



HARVARD
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Toplines

Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113th Congress

January 2013

This Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health survey, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113th Congress*, was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane, Bianca DiJulio, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston, by Debra Perez, Ph.D., Katherine Hempstead, Ph.D., and David Colby, Ph.D. at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and by Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., John Benson, and Mandy Brulé at the Harvard School of Public Health. The survey was conducted January 3 through January 9, 2013, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,347 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (807) and cell phone (540, including 253 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Social Science Research Solutions. Both the landline and cell phone samples were generated through Marketing Systems Group's GENESYS sampling system. For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the adult male or female with the most recent birthday currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with a household member of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population data from the 2012 March Supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), household size, region, and population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the January – June 2012 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. Weighted and unweighted values for key demographic variables are shown in the table below.

Sample Demographics		
	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender		
Male	50.0%	48.7%
Female	50.0%	51.3%
Age		
18-29	12.1%	20.6%
30-49	28.5%	34.8%
50-64	35.6%	26.1%
65+	23.4%	18.1%
Education		
Less than HS Grad.	6.6%	12.3%
HS Grad.	23.2%	32.7%
Some College	24.9%	25.8%
College Grad.	44.8%	28.8%
Race/Ethnicity		
White/not Hispanic	72.2%	66.2%
Black/not Hispanic	9.0%	10.9%
Hisp - US born	5.5%	7.0%
Hisp - born outside	5.1%	7.3%
Other/not Hispanic	5.9%	6.7%
Party Identification		
Democrat	36.1%	35.5%
Independent	30.7%	30.4%
Republican	24.6%	23.5%

The margin of sampling error including the design effect is plus or minus 3 percentage points. 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.

The response rate calculated based on the American Association of Public Opinion Research's Response Rate 3 formula was 18 percent for the landline sample and 16 percent for the cell phone sample.

Full information about the survey is available at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8405.cfm>

Please note: (1) Table percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. (2) Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). (3) "vol." indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent and not an explicitly offered choice.

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

1. Thinking about the new session of Congress that is starting this month, which two issues would you most like the president and Congress to address in 2013? (INTERVIEWER: If respondent just offers one, probe for second “Is there another issue you’d like them to address?”) (RECORD RESPONSE VERBATIM. PROBE FOR CLARITY) (PLEASE RECORD AS FIRST, SECOND SO CAN BE REPORTED SEPARATELY)

Based on one-half of total respondents (N=673)

Total Mentions	01/13
Deficit/Taxes (NET)	45
Budget deficit/spending/national debt	27
Taxes	15
Social Security/other entitlements	7
Fiscal cliff	1
Other fiscal issues mentions	*
Health Care (NET)	32
Healthcare/health reform	25
Medicare	4
Medicaid	2
Opposed to/want to repeal ACA	1
ACA (general)	*
Other health care mentions	1
Economy/Jobs (NET)	27
Economy	15
Jobs/unemployment	12
Jobs moving overseas	2
Other economy/jobs mentions	*
Education	9
Gun Control	9
Foreign Policy/Iraq/Afghanistan	7
Politics/Government	5
Immigration/border control	5
Social issues /Morals – gay rights, abortion	3
Environment/Energy	3
Issues related to poor/low income	1
Women’s issues	*
Issues related to the middle class	*
Everything/more than one/too many to name	*
Other	5
No particular issue/no other issue	2
Don’t know	12
Refused	*

Percentages will add to more than 100 due to multiple responses.

2. When it comes to making the health care system in America work well, do you think the **federal** government should play a major role, a minor role or no role?

	Major	Minor	No role	Don't know	Refused
01/13	42	32	21	4	*

3. What about **state** governments? When it comes to making the health care system work well, do you think **state** governments should play a major role, a minor role or no role?

	Major	Minor	No role	Don't know	Refused
01/13	43	39	14	3	*

4. If the federal government could do one thing to improve the health of people in the U.S. over the next few years, what do you think it should be? (RECORD VERBATIM)

Based on one-half of total respondents (N=673)

	01/13
Accessibility to Healthcare (NET)	23
Universal healthcare/single payer/government run system	4
Make sure everyone has healthcare (general)	4
Make sure everyone has insurance/coverage (general)	3
Help the elderly/improve healthcare for elderly (general)	2
Maintain/increase Medicare benefits	1
More focus on preventative healthcare measures (vaccinations, medications, etc.)	1
More mental healthcare/coverage	1
More access to healthcare (general)	1
Insurance companies allowed to write across state lines	*
Other accessibility to healthcare mentions	5
Healthcare Cost/Affordability (NET)	15
Affordable/lower cost healthcare	3
Affordable/lower cost health insurance	3
Affordable/lower cost medicine	2
Affordability/control/lower costs (general)	2
Improve efficiency of health care system (less waste, communication of records/between providers, etc.)	1
Address/limit malpractice lawsuits	1
Other healthcare cost/affordability mentions	2
Improve Health of People (NET)	13
Address/promote good/better/healthier eating habits	4
Discourage/decrease smoking/tobacco products	2
Address/decrease obesity	2
Increase education (on healthy lifestyles/prevention of diseases/etc.) (general)	2
Encourage exercise	1
Address/promote personal safety (address violence, safer vehicles, gun safety, etc.)	1
Lessen pollutants	*
Improve people's health (general)	*
Other improve health of people mentions	*

Q4 continued on next page

Q4 continued

Less Federal Government Intervention (NET)	10	
Stay out of it/government should not be involved/less or no regulation	7	
Repeal affordable healthcare act	1	
More personal responsibility instead of handouts	1	
Let the doctor's do their job/don't restrict doctor's in healthcare	*	
Other less federal government intervention mentions	1	
Improve/modify current system	3	
Increase research (cancer cures/stem cell research/etc.)	3	
Help the needy (general)	2	
Improve quality of healthcare	1	
Stop providing care for illegal aliens/take care of our own	*	
Address/limit big business (pharmaceutical/insurance companies) power/profits/make more accountable	*	
Other	7	
Non-related response	5	
Don't know	13	
Refused	3	

5. If the federal government could do one thing to improve the nation's health care system in the next few years, what do you think it should be? (RECORD VERBATIM)

Based on one-half of total respondents (N=674)

	01/13	
Healthcare Cost/Affordability (NET)	25	
Affordable/lower cost healthcare	5	
Affordable/lower cost health insurance	3	
Affordable/lower cost medicine	1	
Affordability/control/lower costs (general)	6	
Improve efficiency of healthcare system (less waste/abuse, communications of records/between providers, etc.)	2	
Address/reorganize entitlement programs	2	
Other healthcare cost/affordability mentions	2	
Give everyone free healthcare	1	
Address/limit malpractice lawsuits	1	

Q5 continued on next page

Q5 continued

Accessibility to Healthcare (NET)	21	
Universal healthcare/single payer/government run system		5
Make sure everyone has healthcare (general)		2
Make sure everyone has insurance/coverage (general)		2
More/better benefits/cover more/everything		2
Maintain/increase Medicare benefits		1
More focus on preventative healthcare measures (vaccinations, medications, etc.)		1
Increased access to medicines/drugs		1
More access to healthcare (general)		1
Support/implement affordable healthcare act		1
Help the elderly/improve healthcare for elderly (general)		1
Help/access to healthcare for those who can't afford it		1
More/better benefits for children		*
Help/access to healthcare for those with conditions/preexisting conditions		*
Help/access to healthcare for the uninsured/underinsured		*
Other accessibility to specific groups mentions		*
More access to Medicare/Medicaid programs		*
More mental healthcare/coverage		*
Other accessibility to healthcare mentions		2
Less Federal Government Intervention (NET)	19	
Pull back/stay out of it/government should not be involved		11
Repeal affordable healthcare act/Obamacare		5
More personal responsibility instead of handouts		1
Should be up to state/local governments not federal		1
Other less federal government intervention mentions		1
General Politics (NET)	4	
Better politicians/political processes to determine improvements		2
Get rid of Obama		1
Other general politics mentions		1
Improve/modify current system	3	
Address/promote good/better/healthier lifestyles	2	
Address/limit big business (pharmaceutical/insurance companies) power/profits/make more accountable	1	
Improve quality of healthcare	1	
Education/more information so people know their options	1	
Help the needy (general)	1	
More/better employer-paid insurance	*	
Other	6	
Non-related responses	2	
Don't know	13	
Refused	2	

Question 6 moved to before question 28a

There is no question 7

8. Do you think the president and the new Congress should act quickly to reduce the federal budget deficit, or do you think they should wait until the economy gets better before tackling the deficit?

	01/13	01/11 ¹
Should act quickly to reduce the deficit	65	54
Should wait until the economy gets better	28	43
Don't know	6	3
Refused	1	*

9. What do you think is the best approach to reducing the federal budget deficit: (mostly by cutting federal spending), (mostly by increasing taxes), or by a fairly even combination of both spending cuts and tax increases? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES)

	01/13
Mostly by cutting federal spending	38
Mostly by increasing taxes	5
Fairly even combination of both	52
(Vol.) Not take any action to reduce deficit now	1
Don't know	4
Refused	*

¹ January 2011 trend wording was, "Do you think the new Congress should act quickly to reduce the federal budget deficit, or do you think they should wait until the economy gets better before tackling the deficit?"

10. If the president and Congress decide to reduce the deficit by reducing spending on federal programs and services, I'd like to know in which programs you would be willing to see spending reduced. For each program I name, please tell me if you would support major spending reductions, minor spending reductions or no reductions at all as a way to reduce the federal deficit. First, to reduce the deficit would you support major reductions, minor reductions, or no reductions to spending on (INSERT)? How about (INSERT)? (IF NECESSARY: To reduce the deficit, would you support major reductions, minor reductions, or no reductions to spending on (INSERT))? (SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

Items a, f based on full sample

Items b, c, e, g, h based on one-half of total respondents (N=673)

Items d, i, j, k, l based on one-half of total respondents (N=674)

		Major	Minor	No reductions	Don't know	Refused
a.	Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors and for younger adults with long-term disabilities					
	01/13	10	31	58	1	*
	01/11 ²	8	35	56	1	*
b.	Social Security					
	01/13	12	29	58	1	*
	01/11	8	27	64	1	*
c.	Foreign aid					
	01/13	52	34	9	4	*
	01/11	52	36	11	1	*
d.	The conflict in Afghanistan					
	01/13	54	27	13	7	*
	01/11	43	31	23	2	*
e.	National defense					
	01/13	26	40	31	3	--
	01/11	21	40	38	1	*
f.	Medicaid, the government health insurance and long term care program for certain low-income adults and children					
	01/13 ²	16	37	46	1	*
	01/11	13	39	47	1	*
g.	Public education					
	01/13	14	23	61	2	*
	01/11	13	24	63	*	*
h.	The part of the 2010 health care law that provides financial help for low and moderate income people to buy health insurance					
	01/13	24	34	40	2	*
i.	Salaries and benefits for federal government workers					
	01/13	43	39	15	3	*
	01/11	41	43	15	1	*
j.	Aid to farmers					
	01/13	18	47	32	3	*
	01/11	18	44	36	1	*
k.	Unemployment insurance					
	01/13	21	50	27	2	--
	01/11	20	41	37	2	*
l.	Food stamps					
	01/13	28	41	29	2	*
	01/11	23	41	35	1	*

² January 2011 question did not include definitions of the Medicare or Medicaid programs. The January 2011 question began, "If Congress decides to reduce the deficit by reducing spending on federal programs and services, I'd like to know in which programs you would be willing to see spending reduced."

- 10a. Still thinking about ways to reduce the federal budget deficit, do you favor or oppose each of the following? (First/Next) do you favor or oppose (INSERT ITEM) as a way to reduce the federal budget deficit? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:) Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose? (SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Refused
a. Raising income taxes paid by people who make more than \$400,000 a year	57	19	9	13	1	*
b. Limiting the dollar amount of deductions some taxpayers can take	23	34	19	14	8	1
c. Raising income taxes on everyone	7	19	22	50	2	*
d. Raising taxes on corporations	38	28	14	18	3	*

11. Which comes closer to your view about the 2010 health care law (READ LIST AND ROTATE)?

	01/13
Those opposed to the health care law should accept that it is now the law of the land and stop trying to block the law's implementation	40
Those opposed to the health care law should continue trying to change or stop it, so it has less impact on taxpayers, employers, and health care providers	52
Don't know	7
Refused	1

READ: On another topic...

12. How important for you and your family is (INSERT)? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? (ROTATE ITEMS)

		Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know/ Refused
a. Medicare , the government health insurance program for seniors and for younger adults with long-term disabilities						
	01/13	54	23	12	10	1
	04/11 ³	61	21	9	8	1
	01/11 ⁴	55	22	11	11	1
	04/09 ⁵	53	23	11	12	1
b. Medicaid , the government health insurance and long term care program for certain low-income adults and children						
	01/13	38	23	16	22	1
	07/12 ⁶	35	17	13	33	2
	06/12 ⁷	38	18	13	30	1
	05/11	27	22	18	31	2
	01/11 ⁸	39	20	16	23	2

13. Would you say the current Medicare program is working well for most seniors, or not?

	01/13	09/12
Yes, Medicare is working well	60	61
No, Medicare is not working well	28	26
Don't know/Refused	12	13

14. As far as you know, do wealthier seniors currently pay higher premiums than other seniors for their Medicare coverage, or not?

	01/13	02/12
Yes, wealthier seniors pay higher premiums for Medicare	20	14
No, wealthier seniors do not pay higher premiums	36	54
Don't know/Refused	43	32

³ April 2011 trend wording was, "Next, thinking about Medicare, the government health program for people 65 and older and certain people with long-term disabilities, how important is the Medicare program for you and your family? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?"

⁴ January 2011 Medicare definition was, "Medicare, the government health program for people 65 and older and certain people with long-term disabilities"

⁵ April 2009 trend wording was, "How important for you and your family is Medicare? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?"

⁶ July 2012 trend was, "How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program, which may also be known in your state as [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC NAME]? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?"

⁷ June 2012 trend wording was, "How important for you and your family is the Medicaid program? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?"

⁸ January 2011 trend wording was "How important for you and your family is Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance and long term care to certain low-income adults and children?"

15. I'm going to read you some changes to the Medicare program that have been discussed as ways to reduce the federal budget deficit. Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose each one. (First/Next) would you favor or oppose (INSERT) as a way to reduce the federal deficit? (SCRAMBLE ITEMS. SCRAMBLE ITEMS B AND C BUT ALWAYS ASK ITEMS B AND C TOGETHER) GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?

		Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused
a.	Gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees					
	01/13	26	22	12	39	1
	02/12	21	26	15	35	2
	04/11	24	23	16	35	3
b.	Requiring all seniors to pay higher Medicare premiums					
	01/13	3	10	24	61	2
	02/12	5	11	23	59	2
	04/11	4	9	25	59	3
c.	Requiring only high income seniors to pay higher Medicare premiums					
	01/13	32	27	17	21	2
	02/12	28	26	19	24	2
	04/11	27	27	16	26	3
d.	Reducing payments to hospitals and other health care providers for treating people covered by Medicare					
	01/13	23	23	21	30	4
e.	Increasing the payroll taxes workers and employers pay to help fund Medicare					
	01/13	16	27	22	33	3
f.	Requiring drug companies to give the federal government a better deal on medications for low-income people on Medicare					
	01/13	68	17	6	7	2

16. You said that you oppose gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees. What if you heard that this proposal would save the federal government money and help preserve Medicare for the long term? Would that make you more likely to favor raising the age of eligibility, or would you still want to keep it as it is?

Based on those who oppose gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare (N=651)

	01/13	
More likely to favor raising age of eligibility for Medicare	29	
Still want to keep Medicare as is	69	
Don't know	2	
Refused	*	
<hr/> Summary of Q15a and Q16 based on total		
Favor gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare	62	
Originally		48
More likely to favor once heard argument (proposal would save the federal government money and help preserve Medicare for the long term)	15	
Still oppose gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare	35	
Don't know/Refused	3	

17. You said that you favor gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees. What if you heard that this proposal would increase costs for employers and people not yet eligible for Medicare, and may leave those that can't afford coverage uninsured? Would that make you more likely to oppose raising the age of eligibility, or would you still want to raise it?

Based on those who favor gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare (N=677)

	01/13	
More likely to oppose raising age of eligibility for Medicare	52	
Still want to raise age of eligibility for Medicare	42	
Don't know	6	
Refused	*	
<hr/> Summary of Q15a and Q17 based on total		
Oppose gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare	76	
Originally		51
More likely to oppose once heard argument (proposal would increase costs for employers and people not yet eligible for Medicare, and may leave those that can't afford coverage uninsured)	24	
Still favor gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare	20	
Don't know/Refused	5	

18. Which comes closer to your opinion: – (if the president and Congress made the right changes, they could reduce the federal budget deficit without major reductions in Medicare spending), or (in order to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit, the president and Congress will need to make major cuts in Medicare spending)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS)

Based on one-half of total respondents (N=673)

	01/13
Can reduce deficit without major reductions in Medicare spending	75
Medicare spending needs major cuts in order to reduce the deficit	19
Don't know	6
Refused	1

19. Do you think significant reductions in Medicare spending (would lead to higher costs for people on the program) or do you think significant cuts (could be made without increasing costs for individuals on Medicare)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS)

Based on one-half of total respondents (N=674)

	01/13
Lead to higher costs for people on the program	35
Cuts could be made without increasing costs	51
Don't know	13
Refused	*

20. Now I'd like to ask you about (IF DC SAMPLE READ: possible priorities for the District's mayor and city council) (IF NON-DC SAMPLE READ: possible priorities for **your state's** governor and legislature) when it comes to health policy this year. First, (INSERT) should that be a top priority, important but a lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? What about (INSERT)? Should that be a top priority, important but a lower priority, not too important or should it not be done?

Item d based on one-half of total respondents (N=673)

Item g based on one-half of total respondents (N=674)

	Top priority	Important but a lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	Don't know	Refused
a. Increasing government regulation of charges by doctors and hospitals	33	33	10	22	2	*
b. Creating a health insurance exchange or marketplace where small businesses and people who don't get coverage through their jobs can shop for insurance and compare prices and benefits	55	31	6	5	3	*
c. Expanding Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low income state residents, with the federal government covering nearly all the cost in the short term	30	35	12	21	2	*
d. Supporting women's access to family planning and other reproductive health services	39	36	11	12	2	1
e. Creating or supporting programs to fight obesity	30	35	16	17	2	*
f. Increasing government regulation of premiums charged by health insurance companies	37	30	10	20	3	*
g. Limiting women's access to family planning and other reproductive health services	20	26	14	39	2	1

READ: Now thinking about **Medicaid**, the government health insurance and long term care program for certain low-income adults and children.

21. Would you say the current **Medicaid** program is working well for people in your state or not?

	01/13
Yes, Medicaid is working well	50
No, Medicaid is not working well	29
Don't know	21
Refused	*

22. As you may know, the health care law expands Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults. The federal government will initially pay the entire cost of this expansion, and after several years, states will pay 10 percent and the federal government will pay 90 percent. The Supreme Court ruled that states may choose whether or not to participate in this expansion. What do you think your state should do? Do you think your state should (keep Medicaid as it is today) OR (expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people) (READ LIST) (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS)

	01/13	07/12 ⁹
Keep Medicaid as it is today (or)	42	43
Expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	52	49
Other/Neither (VOL.)	2	2
Don't know/Refused	4	6

ROTATE Q23 and Q24

23. What if you heard that this would mean many low-income people in your state would be left without health insurance, and your state would be giving up additional federal dollars for covering its uninsured residents? Would you (still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today), or would you (now prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people in your state)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS)

Based on those who want to keep Medicaid as it is today (N=602)

	01/13	07/12
Still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today (or)	64	72
Prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	29	23
Don't know/Refused	7	5
Summary of Q22 and Q23 based on total	01/13	07/12
Prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	64	59
Originally	52	49
Once heard argument (Many low-income people in your state would be left without health insurance, and your state would be giving up additional federal dollars for covering its uninsured residents)	12	10
Still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today	27	31
Other/Neither (Vol.)	2	2
Don't know/Refused	7	8

⁹ July 2012 trend wording was, "As you may know, the health care law expands Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults, including adults with no children whose incomes are below about \$16,000 a year. The federal government will initially pay the entire cost of this expansion, and after several years, states will pay 10 percent and the federal government will pay 90 percent. The Supreme Court ruled that states may choose whether or not to participate in this expansion. What do you think your state should do?"

ROTATE Q23 and Q24

24. What if you heard that this would mean that your state would be giving up additional revenue for health care providers – such as doctors and hospitals? Would you (still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today), or would you (now prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people in your state)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS)

Based on respondents who want to keep Medicaid as it is today (N=602)

	01/13
Still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today	69
Prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	25
Don't know	5
Refused	1
Summary of Q22 and Q24 based on total	01/13
Prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	62
Originally	52
Once heard argument (that your state would be giving up additional revenue for health care providers – such as doctors and hospitals)	11
Still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today	29
Other/Neither (Vol.)	2
Don't know/Refused	7

25. What if you heard that this expansion may require your state to spend some more money on Medicaid in the future, even though the federal government would be picking up most of the cost? Would you (still prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people in your state), or would you (now prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today)? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS)

Based on respondents who want to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people (N=656)

	01/13	07/12 ¹⁰
Still prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	72	79
Prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today	26	18
Don't know/Refused	2	3
Summary of Q22 and Q25 based on total	01/13	07/12
Prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today	55	52
Originally	42	43
Once heard argument (This expansion may require your state to spend some more money on Medicaid in the future, even though the federal government would be picking up most of the cost)	14	9
Still prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people	37	38
Other/Neither (Vol.)	2	2
Don't know/Refused	5	8

¹⁰ July 2012 trend was, "What if you heard that this expansion would require your state to spend more money on Medicaid, even though the federal government would be picking up most of the cost? Would you still prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people in your state, or would you now prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today?"

28. What two diseases or health conditions do you think pose the greatest threats to the American public? (INTERVIEWER: If respondent just offers one, probe for second "Is there another disease or health condition that you think poses a threat to the American public?) (DO NOT READ LIST)

Based on one-half of total respondents (N=674)

Total Mentions	01/13	10/11 ¹¹	06/09	04/08	04/07
Cancer	56	43	57	57	54
Heart disease	35	22	29	32	31
Diabetes	30	16	13	17	14
Obesity	26	21	9	11	6
HIV/AIDS	10	13	25	24	32
Smoking	6	3	2	1	1
Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, etc.)	5	3	1	2	2
Flu (all types)	4	3	17	5	7
Other	17	29	22	26	31
None	*	1	2	1	1
Don't know/Refused	4	10	6	4	6

Percentages will add to more than 100 due to multiple responses.

¹¹ October 2011 trend wording was, "What disease or health condition do you think poses the greatest threat to the American public? (If respondent gives an answer) Is there another disease or health condition that you think poses almost as great a threat to the American public?"

6. As you know, the federal government has a substantial budget deficit and there are many difficult choices facing the President and Congress. In this current situation, please tell me if you think each of the following should be a priority for federal spending this year, or not? (SCRAMBLE ITEMS) How about (INSERT ITEM) should that be a priority for federal spending this year, or not? (IF PRIORITY THEN ASK:) Do you think that should be one of the top priorities, important but not a top priority, or a priority but not an important one?

Items a-f asked of one third sample (n=447)

Items g-j asked of one third sample (n=452)

Items l-q asked of one third sample (n=448)

No items e and k

	One of the top priorities	Important but not a top priority	A priority but not an important one	Should not be a priority	Don't know	Refused
a. Preventing the spread of infectious diseases, including providing vaccinations	52	30	7	11	1	--
b. Detecting and preventing foodborne illnesses	36	32	12	17	3	--
c. Reducing smoking and tobacco use	26	24	16	34	1	--
d. Providing screening tests for major health problems	40	29	9	20	3	--
f. Preparing for - and responding to - health problems or injuries resulting from natural disasters or terrorist attacks	59	25	6	8	2	--
g. Funding to state public health departments	31	37	12	18	2	*
h. Funding for veterans' health care	60	29	5	4	1	--
i. Funding support to hospitals so they can provide free or subsidized care to people without health insurance	34	32	11	20	2	*
j. Preventing chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes	51	25	7	15	1	*
l. Reducing obesity by promoting healthy lifestyles	26	30	16	28	*	*
m. Preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS	36	30	12	21	1	*
n. Preventing injuries, such as burns, poisoning and falls	17	28	16	36	2	1
o. Ensuring workplace health and safety	33	35	10	21	1	--
p. Increasing research to find new cures and treatments for major disease threats	58	27	7	8	1	*
q. Ensuring the safety and effectiveness of prescription drugs	47	30	9	12	1	*

29. Do you believe that federal spending on improving health and preventing illnesses does or does not save the country money in the long run?

01/13

Yes, believe federal spending on improving health and preventing illnesses does save the country money in the long run	67
No, do not believe federal spending on improving health and preventing illnesses does not save the country money in the long run	28
Don't know	5
Refused	--

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

E. RECORD GENDER OF RESPONDENT

Male	49
Female	51

30. What is your age?

31. Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of ...? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

18-29	21
30-49	35
50-64	26
65+	18
Refused	*

32. 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])?

Yes, covered	79
No, not covered	20
Don't know	*
Refused	*

33. 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? (ENTER ONE ONLY)

Based on those who have health insurance (N=1,150)

Plan through your/your spouse's employer	52
Plan you purchased yourself	8
Medicare	21
Medicaid/Medi-CAL	6
Military	*
Some other government program	4
Somewhere else	3
Plan through your parent/mother/father	5
Don't know	1
Refused	*

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

Excellent	23
Very good	30
Good	27
Fair	16
Poor	5
Don't know	*
Refused	*

35. In politics today, do you consider yourself a (Republican/Democrat), an Independent, or what? ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESIS

Democrat	36
Republican	24
Independent	30
Something else	6
Don't know	3
Refused	2

36. Do you lean more towards the: (Democratic) or (Republican) Party? (ROTATE VERBIAGE IN PARENTHESES IN SAME ORDER AS Q.33)

Summary of Q35 and Q36 based on total

Democrat/lean Democrat	48
Republican/lean Republican	35
Other/Don't lean/Don't know	17

Five-Point Party ID

Democrat	36
Independent Lean Democratic	12
Independent/Don't lean	11
Independent Lean Republican	11
Republican	24
Something else	6

37. Would you say your views on most political matters are...? (ROTATE 1-3/3-1) (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Liberal	23
Moderate	38
Conservative	35
(VOL.) Don't think in those terms	2
Don't know	2
Refused	*

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

Yes	82
No	18
Don't know	*
Refused	*

39. What is the last grade or class that you COMPLETED in school? (DO NOT READ. ENTER ONE ONLY)

High school or less (NET)	45
None, or grade 1-8	5
High school incomplete (grades 1-11)	7
High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)	29
Business, technical or vocational school AFTER high school	4
Some college, no 4-year degree	26
College grad+ (NET)	29
College graduate (B.S., B.A., or other 4-year degree)	19
Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g. toward a master's degree or Ph.D; law or medical school)	10
Don't know	*
Refused	*

40. Please tell me whether you or anyone in your household has ever received any of the following government services and benefits. First, have you or has anyone in your household ever received (INSERT)? How about (INSERT)? **IF NECESSARY, READ:** Have you or has anyone in your household ever received this benefit?

	Someone in household has received	No one in household has received	Don't know	Refused
a. Federal grants or loans for college	38	61	1	*
b. Food stamps	26	73	*	*
c. Social Security benefits	39	60	1	*
d. Medicare benefits	36	62	1	*
e. Veterans benefits	15	84	*	*
f. Medicaid benefits	28	71	*	*
g. Unemployment benefits	40	60	*	*
h. Welfare benefits	14	86	*	*

42. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?
43. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? (IF HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a WHITE Hispanic/Latino or a BLACK Hispanic/Latino?)

Summary of Q42 and 43 based on total

White (non-Hispanic)	66
Black (non-Hispanic)	11
Asian	2
Hispanic (NET)	14
White Hispanic	11
Black Hispanic	3
Hispanic unspecified	1
Some other race	5
Don't know	*
Refused	2

- 42a. Were you born in the United States, on the island of Puerto Rico, or in another country?

Based on Hispanics (N=143)

U.S.	49
Puerto Rico	5
Another country	46
Don't know/Refused	--

44. Last year -- that is, in 2012 -- what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

Less than \$20,000	19
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	7
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,00 or more	14
Don't know	5
Refused	8

Trend Information

09/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (September 13-19, 2012)
07/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (July 17-23, 2012)
06/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Early Reaction to Supreme Court Decision on the ACA* (June 28-30, 2012)
02/12: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (February 13-19, 2012)
10/11: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health (September 19-October 2, 2011)
05/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (May 12-17, 2011)
04/11: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 7-12, 2011)
01/11: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 112th Congress* (January 4-14, 2011)
06/09: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health (June 24-28, 2009)
04/09: Kaiser Family Foundation *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* (April 2-8, 2009)
04/08: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health (April 2-7, 2008)
04/07: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health (April 11-15, 2007)



The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Headquarters
2400 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Offices and
Barbara Jordan Conference Center
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

www.kff.org

This publication (#8405-T) is available on the
Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

*The Kaiser Family Foundation, a leader in health policy analysis, health journalism and communication, is dedicated to filling the need for trusted, independent information on the major health issues facing our nation and its people.
The Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California.*