

Topline

KFF Health Tracking Poll – February 2019

METHODOLOGY

This *KFF Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The survey was conducted February 14th-24th 2019, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,440 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). The sample included 290 respondents reached by calling back respondents that had previously completed an interview on the KFF Tracking poll more than nine months ago. This month's poll also includes an analysis of older Americans age 65 or older (n=606). To obtain a large enough sample, the sampling frame included an oversample of older adults using cell phones (n=26) and landlines (n=75) as well as callbacks to adults who fit the age criterion using the SSRS Omnibus poll (n=136). To efficiently obtain a sample of lower-income and non-White respondents, the sample also included an oversample of prepaid (pay-as-you-go) telephone numbers (25% of the cell phone sample consisted of prepaid numbers) as well as a subsample of respondents who had previously completed Spanish language interviews on the SSRS Omnibus poll (n=11). Both the random digit dial landline and cell phone samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group (MSG).

Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (464) and cell phone (976, including 662 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by SSRS of Glen Mills, PA. 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 adult who answered the phone. KFF paid for all costs associated with the survey with additional funding for the over-sample provided by the John Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, 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 2018 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, and design modifications, namely, the oversampling of prepaid cell phones and likelihood of non-response for the re-contacted sample. To ensure accurate representation of the older population, the data were weighted separately for those younger than 65 and those 65 or older. 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 margins 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 margins of sampling error 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. Kaiser Family Foundation public opinion and survey research is a charter member of the [Transparency Initiative of the American Association for Public Opinion Research](#).

Group	N (unweighted)	M.O.S.E.
Total	1,440	±3 percentage points
Adults who currently take prescription medicine	1030	±4 percentage points
Adults with prescription drug plans	1092	±4 percentage points
Democrats	473	±6 percentage points
Republicans	410	±6 percentage points
Independents	397	±6 percentage points
Adults, 65 and older	606	±5 percentage points
Adults, 65 or older, with prescription drug plan	513	±5 percentage points

Notes for reading the topline:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (*).
- "Vol." indicates a response was volunteered by the respondent, not offered as an explicit choice
- Questions are presented in the order asked; question numbers may not be sequential.

All trends shown in this document come from the 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)

03/08: Kaiser Family Foundation/USA Today/Harvard School of Public Health *The Public on Prescription Drugs and Pharmaceutical Companies* (January 3-23, 2008)

ACA. As you may know a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010, known commonly as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. 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?]

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/ Refused
02/19	28	22	12	25	13
01/19	29	22	12	28	10
11/18	28	25	14	26	8
09/18	23	26	15	27	9
08/18	26	24	13	27	10
07/18	28	20	12	28	11
06/18	26	24	13	28	8
04/18	27	22	15	28	9
03/18	26	24	15	28	7
02/18	33	21	12	30	5
01/18	27	23	12	30	8
11/17	29	21	17	29	5
10/17	29	22	13	27	9
09/17	27	19	14	30	10
08/17	30	22	10	29	9
07/17	28	22	12	32	6
06/17	29	22	14	27	8
05/17	29	20	13	29	9
Late 04/17 ¹	24	24	15	26	12
Early 04/17	20	26	16	30	9
03/17	21	28	15	29	6
02/17	20	28	15	27	10
12/16	21	22	16	30	11
11/16	19	24	17	28	11
10/16	19	26	13	32	10
09/16	18	26	17	30	9
08/16	19	21	14	28	17
07/16	18	22	17	29	14
06/16	18	24	12	32	14
04/16	15	23	17	32	13
03/16	21	20	17	30	13
02/16	19	22	12	34	14
01/16	21	20	16	28	16
12/15	19	21	13	33	14
11/15	19	19	17	28	17
10/15	21	21	15	27	16
09/15	21	20	15	30	14
08/15	23	21	16	25	14
06/29/15	23	20	13	27	17
06/09/15	19	20	16	26	19
04/15	22	21	15	27	14
03/15	22	19	15	28	16
01/15	19	21	16	30	15
12/14	18	23	16	30	14
11/14	18	19	16	30	18
10/14	16	20	16	27	20
09/14	15	20	15	32	19
07/14	15	22	18	35	11
06/14	19	20	15	30	16

¹ January 2012 through Late April 2017 trend wording was "As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010..."

ACA continued...

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/Refused
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 ²	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 ³	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 ⁴	23	23	10	30	14

² February 2011 through December 2011 trend wording was “As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law early last year. Given what you know about the 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 May 2010 through December 2011 trend wording was “As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year...”

⁴ 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?)”

READ TO ALL: Next, I am going to ask you about a different health care proposal.

M4ALL. Do you (favor) or (oppose) having a national health plan, sometimes called Medicare-for-all, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?) (rotate items in parentheses)

	Strongly/ Somewhat favor (NET)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat/ Strongly oppose (NET)	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused	
02/19	57	33	24	37	11	26	6	n=1,440
01/19	56	34	22	42	10	32	2	n=1,190
03/18	59	37	22	38	10	28	3	n=1,212
09/17 ⁵	55	33	22	43	12	31	3	n=581
06/17 ⁶	57	34	23	38	12	26	5	n=611

READ TO ALL: Moving onto another health care topic...

Q1. Do you think prescription drugs developed over the past 20 years have generally made the lives of people in the US (better), (worse), or haven't they made much difference? (rotate items in parentheses)

Q2. (IF Q1=1, INSERT "better"; IF Q1=2, INSERT "worse") Would you say a lot (better/worse), or only a little (better/worse)?

Q1/Q2 Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19	09/16	08/15	03/08
Better	59	56	62	73
A lot better	38	35	42	52
A little better	20	19	19	19
Worse	20	21	15	10
A lot worse	14	16	11	7
A little worse	5	5	5	3
Haven't made much difference	17	20	19	14
Don't know/Refused (NET)	4	3	4	3
Don't know	3	2	4	3
Refused ⁷	1	1	-	-

⁵ September 2017 Trend based on Half Sample A respondents

⁶ June 2017 Trend based on Half Sample A respondents

⁷ Don't know and Refused were recorded separately for this question and some other questions throughout the survey. Prior to September 2016, Don't know/Refused was combined into one category.

Q3. In general, do you think the cost of prescription drugs is reasonable or unreasonable?

	02/19	03/18	09/16	08/15	06/09/15	03/08
Reasonable	17	17	21	24	22	18
Unreasonable	79	80	77	72	73	79
Don't know	4	3	2	4	5	2
Refused ⁸	*	1	1	--	--	--

Q4. In general, do you think people in this country pay higher or lower prices than people in Canada and Western Europe pay for the same prescription drug, or do you think they pay about the same amount?

Based on Half Sample A

	02/19
Pay higher prices	74
Pay lower prices	9
Pay about the same amount	8
Don't know/Refused (NET)	10
Don't know	10
Refused	*
	<i>n=724</i>

Q5. In general, do you think people in this country pay higher or lower prices than people in Canada, Mexico, and Western Europe pay for the same prescription drug, or do you think they pay about the same amount?

Based on Half Sample B

	02/19	08/15	03/08
Pay higher prices	71	74	76
Pay lower prices	10	6	6
Pay about the same amount	13	12	10
Don't know/Refused (NET)	7	7	8
Don't know	7		
Refused	*		
	<i>n=716</i>	<i>n=1,200</i>	<i>n=1,695</i>

Q4/Q5 Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19
Pay higher prices	72
Pay lower prices	9
Pay about the same amount	10
Don't know/Refused (NET)	8
Don't know	8
Refused	*

Trend results prior to 2016 for "Refused" are shown in the "Don't know" category.

Q6. Overall, how confident are you that prescription drugs sold in the United States are safe? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident? (rotate Q6 and Q7)

	02/19	03/08
Very/Somewhat confident (NET)	76	78
Very confident	25	27
Somewhat confident	50	51
Not too/Not at all confident (NET)	23	22
Not too confident	17	15
Not at all confident	6	6
Don't know/Refused	1	*

Q7. How much do you trust pharmaceutical companies to (INSERT ITEM)? Do you trust them a lot, somewhat, not too much, or not at all? (scramble items a-e) (rotate Q6 and Q7)

	A lot/ Somewhat (NET)	A lot	Somewhat	Not too much/Not at all (NET)	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know/ Refused
a. Offer reliable information about how well their drugs work							
02/19	61	11	51	38	23	14	1
03/08	71	13	58	28	19	10	1
b. Offer reliable information about side effects and safety of their drugs							
02/19	65	17	48	34	21	14	1
03/08	72	21	51	27	17	10	1
c. Develop new, effective drugs							
02/19	71	22	49	28	19	9	1
03/08	80	25	55	19	14	5	1
d. Price their products fairly							
02/19	25	3	22	74	31	43	1
03/08	41	5	36	58	31	27	1
e. Inform the public quickly when they learn of a safety concern with one of their drugs							
02/19	47	10	37	53	29	23	*
03/08	55	15	40	44	28	16	1

READ TO ALL: I'd like your opinion of current government regulation of prescription drugs in some different areas.

Q8. First, how about (INSERT ITEM)? (READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Is there too much regulation in this area, not as much as there should be, or about the right amount of regulation?) (rotate items a and b)

	Too much regulation	Not as much as there should be	Right amount	Don't know/Refused
a. Making sure prescription drugs are safe for people to use				
02/19	8	44	45	3
10/15	8	47	42	4
06/15	9	39	47	5
03/08	8	44	47	2
b. Limiting the price of prescription drugs				
02/19	10	63	22	5
10/15	13	62	20	5
06/15	12	53	28	7
03/08	11	64	21	4

Q9. Which of the following do you think would do a better job at keeping prescription drug costs down... (READ LIST)? (rotate items 1-2/2-1)

	02/19	08/15 ⁹
More government regulation of drug and insurance companies	41	40
More competition among drug and insurance companies	50	51
Both (Vol.)	3	4
Neither (Vol.)	3	2
Don't know/Refused	3	3

⁹ August 2015 trend wording for answer options were "Regulation by the federal government"/"Competition in the marketplace"

Q10. I'm going to read actions some say would help keep prescription drug costs down. Please tell me whether you would (favor) or (oppose) each one. (First/Next), would you favor or oppose (INSERT ITEM)? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?) (ENTER ONE ONLY) (rotate items in parentheses) (scramble items a-e)

Item A: Based on total

Items b,d: Based on Half Sample A

Items c, e: Based on Half Sample B

	Strongly/ Somewhat favor (NET)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat/ Strongly oppose (NET)	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Requiring prescription drug companies to include the list price of the drug in their advertisements								
02/19	88	66	22	9	6	3	2	n=1,440
11/18 ¹⁰	77	NA	NA	16	NA	NA	6	n=1,201
06/18	76	NA	NA	17	NA	NA	7	n=1,492
b. Allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from licensed Canadian pharmacies								
02/19	80	51	28	18	9	9	3	n=724
Late 04/17 ¹¹	72	49	24	25	12	14	2	n=602
09/16	71	45	26	25	11	14	5	n=604
08/15	72	44	28	22	11	12	6	n=576
c. Making it easier for generic drugs to come to market in order to increase competition and reduce costs								
02/19	88	66	22	11	6	5	2	n=716
Late 04/17	87	74	13	11	7	4	2	n=569
d. Ending the tax break given to drug companies for their spending on television ads and other marketing expenses								
02/19	57	38	18	41	17	24	3	n=724
e. Increasing taxes on drug companies whose drug prices are too high								
02/19	63	43	20	35	14	21	2	n=716

¹⁰ June 2018-November 2018 trend wording was "Do you (favor) or (oppose) the federal government requiring prescription drug advertisements to include a statement about how much the drug costs?"

¹¹ August 2015- Late April 2017 trend wording was "Allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada"

READ TO ALL: Now thinking specifically about Medicare prescription drug coverage. As you may know Medicare is the government health insurance program for seniors and for younger adults with long-term disabilities.

Q11. I'm going to read actions some say would help keep Medicare prescription drug costs down. Please tell me whether you would (favor) or (oppose) each one. (First/Next), would you favor or oppose (INSERT ITEM)? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?) (INTERVIEWER NOTE: If needed, remind respondents that these questions are about Medicare prescription drug plans) (ENTER ONE ONLY) (rotate items in parentheses) (scramble items a-d)

Table I

Items a, c: Based on Half Sample A Respondents

Items b, d: Based on Half Sample B Respondents

	Strongly/ Somewhat favor (NET)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat/ Strongly oppose (NET)	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Allowing prescription drug plans to exclude more drugs 02/19	25	12	13	71	25	46	4	n=724
b. Allowing prescription drug plans to put more restrictions on the use of certain drugs, like making patients try cheaper alternatives before taking a more expensive drug 02/19	53	25	27	44	17	27	3	n=716
c. Placing an annual limit on out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays, for prescription drug coverage 02/19	76	49	27	22	11	11	2	n=724
d. Lowering what Medicare pays for some drugs based on amounts in other countries where governments more closely control prices 02/19	65	32	32	30	17	13	5	n=716

Table II

Based on those ages 65 or older

	Strongly/ Somewhat favor (NET)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat/ Strongly oppose (NET)	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Allowing prescription drug plans to exclude more drugs 02/19	24	10	14	71	22	49	5	n=606
b. Allowing prescription drug plans to put more restrictions on the use of certain drugs, like making patients try cheaper alternatives before taking a more expensive drug 02/19	45	22	23	49	18	31	5	n=606
c. Placing an annual limit on out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays, for prescription drug coverage 02/19	68	45	22	28	13	15	5	n=606
d. Lowering what Medicare pays for some drugs based on amounts in other countries where governments more closely control prices 02/19	60	34	25	33	16	17	7	n=606

Q12. As far as you know, does the federal government currently negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on prescription drugs for people on Medicare, or not?

	02/19
Yes	35
No	40
Don't know/Refused (NET)	26
Don't know	25
Refused	1

Q13. (IF Q12=1,8,9, INSERT “Though not everyone has had a chance to hear about it,”; IF Q12=2, INSERT “As you know,”) The federal government does NOT currently negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on medications. Would you (favor) or (oppose) allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on medications for people on Medicare? (GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?) (ENTER ONE ONLY) (rotate items in parentheses)

Table I

Based on total

	02/19	Late 04/17 ¹²	09/16	08/15
Strongly/Somewhat favor (NET)	86	92	82	83
Strongly favor	65	72	61	55
Somewhat favor	20	20	22	28
Somewhat/Strongly oppose (NET)	13	6	17	16
Somewhat oppose	4	3	5	7
Strongly oppose	9	2	12	8
Don't know/Refused	1	182	1	2
	<i>n=1,440</i>	<i>n=569</i>	<i>n=604</i>	<i>n=576</i>

Table II

Based on those ages 65 or older

	02/19	Late 04/17	09/16	08/15
Strongly/Somewhat favor (NET)	82	96	81	81
Strongly favor	64	84	67	60
Somewhat favor	18	12	15	21
Somewhat/Strongly oppose (NET)	16	4	18	18
Somewhat oppose	6	2	6	8
Strongly oppose	11	1	12	10
Don't know/Refused	2	*	1	1
	<i>n=606</i>	<i>n=158</i>	<i>n=188</i>	<i>n=172</i>

¹² August 2015- Late April 2017 did not include question wording regarding awareness and instead included “I’m going to read actions some say would keep prescription drug costs down.”

Q14. I'm going to read arguments some people have made for or against having the federal government negotiate prescription drug prices for people on Medicare. Would you (favor) or (oppose) allowing these negotiations if you heard that (INSERT ITEM)? (rotate items in parentheses) (scramble items a-e)

Table I

Based on total

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
a. As a result Medicare might not cover some prescription drugs 02/19	29	67	3
b. It could lead to seniors saving money on their prescription drugs 02/19	91	8	1
c. As a result Medicare could save the federal government money by paying less for prescription drugs 02/19	82	15	3
d. It could lead to less research and development of new drugs 02/19	31	66	3
e. Experts say these type of negotiations won't be effective at keeping drug costs down 02/19	44	51	5

Table II

Based on those ages 65 or older

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused	
a. As a result Medicare might not cover some prescription drugs 02/19	22	72	6	n=606
b. It could lead to seniors saving money on their prescription drugs 02/19	87	11	2	n=606
c. As a result Medicare could save the federal government money by paying less for prescription drugs 02/19	75	22	3	n=606
d. It could lead to less research and development of new drugs 02/19	30	65	5	n=606
e. Experts say these type of negotiations won't be effective at keeping drug costs down 02/19	42	50	8	n=606

READ TO ALL: Moving onto the broader issue of prescription drug prices...

Q15. I'm going to read you factors that some people say contribute to the price of prescription drugs. For each, I'd like you to tell me if this is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor contributing to the price of prescription drugs. First/Next, what about (INSERT ITEM)? (READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor contributing to the price of prescription drugs?) (scramble items a-d)

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	Don't know/ Refused
a. The cost of research and development				
02/19	69	24	6	1
06/15 ¹³	64	28	6	3
03/08	72	22	4	2
b. The cost of marketing and advertising				
02/19	52	35	12	1
06/15	54	34	9	3
03/08	62	29	8	1
c. Profits made by pharmaceutical companies				
02/19	80	13	6	1
06/15	77	13	6	5
03/08	79	14	5	2
d. Profits made by companies that serve as middlemen that manage prescription drug benefits for health insurance plans				
02/19	63	27	6	3

COVERAGE. 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])?

	02/19
Covered by health insurance	88
Not covered by health insurance	12
Don't know	*
Refused	*

AGECOV VARIABLE

	02/19
Insured less than 65	85
Uninsured less than 65	15

¹³ March 2008- June 2015 trend wording was "The cost of medical research"

COVTYPE. 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? [INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF R SAYS THEY GOT INSURANCE THROUGH HEALTHCARE.GOV, OBAMACARE, OR A STATE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE/EXCHANGE, CODE AS 3].

Based on those who are insured

	02/19
Plan through your employer	35
Plan through your spouse's employer	12
Plan you purchased yourself	9
Medicare	20
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	12
Somewhere else	8
Plan through your parents/mother/father (Vol.)	4
Don't know	1
Refused	*
	<i>n=1,334</i>

COVERAGE/COVTYPE Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19
Covered by health insurance	88
Employer	30
Spouse's employer	10
Self-purchased plan	8
Medicare	17
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	10
Somewhere else	7
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	4
Don't know/refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	12
Don't know/Refused	*

AGECOVTYPE VARIABLE

Based on those ages 18-64

	02/19
Covered by health insurance	84
Employer	35
Spouse's employer	12
Self-purchased plan	8
Medicare	6
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	11
Somewhere else	7
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	5
Don't know/refused	*
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=825</i>

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

Based on those ages 18-64 who purchase their own insurance plan (sample size insufficient to report)

COVERAGE/COVTYPE/COVSELF Combo Table

Based on those ages 18-64

	02/19
Covered by health insurance	84
Employer	35
Spouse's employer	12
Self-purchased plan (SUB-NET)	8
Directly from an insurance company	1
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	4
Through an insurance agent or broker	2
Somewhere else (Vol.)	1
Don't know/Refused	1
Medicare	6
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	11
Somewhere else	7
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	5
Don't know/Refused	*
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=825</i>

COVMKT. Regardless of how you purchased your plan, do you know if it is a marketplace or [healthcare.gov/INSERT STATE SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME] plan, is it NOT a marketplace or [healthcare.gov/INSERT STATE SPECIFIC MARKETPLACE NAME] plan, or are you not sure? (ENTER ONE ONLY)

Based on those ages 18-64 who purchased insurance through non-marketplace (sample size insufficient to report)

COVERAGE/COVTYPE/COVSELF/COVMKT

Based on those ages 18-64

	02/19
Covered by health insurance (NET)	84
Employer	35
Spouse's employer	12
Self-purchased plan (SUB-NET)	8
Directly from an insurance company/agent/or broker/other (SUB-SUB-NET)	4
Marketplace plan	1
Non-Marketplace plan	1
Not sure/Refused	2
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	4
Medicare	6
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	11
Somewhere else	7
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	5
Don't know/Refused	*
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=825</i>

QUESTIONS 16-17 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.

COVTYPEPERX. Do you currently have any type of insurance that helps you pay for prescription drugs?

Based on those ages 65 or older or 18-64 and purchased their own insurance plan

	02/19
Yes	81
No	18
Don't know/Refused	1
	<i>n=678</i>

Q18. As far as you know, does your plan cover all prescription drugs or only some prescription drugs?

Based on those who have prescription drug coverage

	02/19
All	43
Only some	48
Don't know/Refused	9
	<i>n=1,092</i>

Q19. I'm going to read you a list of problems some people experience with their health insurance plan. Please tell me if you have had any of these problems in the past 12 months, or not. How about (INSERT ITEM)? (scramble items a-c)

Based on those who have prescription drug coverage

	Yes, have	No, have not	Not applicable/ Haven't used services yet	Don't know/ Refused	
a. You were told your plan would not cover a drug prescribed by your doctor 02/19	31	67	1	1	<i>n=1,092</i>
b. You had to wait more than 2 days to fill your prescription because the pharmacy needed additional approval from your insurance plan 02/19	25	73	2	*	<i>n=1,092</i>
c. Your plan required you to try a less expensive drug before you could get the more expensive drug prescribed by your doctor 02/19	29	68	2	2	<i>n=1,092</i>

Q19 Summary table

Based on those who have prescription drug coverage

	02/19
Experienced any problems with prescription drug plan	47
Experienced no problems with prescription drug plan	52
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=1,092</i>

Q20. When you chose your current prescription drug or insurance plan, did you compare (INSERT ITEM), or not? (scramble items a-c)

Based on those ages 65 or older with prescription drug coverage

	Yes	No	Not applicable/Didn't choose	Don't know/Refused	
a. Which prescription drugs were covered by different drug plans 02/19	28	69	2	1	n=513
b. The premiums for different drug plans 02/19	36	61	2	1	n=513
c. The co-pays for prescription drugs you are currently taking 02/19	36	60	3	1	n=513

Q20 Summary table

Based on those ages 65 or older with prescription drug coverage

	02/19
Did comparisons when choosing current prescription drug or insurance plan	47
Did not do any comparisons when choosing prescription drug or insurance plan	53
Don't know/Refused	-
	n=513

Q21. Thinking about your prescription drug coverage, which is more important to you, (INSERT ITEM)? (rotate items 1-2/2-1)

Based on those ages 65 or older with prescription drug coverage

	02/19
Paying a lower premium each month	35
Having a lower co-pay at the pharmacy when you get your prescriptions filled	51
Neither of these (Vol.)	5
Both of these (Vol.)	5
Don't know/Refused (NET)	4
Don't know	4
Refused	*
	n=513

RX. Do you currently take any prescription medicine or not?

	02/19	03/18	09/16	08/15	06/09/15	03/08
Yes, take	62	58	55	54	50	54
No, do not take	38	42	45	46	49	45
Don't know	*	--	*	*	*	*
Refused	*	*	1	--	--	--

RXMANY. How many different prescription drugs do you take?

Based on those who take Rx medicine

	02/19	03/18	09/16	08/15	03/08
1-3 (NET)	59	56	58	61	64
1	24	21	23	23	28
2	18	19	21	22	20
3	18	16	14	16	16
4 or more	39	43	40	37	35
Don't know/Refused	2	1	2	2	1
	<i>n=1,030</i>	<i>n=783</i>	<i>n=716</i>	<i>n=743</i>	<i>n=1,029</i>

RX/RXMANY COMBO TABLE

Based on total

	02/19	03/18	09/16	08/15	03/08
Take Rx medicine	62	58	55	54	54
1-3 (NET)	37	32	33	33	35
1	15	12	13	13	15
2	11	11	12	12	11
3	11	9	8	8	9
4 or more	24	25	22	20	19
Don't take Rx medicine	38	42	45	46	45
Don't know/Refused	*	*	1	*	*

READ TO ALL: Now thinking more directly about your experience with prescription drugs...

(rotate Q22 and Q23)

Q22. When your doctor writes a prescription for a drug you haven't taken before, do you usually talk to him or her about (INSERT ITEM), or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
a. The cost you will have to pay for the new medication			
02/19	42	57	1
03/08	44	55	1
b. The safety and potential side effects of the drug			
02/19	77	22	1
03/08	77	22	1
c. Whether there is a less expensive alternative available			
02/19	51	48	1

Q23. When you fill a new prescription at the pharmacy, do you usually talk to your pharmacist about (INSERT ITEM), or not? (rotate Q22 and Q23) (rotate items a and b)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
a. Whether there is a less expensive alternative available			
02/19	41	58	1
03/08	61	38	1
b. The safety and potential side effects of the drug			
02/19	57	42	1
03/08	59	41	*

Q24. On average, how much do you spend each month on all of YOUR prescription drugs, including any co-pays or other out-of-pocket expenses? Do you spend....(READ LIST)?

Based on those who currently take any prescription medicine

	02/19
Less than \$25	45
\$25 to less than \$100 (NET)	37
Between \$25 and \$50	23
More than \$50 but less than \$100	14
\$100 or more a month	17
Don't know/Refused	2
	<i>n=1,030</i>

RX/Q24 Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19
Take Rx medicine	62
Spend less than \$25 each month	28
Spend between \$25 and \$50 each month	14
Spend more than \$50 but less than \$100 each month	9
Spend \$100 or more a month	10
Don't know/Refused	1
Do not take Rx medicine	38
Don't know/Refused	*

RX2. In general, how easy or difficult is it for you to afford to pay the cost of your prescription medicine? Very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?

Based on those who currently take any prescription medicine

	02/19	03/18	09/16	08/15	06/15
Very/Somewhat easy (NET)	74	74	73	72	76
Very easy	46	43	45	45	48
Somewhat easy	29	31	28	27	28
Somewhat/Very difficult (NET)	24	24	26	24	21
Somewhat difficult	15	16	17	16	12
Very difficult	9	8	9	8	9
Don't have to pay (Vol.)	1	1	1	3	3
Don't know/Refused	*	1	*	1	1
	<i>n=1,030</i>	<i>n=783</i>	<i>n=716</i>	<i>n=743</i>	<i>n=686</i>

RX/RX2 Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19	03/18	09/16	08/15	06/15
Take Rx medicine	62	58	55	54	50
Very easy to afford cost	28	25	25	24	24
Somewhat easy to afford cost	18	18	16	15	14
Somewhat difficult to afford cost	9	9	10	9	6
Very difficult to afford cost	6	5	5	4	5
Don't have to pay (Vol.)	1	1	*	2	1
Don't know/Refused	*	1	*	*	*
Don't take Rx medicine	38	42	45	46	49
Don't know	*	--	*	*	*
Refused	*	*	1	--	--

Q25. In the past 12 months, have you ... (INSERT ITEM) because of the COST, or not? (INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE READ "BECAUSE OF THE COST" AFTER EACH ITEM.) (scramble items a-c)

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused
a. Not filled a prescription for a medicine			
02/19	19	81	*
b. Cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine			
02/19	12	88	-
c. Taken an over-the-counter drug instead of getting a prescription filled			
02/19	18	82	*

Q25 Summary table

Based on total

	02/19
Did not take prescription as recommended because of the cost	29
Took prescription as recommended	71
Don't know/Refused	-

Q26. Did you tell your doctor or health care provider that you did not take your prescription as recommended?

Based on those who did not take prescription as recommended because of the cost

	02/19
Yes	46
No	53
Don't know/Refused	1
	<i>n=344</i>

Q25a-c/Q26 Combo

Based on total

	02/19
Did not take prescription as recommended because of the cost	29
Yes, did tell doctor	13
No, did not tell doctor	15
Don't know/Refused	*
Took prescription as recommended	71
Don't know/Refused	-

Q27. Did your condition get worse as a result of not taking your prescription as recommended, or did it not get worse?

Based on those who did not take prescription as recommended because of the cost

	02/19
Yes, it got worse	29
No, it did not get worse	65
Don't know/Refused	6
	<i>n=344</i>

Q25a-c/Q27 Combo

Based on total

	02/19
Did not take prescription as recommended because of the cost	29
Yes, condition got worse	8
No, condition did not get worse	19
Don't know/Refused	2
Took prescription as recommended	71
Don't know/Refused	-

Q28. In the past 12 months, have you received a discount on a prescription drug, either through a coupon, a copay card, a drug company patient assistance program, or some other kind of prescription discount?

	02/19
Yes	26
No	73
Don't know/Refused (NET)	1
Don't know	1
Refused	*

Q29. If you hadn't received the discount for the prescription drug, would you still have chosen to get the prescription filled, or not?

Based on those who received a prescription drug discount

	02/19
Yes	68
No	31
Don't know/Refused	1
	<i>n=382</i>

Q28/Q29 Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19
Received a discount on a prescription drug	26
Would still have chosen to get the prescription filled if hadn't received	18
Would not have chosen to get the prescription filled if hadn't received	8
Don't know/Refused	*
Have not received a discount on a prescription drug	73
Don't know/Refused	1

Q30. Instead would you have (asked your doctor for a prescription for a less expensive drug), (taken an over-the-counter drug), or skipped taking medication entirely? (rotate items in parentheses)

Based on those who received a prescription drug discount and if hadn't, would not have filled the prescription

	02/19
Asked your doctor for a prescription for a less expensive drug	53
Taken an over-the-counter drug	12
Skipped taking medication entirely	30
Something else (Vol.) (SPECIFY)	1
Don't know/Refused	4
	<i>n=110</i>

Q28/Q29/Q30 Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19
Received a prescription drug discount	26
Would still have filled the prescription	18
Would not have filled the prescription	8
Instead would have asked doctor for a prescription for a less expensive drug	4
Instead would have taken an over-the-counter drug	1
Instead would have skipped taking medication entirely	2
Something else (Vol.)	*
Don't know/Refused	*
Don't know/Refused	*
Have not received a prescription drug discount	73
Don't know/Refused	1

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

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

	02/19
Excellent/Very good/Good (NET)	80
Excellent	19
Very good	29
Good	31
Only fair/Poor (NET)	20
Only fair	16
Poor	4
Don't know/Refused	*

PREXa. The term pre-existing condition is used to describe a medical condition that a person had before they got health insurance like a history of asthma, diabetes or high blood pressure, or cancer. Would you say that you or someone else in your household have a pre-existing condition of some sort, or not?

	02/19	01/19	11/18	08/18	06/18
Yes, someone in household has pre-existing condition	55	55	58	60	57
No, no one in household has pre-existing condition	44	44	41	39	42
Don't know	1	*	1	1	1
Refused	*	1	*	*	*
	<i>n=1,440</i>	<i>n=1,190</i>	<i>n=1,201</i>	<i>n=1,201</i>	<i>n=1,200</i>

CHRONIC. Do you or anyone in your immediate family have a chronic health condition that requires ongoing medical treatment?

	02/19	04/18 ¹⁴
Yes	57	59
No	42	41
Don't know/Refused	1	*

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

	02/19
Married	45
Living with a partner	8
Widowed	7
Divorced	11
Separated	3
Never been married	25
Don't know	-
Refused	1

EMPLOY. What best describes your employment situation today? [READ IN ORDER]

	02/19
Employed (NET)	54
Employed full-time	45
Employed part-time	10
Unemployed and currently seeking employment	4
Unemployed and not seeking employment	3
A student	6
Retired	18
On disability and can't work	8
Or, a homemaker or stay at home parent?	6
Don't know/Refused	1

PARTY. In politics today, do you consider yourself a: (Republican), (Democrat), an Independent, or what? (rotate items in parentheses)

	02/19
Republican	24
Democrat	35
Independent	29
Or what/Other/None/No preference	9
Don't know	2
Refused	2

PARTYLEAN. Do you LEAN more towards the (Republican) Party or the (Democratic) Party? (rotate items in parentheses in same order as PARTY)

Based on those who are not Republican or Democrat

	02/19
Republican	26
Democratic	36
Independent/don't lean to either party (Vol.)	26
Other party (Vol.)	2
Don't know	6
Refused	3
	n=557

¹⁴ April 2018 Trend wording was "Do you or anyone in your immediate family have a chronic health condition- such as asthma, high blood pressure, or cancer- that requires ongoing medical treatment?"

Summary PARTY and PARTYLEAN

Based on total

	02/19
Republican/Lean Republican	34
Democrat/Lean Democratic	50
Pure Independent	12
Undesignated	3

Five-Point Party ID

	02/19
Democrat	35
Independent Lean Democratic	15
Independent/Don't lean	11
Independent Lean Republican	11
Republican	24
Undesignated	5

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

	02/19
Liberal	27
Moderate	34
Conservative	32
Don't know	5
Refused	2

TrumpApprove. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? [GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Do you strongly or somewhat (approve/disapprove)?]

	02/19
Approve (NET)	38
Strongly approve	21
Somewhat approve	17
Disapprove (NET)	56
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	47
Don't know/Refused	5

EDUC. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? [DO NOT READ LIST] [INTERVIEWER NOTE: Enter code 3-HS graduate if R completed vocational, business, technical, or training courses after high school that did NOT count toward an associate degree from a college, community college or university (e.g., training for a certificate or an apprenticeship)]

	02/19
HS grad or less (NET)	37
Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)	4
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with no diploma)	5
High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)	29
Some college (NET)	31
Some college, no degree (includes some community college)	19
Two-year associate degree from a college or university	13
College grad+ (NET)	31
Four-year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree	16
Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree	1
Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree	13
Don't know/Refused	1

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

	02/19
Yes	16
No	84
Don't know	-
Refused	*

RACE. 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? CODE AS WHITE (1) OR BLACK (2). IF RESPONDENTS REFUSED TO PICK WHITE OR BLACK HISPANIC, RECORD HISPANIC AS "OTHER," CODE 97)

Race/Hispanic Combo Table

Based on total

	02/19
White, non-Hispanic	64
Total non-White	36
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	16
Asian, non-Hispanic	3
Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	5
Undesignated	2

NATIVITY. Were you born in the United States (IF HISPANIC=1 INSERT, on the island of Puerto Rico), or in another country?

Based on Hispanics

	02/19
U.S.	47
Puerto Rico	3
Another country	49
Don't know	-
Refused	*
	<i>n=154</i>

INCOME. Last year – that is, in 2018 – what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. [READ LIST]

	02/19
Less than \$20,000	15
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to less than \$90,000	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	3
\$100,000 or more	19
Don't know/Refused	9



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Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org.

*Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues,
the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, California.*