



Topline

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll – Late Summer 2018

METHODOLOGY

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The survey was conducted August 23rd-28th 2018, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,201 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (301) and cell phone (900, including 605 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by SSRS of Glen Mills, PA. 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 ($n=10$). Both the random digit dial landline and cell phone samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group (MSG). 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.

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 2016 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 July-December 2017 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. 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	1,201	±3 percentage points
Party Identification		
Democrats	396	±6 percentage points
Republicans	276	±7 percentage points
Independents	388	±6 percentage points
Voter registration		
Registered voters	995	±4 percentage points
Democratic voters	360	±6 percentage points
Republican voters	245	±8 percentage points
Independent voters	304	±7 percentage points
Voters in competitive elections	305	±7 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)
- 10/17: Kaiser Family Foundation *Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria: The Public's Knowledge and Views of Its Impact and the Response* (October 4-8, 2017)

Q1. With this year's election just a few months away, I would like to ask you about possible issues that the candidates for Congress can talk about during their campaigns. How important do you think it is for 2018 candidates to talk about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Is it the most important issue for the candidates to talk about, very important but not the most important, somewhat important, or not too important? What about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)? (READ IF NECESSARY: Is it the most important issue for the candidates to talk about, very important but not the most important, somewhat important, or not too important?) (scramble items a-h)¹

		Most/ Very important (NET)	The most important issue	Very important but not the most important	Somewhat/ Not too important (NET)	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important (Vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Health care										
	08/18	81	27	54	18	13	4	*	1	<i>n=1201</i>
	06/18	79	26	53	20	16	5	*	*	<i>n=1492</i>
	04/18	78	24	53	22	16	6	*	1	<i>n=2000</i>
	01/18	84	29	55	16	12	4	--	*	<i>n=610</i>
b. The economy and jobs										
	08/18	76	26	50	23	17	6	1	*	<i>n=1201</i>
	06/18	79	23	55	21	17	4	*	*	<i>n=1492</i>
	04/18	79	25	54	21	17	4	*	1	<i>n=2000</i>
	01/18	78	28	50	22	16	6	*	1	<i>n=610</i>
c. Tax cuts and tax reform										
	08/18	62	15	47	36	24	11	1	2	<i>n=1201</i>
	04/18	60	13	47	38	27	11	*	2	<i>n=2000</i>
	01/18 ²	62	19	43	35	26	9	*	2	<i>n=610</i>
d. The investigation into whether Russia meddled in the 2016 US election										
	08/18	49	17	31	47	17	30	2	2	<i>n=1201</i>
e. Immigration										
	08/18	69	20	48	29	20	9	*	1	<i>n=1201</i>
	06/18	70	19	52	29	20	9	*	1	<i>n=1492</i>
	04/18	63	17	46	35	23	13	1	1	<i>n=2000</i>
	01/18	67	25	42	31	22	9	*	1	<i>n=610</i>
f. Gun policy										
	08/18	62	19	43	35	19	16	1	2	<i>n=1201</i>
	06/18	65	20	45	33	18	16	1	1	<i>n=1492</i>
	04/18	69	23	46	30	17	13	1	1	<i>n=2000</i>
g. President Trump's Supreme Court nomination										
	08/18	53	16	37	40	22	18	1	6	<i>n=1201</i>
h. Corruption in Washington										
	08/18	75	29	46	23	16	6	*	2	<i>n=1201</i>

¹ Intro for January 2018 was "While this year's congressional election is still a long way off..."; Intro for April 2018 was "While this year's election is still six months away..."; Intro for June 2018 was "While this year's election is still several months away..."

² January 2018 trend wording for Item C was "Taxes and tax reform"

Based on those who are registered voters

		Most/ Very important (NET)	The most important issue	Very important but not the most important	Somewhat/ Not too important (NET)	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important (Vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Health care										
	08/18	81	27	54	18	14	5	*	*	n=995
	06/18	79	25	54	20	16	5	*	*	n=1177
	04/18	77	22	54	23	16	7	*	*	n=1655
	01/18	83	29	54	16	11	5	--	*	n=511
b. The economy and jobs										
	08/18	75	25	50	24	18	6	*	*	n=995
	06/18	78	23	55	22	18	4	*	*	n=1177
	04/18	79	23	55	20	16	4	*	1	n=1655
	01/18	76	27	49	23	18	5	*	*	n=511
c. Tax cuts and tax reform										
	08/18	62	15	47	36	24	12	1	1	n=995
	04/18	60	12	47	39	27	12	*	1	n=1655
	01/18	62	19	43	37	26	11	*	1	n=511
d. The investigation into whether Russia meddled in the 2016 US election										
	08/18	51	19	32	46	16	31	2	1	n=995
e. Immigration										
	08/18	70	19	50	29	20	9	1	1	n=995
	06/18	71	18	53	28	20	8	*	*	n=1177
	04/18	64	16	47	35	22	13	1	1	n=1655
	01/18	69	24	45	31	22	9	*	*	n=511
f. Gun policy										
	08/18	62	18	44	36	20	16	1	2	n=995
	06/18	64	20	45	34	18	16	*	1	n=1177
	04/18	67	22	46	31	17	14	1	1	n=1655
g. President Trump's Supreme Court nomination										
	08/18	57	17	40	39	21	18	1	3	n=995
h. Corruption in Washington										
	08/18	77	30	47	22	16	6	*	1	n=995

Q2. When you say health care is an important issue for 2018 candidates to talk about, what health care issue are you mainly talking about?
(DO NOT READ LIST)³

Based on those who said health care is the most important or a very important issue for the candidates to talk about

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

	08/18	04/18
Health care costs	34	38
Prescription drug costs ⁴	8	1
Medicare/senior concerns	9	9
Single payer/Medicare-for-all	5	4
Improve how health care is delivered	4	8
Opposition to/Repealing the ACA	5	5
Implementing/Improving the ACA	4	5
Decreasing number of uninsured ⁵	2	12
Universal coverage	9	12
Concern about quality of coverage/care	6	9
Medicaid	4	3
Decreasing/preventing chronic illnesses	1	1
Prescription painkiller addiction/Opioid epidemic	1	NA
Increasing access to health care	10	NA
ACA general mentions	2	2
Pre-existing conditions	1	NA
Other	7	3
Nothing, not an issue	1	1
Don't know/Refused	4	3
Don't know	3	3
Refused	1	*
	n=947	n=1538

³ April 2018 trend wording was "Previously you said health care is an important issue for 2018 candidates to talk about, what specifically do you mean?"

⁴ April 2018 trend wording was "Prescription costs/control pharmaceutical companies"

⁵ April 2018 trend wording was "Increasing access/Decrease number of uninsured"

Q1/Q2 Combo Table

Based on total

	08/18	04/18
Health care is the most important issue or very important but not the most important	81	78
Health care costs	28	30
Prescription drug costs	6	1
Medicare/senior concerns	7	7
Single payer/Medicare-for-all	4	3
Improve how health care is delivered	3	6
Opposition to/Repealing the ACA	4	4
Implementing/Improving the ACA	4	4
Decreasing number of uninsured	2	9
Universal coverage	7	9
Concern about quality of coverage/care	5	7
Medicaid	3	3
Decreasing/preventing chronic illnesses	1	1
Prescription painkiller addiction/Opioid epidemic	1	NA
Increasing access to health care	8	NA
ACA general mentions	1	1
Pre-existing conditions	1	NA
Other	5	2
Nothing, not an issue	*	1
Don't know/Refused	3	3
Health care is somewhat important	13	16
Health care is not too important	4	6
Health care is not at all important (Vol.)	*	*
Don't know/Refused	1	1

Q1/Q2 Combo Table

Based on those who are registered to vote

	08/18	04/18
Health care is the most important issue or very important but not the most important	81	77
Health care costs	27	30
Prescription drug costs	7	1
Medicare/senior concerns	7	7
Single payer/Medicare-for-all	4	3
Improve how health care is delivered	3	6
Opposition to/Repealing the ACA	4	4
Implementing/Improving the ACA	4	4
Decreasing number of uninsured	2	9
Universal coverage	8	9
Concern about quality of coverage/care	5	7
Medicaid	3	3
Decreasing/preventing chronic illnesses	1	1
Prescription painkiller addiction/Opioid epidemic	1	NA
Increasing access to health care	9	NA
ACA general mentions	1	1
Pre-existing conditions	1	NA
Other	4	2
Nothing, not an issue	*	1
Don't know/Refused	3	3
Health care is somewhat important	14	16
Health care is not too important	5	7
Health care is not at all important (Vol.)	*	*
Don't know/Refused	*	*
	<i>n</i> =995	<i>n</i> =1655

AGE. What is your age?

AGE2. (ASK IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED AGE) Could you please tell me if you are between the ages of... (READ LIST)

RECAGE2 VARIABLE

	08/18
18-29	22
30-49	32
50-64	26
65+	20
Don't know/Refused	*

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])?

	08/18
Covered by health insurance	85
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know	-
Refused	*

AGECOV VARIABLE

	08/18
Insured less than 65	82
Uninsured less than 65	18

Q3. Next, I'm going to read you a list of things that some people worry about and others do not. I would like you to tell me how worried, if at all, you are about being able to afford each of the following for you and your family. What about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried? How worried are you about being able to afford (INSERT NEXT ITEM)? (READ IF NECESSARY: Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?) (scramble items a-h)

Items a, b: Based on those who are insured

	Very/ Somewhat Worried (NET)	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too/Not at all worried (NET)	Not too worried	Not at all worried	Not applicable (Vol.)	Don't know/ Refused	
a. Your monthly health insurance premium	42	18	24	57	25	32	1	*	<i>n=1052</i>
b. Your health insurance deductible, that is, the amount you pay before insurance kicks in	53	24	29	45	20	25	1	*	<i>n=1052</i>
c. Your prescription drug costs	44	22	23	53	23	31	2	*	<i>n=1201</i>
d. Your rent or mortgage	41	22	19	57	21	35	2	*	<i>n=1201</i>
e. Gasoline or other transportation costs	46	20	26	53	25	28	1	*	<i>n=1201</i>
f. Food	36	17	20	64	25	38	*	*	<i>n=1201</i>
g. Your monthly utilities like electricity or heat	43	19	24	57	27	30	*	*	<i>n=1201</i>
h. Unexpected medical bills	67	38	29	32	16	16	*	*	<i>n=1201</i>

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?] (rotate items in parentheses)

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know/ Refused
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 ⁶	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
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

⁶ 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
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 ⁷	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 ⁸	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 ⁹	23	23	10	30	14

⁷ 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?)”

⁸ May 2010 through December 2011 trend wording was “As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year...”

⁹ 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: As you may know, the 2010 health care law provided protections for people with pre-existing health conditions.

Q4. How important is it to you that the provision that (INSERT) remains law?

Item a: Based on Half Sample A

Item b: Based on Half Sample B

		Very/ Somewhat important (NET)	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not at all important (NET)	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know/Refused	
a. Prohibits health insurance companies from charging sick people more	08/18	91	72	19	7	4	3	2	n=616
	06/18	89	72	17	9	5	4	2	n=907
b. Prohibits health insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history	08/18	90	75	15	9	4	5	2	n=585
	06/18	90	76	15	8	4	4	2	n=899

Q5A. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will have to pay more for health insurance coverage if the Supreme Court overturns the health care law's protections for people with pre-existing health conditions? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

Based on Half Sample A

	08/18
Very/Somewhat worried (NET)	75
Very worried	52
Somewhat worried	23
Not too/Not at all worried (NET)	24
Not too worried	12
Not at all worried	11
Don't know/Refused	1
	n=616

Q5B. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will lose health insurance coverage if the Supreme Court overturns the health care law's protections for people with pre-existing health conditions? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

Based on Half Sample B

	08/18
Very/Somewhat worried (NET)	61
Very worried	41
Somewhat worried	19
Not too/Not at all worried (NET)	39
Not too worried	19
Not at all worried	19
Don't know/Refused	1
	n=585

READ TO ALL: Moving onto another topic.

QUESTIONS 6 AND 7 WERE ROTATED

Q6. President Trump has recently criticized several drug companies publicly calling for them to lower the cost of their prescription drugs. How effective do you think this strategy will be in reducing the cost of prescription drugs overall? Very effective, somewhat effective, not too effective, or not at all effective?

	08/18
Very/Somewhat effective (NET)	42
Very effective	12
Somewhat effective	30
Not too/Not at all effective (NET)	55
Not too effective	25
Not at all effective	30
Don't know/Refused	2

Q7. President Trump has said that under his administration, Americans will pay less for prescription drugs than they pay now. How confident are you that his administration will be able to deliver on this promise? Very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	08/18	03/18
Very/Somewhat confident (NET)	38	39
Very confident	15	13
Somewhat confident	23	27
Not too/Not at all confident (NET)	61	58
Not too confident	22	18
Not at all confident	39	41
His administration already delivered on this promise (Vol.)	-	-
Don't know/Refused	1	2

READ TO ALL: The next set of questions asks specifically about health care costs...

Q8. When it comes to rising health care costs, please tell me how concerned, if at all, you are about each of the following. How about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN AS NECESSARY: Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned (when it comes to rising health care costs)?¹⁰

Items a, d: Based on Half Sample C¹¹

Items b, c: Based on Half Sample D¹²

		Very/ Somewhat concerned (NET)	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too/ Not at all concerned (NET)	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know/ Refused	N
a. Increases in the amount individuals pay for health care	08/18	89	58	30	11	6	5	1	n=449
b. Increases in what the nation as a whole spends on health care	08/18	87	49	38	12	8	4	1	n=469
	01/18	85	47	38	14	9	5	1	n=605
c. Increases in spending on government health insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid ¹³	08/18	73	41	32	26	17	9	1	n=469
	01/18	72	38	34	27	19	8	1	n=605
	06/16	74	47	27	24	12	12	2	n=1201
	01/11	80	38	42	19	14	5	1	n=1502
d. Increases in the amount employers pay for their employees' health care ¹⁴	08/18	72	29	42	26	15	11	2	n=449
	01/18	71	33	38	28	19	9	1	n=605

¹⁰ January 2018 trend wording was "Please tell me how concerned, if at all, you are about each of the following. What about (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE)? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned? What about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?"

¹¹ Items a and d were asked of all respondents on 8/23/18 and then half sample C from 8/24/18-8/28/18

¹² Items b and c were asked of all respondents on 8/23/18 and then half sample D from 8/24/18-8/28/18

¹³ January 2018 trend wording was "Increases in government spending on health insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid"

¹⁴ January 2018 trend wording was "Increases in the amount employers pay for their employees' health insurance premiums"

Q9. A number of factors have been suggested as possible reasons for rising health care costs. For each of the following, please tell me if you think it is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why people’s health care costs have been rising. (INSERT AND RANDOMIZE) (READ AS NECESSARY: Is this a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason why people’s health care costs have been rising?) (scramble items a-l) ¹⁵

		Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	Don't know/ Refused	N
a. Insurance companies make too much money	08/18	70	20	8	2	n=1201
	02/14	60	23	13	4	n=760
	07/11	63	19	14	3	n=603
b. Drug companies make too much money	08/18	78	14	6	2	n=1201
	02/14	62	22	12	4	n=741
	07/11	71	18	8	3	n=598
c. The cost of medical malpractice lawsuits ¹⁶	08/18	45	38	14	3	n=1201
	02/14	48	33	14	4	n=760
	07/11	56	26	14	4	n=603
d. There is too much fraud and waste in the health care system	08/18	71	20	7	2	n=1201
	02/14	68	20	8	3	n=741
	07/11	71	21	5	3	n=598
e. The population is aging	08/18	47	35	17	1	n=1201
	02/14	50	33	15	2	n=760
	07/11	47	29	20	4	n=603
f. New drugs, treatments and medical technologies are often very expensive ¹⁷	08/18	62	29	8	2	n=1201
	02/14	58	30	9	3	n=741
	07/11	52	35	10	3	n=598
g. Most people with health insurance don't shop for lower priced doctors and services ¹⁸	08/18	28	40	29	3	n=1201
	02/14	36	38	22	4	n=760
	07/11	28	41	26	4	n=603
h. Doctors charge too much	08/18	49	36	13	2	n=1201
	02/14	46	37	14	3	n=741
i. Hospitals charge too much	08/18	71	23	6	1	n=1201
	02/14	73	18	6	3	n=760
j. People getting more tests and services than they really need	08/18	41	38	19	2	n=1201
	02/14	48	33	15	4	n=741
	07/11	45	34	19	2	n=598

¹⁵ July 2011 trend wording was “A number of factors have been suggested as possible reasons for rising health care costs. For each of the following, please tell me if you think it is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why health care costs are growing so rapidly”

¹⁶ July 2011 through February 2014 trend wording was “The cost of defending against medical malpractice lawsuits”

¹⁷ July 2011 through February 2014 trend wording was “Advances in drugs, treatments and new medical technologies are often very expensive”

¹⁸ July 2011 through February 2014 trend wording was “Most people with health insurance have little incentive to look for lower-priced doctors and services”

Q9 continued...

		Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	Don't know/Refused	N
k. The 2010 health care law commonly known as Obamacare	08/18	39	33	25	3	n=1201
	02/14 ¹⁹	48	27	21	4	n=1501
	07/11 ²⁰	35	32	26	7	n=603
l. The Trump administration's recent actions on health care	08/18	38	31	22	9	n=1201

Q10. Which of these factors do you think is the biggest reason for rising health care costs?

Based on those who said more than one item was a major reason for rising health care costs

	08/18
Insurance companies make too much money	14
Drug companies make too much money	14
The cost of medical malpractice lawsuits	4
There is too much fraud and waste in the health care system	16
The population is aging	6
New drugs, treatments and medical technologies are often very expensive	7
Most people with health insurance don't shop for lower-priced doctors and services	2
Doctors charge too much	4
Hospitals charge too much	9
People getting more tests and services than they really need	4
The 2010 health care law commonly known as Obamacare	9
The Trump administration's recent actions on health care	7
Don't know/Refused	5
	n=1161

Q9/Q10 Combo Table- BIGGEST REASON

Based on total

	08/18
Insurance companies make too much money	14
Drug companies make too much money	14
The cost of medical malpractice lawsuits	4
There is too much fraud and waste in the health care system	16
The population is aging	6
New drugs, treatments and medical technologies are often very expensive	7
Most people with health insurance don't shop for lower-priced doctors and services	2
Doctors charge too much	4
Hospitals charge too much	9
People getting more tests and services than they really need	4
The 2010 health care law commonly known as Obamacare	9
The Trump administration's recent actions on health care	6
None of these	1
Don't know/Refused	5

¹⁹ February 2014 trend wording was "The health care law passed in 2010, sometimes called Obamacare"

²⁰ July 2011 trend wording was "The health reform law passed in 2010"

Q11. Thinking about your own health care costs, which of the following do you find to be the greatest financial burden? Is it (READ LIST)?
(rotate response options 1-4/4-1)

Based on those who are insured

	08/18
What you pay for your health insurance premium	23
The deductible you pay before insurance kicks in	22
Your co-pay for your doctor visits	6
The cost you pay for your prescription drugs	10
The other health care costs	4
Or is paying for health care and health insurance not a financial burden for you	32
All equally (Vol.)	1
Don't know/Refused	2
	<i>n=1052</i>

Q12. Was there a time in the past 12 months when you received care from a doctor, hospital, or lab you thought was covered, and your health plan did not cover the bill at all, or paid less than you expected, or not?

Based on those who are 18-64 and are insured

	08/18
Yes	39
No	61
Don't know/Refused	1
	<i>n=705</i>

Q13. Did the health plan say they were not covering the bill or paying less because the provider was not in the plan's network, or was it for some other reason?

Based on those whose health plans covered less than expected

	08/18
Not in the plan's network	27
Some other reason	70
Don't know/Refused	4
	<i>n=272</i>

Q12/Q13 Combo Table Based on those who are 18-64 who are insured

	08/18
Health plan covered less than expected	39
Provider was not in the plan's network	10
Some other reason	27
Don't know/Refused	1
No, health plan did not cover less than expected	61
Don't know/Refused	1
	<i>n=705</i>

Q14. And what was the cost you were expected to pay? (DO NOT READ; OPEN-END)

Based on those whose health plans covered less than expected

	08/18
Less than \$500	50
\$500 to less than \$1000	16
\$1000 to less than \$2000	12
\$2000 or more	13
Don't know/Refused	8
Don't know	8
Refused	*
	<i>n=272</i>

Q12/Q14 Combo Table Based on those who are 18-64 who are insured

	08/18
Health plan covered less than expected	39
Expected to pay less than \$500	19
Expected to pay \$500 to less than \$1000	6
Expected to pay \$1000 to less than \$2000	5
Expected to pay \$2000 or more	5
Don't know/Refused	3
No, health plan did not cover less than expected	61
Don't know/Refused	1
	<i>n=705</i>

READ TO ALL: On another topic...

PR1. How much have you heard about the damage Hurricane Maria caused in the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico last September? (READ LIST)²¹

	08/18	10/17
A lot/Some (NET)	76	89
A lot	52	73
Some	24	15
A little/None at all (NET)	25	11
A little	16	8
None at all	9	3
Don't know/Refused	*	1

PR2. Do you think the rebuilding of Puerto Rico should be a priority for the U.S. federal government, or should it not be a priority?

	08/18
Priority	73
Not a priority	24
Don't know/Refused	3

²¹ October 2017 trend wording was "How much have you heard about the damage Hurricane Maria caused in the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico (READ LIST)?"

PR3. In your opinion, was the federal government’s response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico better, worse, or about the same as its response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma that impacted the mainland US around the same time?

	08/18
Better	5
Worse	54
About the same	33
Don’t know/Refused	9
Don’t know	9
Refused	*

PR4. In your opinion, do you think the federal government’s response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico would have been better, worse, or about the same if Puerto Rico was a state?

	08/18
Better	64
Worse	2
About the same	30
Don’t know/Refused	4

PR5. In terms of recovering from Hurricane Maria, do you think day-to-day life for most people in Puerto Rico is largely back to normal, almost back to normal, still somewhat disrupted, or still very disrupted?

	08/18
Largely/Almost back to normal (NET)	8
Largely back to normal	*
Almost back to normal	-
Life was not disrupted by Maria (Vol.)	1
Totally back to normal (Vol.)	7
Still somewhat/Still very disrupted (NET)	85
Still somewhat disrupted	39
Still very disrupted	46
Don’t know/Refused	7

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

RSEX. Are you male or female?

	08/18
Male	49
Female	51
Other (Vol.)	*
Don't know	-
Refused	*

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

	08/18
Plan through your employer	36
Plan through your spouse's employer	10
Plan you purchased yourself	11
Medicare	21
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	10
Somewhere else	4
Plan through your parents/mother/father (Vol.)	5
Don't know	1
Refused	1
	<i>n=1052</i>

COVERAGE/COVTYPE Combo Table

Based on total

	08/18
Covered by health insurance	85
Employer	31
Spouse's employer	9
Self-purchased plan	9
Medicare	18
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	9
Somewhere else	4
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	5
Don't know/refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	15
Don't know/Refused	*

AGECOVTYPE VARIABLE

Based on those ages 18-64

	08/18
Covered by health insurance	82
Employer	37
Spouse's employer	10
Self-purchased plan	9
Medicare	5
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	10
Somewhere else	4
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	6
Don't know/refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=847</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

	08/18
Covered by health insurance	82
Employer	37
Spouse's employer	10
Self-purchased plan (SUB-NET)	9
Directly from an insurance company	3
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	3
Through an insurance agent or broker	2
Somewhere else (Vol.)	*
Don't know/Refused	*
Medicare	5
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	10
Somewhere else	4
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	6
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=847</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)

Based on those ages 18-64

	08/18
Covered by health insurance (NET)	82
Employer	37
Spouse's employer	10
Self-purchased plan (SUB-NET)	9
Directly from an insurance company/agent/or broker/other (SUB-SUB-NET)	6
Marketplace plan	1
Non-Marketplace plan	1
Not sure/Refused	3
From healthcare.gov or [STATE MARKETPLACE NAME]	3
Medicare	5
Medicaid/State-specific Medicaid name	10
Somewhere else	4
Plan through parents/mother/father (Vol.)	6
Don't know/Refused	1
Not covered by health insurance	18
Don't know/Refused	*
	<i>n=847</i>

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

	08/18
Excellent/Very good/Good (NET)	77
Excellent	18
Very good	30
Good	29
Only fair/Poor (NET)	23
Only fair	18
Poor	4
Don't know/Refused	*

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

	08/18	06/18
Yes, someone in household has pre-existing condition	60	57
No, no one in household has pre-existing condition	39	42
Don't know	1	1
Refused	*	*

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

	08/18
Married	46
Living with a partner	9
Widowed	6
Divorced	11
Separated	3
Never been married	25
Don't know	*
Refused	*

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

	08/18
Employed (NET)	57
Employed full-time	46
Employed part-time	11
Unemployed and currently seeking employment	4
Unemployed and not seeking employment	2
A student	6
Retired	18
On disability and can't work	8
Or, a homemaker or stay at home parent?	5
Don't know/Refused	*

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

	08/18
Republican	21
Democrat	34
Independent	32
Or what/Other/None/No preference	8
Don't know	2
Refused	3

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

	08/18
Republican	29
Democratic	38
Independent/don't lean to either party (Vol.)	20
Other party (Vol.)	2
Don't know	7
Refused	3
	n=529

Summary PARTY and PARTYLEAN

Based on total

	08/18
Republican/Lean Republican	34
Democrat/Lean Democratic	51
Pure Independent	12
Undesignated	3

Five-Point Party ID

	08/18
Democrat	34
Independent Lean Democratic	17
Independent/Don't lean	9
Independent Lean Republican	13
Republican	21
Undesignated	6

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

	08/18
Liberal	28
Moderate	36
Conservative	31
Don't know	3
Refused	1

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

	08/18
Yes	78
No	21
Don't know	1
Refused	*

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)?]

	08/18
Approve (NET)	37
Strongly approve	21
Somewhat approve	16
Disapprove (NET)	59
Somewhat disapprove	12
Strongly disapprove	47
Don't know/Refused	4

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)]

	08/18
HS grad or less (NET)	39
Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)	2
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with no diploma)	7
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	12
College grad+ (NET)	30
Four-year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree	18
Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree	1
Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree	11
Don't know/Refused	*

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

	08/18
Yes	15
No	84
Don't know	*
Refused	1

PUERTORICO1. Are you, yourself, Puerto Rican, or not?

Based on Hispanics

	08/18
Yes	7
No	93
Don't know/Refused	-
	<i>n=165</i>

PUERTORICO2. Do you have any close family members or friends who currently live in Puerto Rico, or not?

Based on Hispanics

	08/18
Yes	86
No	5
Don't know/Refused	9
	<i>n=165</i>

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

	08/18
White, non-Hispanic	64
Total non-White	36
Black or African-American, non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	15
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

	08/18
U.S.	48
Puerto Rico	4
Another country	48
Don't know	*
Refused	-
	<i>n=165</i>

INCOME. Last year – that is, in 2017 – what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. [READ LIST]

	08/18
Less than \$20,000	12
\$20,000 to less than \$30,000	13
\$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	8
\$90,000 to less than \$100,000	4
\$100,000 or more	20
Don't know/Refused	10



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