

**THE HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION  
DECEMBER 1998 HEALTH NEWS INTEREST INDEX**

**Final Topline Results  
December 16 1998**

*Job # 98089*

N=1,200 national adults, 18 years and older

Margin of error: plus or minus 3 percentage points

Dates of interviewing: December 8-13, 1998

**Introduction:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. We're taking an important national opinion survey about issues in the news. The survey will only take a few minutes.

I'd like to ask a few questions of the YOUNGEST MALE age 18 or older, who is now at home.

**(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I speak with the **OLDEST FEMALE** age 18 or older who is now at home.)

**D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:**

48	Male
<u>52</u>	Female
100	

1. To begin...What do you think is the most important problem in health or health care for the government to address? **(OPEN-ENDED. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. IF RESPONDENT ONLY GIVES ONE ANSWER ASK: Is there another health problem you think is almost as important?**

Current Total <u>Mention</u>		Oct Total Ment.	June Total <u>Ment.</u>	Apr Total <u>Ment.</u>	Feb Total <u>Ment.</u>	Dec Total <u>Ment.</u>	Oct Total <u>Ment.</u>
7	AIDS/AIDS research/HIV	6	7	5	5	13	10
16	Cost of health care/Affordable coverage	14	14	17	15	12	18
2	Health care availability (general)	3	3	2	2	13	3
7	Medicare/Medicaid	8	8	8	9	7	7
9	Cancer/Cancer research	8	10	5	4	11	10
2	Children's care/Children's issues	2	2	2	2	2	3
8	Senior citizen's care/Senior citizen's issues	9	7	7	6	6	8
6	Cost of insurance/Affordable insurance	3	5	4	4	5	5
*	Insurance availability (general)	1	1	2	*	1	1
3	Health insurance (general)	4	4	4	3	4	4
*	Drugs/Drug abuse	1	1	*	1	1	1
1	Money/Funding for research	0	1	1	1	2	1
3	Government's intervention in health care issues	*	3	2	3	3	3
7	HMO concerns/Managed care	12	4	5	3	5	4
2	Specific diseases (heart, diabetes, etc.)	2	4	2	1	3	4
11	Lack of insurance coverage/health care for people/Coverage for everyone/Universal coverage	9	9	6	8	9	8
5	Health care for the poor	2	5	2	3	2	3
2	Quality of health care	0	2	2	2	2	2
2	Social Security	2	2	1	1	1	NA
17	Other	9	11	7	8	6	18
1	No problem	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	Don't know	15	16	21	18	20	19

2. Thinking more about you and your family, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues. Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about ...

	<u>Very Concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat Concerned</u>	<u>Not To Concerned</u>	<u>Not At All Concerned</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a. Protecting patient's rights in HMOs and managed care	69	21	5	3	2	=100
b. Taking major steps to keep Medicare financially sound in the future	71	22	3	3	1	=100
c. Reducing smoking, especially among young people	71	18	5	5	1	=100
d. Providing health insurance for some uninsured Americans	58	29	8	4	1	=100

3. If a law was passed that dealt with **[INSERT ITEM]**, do you think you and your family would be better off, worse off, or wouldn't it have much effect? What about if a law was passed that dealt with ...

	<u>Better Off</u>	<u>Worse Off</u>	<u>Would't Have Much Effect</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a. Protecting patient's rights in HMOs and managed care	58	6	30	6	=100
b. Taking major steps to keep Medicare financially sound in the future	67	6	22	5	=100
c. Reducing smoking, especially among young people	55	4	38	3	=100
d. Providing health insurance for some uninsured Americans	47	9	38	6	=100

4. According to news reports, both Social Security and Medicare are facing financial problems in the future. If Congress doesn't take any action, which of these two programs is expected to be the first to not have enough money to cover all benefits -- Social Security or Medicare?

51	Social Security
38	Medicare
<u>11</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

***On another topic...***

5. Have you ever heard of World AIDS day? **IF YES, ASK:** Can you tell me what month it is in?

<u>Current</u>		Nov-Dec <sup>1</sup> <u>1995</u>
55	Total heard of World AIDS Day	52
12	Heard of World AIDS Day and gave correct month (DECEMBER)	9
21	Heard of World AIDS Day, not able to give correct month	16
22	Heard of World AIDS Day, don't know month	27
38	Never heard of World AIDS Day	47
<u>7</u>	Don't know/refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

<sup>1</sup> Trend from 1995 Kaiser/HIV Public Knowledge Survey, n=1,511, interviewing dates: November 27-December 17, 1995.

6. As you may know, World AIDS Day was observed on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Based on what you may have seen or heard in the news, what was the theme of this year's World AIDS Day? Was it

12 AIDS in South Africa and third World Countries?  
 13 Youth and AIDS? Or  
 6 Women and AIDS?  
69 Don't know/refused  
 100

***Thinking now about a different health story in the news...***

7. Recently, a court appointed panel of scientists issued a report in a lawsuit that was filed against the manufacturers of silicon breast implants. Based on what you heard in the news, did the report say that breast implants...

33 Definitely causes disease in women,  
 OR  
 44 That there is no evidence to suggest that breast implants cause disease in women?  
  
23 Don't know/refused  
 100

8. I am now going to read a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely...

- a. Recent reports on the use and effectiveness of alternative medicine and herbal remedies

45	Closely
17	Very closely
28	Fairly closely
52	Not closely
24	Not too closely
28	Not at all closely
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

- b. The legal settlement between the tobacco industry and the states

66	Closely
26	Very closely
40	Fairly closely
33	Not closely
20	Not too closely
13	Not at all closely
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

- c. Events taking place in Iraq and the threat of American military action against Saddam Hussein

79	Closely
44	Very closely
35	Fairly closely
20	Not closely
11	Not too closely
9	Not at all closely
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

- d. The shooting of a New York doctor who performed abortions

56	Closely
25	Very closely
31	Fairly closely
42	Not closely
21	Not too closely
21	Not at all closely
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

*Continued...*

## 8. Continued...

## e. Recent reports on smoking among college students

36	Closely
14	Very closely
22	Fairly closely
61	Not closely
28	Not too closely
33	Not at all closely
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

## f. The outcome of state and congressional elections

62	Closely
30	Very closely
32	Fairly closely
36	Not closely
18	Not too closely
18	Not at all closely
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

## g. The controversy over 60 Minutes showing Doctor Jack Kevorkian assisting a patient's suicide

54	Closely
25	Very closely
29	Fairly closely
44	Not closely
21	Not too closely
23	Not at all closely
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

## h. Recent warnings issued by the Food and Drug Administration about the drug Viagra

44	Closely
17	Very closely
27	Fairly closely
53	Not closely
29	Not too closely
24	Not at all closely
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

*Continued...*

**8. Continued...**

i. The impeachment hearings in Congress about President Clinton

74	Closely
45	Very closely
29	Fairly closely
25	Not closely
13	Not too closely
12	Not at all closely
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

j. World AIDS Day

22	Closely
8	Very closely
14	Fairly closely
73	Not closely
29	Not too closely
44	Not at all closely
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

k. The announcement by a panel of scientists that there is no evidence to suggest breast implants cause disease in women

39	Closely
12	Very closely
27	Fairly closely
58	Not closely
29	Not too closely
29	Not at all closely
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	



9. In the news recently were reports about a study that looked at smoking on college campuses. From what you recall, did the report say that smoking among college students has ...

53 Increased  
 8 Decreased  
 11 Stayed about the same  
28 Don't know/refused  
 100

10. Also in the news were reports about a legal settlement that was reached between the tobacco industry and the states that were suing tobacco companies for health costs related to cigarette smoking. As far as you know, is each of the following part of the deal, or not? First, is **[INSERT ITEM. RANDOMIZE LIST]** part of the deal, or not? What about...

- a. The tobacco industry would pay billions of dollars in damages to the states

69 Yes, part of the deal  
 10 No, not part of the deal  
21 Don't know/refused  
 100

- b. Individuals and groups can no longer sue the tobacco industry

39 Yes, part of the deal  
 25 No, not part of the deal  
36 Don't know/refused  
 100

- c. The tobacco industry would be banned from advertising on billboards and from using cartoon characters such as Joe Camel in their ads

74 Yes, part of the deal  
 8 No, not part of the deal  
18 Don't know/refused  
 100

Now I'd like to change topics for a moment. Last month there were many reports in the news about the use of alternative medicine and natural, or herbal, remedies to treat illnesses or otherwise improve health...

11. Based on what you have heard in the news lately, has the use of alternative medicine and natural or herbal remedies in recent years ...

73	Increased
2	Decreased
11	Stayed about the same
<u>14</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

12. And, as far as you know, are alternative medicine and natural or herbal remedies...

9	Regulated by the federal government as strictly as prescription drugs,
19	Regulated by the federal government, but not as strictly as prescription drugs,
	OR
56	Not regulated by the federal government
<u>16</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

*Now I have a few questions about your own health insurance.*

13. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan including any private health insurance plan or a government program such as Medicare or Medicaid? (**IN CALIF. READ "Medi-Cal" INSTEAD OF MEDICAID**)?

83	Yes
16	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

14. Thinking about the next six months, how worried are you that each of the following might happen to you. Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried that

		<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not At All Worried</u>	<u>Doesn't Apply (Vol.)</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>	
a.	You might not be able to get the health care services you think you need	28	20	19	31	1	1	=100
b.	The amount you pay for your health care services or health insurance will increase	34	24	16	23	2	1	=100
c.	You might not be able to get the health care you think you need because you can't afford it	28	16	18	35	2	1	=100
d.	The quality of health care services you receive will get worse	29	25	17	27	1	1	=100

**ASK ITEMS E, F AND G ONLY OF THOSE INSURED**

e.	You will have to stay in your current job instead of taking a new job for fear of losing health benefits	17	11	17	42	13	*	=100
f.	You might lose your health insurance coverage	19	12	21	46	1	1	=100
g.	Your HEALTH PLAN would be more concerned about saving money for the plan than about what is the best treatment for you	36	24	17	20	1	1	=100

## DEMOGRAPHICS

*And now I have just a few questions for background purposes only...*

15. Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress back on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

55	Voted (includes voting by mail or absentee ballot)
43	Did not vote
1	Don't know/Can't remember
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

- D2. In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or something else?

25	Republican
31	Democrat
28	Independent
10	Something else
3	Don't know
<u>3</u>	Refused
100	

- D3. What is the LAST grade or class that you COMPLETED in school?

5	None, or grade 1-8
12	High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
31	High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
5	Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
23	Some college, no 4-year degree
15	College graduate (B.S., B.A. or other 4-year degree)
8	Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., towards a master's degree or Ph.D.; law or medical school)
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

- D4. What is your age?

22	Under 30
42	30 – 49
19	50 – 64
15	65 +
*	Don't know
<u>2</u>	Refused
100	

- D5. Last year, that is in 1997, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

8	Less than \$10,000
12	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
15	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
23	\$30,000 to under \$50,000
11	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
5	\$75,000 to under \$100,000
6	\$100,000 or more
7	Don't know
<u>13</u>	Refused
100	

- D6. Are you, yourself, of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

7	Yes
92	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

- D7. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS RACE IS "HISPANIC" OR "LATINO" ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic/Latino or a black Hispanic/Latino?**

83	White
11	Black
1	Asian
2	Other or mixed race
<u>3</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

**END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:**