Americans’ Views on Vaccines and Infectious Disease Outbreaks

May 2018

National public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America and American Society for Microbiology
Survey Methodology

This nationwide online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in May 2018 among 1,004 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.
Support for this survey was provided, in part, by:

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
Strong Majority Agree Infectious Diseases Pose Threat to the U.S.

In general, to what extent do you think infectious and emerging diseases facing other countries will pose a threat to the U.S. in the next few years?

- **46%** Will pose a major threat to the U.S.
- **49%** Will pose a minor threat to the U.S.
- **4%** Will not pose a threat to the U.S.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Many Confident That U.S. Government Can Prevent Infectious Disease Outbreak

How confident are you that the federal government can prevent a major infectious disease outbreak in the U.S.?

- Very confident: 14%
- Somewhat confident: 47%
- Not too confident: 26%
- Not at all confident: 10%
- Don't know/Refused: 3%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Please indicate the extent to which you agree, where '1' means you strongly disagree, and '5' means you strongly agree?

- The global community will experience an epidemic in the next 10 years: 17% agree, 20% disagree, 42% neither agree nor disagree, 12% somewhat agree, 9% strongly agree.
- The global community will experience an epidemic in the next 10 years that includes cases in the U.S.: 15% agree, 19% disagree, 42% neither agree nor disagree, 16% somewhat agree, 8% strongly agree.
- The U.S. is prepared to respond to another epidemic like Ebola: 11% agree, 23% disagree, 42% neither agree nor disagree, 16% somewhat agree, 9% strongly agree.
- The global community is prepared to respond to another epidemic like Ebola: 8% agree, 20% disagree, 40% neither agree nor disagree, 21% somewhat agree, 10% strongly agree.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Important for Government to Fund Surveillance of Disease Outbreaks

How important is it for the federal government to fund international programs on the surveillance and detection of infectious disease outbreaks?

- Very important: 51%
- Somewhat important: 38%
- Not too important: 5%
- Not at all important: 3%
- Don't know: 4%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Government Should Educate Public About Global Disease Outbreaks

Which statement is closest to your view: (A) The federal government should do more to educate the public about global disease outbreaks and the risk to the U.S. (B) The public is sufficiently informed on global health issues and the government should devote its time and resources to other national priorities.

- Statement A: 70%
- Statement B: 18%
- Neither of the above: 5%
- Not sure: 6%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Strong Majority say Americans Should be Concerned about Global Health

When you hear the term global health, do you think it is an issue about which Americans should be concerned?

- Yes: 81%
- No: 9%
- Not sure: 11%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Nearly Half say Vaccination for Childhood Diseases Most Concerning Global Health Problem

Which two of the following global health problems concern you the most:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most concerning health problem:</th>
<th>Second most concerning health problem:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunger and nutritional health</td>
<td>Malaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination for childhood</td>
<td>Family planning and reproductive health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diseases like polio</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>Obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family planning and</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reproductive health</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>Vaccination for childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>diseases like polio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hunger and nutritional health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Vaccines are Important to Health of Society

Thinking about the common vaccines available today such as polio, tetanus, measles, and flu, how important do you believe vaccines are to the health of our society today?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Decrease in Percentage say Vaccines ‘Very Important’ to Health of Society

Thinking about the common vaccines available today such as polio, tetanus, measles, and flu, how important do you believe vaccines are to the health of our society today?

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.

- **May 2018**: 70% Very important, 22% Somewhat important
- **Nov. 2008**: 80% Very important, 17% Somewhat important

Legend:
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important
- Don't know/Refused
Majority Confident in U.S. Vaccine Evaluation and Recommendations

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?

- 32% Very confident
- 45% Somewhat confident
- 12% Not too confident
- 6% Not at all confident
- 4% Don’t know/Refused

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Decrease in Percentage say 'Somewhat Confident' in System to Evaluate 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Very Confident</th>
<th>Somewhat Confident</th>
<th>Not Too Confident</th>
<th>Not at All Confident</th>
<th>Don't Know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2008</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
More than Two-Thirds Confident of Adequate Supply of Vaccines

How confident are you that our current system ensures an adequate supply of necessary vaccines to prevent shortages?

- Very confident: 20%
- Somewhat confident: 47%
- Not too confident: 22%
- Not at all confident: 6%
- Don't know/Refused: 5%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Decrease in Percentage say ‘Somewhat Confident’ in Adequate Supply of Vaccines

How confident are you that our current system ensures an adequate supply of necessary vaccines to prevent shortages?

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
Many Have Personally Benefited from Vaccines

Do you believe that you have personally benefited from the development of vaccines over the last 50 years?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Do you believe that you have personally benefited from the development of vaccines over the last 50 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Strongly, Yes</th>
<th>Somewhat, Yes</th>
<th>Somewhat, No</th>
<th>Strongly, No</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2008</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
Important for Children to be Vaccinated

How important do you believe it is for parents to have their children vaccinated?

- Very important: 71%
- Somewhat important: 19%
- Not too important: 4%
- Not at all important: 3%
- Don't know/Refused: 3%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Decrease in Percentage say ‘Very Important’ to Vaccinate Children

How important do you believe it is for parents to have their children vaccinated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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>May 2018</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2008</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
More than Half Did Not Get Flu Vaccine Last Season

Did you get the flu vaccine during the last flu season?

- Yes: 46%
- No: 53%
- Not sure: 1%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Lack of Trust is Main Reason for Not Getting Flu Vaccine

Why did you not get the vaccine during the last flu season? (Choose all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I do not trust the flu vaccine</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not feel I need it to prevent the flu</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The flu vaccine is not effective and therefore not worth getting</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough time</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My doctor did not recommend it</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not covered by my insurance</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Majority Agree Not Vaccinating Puts Children & Communities at Risk

Which statement is closest to your view: (A) Some people say parents should have the right to decide whether their children should get vaccinated or not. (B) Other people say that when parents decide not to vaccinate it puts their children and their communities at risk.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Increase in Percentage say Not Vaccinating Puts Children & Communities at Risk

Which statement is closest to your view: (A) Some people say parents should have the right to decide whether their children should get vaccinated or not. (B) Other people say that when parents decide not to vaccinate it puts their children and their communities at risk.

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
Plurality say Information from Doctors on Vaccinations Not Enough

In general, do you think the public receives enough information from their doctors about vaccinations?

- Yes: 38%
- No: 45%
- Not sure: 17%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Majority Have Not Heard of Universal Flu Vaccine

Do you recall hearing anything recently about a new type of vaccine called a universal flu vaccine?

- Yes: 21%
- No: 66%
- Not sure: 13%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Strong Majority Favor Increased Federal Spending on Vaccine Research

Do you favor or oppose increased federal spending on research to improve and find new vaccines?

- **Strongly favor**: 49%
- **Somewhat favor**: 6%
- **Somewhat oppose**: 4%
- **Strongly oppose**: 6%
- **Don't know/Refused**: 36%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Increase in Percentage say ‘Strongly Favor’ Federal Spending on Vaccine Research

Do you favor or oppose increased federal spending on research to improve and find new vaccines?

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
### Media, Internet Main Sources of Information on Vaccines

How did you hear about vaccines? (Check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online/internet</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor/Healthcare Provider</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertisements</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.)</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends/Family</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Organization</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specify)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Majority Have Spoken With Healthcare Professional About Flu Vaccine

Have you ever spoken with a physician, pharmacist or another healthcare professional about getting the flu vaccine?

- Yes: 62%
- No: 36%
- Not sure: 2%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Strong Majority Agree Not Vaccinating Puts Other Children at Risk for Disease

Do you agree or disagree if someone else's child is not vaccinated that other children are at risk for disease?

- **47%** Strongly agree
- **34%** Somewhat agree
- **5%** Somewhat disagree
- **5%** Strongly disagree
- **5%** Don't know/Refused

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Strong Majority Agree U.S. is Global Leader in Research

Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. is a global leader in research to improve health?

- 35% Strongly agree
- 44% Somewhat agree
- 12% Somewhat disagree
- 5% Strongly disagree
- 5% Don't know

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Increase in Percentage That Agree U.S. is Global Leader in Research

Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. is a global leader in research to improve health?

**May 2018**
- Strongly agree: 35%
- Somewhat agree: 44%
- Somewhat disagree: 12%
- Strongly disagree: 15%
- Don’t know/Refused: 10%

**Nov. 2008**
- Strongly agree: 42%
- Somewhat agree: 28%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 20%
- Don’t know/Refused: 7%

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018 and with Charlton Research Company in November 2008.
Strong Majority say it’s Important for U.S. to be Global Leader in Research

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

- 67% Strongly agree
- 26% Somewhat agree
- 3% Somewhat disagree
- 1% Strongly disagree
- 2% Don't know

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2018.
Which of the following should be responsible for funding global health research? (Choose all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S government</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses (such as pharmaceutical companies and biotech corporations)</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private citizens through donations to faith-based and other non-profit organizations</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State government</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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