Americans’ Views on Child Abuse and Neglect: Political Party

June 2018

National public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America
Survey Methodology

This nationwide online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in June 2018 among 1,010 adults in the U.S. This survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.

Due to rounding, the total may not add to 100% on some charts.
Plurality say Child Abuse/Neglect Among Top Public Health Concerns

Which of the following would you say are the top public health concerns facing the nation? (Choose all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health Concern</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug addiction</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition, physical activity and obesity</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child abuse/neglect</strong></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease and stroke</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s disease</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol abuse</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco use</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food safety</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare-associated infections</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen pregnancy</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle injury</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- **Democrat**: 87% Yes, 7% No, 7% Don't know/Refused
- **Independent**: 75% Yes, 16% No, 9% Don't know/Refused
- **Republican**: 71% Yes, 19% No, 10% Don't know/Refused

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Opinions Mixed on if Child Abuse is 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></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>Democrat</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>19%</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?

- **Democrat**
  - Yes: 47%
  - No: 48%
  - Don't know/Refused: 5%

- **Independent**
  - Yes: 40%
  - No: 49%
  - Don't know/Refused: 11%

- **Republican**
  - Yes: 40%
  - No: 51%
  - Don't know/Refused: 9%

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?

Strong Majority Consider Child Abuse a Serious Problem in U.S.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Strong Majority Think Others View Child Abuse as a Problem

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

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>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How best to prevent each form of child abuse and neglect</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best treatments for victims of abuse and neglect</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes of abusive behavior and treatment to stop it</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>57%</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>51%</td>
<td>48%</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>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/refused</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Child and Family Services, Law Enforcement Should Bear Responsibility to End Child Abuse

Who bears the responsibility to end child abuse and neglect? (Choose all that apply)

- Democrat
  - Child and Family Services: 70%
  - Law Enforcement: 56%
  - State Government: 59%
  - Federal Government: 55%
  - Education System: 43%
  - Medical Institutions: 34%
  - Faith-Based Communities: 21%

- Republican
  - Child and Family Services: 55%
  - Law Enforcement: 57%
  - State Government: 50%
  - Federal Government: 47%
  - Education System: 41%
  - Medical Institutions: 32%
  - Faith-Based Communities: 29%

- Independent
  - Child and Family Services: 51%
  - Law Enforcement: 47%
  - State Government: 46%
  - Federal Government: 42%
  - Education System: 35%
  - Medical Institutions: 27%
  - Faith-Based Communities: 26%
  - Don't Know/Refused: 17%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Who should fund early infant home visiting services to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect? (Choose all that apply)

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

- Republican:
  - Yes: 35%
  - No: 45%
  - Don't know/Refused: 21%

- Democrat:
  - Yes: 33%
  - No: 53%
  - Don't know/Refused: 15%

- Independent:
  - Yes: 25%
  - No: 47%
  - Don't know/Refused: 28%

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?

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

**Important for Health Care Providers to Identify Families at Risk**

**How important is it for health care providers to identify families at elevated risk of child abuse and neglect?**

- **Democrat:**
  - Very Important: 72%
  - Somewhat Important: 23%
  - Not Too Important: 3%

- **Republican:**
  - Very Important: 64%
  - Somewhat Important: 28%
  - Not Too Important: 5%

- **Independent:**
  - Very Important: 58%
  - Somewhat Important: 25%
  - Not Too Important: 5%
  - Don't know/Refused: 9%

(source: Zogby Analytics)
Majority Agree Child Abuse and Neglect Contributes 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

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

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

![Bar chart showing responses to the question on the impact of child abuse and neglect on violence, categorized by political affiliations: Democrat, Republican, and Independent.](chart.png)

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

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' - Obesity/Eating Disorders

Many Agree Child Abuse and Neglect Contributes to Obesity/Eating Disorders

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' – Problems at school

**Democrat**
- 5 (A great deal): 64%
- 4: 19%
- 3: 14%

**Independent**
- 5 (A great deal): 56%
- 4: 22%
- 3: 16%
- 2: 4%

**Republican**
- 5 (A great deal): 52%
- 4: 32%
- 3: 11%
- 2: 3%

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

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

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2018.
Majority Agree People Who are Abused Likely to Abuse their Children

Do you agree or disagree that people who are abused or neglected are likely to abuse or neglect their own children?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</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>Republican</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</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.
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?

**Democrat**
- Yes: 15%
- No: 69%
- Don’t know/Refused: 16%

**Republican**
- Yes: 24%
- No: 59%
- Don’t know/Refused: 18%

**Independent**
- Yes: 17%
- No: 58%
- Don’t know/Refused: 25%

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