

One in Four Say Healthcare is the Most Worrying Topic in Their Country

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A new poll by global research company Ipsos finds that one in four (23%) global respondents in 24 countries identify healthcare when asked to rank the three most worrying topics in their country. It ranks as a middle-of-the-pack priority for global respondents and is topped by unemployment and jobs (45%), corruption – financial/political (35%), poverty and social inequality (34%) and crime and violence (31%). Healthcare has ranked fourth-most worrying topic consistently since December 2010 (23%) and has, in fact, remained a stable concern since December 2011 (23%), December 2012 (22%) and December 2013 (22%).

The results are released by the Ipsos Public Affairs Health Policy Institute in their report: Tracking Healthcare as a Priority Issue. This poll includes data from 19,045 respondents from 24 countries who were polled online from April 1-15, 2014.

Ipsos Public Affairs has been tracking the top issue concerns of residents across 24 countries since 2010. This report is the first of a bi-annual series that will be provided by the Ipsos Health Policy Institute focusing on “healthcare” as an issue priority. Priority attributed to healthcare as an issue varies by country. It ranks with a higher focus among residents in Poland, the US, Canada and Australia than it does among residents in Germany, France, Italy, Argentina and Japan.

Specifically, those most likely to indicate healthcare is a top worry in their country are from: Brazil (64%), Poland (58%), Canada (40%), the United States (37%), Australia (35%), Hungary (30%), Russia (27%), Saudi Arabia (27%) and Great Britain (27%). Those in the middle of the pack are from: China (25%), Spain (24%), Sweden (22%), Germany (18%), Japan (17%), Belgium (14%) and France (14%). Those least likely to select healthcare as a top worry are from: South Africa (13%), Italy (11%), Indonesia (10%), India (9%), Argentina (8%), South Korea (7%), Mexico (6%) and Turkey (5%).

Demographically, on a global aggregate level, those most likely to rank healthcare as one of the most worrying issues in their country: have a medium level of education (26%), are aged 50-64 (25%), women (24%) and those with a medium level of household income (23%). In contrast, those with a high level of education (17%), high household income (18%), men (19%), those under the age of 35 (20%), lower education (21%), those aged 35-49 (22%) and those with a low household income (22%) are less likely to worry about healthcare.

Demographics come into play in the priority assigned to healthcare in some countries but not in others. Women rate healthcare as a higher priority than men in each of the United States and Australia, but the gap is less pronounced in Canada, France and the Great Britain. Similarly, rating of healthcare as a priority issue increases with age in Canada, Great Britain and Australia but less so in the United States and France. When comparing across countries on ratings based on income and education there are no obvious trends or similarities.

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