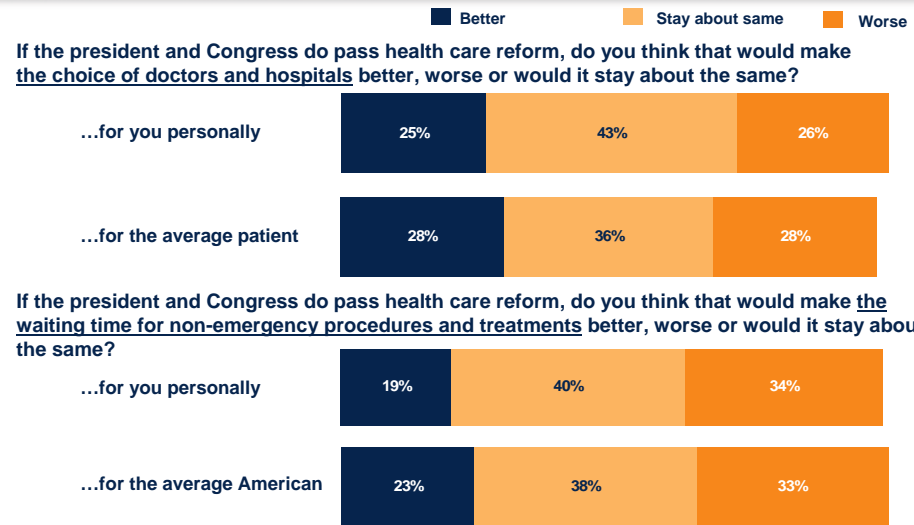


Note: Items asked of separate half samples. "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.)" responses not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 6

Impact of Reform on Choice, Wait Times



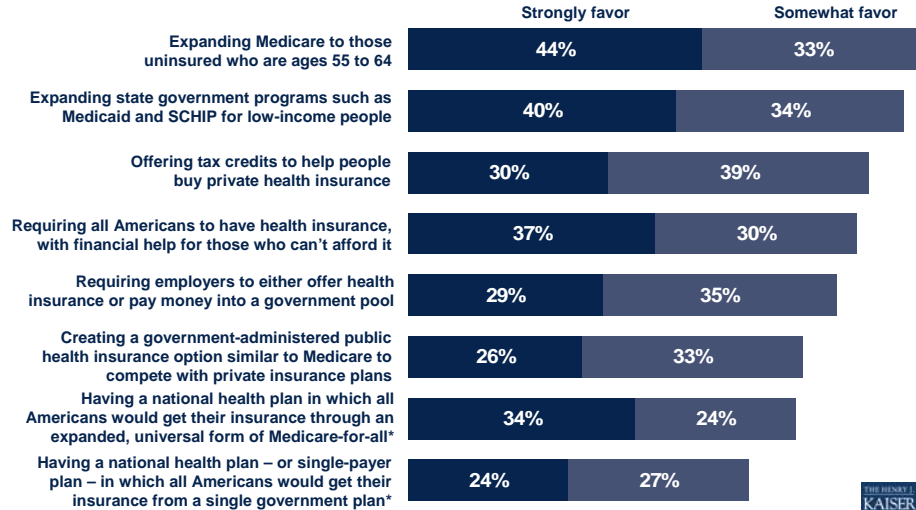
Note: Items asked of separate half samples. "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.)" responses not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 7

Support Remains for Many Ways of Expanding Coverage

Now I'm going to read you some different ways to increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each option.



Note: Various items based on half samples. Items marked with an * asked of two separate half samples as a wording experiment. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 8

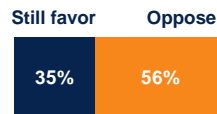
Public Plan: Arguments Posed to Supporters

Would you favor or oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans?

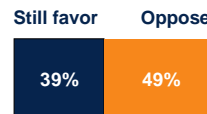


ASKED OF THOSE WHO FAVOR A PUBLIC OPTION:
What if you heard that a public health insurance option could...

... give the government an unfair advantage over private insurance companies?



... be the first step toward single-payer, government-run health care?



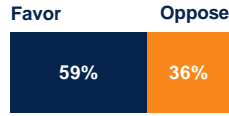
Note: Follow up questions asked of those who initially favored. Responses shown on all graphs are based on total; on bottom graphs, "oppose" includes those who initially opposed and those who opposed after hearing the follow up. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 9

Public Plan: Arguments Posed to Opponents

Would you favor or oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option similar to Medicare to compete with private health insurance plans?



ASKED OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE A PUBLIC OPTION:
What if you heard that a public health insurance option could...

... give people more choice among health insurance plans?



... help drive down costs because private insurers would be competing with the public plan?



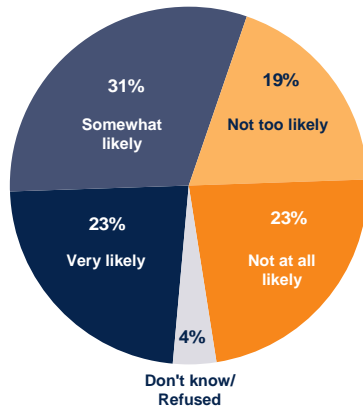
Note: Follow up questions asked of those who initially opposed. Responses shown on all graphs are based on total; on bottom graphs, "favor" includes those who initially favored and those who favored after hearing the follow up. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



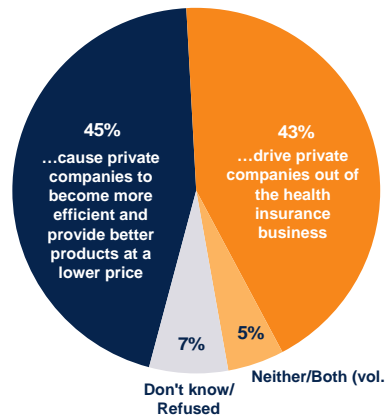
CHART 10

Opinions on the Public Plan

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?



If there were a government-administered public plan, do you think it would be more likely to ...?



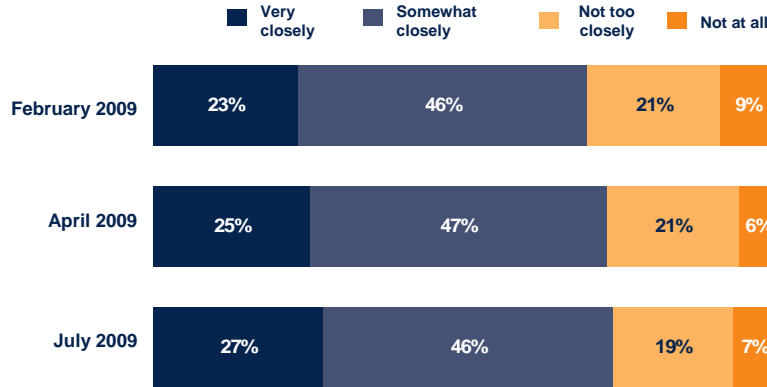
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 11

Public Attention Steady

How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform?



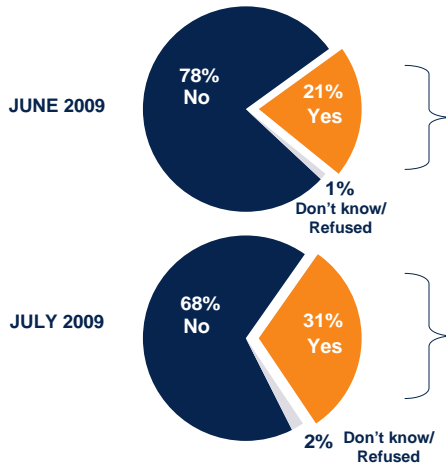
Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll



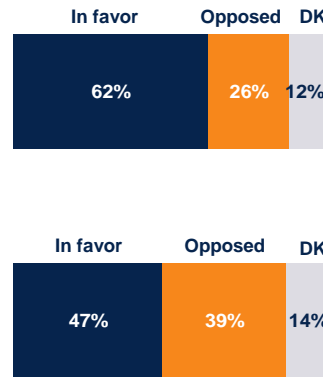
CHART 12

More Have Seen Ads, More Have Been Negative

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



As far as you could tell, were those ads in favor of or opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year?*



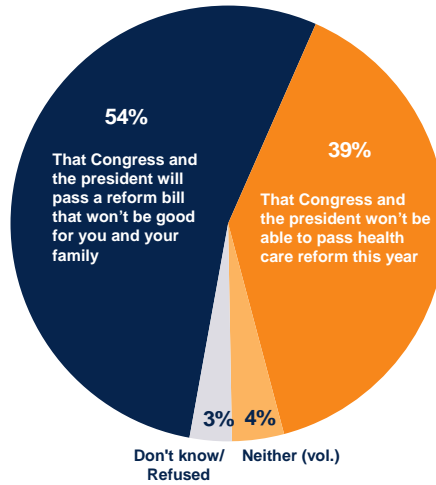
*Note: Based on those who have seen advertisements
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll



CHART 13

More Worry About Personal Effects Than About Passage

Which worries you more?



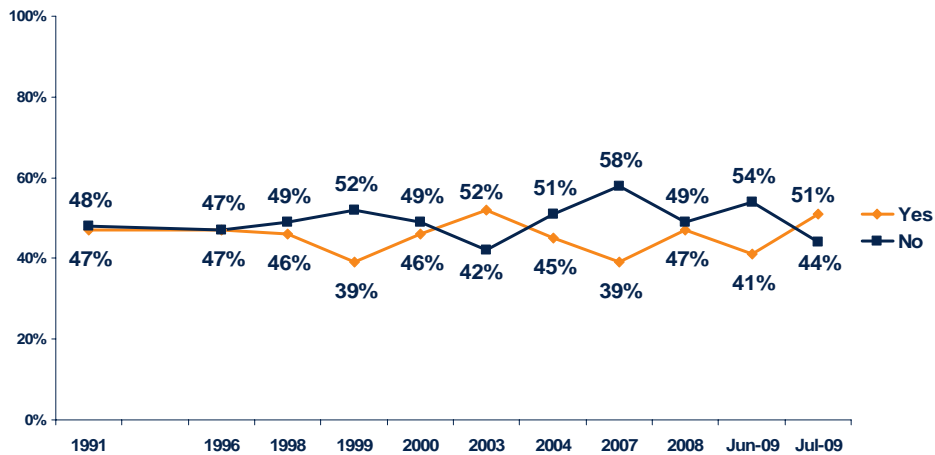
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 14

Willing to Pay More Up in July

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?



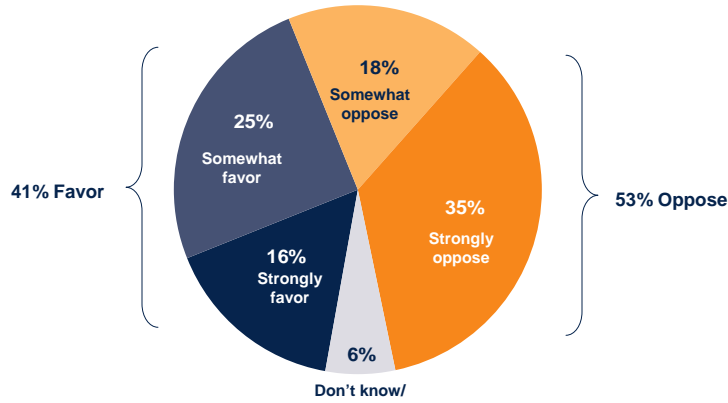
Note: Asked of half sample in July 2009. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Sources: NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll (Jun. 1991), KFF/HSPH Polls (Nov. 1996; Nov. 1998; Oct. 1999; Nov. 2000; Feb. 2003; and Nov. 2004), Washington Post/KFF/HSPH Survey (May 2007), KFF/HSPH *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress* (Dec. 2008); Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (Jun. and Jul. 2009)



CHART 15

Changing Tax Treatment of Employer Health Benefits

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?



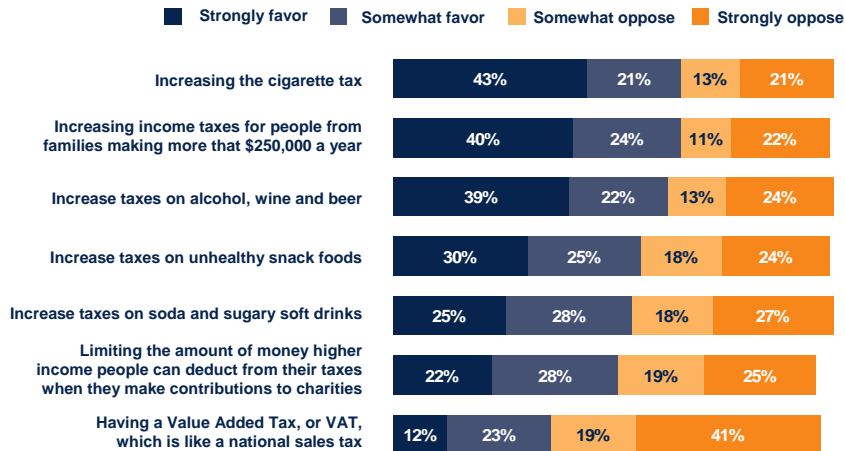
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 16

Other Tax Options

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.



Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 17

Positive Messages

If you heard that a new health care reform proposal ... would that make you more likely to support it, less likely to support it, or wouldn't it make a difference?

| More likely to support | |
|------------------------|--|
| 74% | Let people keep their own doctors and health plans if they wanted to |
| 67 | Would help ensure the long-term financial health of Medicare |
| 66 | 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 |
| 63 | Would save the country money over time |
| 63 | Would provide financial help to buy health insurance to those who need it |
| 63 | Would be paid for in a way that would not increase the federal budget deficit |
| 59 | Would provide financial incentives for doctors and hospitals treating Medicare patients to provide higher quality care |

Note: Various items asked of half samples.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 18

Negative Messages

If you heard that a new health care reform proposal ... would that make you more likely to support it, less likely to support it, or wouldn't it make a difference?

| Less likely to support | |
|------------------------|--|
| 66% | Was going to increase people's insurance premiums and other out-of-pocket costs |
| 62 | Limited your own choice of doctors |
| 62 | Would result in cuts in Medicare payments that might make doctors less willing to take Medicare patients |
| 59 | Would get the government too involved in your personal health care decisions |
| 58 | Would reduce the quality of care provided to seniors under Medicare |
| 58 | Was going to increase taxes |
| 45 | Was going to increase the federal budget deficit |

Note: Various items asked of half samples.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 19

One Trillion Dollars?

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 you say this is too much, too little, or about the right amount to spend to reform health care?



ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAY "TOO MUCH":
What if you heard that...

... spending this amount would mean nearly everyone in the US would have health insurance coverage?

Still too much Right amount



... one trillion dollars over 10 years is a relatively small amount, about 3% of the country's projected health spending over that time period?

Still too much Right amount



... this spending on health reform would eventually be offset by longer term savings?

Still too much Right amount



Note: Follow up questions asked of different half samples of those who initially said "too much." Responses shown on bottom graphs are based on total, where "right amount" includes those who initially said "right amount" and those who said "right amount" after hearing the follow up. "Too little" and "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 20

Covering Those With Prior Illnesses

Do you favor or oppose the federal government requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness?



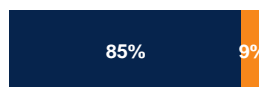
Supporters were asked: What if you heard this requirement might mean that healthier people would end up paying somewhat more for their health insurance than they do now, while sicker people would pay somewhat less?

Still favor Oppose



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that some people with very expensive illnesses like cancer would have no way of getting insurance otherwise?

Favor Still oppose



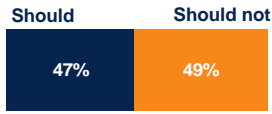
Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially favored. Graph below it based on total, where "oppose" includes those who initially opposed along with those who opposed after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially opposed. Graph below it based on total, where "favor" includes those who initially favored along with those who favored after hearing the follow up. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 21

Insurance Premiums and Unhealthy Behaviors

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?



Supporters were asked: 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?



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that permitting insurance companies to charge these people higher premiums could help control health care costs and promote healthier behaviors?



Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially said "should." Graph below it based on total, where "should not" includes those who initially said "should not" along with those said "should not" after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially said "should not." Graph below it based on total, where "should" includes those who initially said "should" along with those who said "should" after hearing the follow up.
 "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

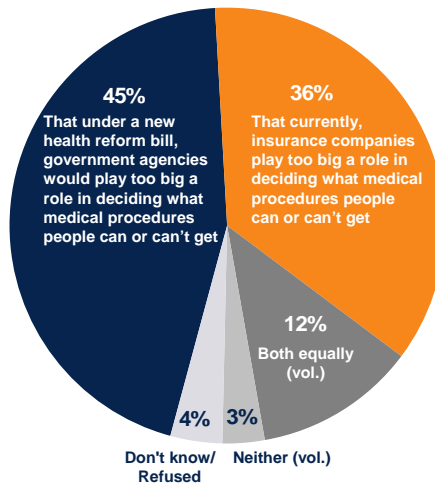
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 22

Whose Meddling Is Worse: Gov't or Insurance Companies?

Which worries you more?



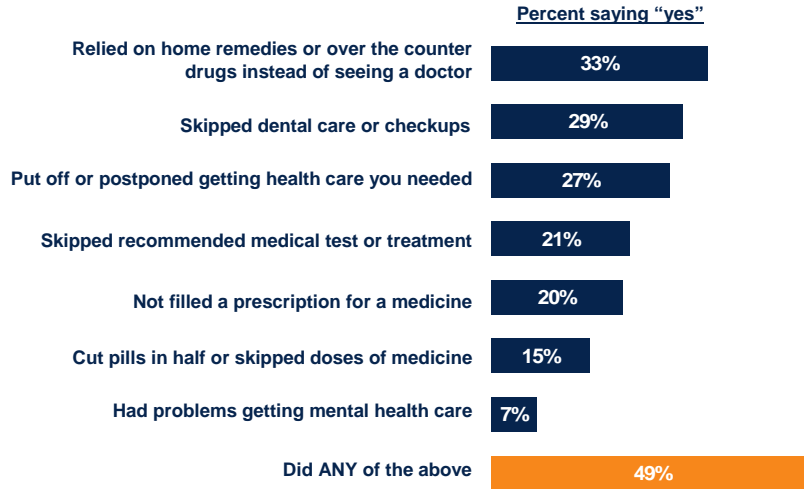
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 23

Putting Off Care Because of Cost

In the past 12 months, have you or another family member living in your household... because of the COST, or not?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



CHART 24

Worries Related to Health Care

Percent "very worried" about each of the following:



Note: various items asked of half sample. *Asked only of those employed. **Asked only of those insured.
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted July 7-14, 2009)



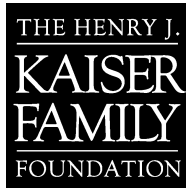
Methodology

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.

“VOL” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice.

Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.



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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.