Americans’ Views on Antibiotic Resistance

Research!America

An Alliance for Discoveries in Health

November 2018

National Public Opinion Survey Conducted by Research!America
A national public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America in collaboration with the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA). The survey was supported in part by Pfizer Inc.
Methodology

This nationwide online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in October 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.
Two Thirds Say Antibiotic Resistance is a Threat to Public Health

How big of a problem do you believe antibiotic resistance is to public health?

- Not a problem: 20%
- Mild problem: 29%
- Moderate problem: 36%
- Severe problem: 13%
- Don’t know/Not Sure: 2%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
How concerned are you that antibiotic resistance will make more infections difficult or impossible to treat and even deadly?

- **Very concerned**: 42%
- **Somewhat concerned**: 39%
- **Not too concerned**: 7%
- **Not at all concerned**: 3%
- **Don't know/Not Sure**: 10%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Strong Support for Federally Funded Research to Address Antibiotic Resistance

Do you agree or disagree: The federal government should increase funding for research and public health initiatives to address antibiotic resistance

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Strong Agreement to Increase Federal Funding for Antibiotic Resistance

Do you agree or disagree: The federal government should increase funding for research and public health initiatives to address antibiotic resistance

Democrats

- Strongly Agree: 51%
- Somewhat Agree: 29%
- Somewhat Disagree: 6%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
- Don't know/Not sure: 10%

Republicans

- Strongly Agree: 37%
- Somewhat Agree: 39%
- Somewhat Disagree: 12%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
- Don't know/Not sure: 9%

Independents

- Strongly Agree: 34%
- Somewhat Agree: 36%
- Somewhat Disagree: 8%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
- Don't know/Not sure: 19%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Strong Support for Incentives for Private Sector Investment in New Antibiotics

Do you agree or disagree: The federal government should provide incentives to encourage increased private sector investment in the development of new antibiotics.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Support for Federal Government Incentives to Develop New Antibiotics Across Political Spectrum

Do you agree or disagree: The federal government should provide incentives to encourage increased private sector investment in the development of new antibiotics.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Strong Support for Industry Development of New Antibiotics

Do you agree or disagree: Pharmaceutical companies should develop new antibiotics

- **56%** Strongly Agree
- **27%** Somewhat Agree
- **11%** Somewhat Disagree
- **5%** Strongly Disagree
- **1%** Don't Know/Not Sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Strong Awareness Of Only Prescribing Antibiotics When Needed

Do you agree or disagree: Doctors and other healthcare professionals should only prescribe antibiotics when they are needed

- **Strongly Agree**: 78%
- **Somewhat Agree**: 13%
- **Somewhat Disagree**: 3%
- **Strongly Disagree**: 1%
- **Don't know/Not Sure**: 4%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Third of Americans Wrongly Say Antibiotics Effective for Viral Infections; many Unsure

True or false: Antibiotics are effective for treating viral infections. (false)

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
Nearly One Third Would Be Dissatisfied If Not Prescribed *Unnecessary* Antibiotic

If you or your child has an upper respiratory infection (e.g. common cold, bronchitis, etc.) that is caused by a virus, and your doctor does not prescribe you an antibiotic, would you be satisfied or dissatisfied by not receiving the antibiotic?
Many Don’t Know: Inappropriate Antibiotic Use Leads to Resistance

True or false: Even a single course of antibiotics taken when not appropriate by an individual can contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance (true)
Majority are Aware that Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Can Be Spread from Person to Person

True or false: Bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics can be spread from person to person (true)

- True: 61%
- False: 10%
- Not Sure: 29%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in October 2018.
High Awareness of the Dangers of Antibiotic Resistance; many Unsure

True or false: Antibiotic-resistant infections make medical procedures like surgery, organ transplants and cancer treatment much more dangerous. (true)
Few say Federal Government Should Not Act on Antibiotic R&D

Do you agree or disagree: No action is needed from the federal government on antibiotic research and development at this time

- **Strongly Agree**: 15%
- **Somewhat Agree**: 8%
- **Somewhat Disagree**: 28%
- **Strongly Disagree**: 13%
- **Don't know/ Not Sure**: 36%

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