January National Survey Results

Selected results from a public opinion survey conducted in January 2022

Released 2/16/22
Survey Methodology

This online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in January 2022, among 1,000 adults. The survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.* Subsets of the data have a larger margin of error than the full data set. The sample is weighted to best represent the demographics of the population being surveyed. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, party, education, and religion.

*Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100% on some slides
COVID-19 is a disruptive event; U.S. should prioritize S&T

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.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Over three-quarters say investing in research is important to achieving...

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

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Half say S&T investments are creating jobs for them or people they know

In general, do you believe investments in science and technology are creating employment opportunities for you or people you know?

Young people (18-29) more likely to say “yes” (57%), while older people (65+) are less likely to say “yes” (30%).

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
High bipartisan support for basic research

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.

83% 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.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
COVID-19 pandemic remains the top concern

In your opinion, which of the following are the most serious issues facing this country?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Mental health has overtaken cancer as top-3 health concern

What would you say is the single most important health issue facing the nation?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Do you think federal investment in mental health research has been adequate, not adequate or about right?

- Adequate: 58%
- Not adequate: 19%
- About right: 13%
- Don't know: 10%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
6 in 10 think the work of scientists benefits all or most in America, but percentages are slipping

In general, do you think the work that scientists do benefits all, most, some, very few, or no people in this country?

- **January 2022**: 24% all or most, 35% some, 27% very few, 9% no
- **January 2021**: 32% all or most, 39% some, 22% very few, 5% no
- **August 2020**: 39% all or most, 37% some, 18% very few, 3% no

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Three quarters think the work of scientists benefits them, but that share is slipping

In general, do you think the work that scientists do benefits you?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Americans have highest trust in healthcare providers and scientists as spokespersons for health research

How trustworthy do you consider each of the following to be as spokespersons for medical and health research:

- **Doctors/Nurses/Other healthcare providers**: 45% very trustworthy, 40% somewhat trustworthy, 8% not very trustworthy, 4% not at all trustworthy, 1% not sure.
- **Scientists**: 40% very trustworthy, 39% somewhat trustworthy, 13% not very trustworthy, 5% not at all trustworthy, 4% not sure.
- **Public health officials**: 29% very trustworthy, 41% somewhat trustworthy, 16% not very trustworthy, 10% not at all trustworthy, 4% not sure.
- **Patient organizations**: 33% very trustworthy, 49% somewhat trustworthy, 16% not very trustworthy, 7% not at all trustworthy, 5% not sure.
- **Journalists**: 21% very trustworthy, 31% somewhat trustworthy, 27% not very trustworthy, 21% not at all trustworthy, 5% not sure.
- **Business leaders**: 13% very trustworthy, 33% somewhat trustworthy, 33% not very trustworthy, 19% not at all trustworthy, 5% not sure.
- **Elected officials**: 13% very trustworthy, 24% somewhat trustworthy, 38% not very trustworthy, 28% not at all trustworthy, 4% not sure.
- **Social Media Influencers**: 13% very trustworthy, 20% somewhat trustworthy, 25% not very trustworthy, 38% not at all trustworthy, 5% not sure.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Confidence in scientists and public health officials high, but losing ground

How much confidence do you have in each of the following to act in your best interest

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

- Scientists down from 80% in 2021 to 68%.
- Public health officials down from 78% in 2021 to 62%.
- Elected officials down from 50% in 2021 to 33%.
8 in 10 say scientists' job should include communicating their research to the public

Should scientists consider it part of their job to inform the public about their research and its impact on society?*

- **85%** Say “Yes”
- **84%** Say “Yes”
- **71%** Say “Yes”

*New question for 2022

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
87% say it’s important that scientists inform elected officials about their research

How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Parties agree congressional candidates should understand S&T issues

How important is it for candidates running for Congress to have a basic understanding of issues that involve science and technology?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Americans believe U.S. will be the number one world leader in 2030

In your view, which of the following will be the number one world leader in the following areas in the year 2030?*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>South Korea</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Other (Specify)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial intelligence</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<td>Space exploration</td>
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<td>Robotics</td>
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<td>Biomedical research and development</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>Technological infrastructure</td>
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<td>Science and technology</td>
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<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<td>Public health preparedness</td>
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<td>Food and water security</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<td>Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education</td>
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Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in science and technology?*

*New question for 2022

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
85% say U.S. should be a global leader in health research

How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in research to improve health?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases wherever they occur

Which statement is closest to your view:

- Statement A: The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases wherever they occur.
- Statement B: The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases only if they pose an immediate risk to people in this country.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Opioid abuse continues to be seen as a major problem

Please indicate the extent to which you agree that opioid abuse and addiction is a major problem in your community.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Significant increase in public awareness of CDC

What is the name of the government agency that is responsible for [Agency description]?

CDC is up significantly from 43% in January 2020 to 85% in January 2022.

Percentage of correct responses based on the description of each agency.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Most Americans cannot name a living scientist

Can you name a living scientist?

Of those saying “yes”, Dr. Fauci named by 50%, up from 35% in January 2021.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
2 in 3 cannot name a medical or health research institution

Can you name any institution, company, or organization where medical or health research is conducted?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Strong support for government to incentivize private sector S&T investment

How important is it for the federal government to support incentives for private sector investment in science and technology?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

Young people (18-29) less likely (70%) to say “Very or somewhat important”

88% Say “Very or somewhat important”
75% Say “Very or somewhat important”
70% Say “Very or somewhat important”

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
Increasing support for improving K-12 STEM education

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should assign a higher priority to improving K-12 education focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
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?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.
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