

Majorities in United States and Three of Five Largest European Countries Believe Healthcare is Doing Badly in Their Countries

Americans are the most likely to think healthcare is doing badly.

A new Harris Interactive survey conducted for France 24 (France's television competitor with CNN International and the BBC) and the International Herald Tribune confirms a conclusion we have reached in the past – that most people in most countries usually feel that their healthcare systems do not work well.

As the 2008 American election campaign continues there will be much more debate about the American healthcare system and how it should be reformed. These new Harris Interactive findings show that Americans are more dissatisfied with their system than are people in the five large European countries, but that dissatisfaction is widespread in all of the countries except in Spain.

The survey of over a thousand adults aged under 65 in each of the five largest European countries and the United States asked how well or badly eleven different things were going in their countries. These varied from the economy, education and defense to the political system, public transportation and healthcare.

This survey was conducted online between January 10 and 21, 2008.

In general the survey found a lot of gloom and doom, with majorities or pluralities in all six countries feeling that most things in their countries were doing badly. Overall the Italians were the most, and the Spanish and Germans the least, pessimistic. For full results of this survey go to <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/allnewsbydate.asp?NewsID=1276>.

One of the eleven items on the list that people were asked about was healthcare. In one country, Spain, a slender (37% to 35%) plurality believes that healthcare is “doing well.” In the United States a lopsided 68 percent to 11 percent majority believes healthcare is doing badly. Smaller majorities in Italy (55% to 13%), Britain (55% to 17%) and France (53% to 23%) also rate their healthcare situation negatively, as does a 50 percent to 20 percent plurality in Germany.

Table 1
How Well or Badly Healthcare is Doing in Six Countries
“How do you think (country) is doing today with regard to healthcare?”

Base: All Adults

Healthcare	French	German	British	Italian	Spanish	American
Well (NET)	23%	20%	17%	13%	37%	11%
Very Well	5%	2%	3%	1%	4%	2%
Well	18%	18%	15%	11%	33%	9%
Neither well nor badly	24%	29%	27%	32%	27%	21%
Badly (NET)	53%	50%	55%	55%	35%	68%
Badly	35%	36%	37%	32%	27%	34%
Very badly	18%	14%	18%	23%	8%	34%

Note: Totals may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Methodology

This poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive, in partnership with France 24 and The International Herald Tribune, among a total of 6,676 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and the United States; and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy, from 10 to 21 January 2008. The data for age, gender, education, region and Internet propensity were weighted when necessary to bring them into line with the current proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was applied to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

The number of completed interviews in each country was: – France (1,128), Germany (1,135), Britain (1,137), Italy (1,147), Spain (1,114) and the United States (1,015).

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls and of the British Polling Council.

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