

# WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG

## American Public Opinion on Global Health

May 20, 2009

### Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: March 25-April 6, 2009  
Sample Size: 1004

Margin of Error: +/- 3.2 %

#### [ASK ALL]

Q1. As a general principle, what do you think about the US government making efforts to improve health for people in developing countries? Do you think:

The US should make such efforts .....	64%
The US should not be involved in this kind of thing .....	35
Refused/Don't know .....	1

STATEMENT: Please indicate whether you favor or oppose the US government supporting the following types of programs:

#### [ASK ALL]

Q2. Improving the health of mothers and children in poor countries

Favor strongly .....	34%
Favor somewhat .....	43
Oppose somewhat .....	16
Oppose strongly .....	7
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q3. Helping poor countries provide family planning and reproductive health services to their citizens

Favor strongly .....	27%
Favor somewhat .....	41
Oppose somewhat .....	20
Oppose strongly .....	11
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q4. Supporting international programs to reduce tobacco use in poor countries

Favor strongly .....	17%
Favor somewhat .....	33
Oppose somewhat .....	32
Oppose strongly .....	17
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q5. Financing the strengthening of overall health systems, such as the training and employment of health care workers in poor countries

Favor strongly .....	22%
Favor somewhat .....	43
Oppose somewhat .....	24
Oppose strongly .....	10
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q6. Conducting basic research on diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, that primarily affect poor countries

Favor strongly .....	34%
Favor somewhat .....	46
Oppose somewhat .....	13
Oppose strongly .....	7
Refused/Don't know .....	*

Q7. Contributing to the work of the World Health Organization, which monitors and seeks to deal with diseases worldwide

Favor strongly .....	34%
Favor somewhat .....	45
Oppose somewhat .....	13
Oppose strongly .....	7
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q8. Supporting programs to reduce death and disability from chronic diseases like cancer and diabetes, which affect poor as well as rich countries

Favor strongly .....	35%
Favor somewhat .....	44
Oppose somewhat .....	14
Oppose strongly .....	6
Refused/Don't know .....	1

STATEMENT: The next three questions are about US foreign aid in general.

**[ASK ALL]**

Q9. Here are two statements about foreign aid. Please tell me which one you agree with more.

- A. When giving foreign aid, it is best for the US to participate in international efforts, such as through the UN. This way it is more likely that other countries will do their fair share and that these efforts will be better coordinated.
- B. When giving foreign aid it is best for the US to do so on its own because that way the US has more control over how the money is spent and will get more credit and influence in the country receiving the aid.

	<b>4/09</b>	<b>11/00</b>
Statement A.....	61%	57%
Statement B.....	37	39
Refused/Don't know .....	2	3

**[ASK ALL]**

Q10. Thinking about the amount of aid that the US gives to less developed countries as a percentage of its gross domestic product, how do you think this compares with the percentage that the other industrialized countries give? Do you think the US gives:

	<b>4/09</b>	<b>1/95</b>
More.....	69%	81%
Less .....	11	5
About the same as other industrialized countries .....	18	9
Refused/Don't know .....	1	4

**[ASK ALL]**

Q11. Do you think that the amount of foreign aid that the US gives less developed countries, as a percentage of its gross domestic product, should be:

More.....	14%
Less .....	27
About the same as other industrialized countries .....	57
Refused/Don't know .....	1

STATEMENT: People give various reasons that the US should invest resources in improving health for people in developing countries. For each of the following reasons, please say whether you think it is a good reason or not.

**[ASK ALL]**

Q12. Global health programs express Americans' key values--compassion, generosity, and a desire to share knowledge that better people's lives.

Very good reason .....	25%
Good reason .....	50
Not a good reason .....	16
Not a good reason at all .....	7
Refused/Don't know .....	1

Q13. These programs are important for the health of Americans as well as people abroad. Dangerous diseases such as SARS, avian (bird) flu, and others can spread to the US or threaten Americans when traveling.

Very good reason .....	38%
Good reason .....	47
Not a good reason .....	9
Not a good reason at all .....	5

Refused/Don't know .....1

Q14. These programs strengthen the image of the US as a positive influence in the world, which makes cooperation between the US and other countries easier.

Very good reason ..... 21%  
Good reason .....52  
Not a good reason .....20  
Not a good reason at all .....7

Refused/Don't know .....1

Q15. These programs help people in poor countries be more productive and grow economically. This gives people a chance to thrive, and thus promotes global prosperity.

Very good reason ..... 28%  
Good reason .....52  
Not a good reason .....13  
Not a good reason at all .....6

Refused/Don't know .....1

Q16. Because the world is so interconnected now through increased travel and trade in food products, we need to think of health as a global problem requiring a cooperative global response.

Very good reason ..... 32%  
Good reason .....48  
Not a good reason .....14  
Not a good reason at all .....5

Refused/Don't know .....1

**[ASK ALL]**

Q17. There is a discussion about how to distribute the US aid that addresses health problems in poor countries.

Some say we should emphasize programs that fight specific diseases like AIDS and malaria, because we have efficient methods for treating these deadly diseases that can save large numbers of lives.

Others say we should emphasize programs to help poor countries build up their overall health systems--their doctors, nurses, clinics and equipment--because the better the health system, the better it can handle a variety of health problems and not just one disease.

If you were asked to distribute \$100 of aid money to these kinds of programs, how much would you devote to each?

**[PERCENTILE BOXES THAT MUST ADD UP TO 100%]**

**Mean**

For programs that fight specific diseases.....\$45  
For programs to help poor countries build up their

overall health systems .....\$55

**[ASK ALL]**

Q18: As you may know, many doctors and nurses leave poor countries to work in the US where they can earn more money, but these poor countries often suffer from a lack of skilled health workers. Currently US visa restrictions make it difficult for foreign-born doctors and nurses to move between the US and their home countries. One proposal is that the US could offer visas that allow foreign doctors and nurses to return to their home country to work temporarily. Do you think this new proposal on visas is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea ..... 81%  
Bad idea ..... 18  
  
Refused/Don't know ..... 1

**[HALF SAMPLE A,B]**

Q19a. To help fund a UN effort to provide poor people with drugs for AIDS and other diseases, some countries have agreed to charge a small tax of one to two dollars for international flights. Do you think the US should or should not join these countries and also charge a tax of one to two dollars on international flights to support the UN effort to provide these drugs?

Should ..... 57%  
Should not ..... 41  
  
Refused/Don't know ..... 2

**[HALF SAMPLE C,D]**

Q19b. To help fund a UN effort to provide poor people with drugs for AIDS and other diseases, some countries have agreed to charge a small tax of five dollars for international flights. Do you think the US should or should not join these countries and also charge a tax of five dollars on international flights to support the UN effort to provide these drugs?

Should ..... 53%  
Should not ..... 44  
  
Refused/Don't know ..... 3

**[ASK ALL]**

Q20: As you may know, many vaccine and drug companies do little research on diseases that primarily afflict poor countries because such drugs often are not profitable. Recently, some developed countries encouraged work on a new vaccine against a pneumonia-related disease by setting up a program that ensures that drug companies are adequately compensated if they create a vaccine. Do you think the US government should or should not participate in such a program?

Should ..... 65%  
Should not ..... 33  
  
Refused/Don't know ..... 2

*Q21-Q41 released separately.*

**[FULL SAMPLE]**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

D1. Age

18-29 .....	22%
30-44 .....	27
45-59 .....	28
60+ .....	24

D2. Education

Less than high school.....	14%
High school .....	32
Some college.....	28
BA+.....	27

D3. Race

White, Non-Hispanic .....	69%
Black, Non-Hispanic.....	11
Other, Non-Hispanic.....	5
Hispanic .....	14
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic .....	1

D4. Gender

Male .....	48%
Female.....	52

D5. What religion do you follow?

Christian.....	73%
Muslim .....	*
Jewish.....	2
Buddhist.....	*
Some other religion.....	7
No religious preference/atheist .....	16
Refused/Don't know .....	2

**[ASK ONLY THOSE WHO SAY CHRISTIAN (01) ON D3]**

D5a. Would you describe yourself as a 'born- again' or evangelical?

Yes .....	26%*
No.....	37
No opinion .....	10

---

\* Percent of total

Refused/Don't know .....\*

D6. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican .....	28%
Independent.....	20
Democrat.....	37
Other .....	1
No preference.....	14
Refused/Don't know .....	1

**[ASK ONLY IF INDEPENDENT (02), OTHER (04) OR NO PREFERENCE (05) ON D7]**

D6a. Do you think of yourself as closer to the:

Republican Party.....	9%*
Democratic Party .....	10
Neither.....	16
Refused/Don't know .....	*

D6-D6a. Overall party identification combined

Republican Party/Lean Republican.....	37%
Democratic Party/Lean Democrat.....	47
Independent.....	16
Refused/Don't know .....	*

## METHODOLOGY

The poll of 1004 respondents was fielded March 25-April 6, 2009 with a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points. It was fielded by Knowledge Networks, a polling, social science, and market research firm in Menlo Park, California, with a stratified random sample of its large-scale nationwide research panel. This panel itself has been randomly recruited from the national population of households having telephones; households without internet access are subsequently provided with free web access and an internet appliance. Thus the panel is not limited to those who already have home internet access. The distribution of the sample in the Web-enabled panel closely tracks the distribution of United States Census counts for the US population on age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, geographical region, employment status, income, education, etc. Upon survey completion, the data were weighted by gender, age, education, ethnicity, and partisan identity. For more information about the online survey methodology, please go to: [www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp](http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp).

---

\* Percent of total