

Methodology

This report is based on the findings of a daily tracking survey on Americans' use of the internet. The results in this report are based on data from telephone interviews conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International between August 9 and September 13, 2010, among a sample of 3,001 adults, age 18 and older. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. For results based Internet users (n=2,065), the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting telephone surveys may introduce some error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Questions

Q6ab Do you use the internet, at least occasionally? Do you send or receive email, at least occasionally?

CURRENT

%	74	Yes
	26	No
	*	Don't know
	*	Refused

Q10 As I read the following list of items, please tell me if you happen to have each one, or not. Do you have... a cell phone or a Blackberry or iPhone or other device that is also a cell phone?

CURRENT

%	85	Yes
	15	No
	*	Don't know
	*	Refused

Q14 On your cell phone, do you happen to have any software applications or “apps” that help you track or manage your health, or not?

Based on cell phone users [N=2,485]

CURRENT		
%	9	Yes
	90	No
	1	Don't know
	*	Refused

Q15 Do you ever use your cell phone to look up health or medical information?

Based on cell phone users [N=2,485]

CURRENT		
%	17	Yes, do this
	83	No, do not do this
	*	Don't know
	0	Refused

Q17 Are you now living with any of the following health problems or conditions:

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
a. Diabetes or sugar diabetes				
Current	11	89	*	*
December 2008	10	90	*	1
b. High blood pressure				
Current	24	75	1	*
December 2008	23	76	1	1
c. Asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or other lung conditions				
Current	12	88	*	*
December 2008	12	87	*	1
d. Heart disease, heart failure or heart attack				
Current	6	94	*	*
December 2008	7	92	1	1
e. Cancer				
Current	2	97	*	*
December 2008	3	96	1	1
f. Any other chronic health problem or condition I haven't already mentioned				
Current	17	82	*	1

Q18 In the last 12 months, have you personally faced a serious medical emergency or crisis?¹⁸

	CURRENT		DEC 2008	AUGUST 2006
%	12	Yes	31	34
	88	No	69	65
	*	Don't know	*	1
	*	Refused	*	--

¹⁸ Trend question wording was "And in the last 12 months, have you or has someone close to you faced a serious medical emergency or crisis?"

Q19 And in the last 12 months, have you experienced any other significant change in your physical health, such as gaining or losing a lot of weight, becoming pregnant, or quitting smoking?

	CURRENT	
%	17	Yes
	83	No
	*	Don't know
	*	Refused

Q20 Is there anyone close to you who has a CHRONIC medical condition, such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, or another chronic condition?

	CURRENT		DEC 2008 ¹⁹
%	47	Yes	49
	53	No	50
	*	Don't know	*
	*	Refused	1

Q21 In the last 12 months, has anyone close to you faced a serious medical emergency or crisis?²⁰

	CURRENT		DEC 2008	AUGUST 2006
%	27	Yes	31	34
	72	No	69	65
	*	Don't know	*	1
	*	Refused	*	--

¹⁹ In December 2008, question wording was "Is there anyone close to you who has a CHRONIC medical condition, such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, or cancer?"

²⁰ Trend question wording was "And in the last 12 months, have you or has someone close to you faced a serious medical emergency or crisis?"

Q22 Now, we'd like to ask if you've looked for information ONLINE about certain health or medical issues. Specifically, have you ever looked online for...?

Based on all internet users [N=2,065]

	YES, HAVE DONE THIS	NO, HAVE NOT DONE THIS	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
a. Information about a specific disease or medical problem				
Current	66	34	*	*
December 2008	66	34	*	0
August 2006	64	36	*	--
November 23-30, 2004	66	34	*	--
December 2002	63	37	*	--
b. Information about a certain medical treatment or procedure				
Current	56	44	*	*
December 2008	55	45	*	*
August 2006	51	48	1	--
November 23-30, 2004	51	48	*	--
December 2002	47	53	0	--
c. Information about doctors or other health professionals				
Current	44	56	*	*
December 2008	47	53	*	*
d. Information about hospitals or other medical facilities				
Current	36	64	*	*
December 2008	38	62	*	*
e. Information related to health insurance, including private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid				
Current	33	67	*	*
December 2008	37	63	0	*
August 2006 ²¹	33	67	*	--
f. Information about environmental health hazards				
Current	22	77	*	*
August 2006	22	78	*	--
November 23-30, 2004	18	82	0	--
December 2002	17	83	*	--

²¹ August 2006 trend was recalculated to reflect combined responses for two separate items: "Information related to health insurance" and "Information about Medicare or Medicaid"

	YES, HAVE DONE THIS	NO, HAVE NOT DONE THIS	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
g. Information about pregnancy and childbirth				
Current	19	81	*	*
h. Information about end-of-life decisions				
Current	7	93	*	*
i. Information about long-term care for an elderly or disabled person				
Current	12	88	*	*
j. Information about food safety or recalls				
Current	29	70	*	*
k. Information about drug safety or recalls				
Current	24	76	*	*
l. Information about how to manage chronic pain				
Current	14	86	*	*
m. Information about medical test results				
Current	16	83	*	*
n. Information about memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's				
Current	17	83	*	*
o. Information about any other health issue				
Current	28	72	*	*
December 2008	26	73	1	*
Total yes to any item above	80			
Total no to all items	20			

Q23 Thinking about the LAST time you went online for health or medical information... Did you go online to look for information related to YOUR OWN health or medical situation or SOMEONE ELSE'S health or medical situation?

Based on online health seekers

	CURRENT		DECEMBER 2008	AUGUST 2006	DECEMBER 2002
%	36	Own	41	36	37
	48	Someone else's	43	48	49
	11	Both (VOL.)	9	8	8
	4	Don't know	4	8	7
	2	Refused	2	--	--
	[1,655]		[1,356]	[1,594]	[1,017]

DIS001 Thinking again about your own health... Do you have serious difficulty hearing?

CURRENT
% 9 Yes
90 No
* Don't know
* Refused

DIS002 Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

CURRENT
% 7 Yes
93 No
* Don't know
* Refused

DIS003 Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

CURRENT
% 11 Yes
89 No
* Don't know
* Refused

DIS004 Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

CURRENT
% 15 Yes
84 No
* Don't know
* Refused

DIS005 Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?

CURRENT
% 3 Yes
97 No
* Don't know
* Refused

DIS006 Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

CURRENT
% 8 Yes
92 No
* Don't know
* Refused

CARE2 In the past 12 months, have you provided UNPAID care to an adult relative or friend 18 years or older to help them take care of themselves? Unpaid care may include help with personal needs or household chores. It might be managing a person's finances, arranging for outside services, or visiting regularly to see how they are doing. This person need not live with you.

[IF RESPONDENT ASKS DOES GIVING MONEY COUNT:] Aside from giving money, do you provide any other type of unpaid care to help them take care of themselves, such as help with personal needs, household chores, arranging for outside services, or other things?

CURRENT	
%	27 Yes
	72 No
	* Don't know
	* Refused

CARE3 Do you provide this type of care to just one adult, or do you care for more than one adult?
Based on those who provide unpaid care to adults [N=790]

CURRENT	
%	66 One adult only
	33 Provide care to multiple adults
	* Don't know
	* Refused

CARE4 Is this person a parent of yours, or not?

CARE5 Are any of the adults you care for a parent of yours, or not?
Based on those who provide unpaid care to adults [N=790]

CURRENT	
%	38 Yes, parent
	62 No, not a parent
	* Don't know
	* Refused

CARE6 In the past 12 months, have you provided UNPAID care to any CHILD under the age of 18 because of a medical, behavioral, or other condition or disability? This could include care for ongoing medical conditions or serious short-term conditions, emotional or behavioral problems, or developmental problems, including mental retardation.

CURRENT	
%	5 Yes
	94 No
	* Don't know
	* Refused