



# Americans Agree that Prioritizing Research is Essential to Economic Recovery

February 2021

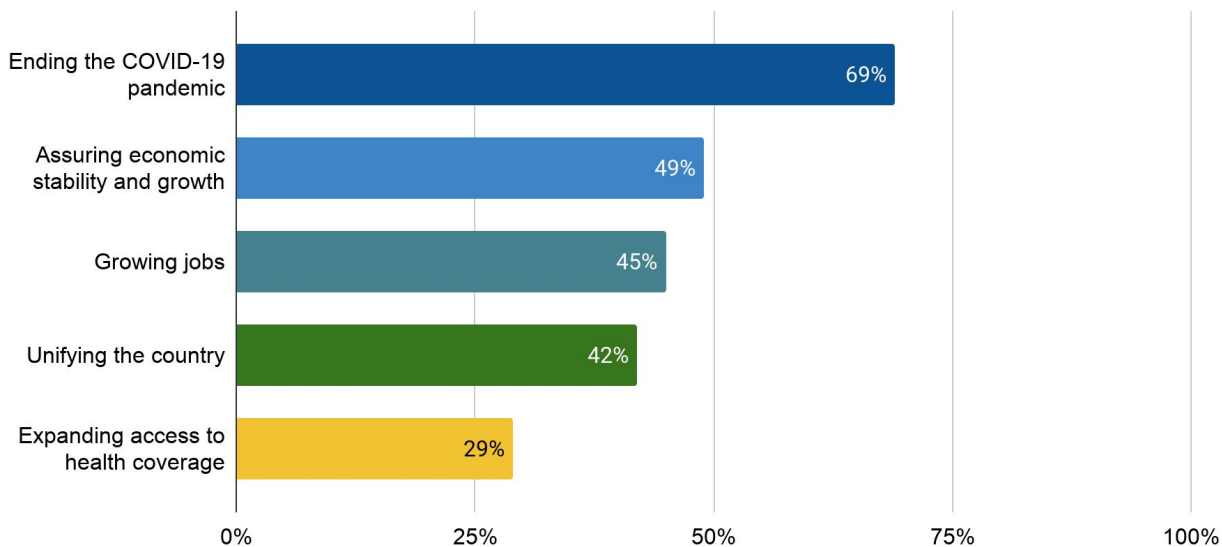
Results from a Public Opinion Survey conducted January 2021

# Survey Methodology

This online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in January 2021, among 1,215 adults. The survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 2.8 percentage points.\* Subsets of the data have a larger margin of error than the whole data set. The sample is weighted using complex weighting techniques to best represent the demographics of the population being surveyed. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, party, education, and religion.

# Ending the COVID-19 pandemic tops first 100 days priorities

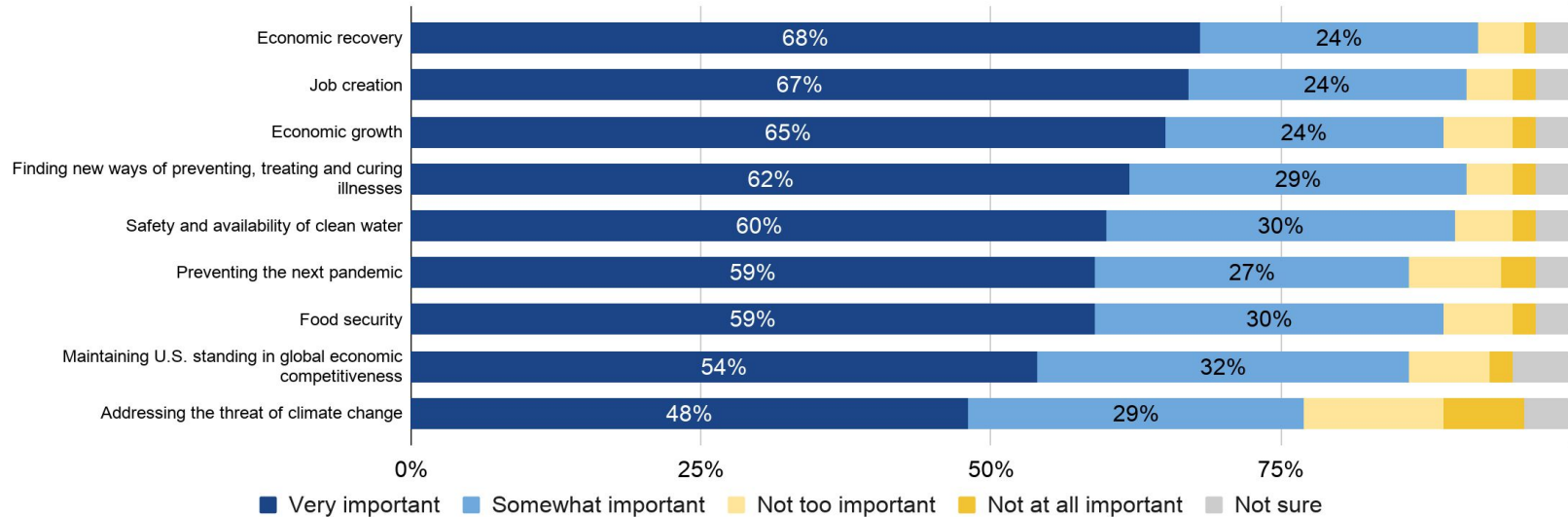
Please indicate which of the following should be the top FIVE priorities for President Biden's and the new Congress' first 100 days in office.



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2021.

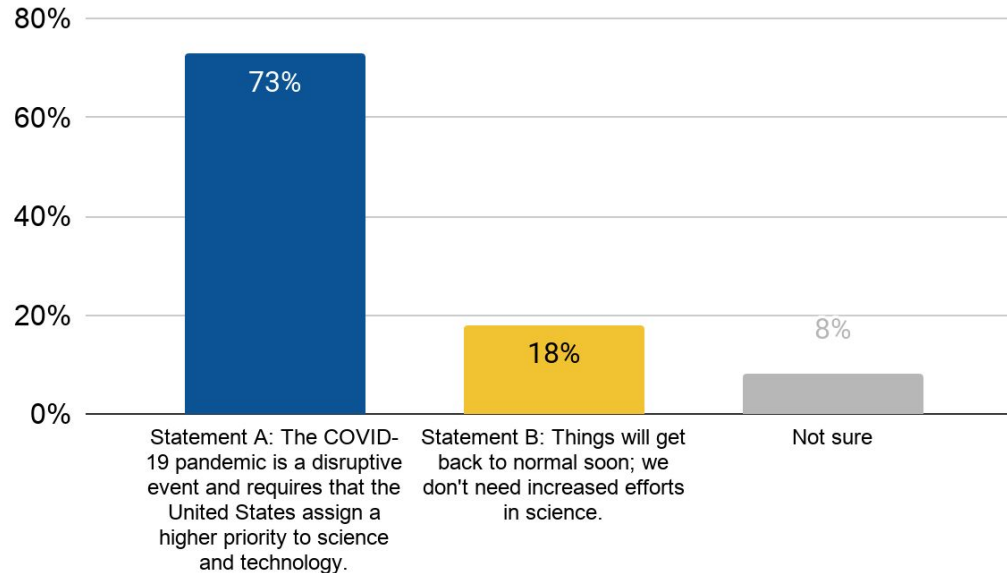
# 9 in 10 say investing in research is important to achieving key priorities

How important is investing in research to each of the following?



# COVID-19 is a disruptive event that merits change

Which statement is closest to your view? Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires that the United States assign a higher priority to science and technology. Statement B: Things will get back to normal soon; we don't need increased efforts in science.

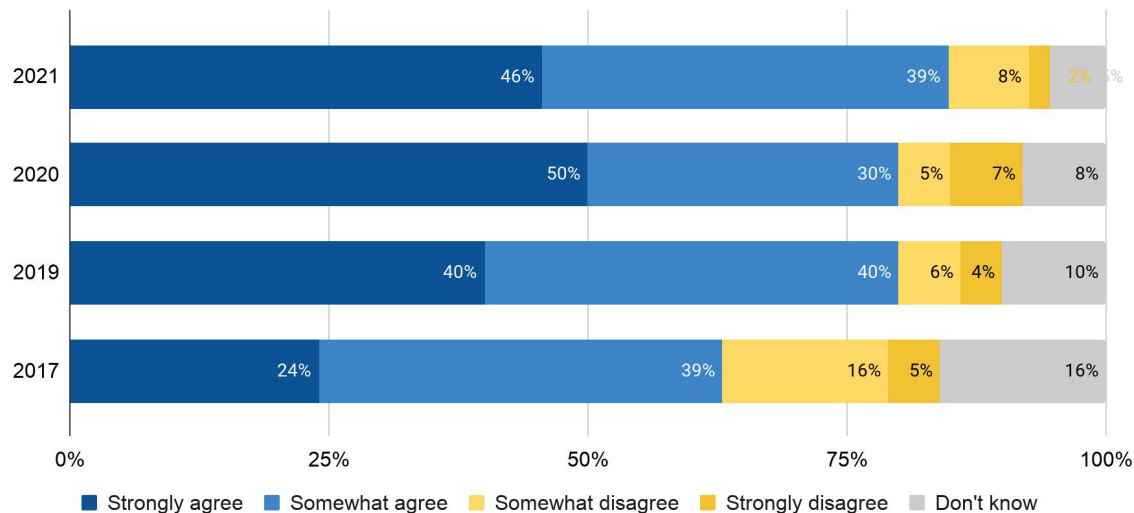


# Support for basic research is strong

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

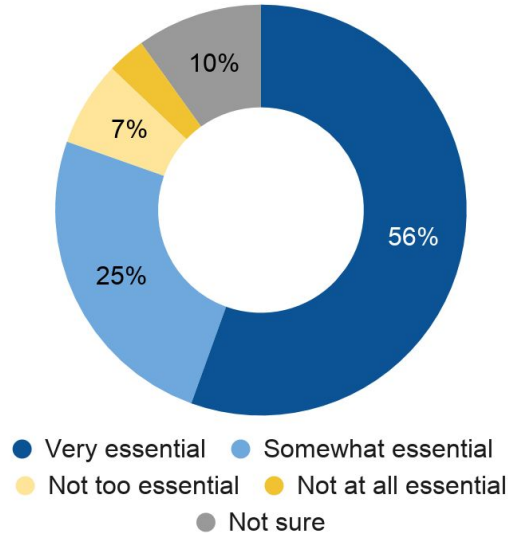
85% say they strongly or somewhat agree it should be supported by the federal government.

This is up from 77% in August 2020, and 80% in January 2019.

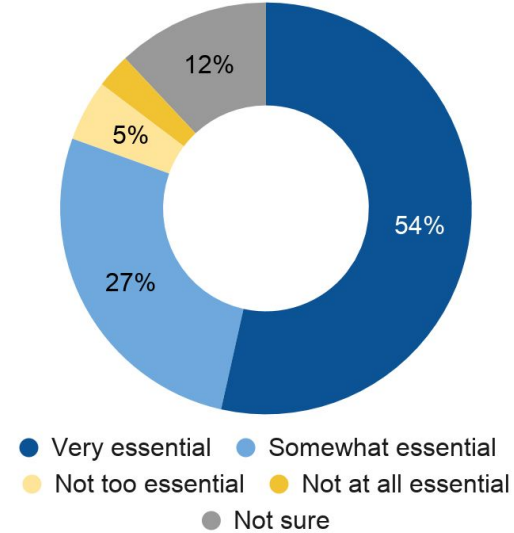


# 8 in 10 Americans recognize the value of both public and private research in the development of COVID-19 vaccines

To the best of your knowledge, how essential was *publicly funded* research to the development of COVID-19 vaccines?



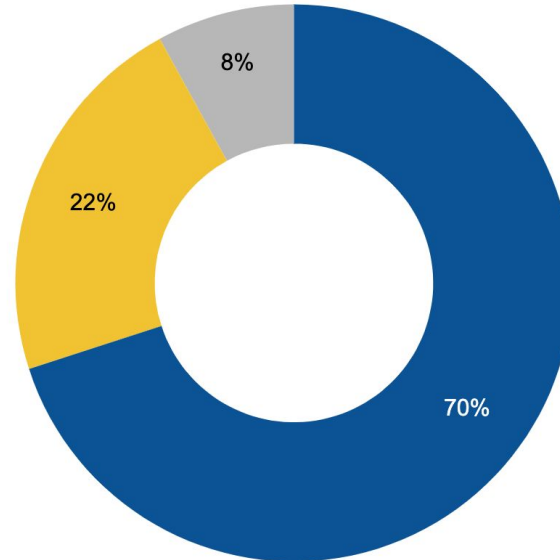
To the best of your knowledge, how essential was *private sector funded* research to the development of COVID-19 vaccines?



# Major changes are needed in our public health systems

Which statement is closest to your view? Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that major changes are needed in our public health systems, including more funding. Statement B: The COVID-19 pandemic is a once-in-a-lifetime event and existing systems are dealing with it adequately.

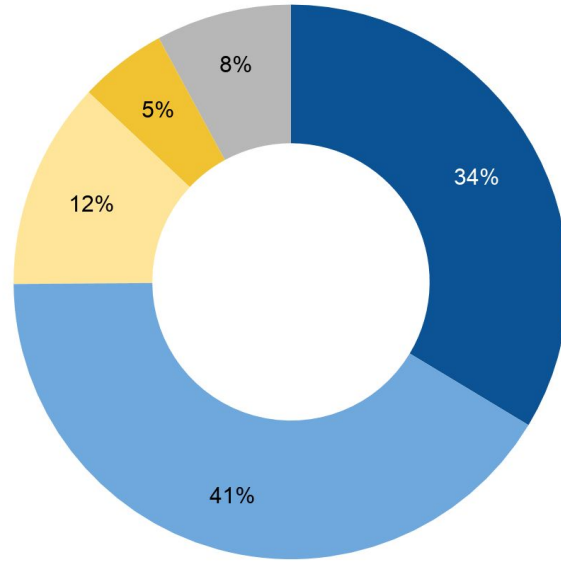
- Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that major changes are needed in our public health systems, including more funding.
- Statement B: The COVID-19 pandemic is a once-in-a-lifetime event and existing systems are dealing with it adequately.
- Not sure





# 75% of Americans favor increasing spending on medical research

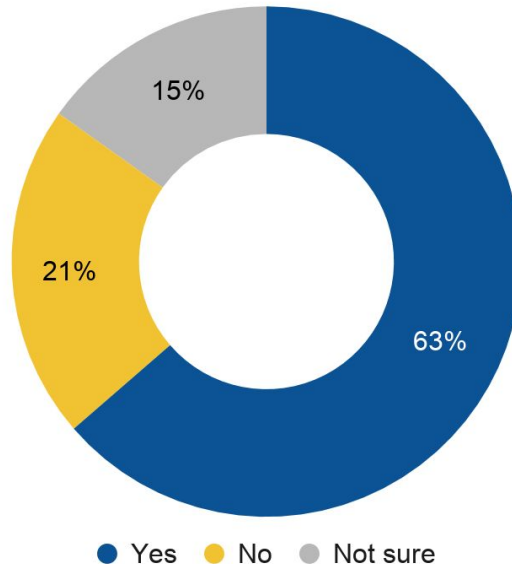
Do you favor or oppose doubling federal spending on medical research over the next five years?



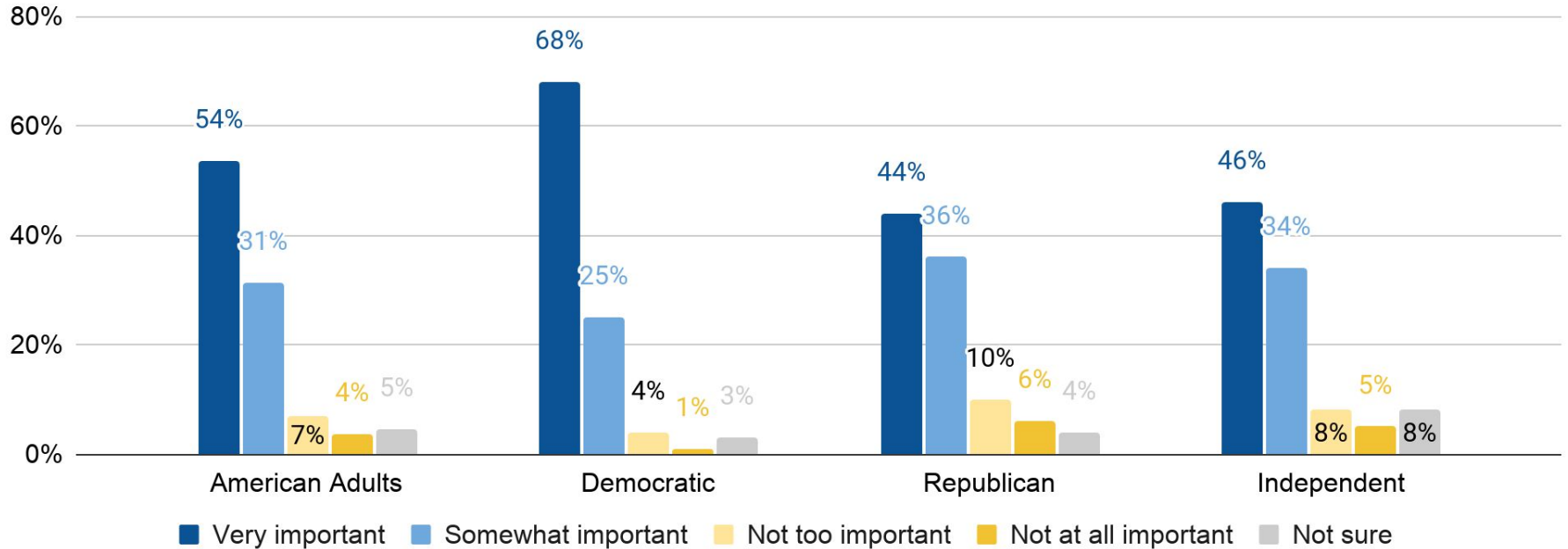
● Strongly favor ● Somewhat favor ● Somewhat oppose ● Strongly oppose ● Not sure

# 6 in 10 Americans willing to pay more in taxes for more medical research

Would you be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical research?

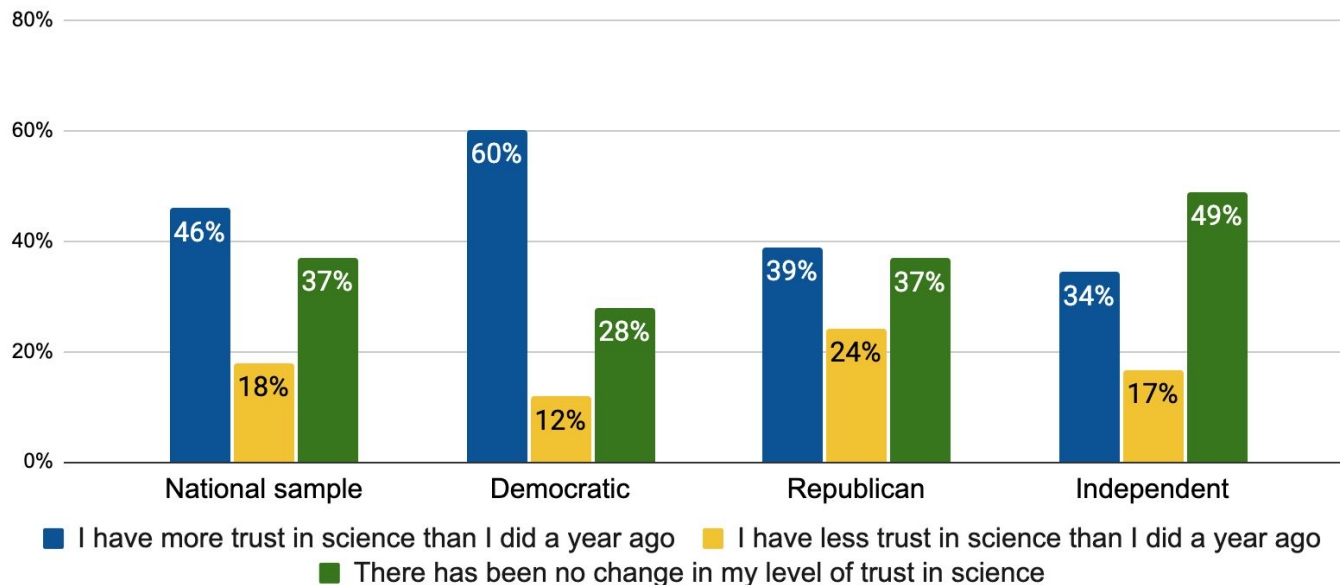


# Strong bipartisan support for making faster medical progress a priority



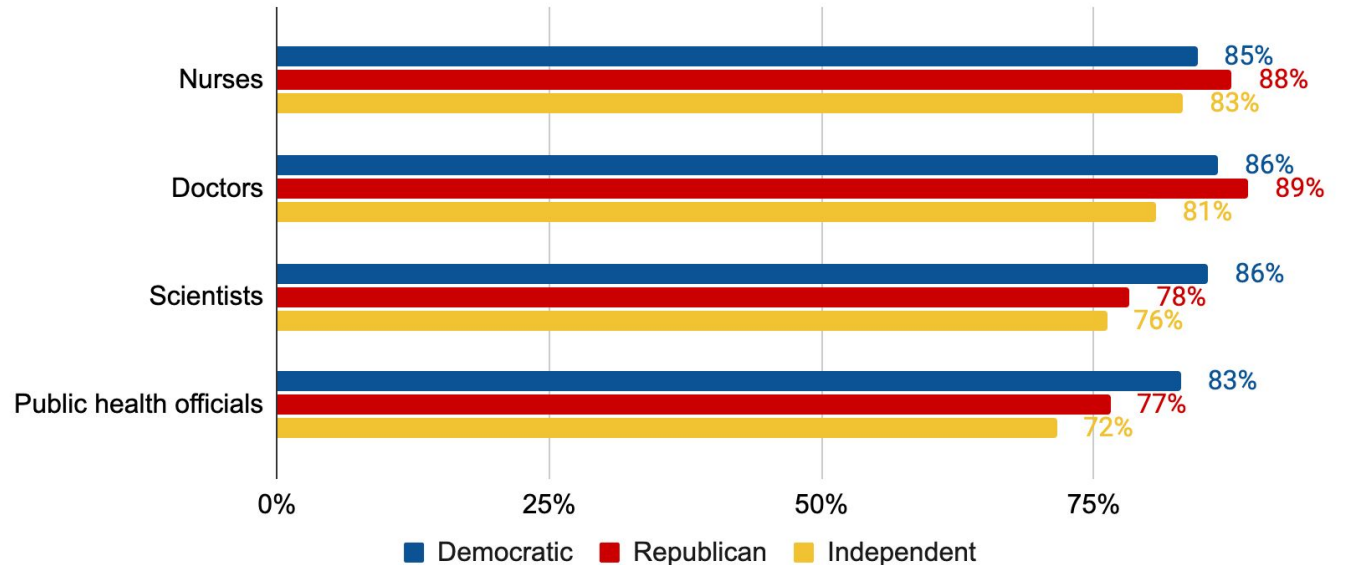
# Only 1 in 5 say their trust in science has declined during the pandemic

There has been a great deal more attention to science during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some people say that science in general is now more trusted because of this heightened awareness; others disagree. Which would you say applies to you?



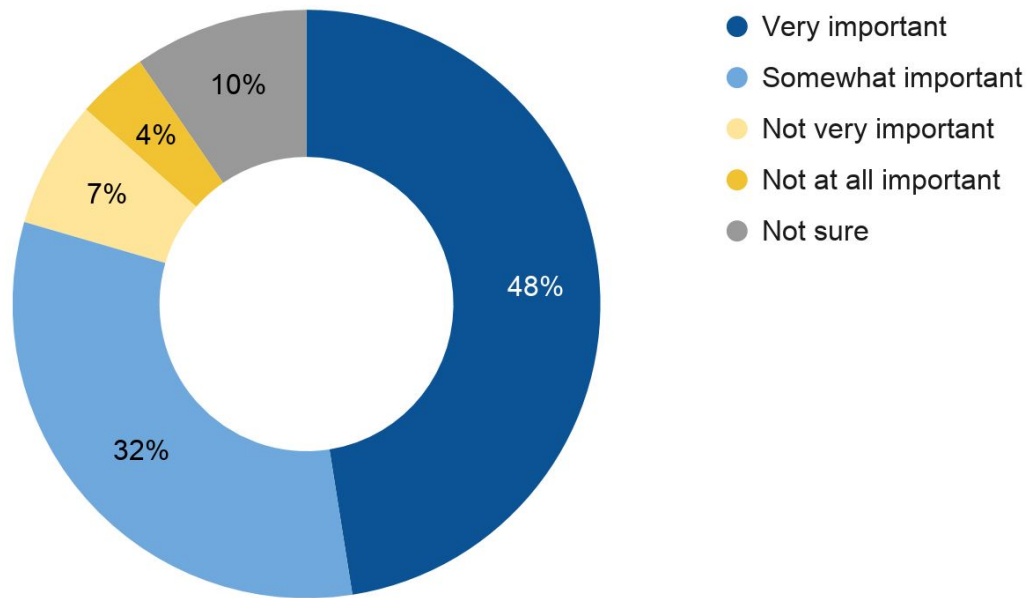
# Americans have confidence in doctors, nurses, scientists, and public health officials across party lines

Percentage of respondents from each political party saying they had “a great deal” or “some” confidence in the following to act in their best interest:



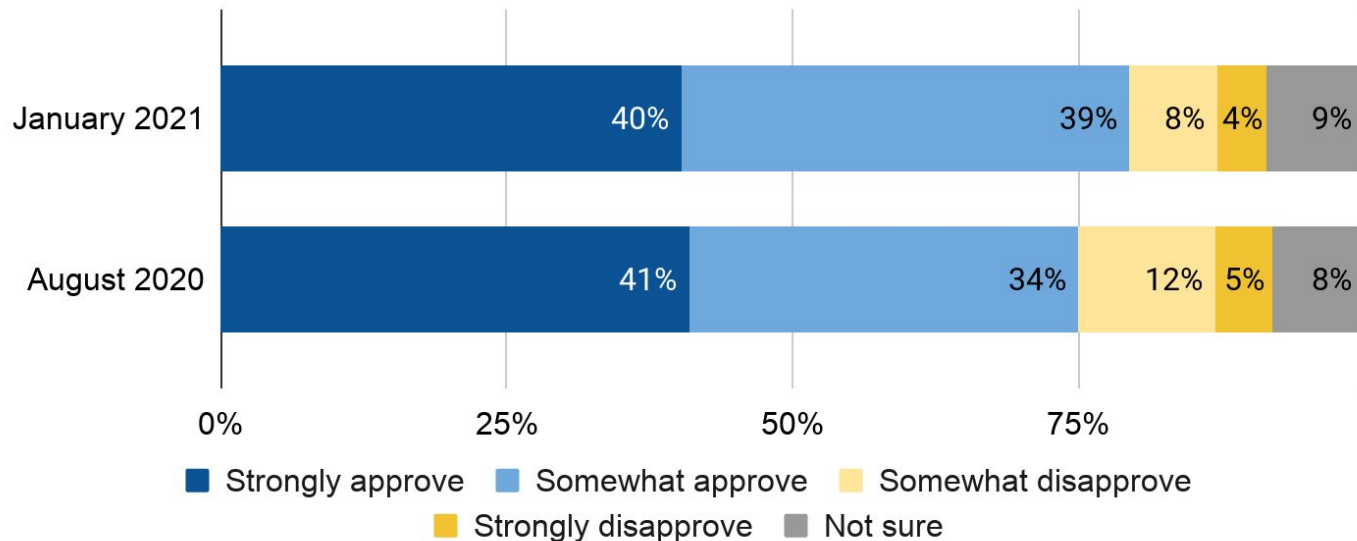
# 8 in 10 say it's important to increase GDP spent on research

Some governments have a goal to spend 3%-5% of GDP on research and development. Some, including Japan and Korea, have already met this goal, and others, including China, have pledged to do so. How important do you think it is for the U.S. to achieve this goal?



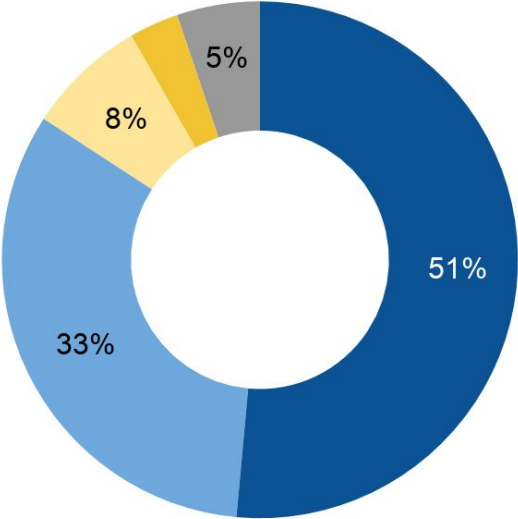
# Strong support for publicly funded scientific research at universities

As you may know, the federal government provides public funds on a competitive basis to universities to conduct basic scientific research. Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government spending to sponsor scientific research at universities?



# 8 in 10 agree that state-supported research at state universities is important

How important is it that your state continues to support science and engineering research at state universities?



● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Not too important  
● Not at all important ● Not sure



# What factors influence COVID-19 vaccine acceptance?

If offered a COVID-19 vaccine, how likely are you to be vaccinated based on the following factors?

