Americans’ Views on Federal Support for Research

January 2015

Results of a New Public Opinion Poll
The National Poll was conducted online in January 2015 by Zogby Analytics for Research!America. The survey has a sample size of 1,008 adults with a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1%.

*Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100 on some slides
How important is it that the new 114th Congress takes action on assuring the discovery, development, and delivery of treatment and cures for diseases in the first 100 days of the legislative session?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
More than Half Confident in System to Evaluate Safety of Vaccines

How confident are you in our current system in the U.S. for evaluating the safety of vaccines and recommendations for when they should be given?

- Very Confident: 39%
- Somewhat Confident: 22%
- Not Too Confident: 11%
- Not At All Confident: 17%
- Not Sure: 10%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Public Confidence in the Safety of Vaccines on Decline

How confident are you in our current system in the U.S. for evaluating the safety of vaccines and recommendations for when they should be given?

Source: Public Opinion Polls, 2008-2015
Plurality: FDA Should Speed Drug Approval

Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your view. Statement A: Some people say the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should move more quickly in order to get new treatments to patients, even if it means there may be risks. Statement B: Other people say the FDA should act more slowly in order to reduce risk, even if it means patients may wait for treatments.

- 38% for Statement A
- 25% for Statement B
- 18% for Neither
- 19% for Not Sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your view. Statement A: Some people say the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should move more quickly in order to get new treatments to patients, even if it means there may be risks. Statement B: Other people say the FDA should act more slowly in order to reduce risk, even if it means patients may wait for treatments.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Important for Elected Officials to Listen to Scientists

How important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from scientists?

- Very Important: 38%
- Somewhat Important: 10%
- Not Too Important: 8%
- Not At All Important: 2%
- Not Sure: 10%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Scientists Should Influence How Government Funds Research

Which one of the following do you feel should have the most influence on how government funds for research to improve health are spent (choose only ONE)?

- Scientists who conduct the research to improve health: 41%
- Patients with various diseases and their families: 24%
- Elected Officials: 11%
- None/Not Sure: 4%
- Other specify: 21%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Government Funding of Research Isn’t Enough

Roughly one-and-a-half percent of government spending is allocated for biomedical and health research. Would you say that amount is …?

- 29% say it’s about right.
- 41% say it’s not enough.
- 9% say it’s too much.
- 21% say they are not sure.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Only About a Quarter of Americans Say U.S. Health Care is World Class

Do you believe the United States has the best health care system in the world?

27% Yes
21% Not Sure
52% No

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Which of the following statements is closer to your view - A or B? Statement A: It is important that the U.S. is a leader in medical and health research. Statement B: It does not matter where in the world medical and health research takes place, U.S. consumers will benefit regardless.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Plurality Willing to Pay More in Taxes to Fund 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?

- Yes: 44%
- No: 32%
- Not Sure: 24%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Research Investments Critical to Job Growth and Economy

How important is investing in research to job creation, technological breakthroughs and economic growth?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Important to Fund Research on U.S. Health Care System

How important is it that our nation supports research that focuses on improving how our health care system is functioning?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
For which of the following would you be willing to share your personal health information (Choose all that apply)?

So health care providers can improve patient care  60%

To advance medical research  55%

So public health officials can better track disease and disability and the causes  46%

None  10%

Not Sure  13%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Government Funds for Research to Benefit Military Not Enough

Would you say government investment in health research for the benefit of military veterans and service members is...?

- About Right: 26%
- Not Enough: 45%
- Too Much: 7%
- Not Sure: 23%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Most Favor Federal Support for Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Do you favor or oppose expanding federal funding for research using embryonic stem cells?

- 29% Strongly Favor
- 28% Somewhat Favor
- 12% Somewhat Oppose
- 11% Strongly Oppose
- 20% Not Sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Since 1981, the federal government has offered a tax credit to businesses pursuing research and development activities. This credit is not permanent, however, and has to be reconsidered regularly. This prevents businesses from being able to plan ahead when it comes to R&D spending. On the other hand, the federal government loses billions in revenue annually with this credit. How important is it that the federal research and development tax credit is made permanent?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Only 1 in 4 Know Research is Conducted Nationwide

To the best of your knowledge, would you say that medical research in the U.S. is conducted in all 50 states?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Most Agree Research has Benefited Family’s Health

Would you say your family’s health has been improved by medical research?

- Yes: 53%
- No: 22%
- Not Sure: 25%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Important to Conduct Research to Eliminate Health Disparities

Studies show that certain health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and infant mortality happen more often among minorities or citizens with lower incomes. How important do you feel it is to conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate these differences?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Connect with Research!America Online

www.researchamerica.org/blog
www.researchamerica.org/facebook
www.twitter.com/researchamerica
www.youtube.com/researchamerica