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## Americans Support Prevention Programs and Access to Medicines to Address the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Most Americans (58%) believe the global HIV/AIDS epidemic is “worse” today than it was five years ago, according to the results of a new Harris Interactive poll of 2,169 U.S. adults conducted online between July 20 and 22, 2004 for The Wall Street Journal Online’s Health Industry Edition.

Most adults also believe that more could be done by both the public and private sectors to provide HIV/AIDS patients with access to medicines.

- More than eight in ten adults (85%) agree that, “The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should do more to get new treatments for HIV/AIDS to the market quickly” (55% agree strongly with this statement).
- Three in four adults (74%) agree that, “The U.S. government needs to do more to provide developing nations with access to affordable drugs, including generics, for the treatment of HIV/AIDS (42% agree strongly with this statement).
- Only three in ten adults (30%) agree that, “Drug companies are doing all they can to provide HIV/AIDS drugs to the communities and patients who need them most” (26% disagree strongly with this statement).

The American public also believes in global prevention programs. Eight in ten (79%) agree that, “The best way to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS is with preventative programs such as sex education, condom distribution and the distribution of clean needles to intravenous drug users” (48% agree strongly with this statement).

If the American public were in charge of government spending on the global prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS they would distribute funds across a variety of programs, but their major focus would be on prevention and the care of children orphaned by the disease; on average, these two programs would account for 34% and 27% of funding, respectively. On average, the American public would spend 24% of funds on treatment of the disease and 14% for end-of-life care for AIDS patients.

“The American public is concerned about both the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS globally and they firmly believe that both the public and private sectors should be doing more to provide treatment to HIV/AIDS patients outside the U.S.,” says Katherine Binns, senior vice president of health care at Harris Interactive.

# Health Care Poll

**TABLE 1**

**HIV/AIDS: A Worsening Global Epidemic**

“Based on what you know or have heard, do you think the global HIV/AIDS epidemic has gotten better, worse or stayed about same compared to five years ago?”

Base: All Adults

	Total
	%
Gotten better	8
Gotten worse	58
Stayed about the same	24
Not sure	10

**TABLE 2**

**Public Preferences For U.S. Spending**

“U.S. spending for the global prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS focuses on four areas: prevention; treatment; end-of-life care for AIDS patients, and children who have been orphaned by the disease. If you were in charge and you had \$100 dollars to distribute between these programs, how would you spend them?”

Base: All Adults

	Portion of \$100 That Would Spend On: (Mean)
Prevention	34.5
Treatment	23.8
End-of-life care for AIDS patients	14.3
Children who have been orphaned by the disease	27.4

# Health Care Poll

**TABLE 3**

**Public Attitudes Toward Global Prevention And Treatment Of HIV/AIDS**

“To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?”

Base: All Adults

	Agree Strongly	Agree Somewhat	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree Strongly	Not Sure
	%	%	%	%	%
The best way to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS is with preventative programs such as sex education, condom distribution and the distribution of clean needles to intravenous drug users	48	31	9	6	6
The U.S. government needs to do more to provide developing nations with access to affordable drugs, including generics, for the treatment of HIV/AIDS	42	32	13	7	6
Drug companies are doing all they can to provide HIV/AIDS drugs to the communities and patients who need them most	7	23	33	26	12
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should do more to get new treatments for HIV/AIDS to the market quickly	55	30	5	3	6

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Downloadable PDFs of Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Polls are posted at [http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/newsletters\\_wsj.asp](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/newsletters_wsj.asp).

# Health Care Poll

## Methodology

This study was conducted online within the United States between July 20 and 22, 2004 among a nationwide cross section of 2,169 adults. Figures for age, sex, race, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

In theory, with probability samples of this size, one could say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a sampling error of  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points of what they would be if the entire U.S. adult population had been polled with complete accuracy. Unfortunately, there are several other possible sources of error in all polls or surveys that are probably more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. They include refusals to be interviewed (nonresponse), question wording and question order, and weighting. It is impossible to quantify the errors that may result from these factors. This online sample was not a probability sample.

*These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.*

## About the Survey

The Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Poll is an exclusive poll that is published in the award-winning Health Industry Edition of The Wall Street Journal Online at [www.wsj.com/health](http://www.wsj.com/health).

## About The Wall Street Journal Online

The Wall Street Journal Online at [WSJ.com](http://WSJ.com), published by Dow Jones & Company (NYSE: DJ; [www.dowjones.com](http://www.dowjones.com)), offers authoritative analysis, breaking news and commentary from top industry journalists. Launched in 1996, the Online Journal is the largest paid subscription news site on the Web, with more than 689,000 subscribers world-wide. The Online Journal provides in-depth business news and financial information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with insight and analysis, including breaking business and technology news and analysis from around the world. It draws on the Dow Jones network of more than 1,500 reporters and editors – the largest staff of business and financial journalists in the world. For the second consecutive year in 2003, the Online Journal received a WebAward for the “Best Newspaper Web Site” and was also cited by Yahoo! Internet Life magazine as the “Best Business News” site (2002 & 2001).

## About Dow Jones & Company

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## About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive ([www.harrisinteractive.com](http://www.harrisinteractive.com)) is a worldwide market research and consulting firm best known for *The Harris Poll*<sup>®</sup>, and for pioneering the Internet method to conduct scientifically accurate market research. Headquartered in Rochester, New York, Harris Interactive combines proprietary methodologies and technology with expertise in predictive, custom and strategic research. The Company conducts international research from its U.S. offices and through wholly owned subsidiaries—London-based **HI Europe** ([www.hieurope.com](http://www.hieurope.com)), Paris-based **Novatris** and Tokyo-based **Harris Interactive Japan**—as well as through the Harris Interactive Global Network of independent market- and opinion-research firms. EOE M/F/D/V

To become a member of the Harris Poll Online<sup>SM</sup> and be invited to participate in future online surveys, visit [www.harrispollonline.com](http://www.harrispollonline.com).

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