

SAGA/POPULUS PANEL RESULTS

Populus received 16779 responses from adults aged 50 and over to its online poll for SAGA between 14th and 20th November 2008. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to www.populus.co.uk

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender	Male	9959	59%
	Female	6820	41%
Age	50 – 54	2536	15%
	55 – 59	4015	24%
	60 – 64	4810	29%
	65 – 69	2895	17%
	70 – 74	1530	9%
	75+	1030	6%
Grandchildren or children?	Children but no grandchildren	5354	32%
	Grandchildren	9069	54%
	Neither	2371	14%
Socio-Economic Group	AB	8790	52%
	C1	5307	32%
	C2	1682	10%
	DE	926	6%
Region	London	1217	7%
	South East	3458	21%
	South West	1880	11%
	West Midlands	1411	8%
	East Midlands	1288	8%
	North West	2043	12%
	North East	736	4%
	Yorkshire and the Humber	1471	9%
	East Anglia	1147	7%
	Scotland	1194	7%
	Wales	730	4%
	Northern Ireland	180	1%
		Total	16779

US ELECTION

- Nine-in-ten respondents say the election of Barack Obama makes no difference to how likely they are to visit the United States on holiday. 7% say it makes them more likely to visit America.

DOCTOR'S SURGERIES

- Most respondents – 56% – say they visit their GP “just whenever they need to”. However, nearly a quarter (24%) visit their GP quarterly. Frequency of attendance increases with age; with over a third (35%) of the over 75s visiting their GP at least once every three months. Only 1% of respondents say they never visit their GP.
- Driving and Walking are, by far, the most popular ways of getting to the doctors – with 69% driving, and 39% walking.
- 93% of respondents are within 20 minutes of their GP’s practice, with 63% having a journey time of under 10 minutes.
- The typical GP practice has between 5 and 10 doctors (52%). Equal numbers (3%) say their GP is the sole doctor as say their practice is very large, with ten or more GPs.
- 7% say they never make an appointment with the same doctor. 70% say they ‘always’ or ‘usually’ see the same doctor. Again, an age divide emerges with older people noticeably more likely to see the same doctor than younger respondents.
- Respondents seem largely pleased with the ease of booking appointments at their doctors at convenient times – with over half (56%) saying they find it ‘very’ or ‘quite’ easy. One-in-five though say they find it not very easy or difficult though.
- For out of hours treatment, 67% of respondents say they would contact an out of hours doctor, and 51% say NHS direct. Worryingly, 13% would contact the ambulance service. Primary responsibility for out of hours care is seen to lie with the GP – with 67% thinking so.
- 91% of respondents say they never need home visits.
- Respondents rate no feature of their local practice as being unimportant, when asked to use a scale where 1 mean very important and 5 meant not important at all, every characteristic is rated below 3 – a net score of important.

- The individual relationship with the GP is the single most important factor, with a mean score of 1.8. This is followed by accessibility concerns relating to ease of access, opening hours etc.

Rank	Issue	Mean score
1	Individual relationship with GP	1.8
2	Convenience to get to / from your home	2.0
3	Ease of access	2.1
4	Long opening hours	2.4
5	Additional on-site services	2.6
6	Car parking	2.7
7	An ability to dispense prescriptions	2.8

- 39% rate their own GP “very highly” and an additional 36% rate their GP “quite highly.” Only 3% rate their doctor poorly.
- The overwhelming response to the idea of polyclinics is to welcome them if, and only if, they are in addition to – rather than instead of – their current practice with 64% of respondents taking this view. Of those taking a firmer view, 17% say they are not happy at all with the idea and 13% say they would be happy for a polyclinic to replace their existing GP.