Americans’ Views on Child Abuse and Neglect

June 2018

National public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America
Support for this survey was provided, in part, by EndCAN:
Survey Methodology

The nationwide survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics for Research!America and EndCAN. Sample sizes and theoretical sampling errors are as follows:

- African-American: sample size, 418; margin of error, +/-4.8%
- Asian: sample size, 417; margin of error, +/- 5.6%
- Hispanic: sample size, 420; margin of error, +/- 4.8%
- Non-Hispanic White: sample size, 643; margin of error, +/- 3.1%

Due to rounding, the total may not add to 100% on some charts.
Strong Majority View Child Abuse as Public Health Problem in U.S.

Do you view child abuse and neglect as a public health problem in the United States?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child Abuse and Neglect Problem in Local Community

Do you agree or disagree that child abuse and neglect is a problem in your local community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Many Know Someone Who Has Experienced Child Abuse

Do you know of someone (friend or family) who has experienced child abuse and/or neglect?

Non-Hispanic White
- Yes: 44%
- No: 50%
- Don't know/Refused: 6%

Hispanic
- Yes: 42%
- No: 52%
- Don't know/Refused: 7%

African-American
- Yes: 40%
- No: 51%
- Don't know/Refused: 10%

Asian
- Yes: 27%
- No: 62%
- Don't know/Refused: 11%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
In your view, how much of a problem is child abuse and neglect in terms of severity in the United States?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
How Others View Child Abuse as ‘Serious Problem’

How do you think others view child abuse and neglect as a problem in terms of severity?

- **Hispanic**
  - Not a problem: 15%
  - Minor problem: 37%
  - Moderate problem: 38%
  - Serious problem: 8%

- **African-American**
  - Not a problem: 12%
  - Minor problem: 33%
  - Moderate problem: 39%
  - Serious problem: 16%

- **Asian**
  - Not a problem: 16%
  - Minor problem: 40%
  - Moderate problem: 29%
  - Serious problem: 14%

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - Not a problem: 16%
  - Minor problem: 40%
  - Moderate problem: 27%
  - Serious problem: 16%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
How important is it to increase federal funding for research on child abuse and neglect?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Prevention and Treatment Should be Prioritized in Research

Which of the following areas should be prioritized in research to address child abuse and neglect? (Choose all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>AA</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How best to prevent each form of child abuse and neglect</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best treatments for victims of abuse and neglect</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes of abusive behavior and treatment to stop it</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure the quality of services provided to the children and families who are in the child protective services system</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure the outcomes (e.g. what happens over time) to children and families served by the child protection system</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/refused</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Who bears the responsibility to end child abuse and neglect? (Choose all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Child and Family Services</th>
<th>Law Enforcement</th>
<th>State Government</th>
<th>Federal Government</th>
<th>Education System</th>
<th>Medical Institutions</th>
<th>Faith-Based Communities</th>
<th>Don’t Know/Refused</th>
<th>Other (Specify)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
State and Federal Government Should Fund Research to Understand, Prevent Child Abuse

Which of the following should fund research to better understand, prevent and intervene in child abuse and neglect? (Choose all that apply)

- 71% State Government
- 74% Federal Government
- 45% Non-Profit Organizations
- 30% Private Sector/Industry
- 16% Academia
- 4% Don't Know/Refused
- 0% None of These
- 0% Other (Specify)

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
### Health Professionals Not Effective at Appropriately Treating Victims

Do you think health professionals are effective in intervening, preventing, or stopping abuse and appropriately treating victims?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hispanic</strong></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asian</strong></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>African-American</strong></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Hispanic White</strong></td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
How important is it for health care providers to identify families at elevated risk of child abuse and neglect?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not Too Important</th>
<th>Not At All Important</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child Abuse and Neglect Contribute to Depression

How do you think child abuse and neglect contributes to the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal' - Depression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>5 (A great deal)</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1 (Not at all)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
How do you think child abuse and neglect contributes to the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal' - Violence

- **Violence**
  - Hispanic: 60% (5), 24% (4), 11% (3)
  - African-American: 57% (5), 21% (4), 14% (3), 6% (2)
  - Non-Hispanic White: 53% (5), 24% (4), 17% (3), 4% (2)
  - Asian: 50% (5), 26% (4), 18% (3)

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child Abuse and Neglect Contribute to Substance Abuse

How do you think child abuse and neglect contributes to the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal' - Substance Abuse

- **Hispanic**: 56% (A great deal), 26% (4), 12% (3), 4% (2), 4% (1)
- **Non-Hispanic White**: 55% (A great deal), 25% (4), 14% (3), 4% (2), 4% (1)
- **African-American**: 53% (A great deal), 22% (4), 17% (3), 6% (2), 4% (1)
- **Asian**: 44% (A great deal), 31% (4), 17% (3), 5% (2), 4% (1)

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child Abuse and Neglect Contribute to Obesity/Eating Disorders

How do you think child abuse and neglect contributes to the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal' - Obesity/Eating Disorders

- **African-American**
  - 5 (A great deal): 45%
  - 4: 21%
  - 3: 19%
  - 2: 8%
  - 1 (Not at all): 8%

- **Hispanic**
  - 5 (A great deal): 40%
  - 4: 26%
  - 3: 22%
  - 2: 6%
  - 1 (Not at all): 6%

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - 5 (A great deal): 39%
  - 4: 22%
  - 3: 24%
  - 2: 11%
  - 1 (Not at all): 5%

- **Asian**
  - 5 (A great deal): 29%
  - 4: 29%
  - 3: 28%
  - 2: 7%
  - 1 (Not at all): 7%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child Abuse and Neglect Contribute to Problems at School

How do you think child abuse and neglect contributes to the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal' - Problems at school

- **Hispanic**: 65% (5), 20% (4), 11% (3)
- **African-American**: 58% (5), 22% (4), 12% (3), 6% (2)
- **Non-Hispanic White**: 57% (5), 24% (4), 14% (3)
- **Asian**: 50% (5), 27% (4), 15% (3), 5% (2)

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child Abuse and Neglect Contribute to Suicide

How do you think child abuse and neglect contributes to the following from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal' - Suicide/Suicidality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>5 (A great deal)</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1 (Not at all)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
How important is it for national and local systems to share data such as reports of child abuse and neglect?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.

- **Non-Hispanic White:**
  - Very Important: 74%
  - Somewhat Important: 18%
  - Not Too Important: 6%
  - Not At All Important: 6%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 2%

- **Hispanic:**
  - Very Important: 68%
  - Somewhat Important: 25%
  - Not Too Important: 7%
  - Not At All Important: 7%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 2%

- **African-American:**
  - Very Important: 68%
  - Somewhat Important: 19%
  - Not Too Important: 7%
  - Not At All Important: 7%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 2%

- **Asian:**
  - Very Important: 60%
  - Somewhat Important: 29%
  - Not Too Important: 7%
  - Not At All Important: 7%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 2%
Early Education and Family Support Services Important to Reduce Child Abuse

How important is early education and family support services to decrease the likelihood of child abuse and neglect?

- **Hispanic:**
  - Very Important: 74%
  - Somewhat Important: 22%
  - Not Too Important: 8%
  - Not At All Important: 7%
  - Don't know/Refused: 0%

- **African-American:**
  - Very Important: 66%
  - Somewhat Important: 22%
  - Not Too Important: 8%
  - Not At All Important: 0%
  - Don't know/Refused: 0%

- **Non-Hispanic White:**
  - Very Important: 65%
  - Somewhat Important: 27%
  - Not Too Important: 5%
  - Not At All Important: 0%
  - Don't know/Refused: 0%

- **Asian:**
  - Very Important: 62%
  - Somewhat Important: 29%
  - Not Too Important: 7%
  - Not At All Important: 0%
  - Don't know/Refused: 0%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Do you agree or disagree that people who are abused or neglected are likely to abuse or neglect their own children?

- **African-American**
  - Strongly Agree: 28%
  - Somewhat Agree: 40%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 15%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%
  - Don't know/Refused: 11%

- **Hispanic**
  - Strongly Agree: 29%
  - Somewhat Agree: 42%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 17%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%
  - Don't know/Refused: 6%

- **Asian**
  - Strongly Agree: 25%
  - Somewhat Agree: 45%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 13%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%
  - Don't know/Refused: 12%

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - Strongly Agree: 24%
  - Somewhat Agree: 49%
  - Somewhat Disagree: 12%
  - Strongly Disagree: 6%
  - Don't know/Refused: 9%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Majority Do Not Believe Physical Punishment Needed to Raise Children

Do you believe that in order to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly, the child needs to be physically punished?

- **African-American**
  - Yes: 23%
  - No: 57%
  - Don't know/Refused: 19%

- **Hispanic**
  - Yes: 22%
  - No: 65%
  - Don't know/Refused: 13%

- **Non-Hispanic White**
  - Yes: 18%
  - No: 61%
  - Don't know/Refused: 20%

- **Asian**
  - Yes: 16%
  - No: 69%
  - Don't know/Refused: 16%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.