RESEARCH AMERICA
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

Americans’ Views on Science and Health

January 2020
National public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America
Survey Methodology

This online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in January 2020, among 1,003 adults. The 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
Americans See Importance of Investing in Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How important is investing in research to each of the following?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job creation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important: 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important: 36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too important: 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic growth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important: 51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important: 34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too important: 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining U.S. standing in global competitiveness:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important: 43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important: 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too important: 14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Strong Majority Support Faster Medical Progress as a Federal Priority

How important is it for the President and Congress to assign a high priority to ensuring faster medical progress?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Across Political Spectrum: Important to Support Faster Medical Progress

How important is it for the President and Congress to assign a high priority to ensuring faster medical progress?

- Democrat: 62% Very important, 30% Somewhat important, 3% Not very important, 1% Not at all important, 4% Not sure
- Republican: 49% Very important, 40% Somewhat important, 5% Not very important, 3% Not at all important, 4% Not sure
- Independent: 48% Very important, 35% Somewhat important, 4% Not very important, 3% Not at all important, 10% Not sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Across Political Spectrum: Doubling Funding for Medical Research over the Next Five Years

Do you favor or oppose doubling federal spending on medical research over the next five years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
<th>Somewhat favor</th>
<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
More than Two-Thirds Would Pay More in Taxes to Fund Medical 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?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Strong Majority Believe it is Important that the U.S. is a Global Leader in Health Research

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

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
7 in 10 Americans Consider it Important for Candidates for Elected Office to Have a Science Advisor

How important is it that candidates for elected office have a science advisor?

- Very important: 36%
- Somewhat important: 36%
- Not very important: 13%
- Not at all important: 11%
- Not sure: 5%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Strong Majority Consider it Important for Elected Officials to Listen to Advice from Scientists

In thinking about threats to your health, how important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from scientists?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020.
Strong Majority Consider it Important for Elected Officials to Listen to Advice from Public Health Professionals

In thinking about threats to your health, how important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from public health professionals?

- Very important: 57%
- Somewhat important: 32%
- Not very important: 4%
- Not at all important: 2%
- Not sure: 5%

(Note this survey was fielded prior to reports of coronavirus outbreak)

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Significant Decline in those who Believe it is “Very Important” for Parents to have Children Vaccinated

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

People saying “very important” decreased by 13% since 2008

2008: 82% very important, 14% somewhat important, 2% not very important

2020: 69% very important, 18% somewhat important, 5% not very important

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
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?

People saying “very important” decreased by 9% from 80% since 2008.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020.
Decline in Confidence in the Safety of Vaccines

In general, how confident are you in the safety of vaccines used today?

Confidence has declined by 9% since 2008.

2020
- Very confident: 44%
- Somewhat confident: 37%
- Not too confident: 9%, 5%, 5%

2008
- Very confident: 46%
- Somewhat confident: 44%
- Not too confident: 7%, 1%, 2%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
What would you say is the single most important health issue facing the nation?

- Cost of health care: 21%
- Substance abuse/opioid abuse/drug abuse: 15%
- Mental health: 13%
- Cancer: 9%
- Gun violence: 9%
- Don't know: 8%
- Diabetes: 7%
- Obesity: 7%
- Suicide: 4%
- Heart disease: 3%
- Other: 2%
- HIV/AIDS: 2%
- Alzheimer's disease: 2%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020.

Up 5% from 8% in 2019

Up 5% from 2% in 2019
Strong Majority Support Research Seeking to Understand and Eliminate Health Disparities

Studies show that certain health problems such as cancer, 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?

- Very important: 58%
- Somewhat important: 31%
- Not very important: 4%
- Not at all important: 1%
- Not sure: 5%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Most Americans Think Public Investment in Mental Health Research Is Not Enough

Do you think public investment in mental health research is the right amount, not enough, or about right?

- The right amount: 25%
- Not enough: 60%
- Too much: 13%
- Not sure: 2%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
4 in 5 Americans Agree that Opioid Abuse and Addiction is a Major Problem in Their Community

Please indicate the extent to which you agree that opioid abuse and addiction is a major problem in your community.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Majority Agree That More Vaping Research is Needed

Please indicate the extent to which you agree that more research is needed to address the impact of vaping on health.

- 48% Strongly agree
- 32% Somewhat agree
- 9% Somewhat disagree
- 6% Strongly disagree
- 5% Not sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020.
More than Half of Americans Know Someone Who Has Sought Medical Treatment for Severe Pain

Do you know anyone who experienced pain so severe they sought medical treatment to treat it?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020

- Yes: 57%
- No: 35%
- Not sure: 8%
## Majority Think Climate Change is Harming Health

How much, if at all, do you think climate change is currently harming:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>A great deal</th>
<th>A moderate amount</th>
<th>Only a little</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your own health</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The health of people in your household</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The health of Americans</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The health of people worldwide</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
More than Half of Americans Believe Using Embryonic Stem Cells is Necessary for Progress in Human Health

Do you believe the use of embryonic stem cells is necessary for progress in human health?

- Yes: 54%
- No: 18%
- Not sure: 28%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Research!America Works for You

Connect with us

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