West Virginians Speak Out on Medical and Health Research

October 2017

West Virginia Public Opinion Survey Commissioned by Research!America
Survey Methodology

**West Virginia Survey**
This state online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in September 2017, among 403 adults in West Virginia. This survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 4.9 percentage points.*

**Clinical Trials National Survey**
This nationwide online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in July 2017, among 1,000 adults. This survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.*

**National Survey**
This nationwide online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in January 2017, among 1,005 adults. This survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.*

*Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100 on some slides.
In your opinion, what is the most important health issue facing people in West Virginia today?

- Opioid epidemic/Substance abuse: 36%
- Obesity: 22%
- Cancer: 16%
- Not sure: 7%
- Heart disease: 5%
- Diabetes: 4%
- Mental Health: 3%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): 2%
- Arthritis: 1%
- Asthma: 1%
- Dental Disease: 1%
- High blood pressure: 1%
- Other: 1%
- Kidney disease: <1%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Strong Majority Say Medication Abuse, Addiction a Major Problem

Is prescription pain medication abuse and addiction a major problem in your community?

- Yes: 84%
- No: 9%
- Not sure: 7%
- Not sure: 9%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Majority Know Someone Who Has Sought Prescription Pain Medicines

Do you know anyone who experienced pain so severe that they sought prescription medicines to treat it?

- Yes: 71%
- No: 20%
- Not sure: 9%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Majority Say Overprescribing of Opioids a Barrier to Combating Opioid Epidemic

Do you agree or disagree that the following are barriers to effectively combating the opioid epidemic? (Choose all that apply)

- Overprescribing of opioids: 70%
- Lack of coordination between state and federal governments to address the epidemic: 49%
- Lack of access to treatment: 45%
- Lack of funding for research and prevention: 41%
- Stigma of opioid use: 30%
- Not sure: 7%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Majority Agree White House Declaration Will Help Localities

Do you agree or disagree that a White House declaration that the opioid epidemic is a national emergency will support local efforts to address the crisis?

- **32%** Strongly agree
- **17%** Somewhat agree
- **12%** Somewhat disagree
- **8%** Strongly disagree
- **12%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Strong Support for Federal Research Funding to Combat Opioid Addiction

Do you support or oppose increased federal funding for research to better understand and combat the opioid addiction?

- 47% Strongly support
- 30% Somewhat support
- 8% Somewhat oppose
- 6% Strongly oppose
- 10% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Important to Flag Medical Records for Opioid Addiction

How important is it for medical records to prominently state whether a patient is recovering from addiction to prevent overprescribing of opioids in the same way they are marked if a patient is allergic to penicillin?

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Overdose Reversal Drugs Can Reduce Opioid Deaths

Do you agree or disagree that opioid deaths in the state can be reduced by increasing access to opioid overdose reversal drugs in West Virginia schools and public facilities such as libraries?

- Strongly agree: 27%
- Somewhat agree: 21%
- Somewhat disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 10%
- Not sure: 10%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
The U.S. spends about 5 and a half cents of each health dollar on research to prevent, cure, and treat disease and disability. Do you think that is too much, the right amount, or not enough?

A higher percentage of West Virginians (61%) say ‘not enough,’ compared to 40% of the general U.S. population.
Investing in Medical Research Is Important to West Virginia’s Economy

In terms of jobs and incomes, how important do you think spending money on medical research is to West Virginia's economy?

- Very important: 37%
- Somewhat important: 41%
- Not too important: 13%
- Not at all important: 3%
- Not sure: 7%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Federal Government Should Support Incentives for Private Sector Investments

How important is it for the federal government to support incentives for private sector investment in new treatments and cures?

- Very important: 44%
- Somewhat important: 39%
- Not too important: 8%
- Not at all important: 3%
- Not sure: 7%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
West Virginia Should Support Private Investments in Research

Do you agree or disagree that the West Virginia state legislature should support legislation that will encourage private investments in medical research?

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Federal Funds Should Support Scientific Research at Universities

Do you agree or disagree that federal (taxpayer) funds should be used to support scientific research at public universities?

- **33%** Strongly agree
- **44%** Somewhat agree
- **9%** Somewhat disagree
- **4%** Strongly disagree
- **10%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
State Funds Should Support Scientific Research at Universities

Do you agree or disagree that the state of West Virginia (taxpayer) funds should be used to support scientific research at public universities?

- **Strongly agree**: 29%
- **Somewhat agree**: 43%
- **Somewhat disagree**: 7%
- **Strongly disagree**: 8%
- **Not sure**: 12%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
State Government Should Assign Higher Priority to STEM Education

Do you agree or disagree West Virginia's state government should assign a higher priority to improving education focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics and careers in those fields?

- Strongly agree: 43%
- Somewhat agree: 42%
- Somewhat disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 1%
- Not sure: 6%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Federal Government Should Assign Higher Priority to STEM Education

Do you agree or disagree the federal government should assign a higher priority to improving education focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics and careers in those fields?

A higher percentage of West Virginians (85%) ‘strongly’ or ‘somewhat’ agree, compared to 69% of the general U.S. population.

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Strong Majority Say It’s Important to Increase Funding for Rural Health Research

Rural health research focuses on issues important to the delivery of rural medical services, the viability of rural healthcare facilities, and the health of individuals in rural areas. How important is it to increase funding for such research?

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Strong Majority Support Research to Eliminate Health Disparities

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

A higher percentage of West Virginians (87%) say ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ important compared to 73% of the general U.S. population.

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Federal Government Should Support Basic Scientific Research

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

*A higher percentage of West Virginians (82%) ‘strongly’ or ‘somewhat’ agree, compared to 63% of the general U.S. population.*

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Many Willing to Share Personal Data to Advance Research, Improve Patient Care

For the following, please indicate your willingness to share your personal health information, assuming that appropriate privacy protections are in place. (Choose all that apply)

A lower percentage of West Virginians (50%) are willing to share personal health information so public health officials can better track disease, disability and the causes, compared to 74% of the general U.S. population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To advance medical research</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So health care providers can improve patient care</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So public health officials can better track disease, disability and the causes</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
One kind of research, often referred to as clinical trial, is clinical research. In this volunteers choose to participate to test the effectiveness of certain treatments in improving the care of patients. How do you perceive the value of this kind of research?

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Majority Have Not Participated in Clinical Trials

Have you or anyone in your family ever participated in clinical trials?

- Yes: 13%
- No: 79%
- Not sure: 8%

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Medical Bills, Risks, Competence of Researchers

Important Factors in Clinical Trial Participation

How important would each of the following factors be in your decision to participate as a volunteer in a clinical trial?

- Whether you would have medical bills covered if you had an injury from the study: 76% Very important, 16% Somewhat important, 2% Not too important, 4% Not at all important, 4% Not sure
- Understanding potential risks and benefits: 73% Very important, 18% Somewhat important, 4% Not too important, 4% Not at all important, 4% Not sure
- Competence/reputation of people or the institution conducting research: 70% Very important, 19% Somewhat important, 5% Not too important, 5% Not at all important, 5% Not sure
- Opportunity to possibly improve your own health: 69% Very important, 22% Somewhat important, 3% Not too important, 5% Not at all important, 5% Not sure
- Having an expert guide you through the clinical trials process: 64% Very important, 25% Somewhat important, 5% Not too important, 5% Not at all important, 5% Not sure
- Opportunity to improve the health of others: 63% Very important, 28% Somewhat important, 3% Not too important, 5% Not at all important, 5% Not sure
- The location of the clinical trial is easily accessible: 55% Very important, 32% Somewhat important, 7% Not too important, 4% Not at all important, 4% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
How important would each of the following factors be in your decision to participate as a volunteer in a clinical trial? (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not too important</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Privacy and confidentiality issues</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your physician’s recommendation</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to advance scientific research</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving psychological support and counseling for your illness and as a clinical trial participant</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing from clinical trial participants</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whether you would be paid to participate</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of wearable health devices, mobile apps and digital technology to record your data</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Opinions Split on Whether Health Care Services Based on Most Recent Research

Do you believe the health care services you personally receive are based on the best and most recent research available?

43% Yes
34% No
23% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
How important do you think it is that the US maintain its role as a world leader in medical research?

- **65%** Very important
- **24%** Somewhat important
- **6%** Not too important
- **2%** Not at all important
- **4%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Important for West Virginia to Be a Leader in Medical & Health Research

How important is it for West Virginia to be a leader in the following categories?

- **Medical and health Research**: 52% Very important, 26% Somewhat important, 13% Not too important, 7% Not at all important, 7% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Some types of prevention research aims to help people make behavioral changes that can help them overcome health threats such as smoking, obesity, substance abuse, hypertension and diabetes. Do you believe the U.S. government should help fund this prevention research?

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
Majority Say It’s Important to Increase Funding for Social Sciences Research

Social sciences research seeks to understand aspects of human behavior and the functioning of society. It also studies topics ranging from the causes of unemployment to how and why people vote, to best ways to help people quit smoking or lose weight. How important is it to increase funding for such research?

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in West Virginia conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2017.
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