



# Americans' Views on Science and Health

January 2020

National public opinion survey commissioned  
by Research!America

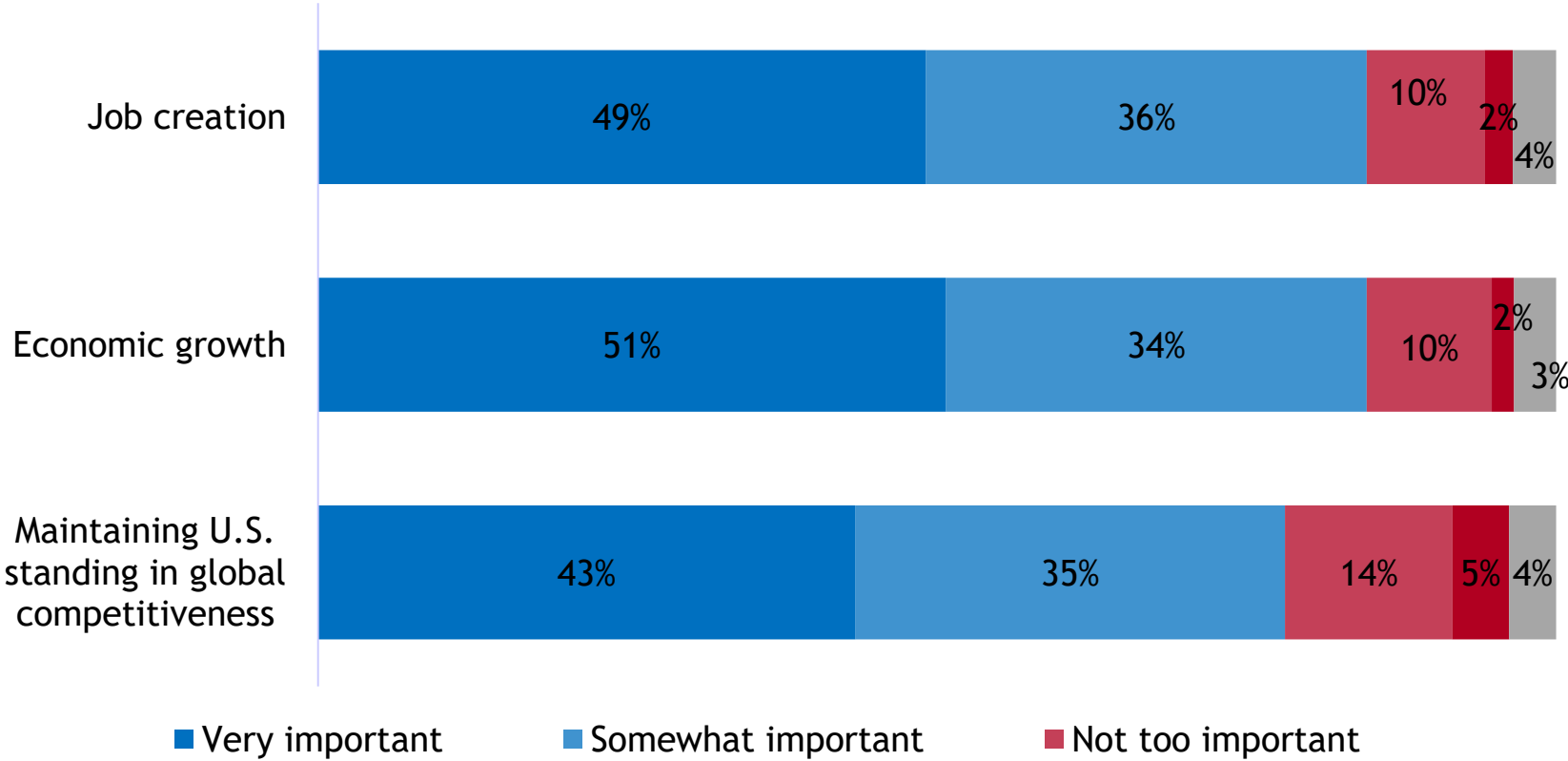
# Survey Methodology

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

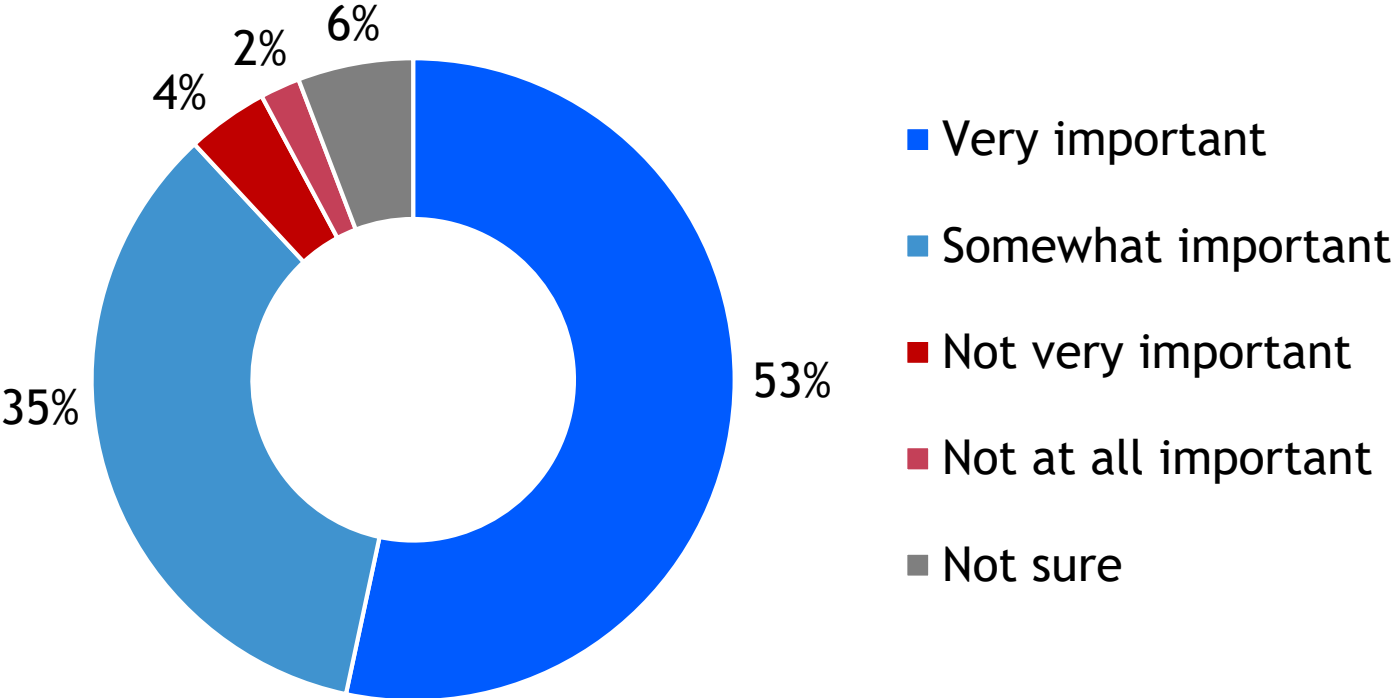
# Americans See Importance of Investing in Research

How important is investing in research to each of the following?



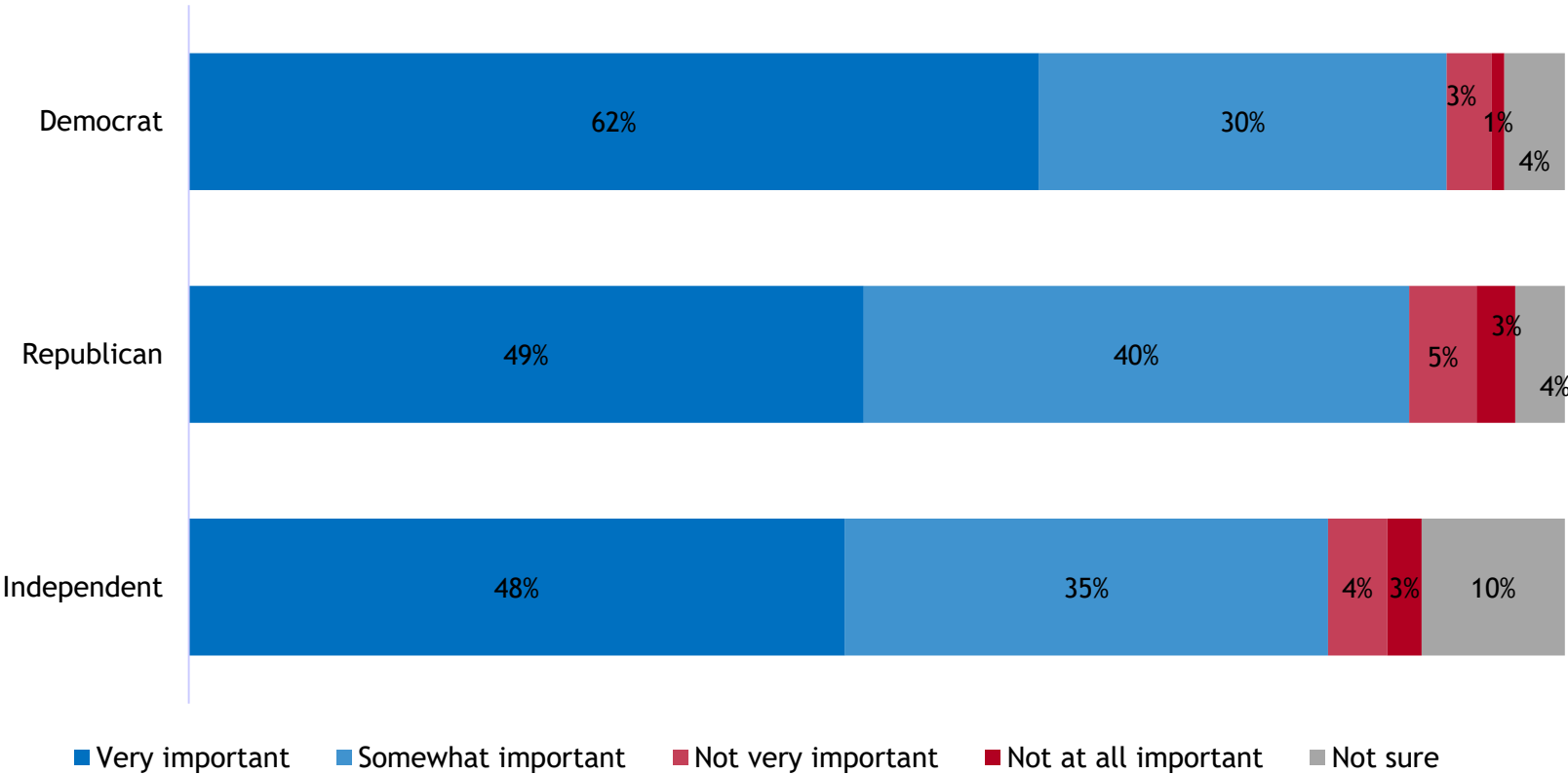
# Strong Majority Support Faster Medical Progress as a Federal Priority

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



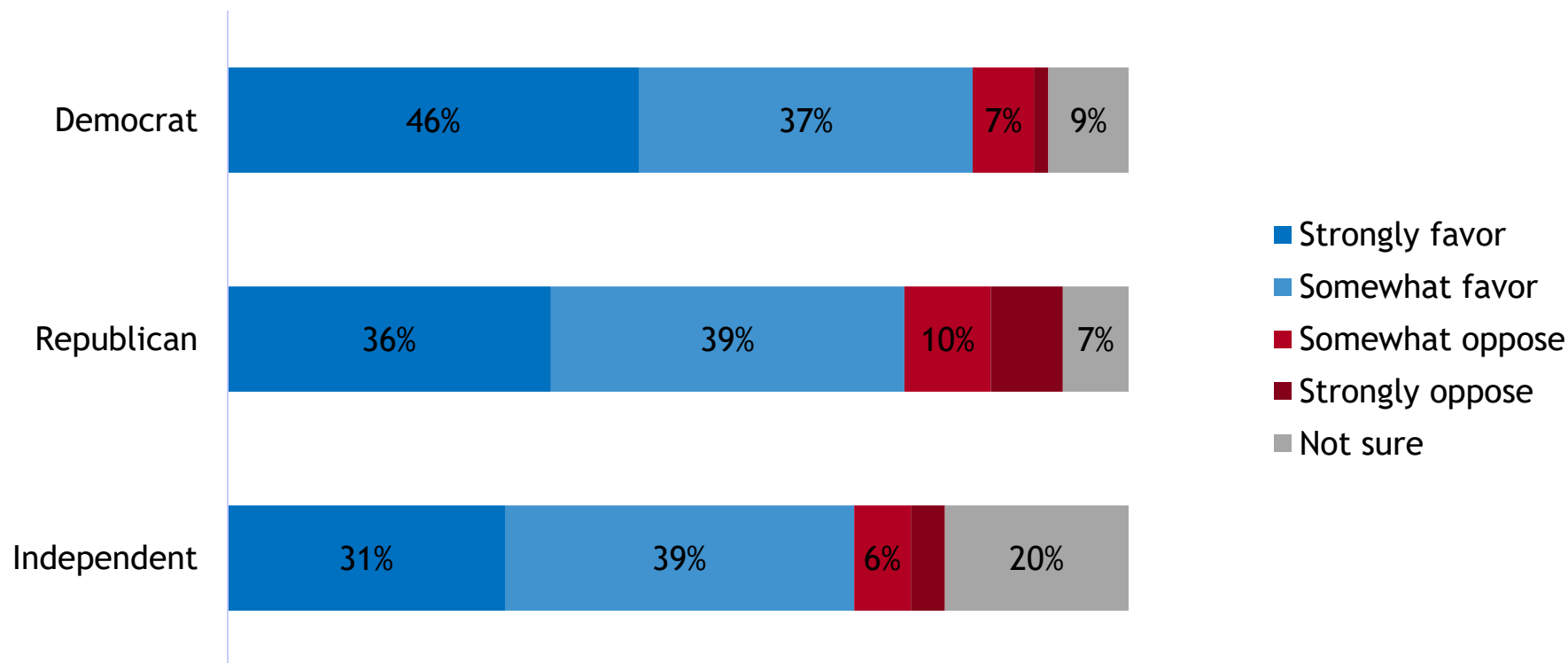
# Across Political Spectrum: Important to Support Faster Medical Progress

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



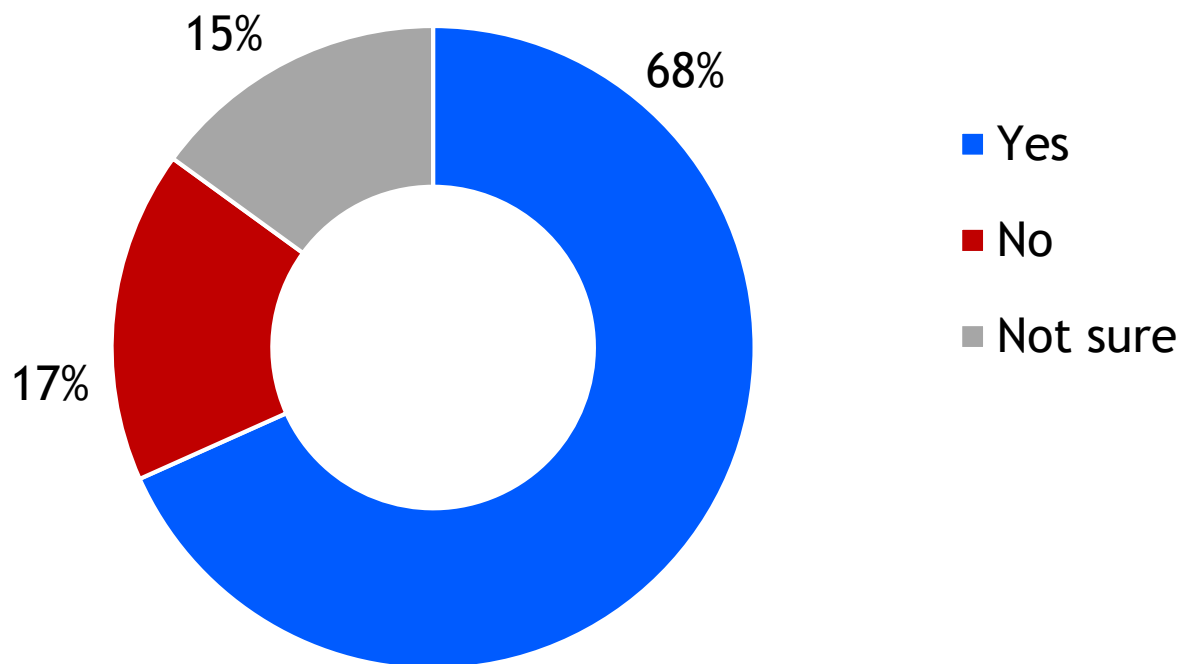
# Across Political Spectrum: Doubling Funding for Medical Research over the Next Five Years

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



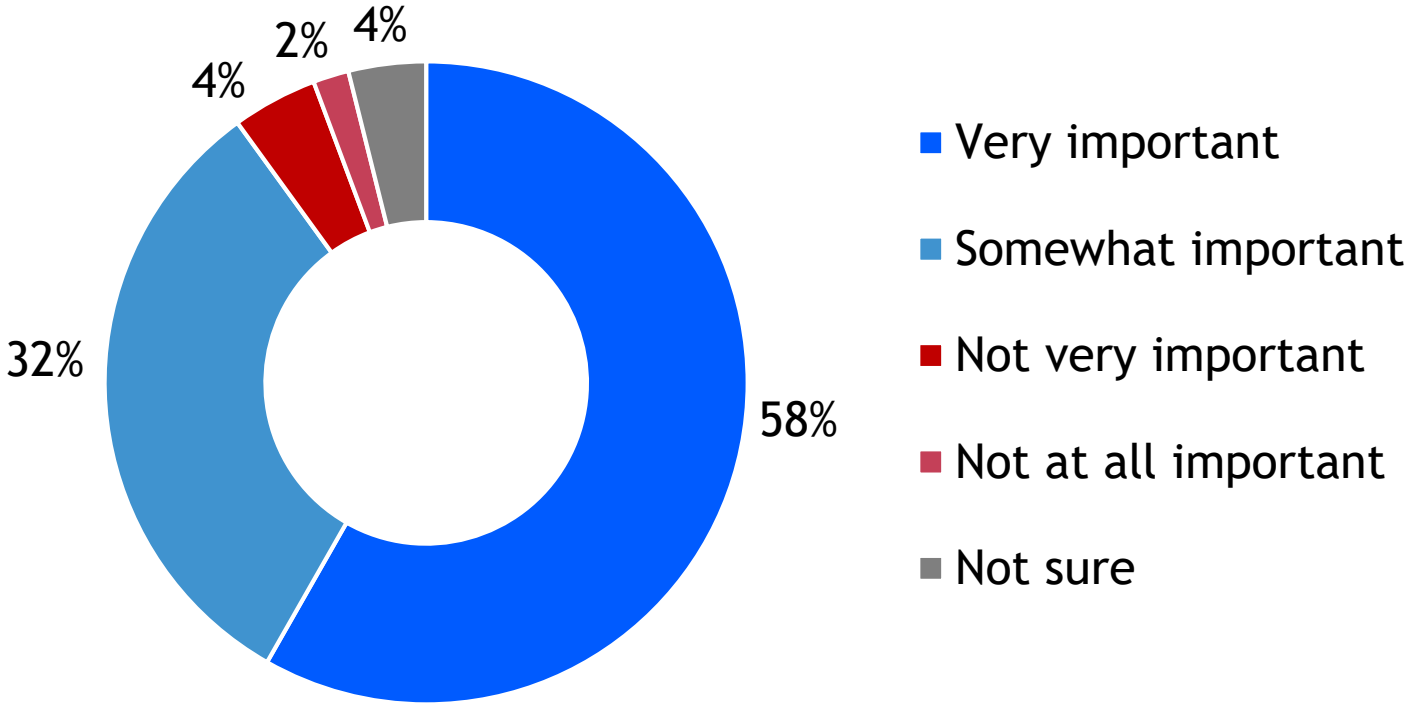
# More than Two-Thirds Would Pay More in Taxes to Fund Medical Research

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?



# Strong Majority Believe it is Important that the U.S. is a Global Leader in Health Research

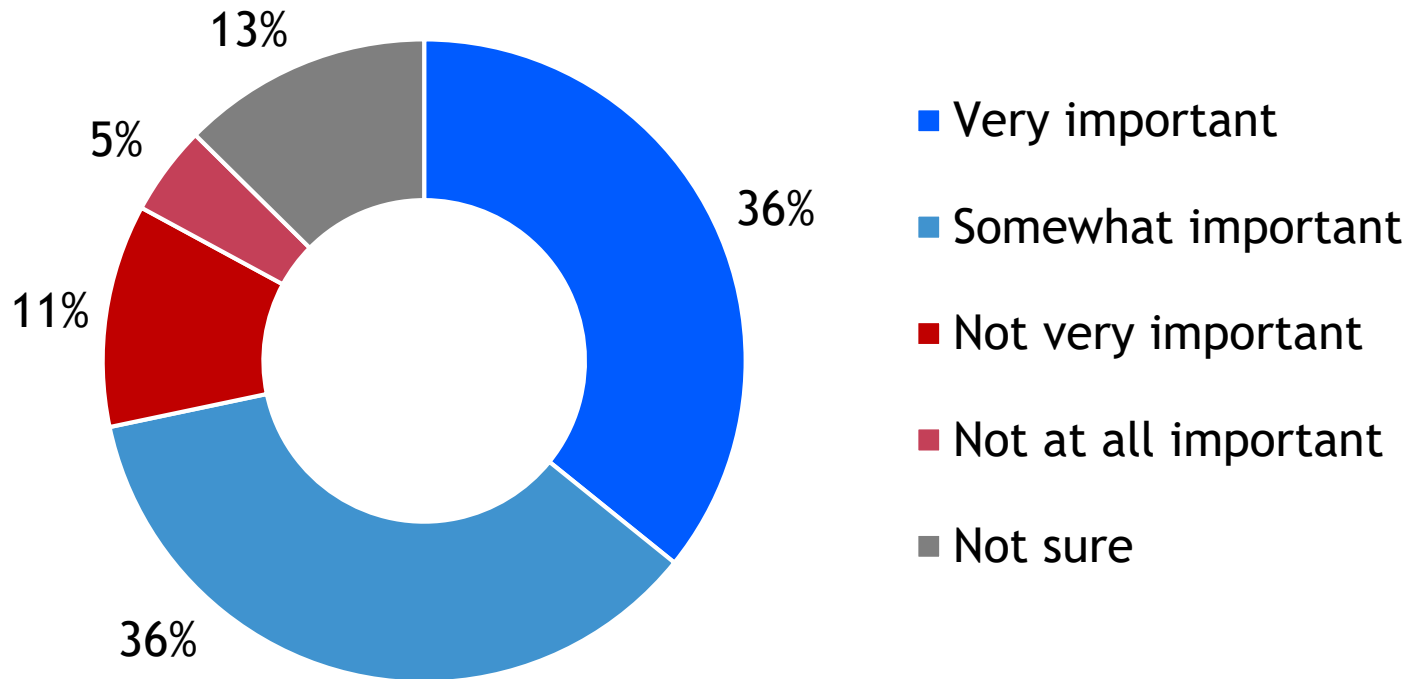
How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in research to improve health?





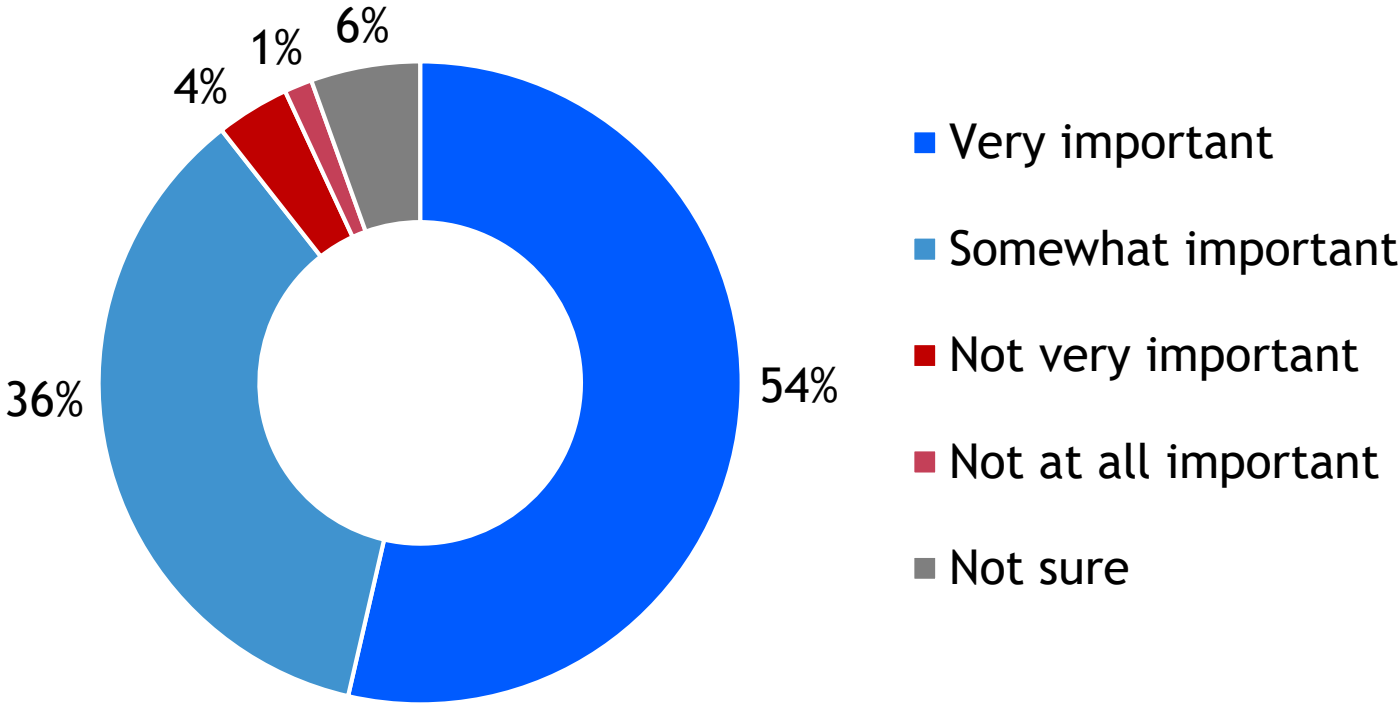
# 7 in 10 Americans Consider it Important for Candidates for Elected Office to Have a Science Advisor

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



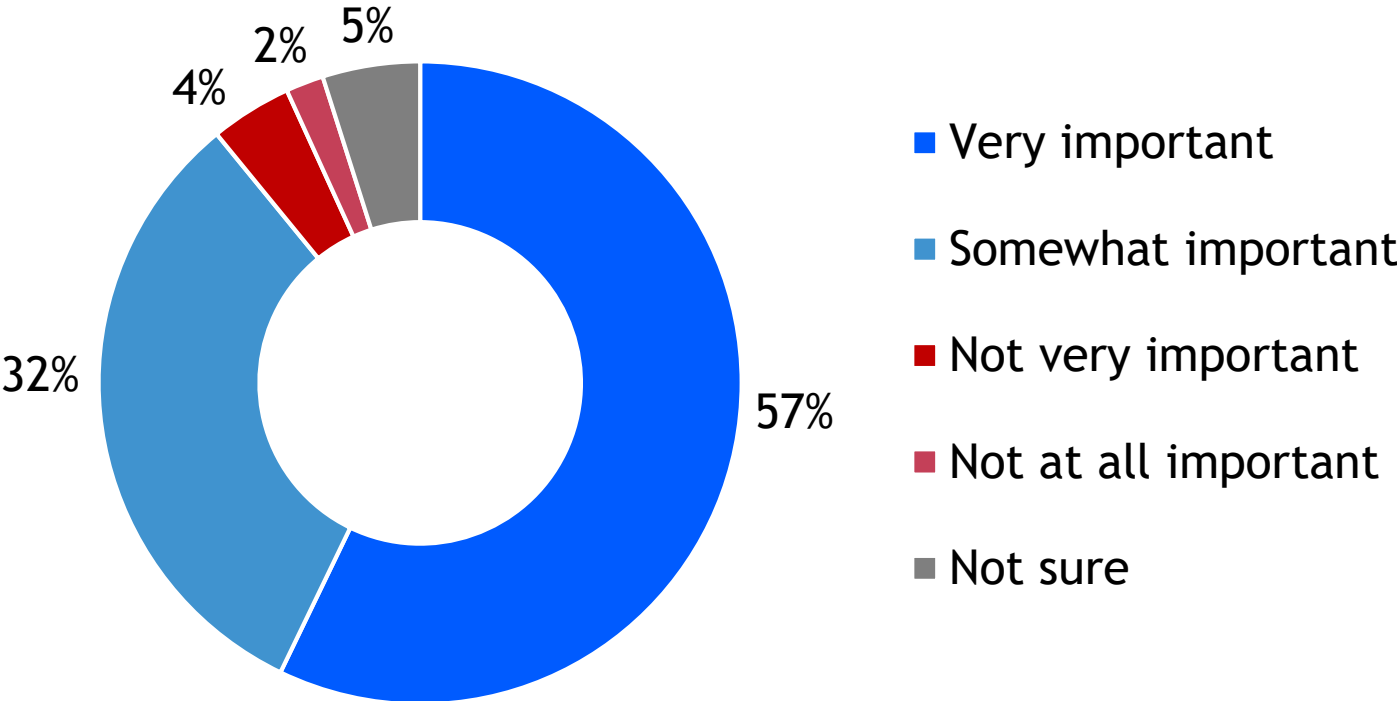
# Strong Majority Consider it Important for Elected Officials to Listen to Advice from Scientists

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



# 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?

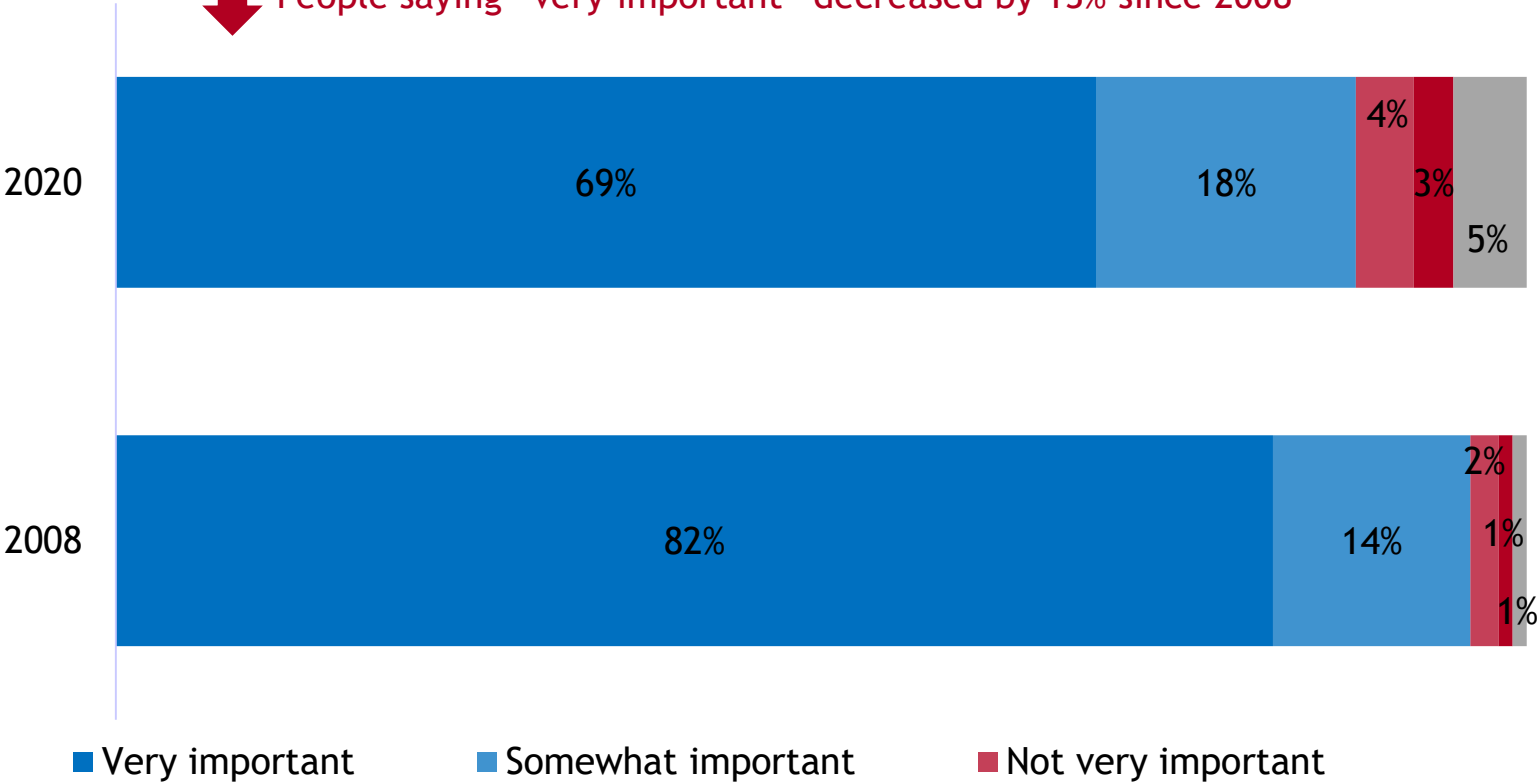


(Note this survey was fielded prior to reports of coronavirus outbreak)

# Significant Decline in those who Believe it is “Very Important” for Parents to have Children Vaccinated

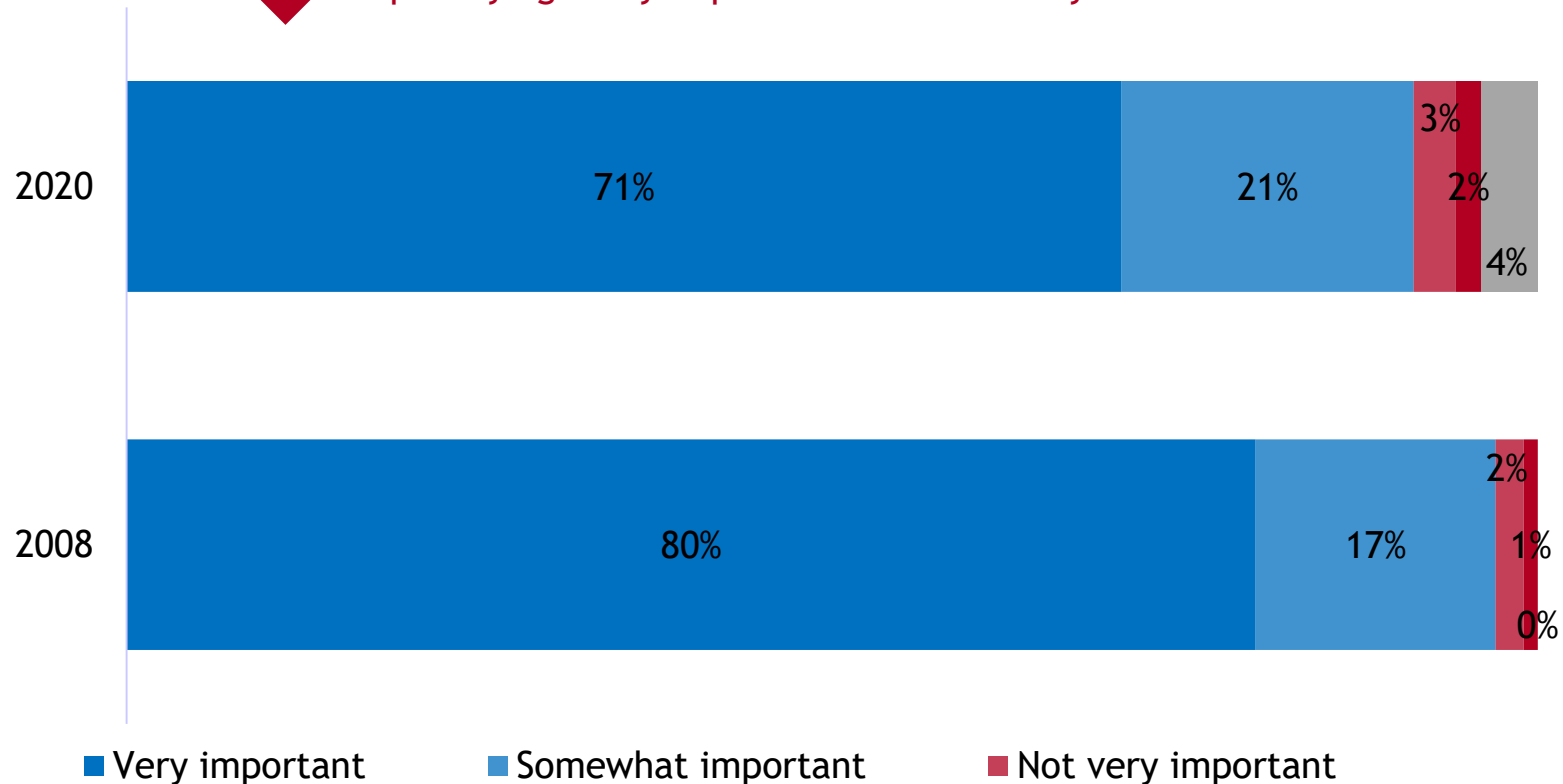
How important do you believe it is for parents to have their children vaccinated?

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



# Decline in those who Believe Vaccines are Important to the Health of Our Society

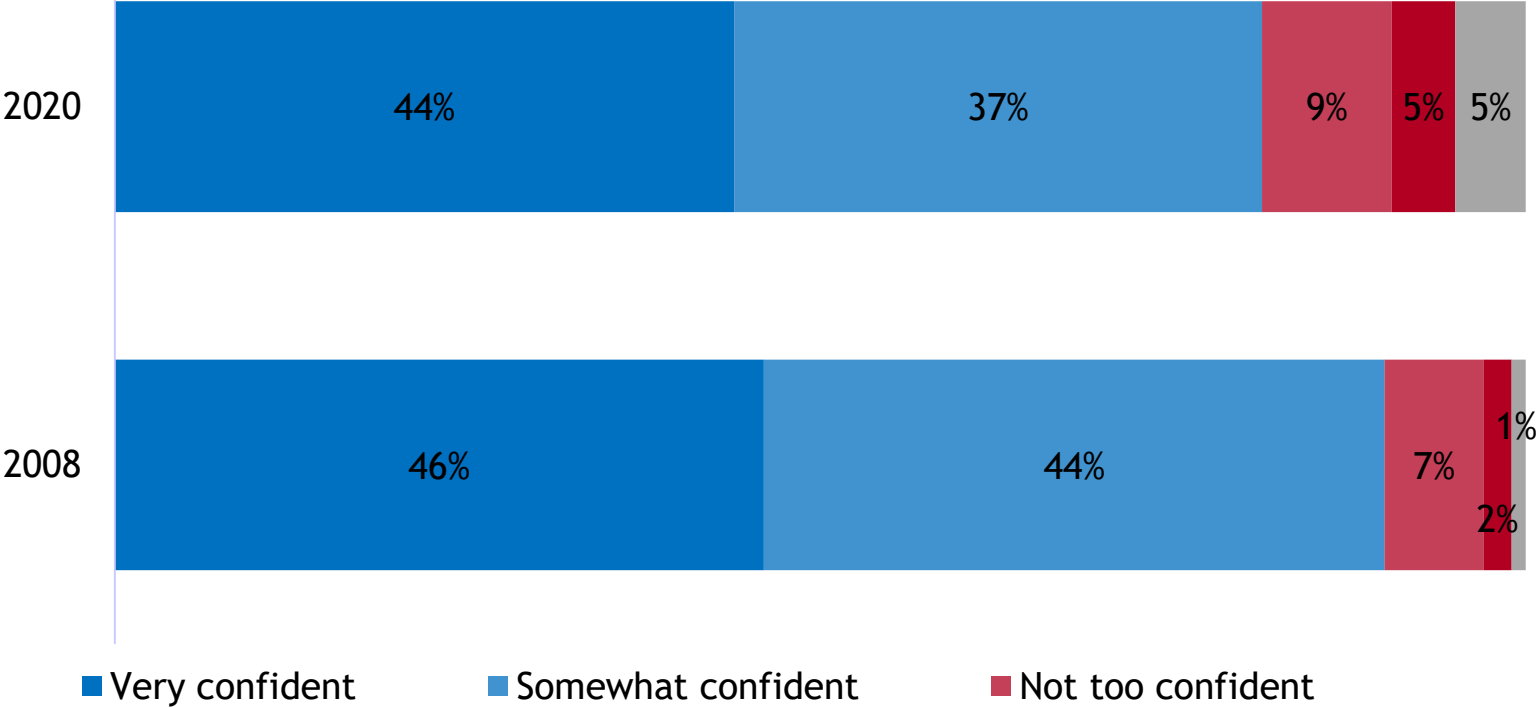
Thinking about the common vaccines available today such as polio, tetanus, measles, and flu, how important do you believe vaccines are to the health of our society today? **↓ People saying “very important” decreased by 9% from 80% since 2008**



# Decline in Confidence in the Safety of Vaccines

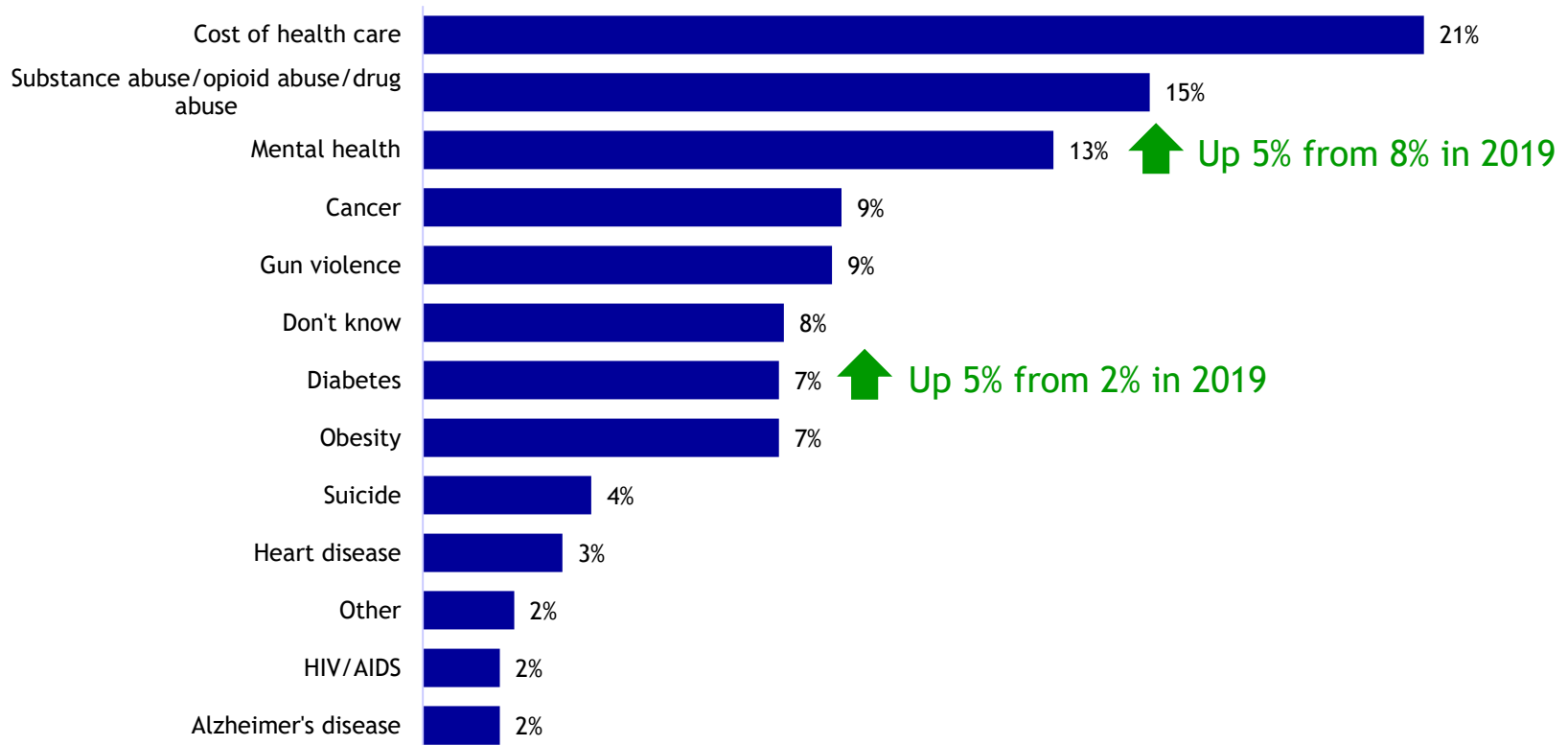
In general, how confident are you in the safety of vaccines used today?

↓ Confidence has declined by 9% since 2008.



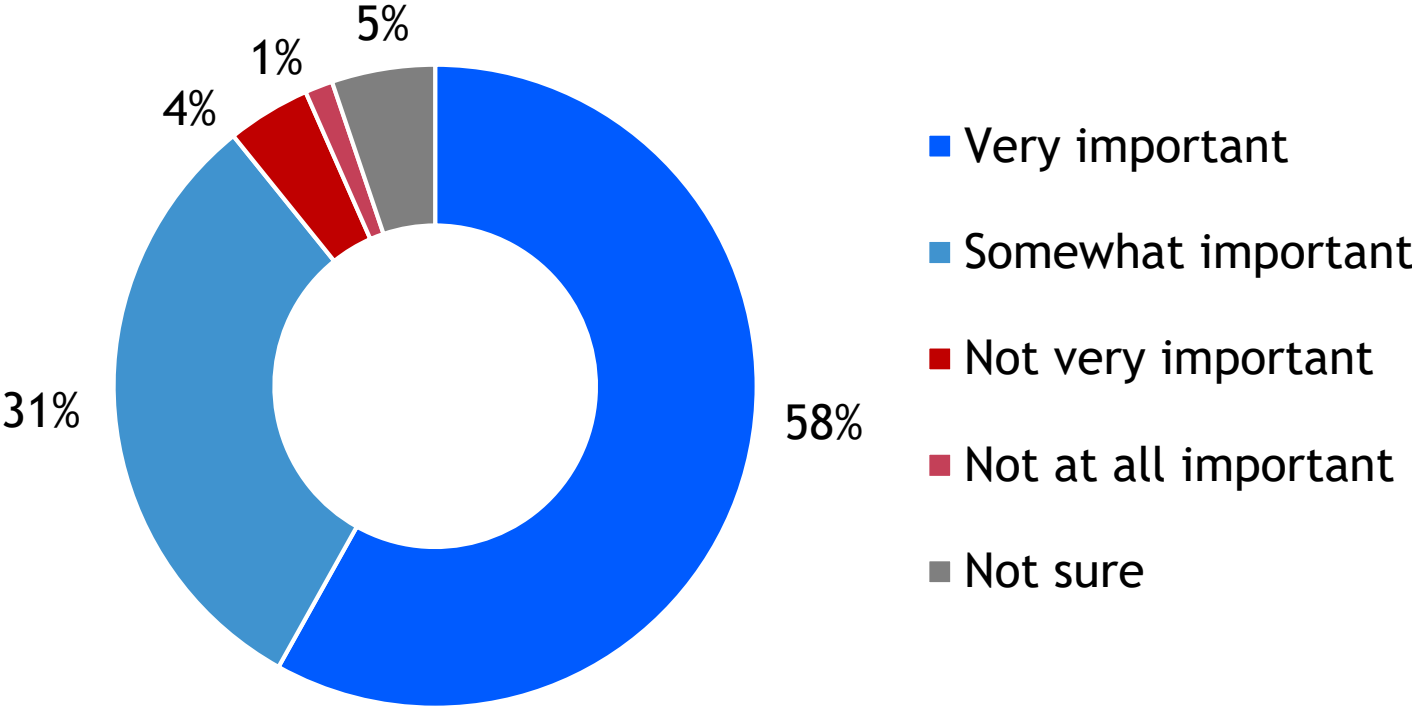
# Top Health Issues

What would you say is the single most important health issue facing the nation?



# Strong Majority Support Research Seeking to Understand and Eliminate Health Disparities

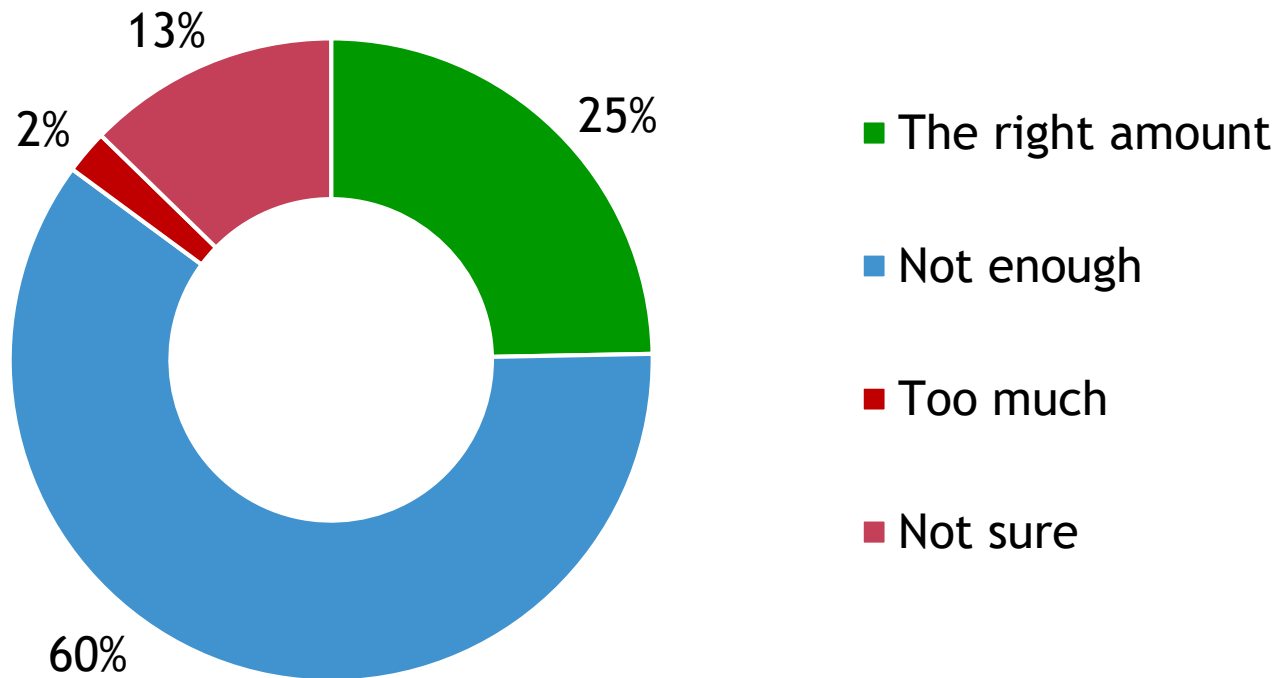
Studies show that certain health problems such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and infant mortality happen more often among minorities or citizens with lower incomes. How important do you feel it is to conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate these differences?





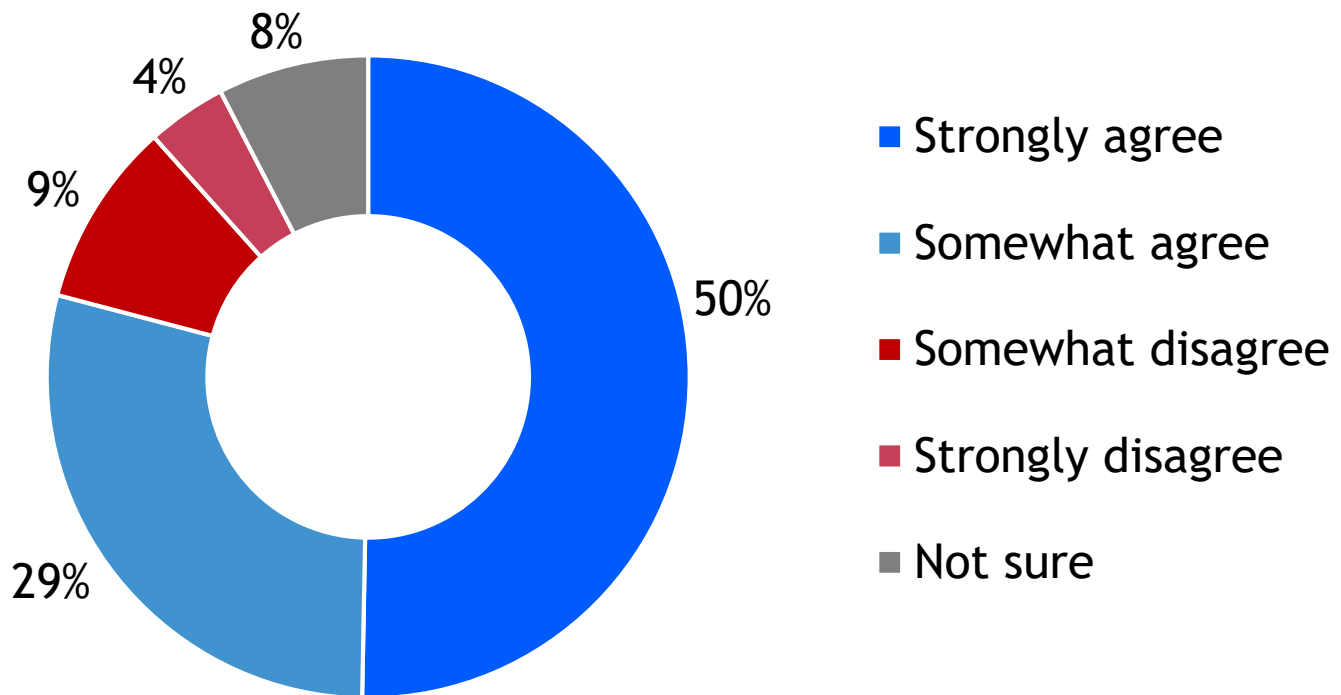
# Most Americans Think Public Investment in Mental Health Research Is Not Enough

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



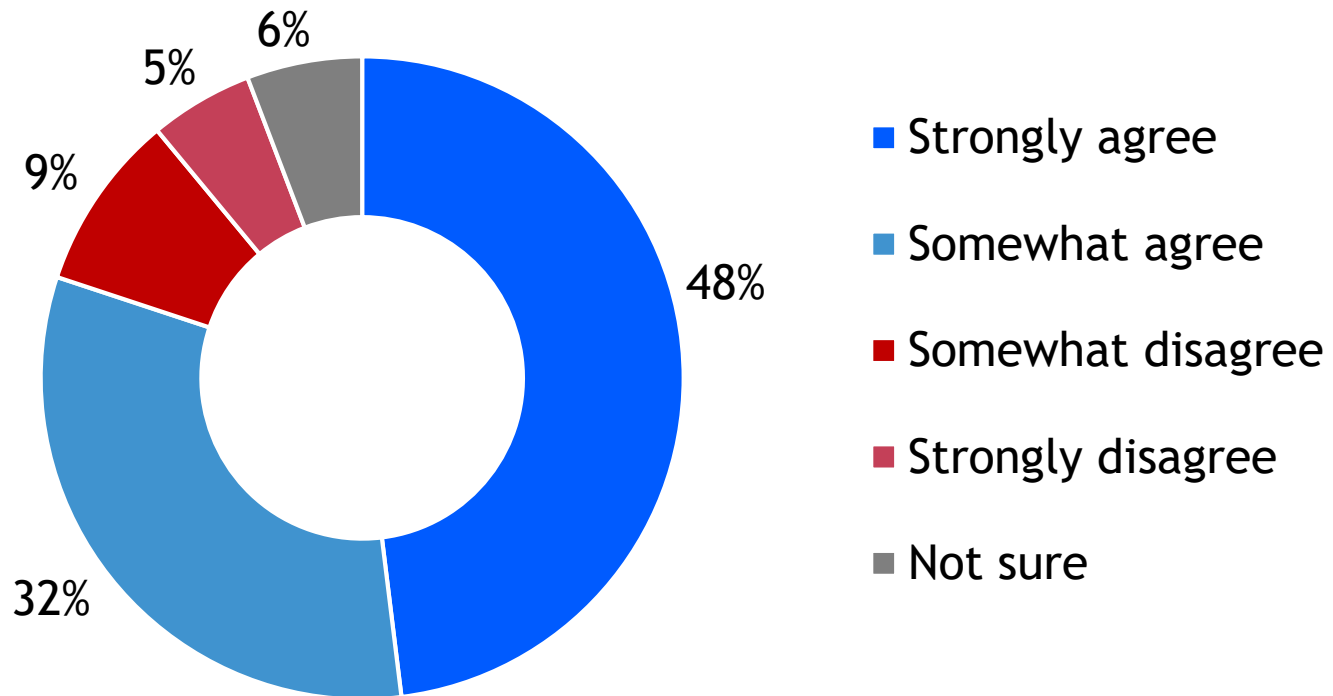
# 4 in 5 Americans Agree that Opioid Abuse and Addiction is a Major Problem in Their Community

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



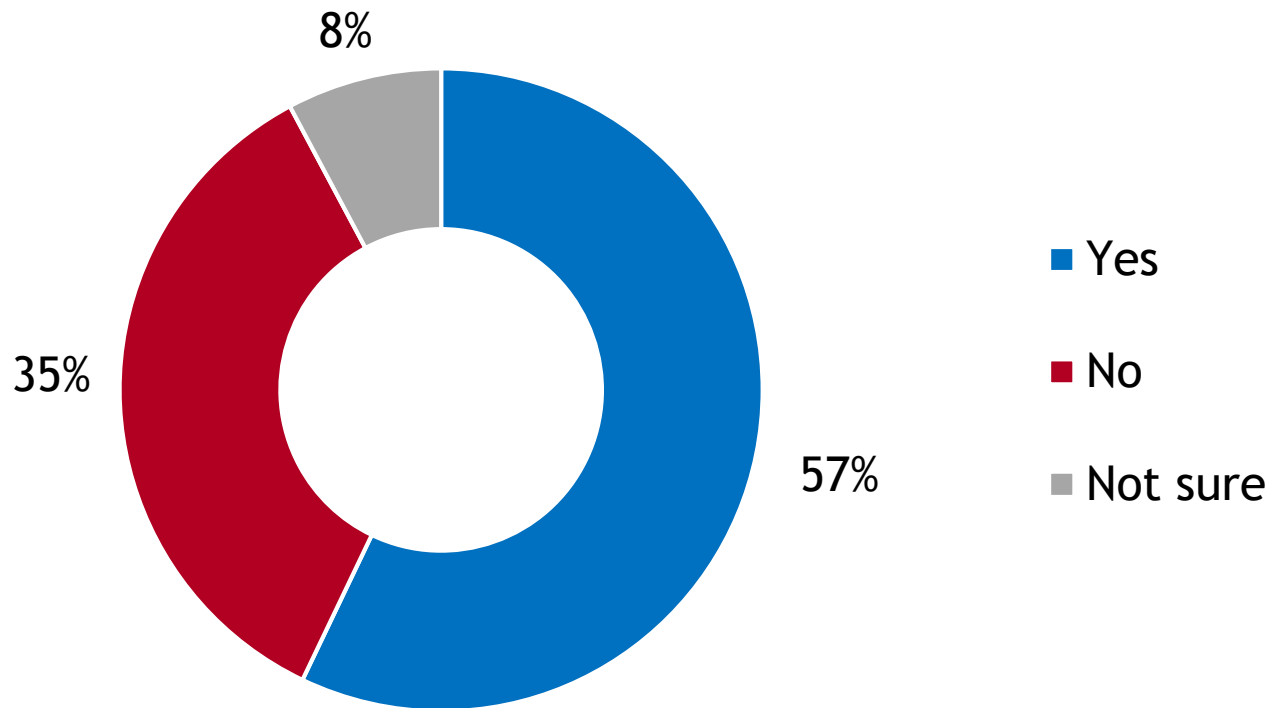
# Majority Agree That More Vaping Research is Needed

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



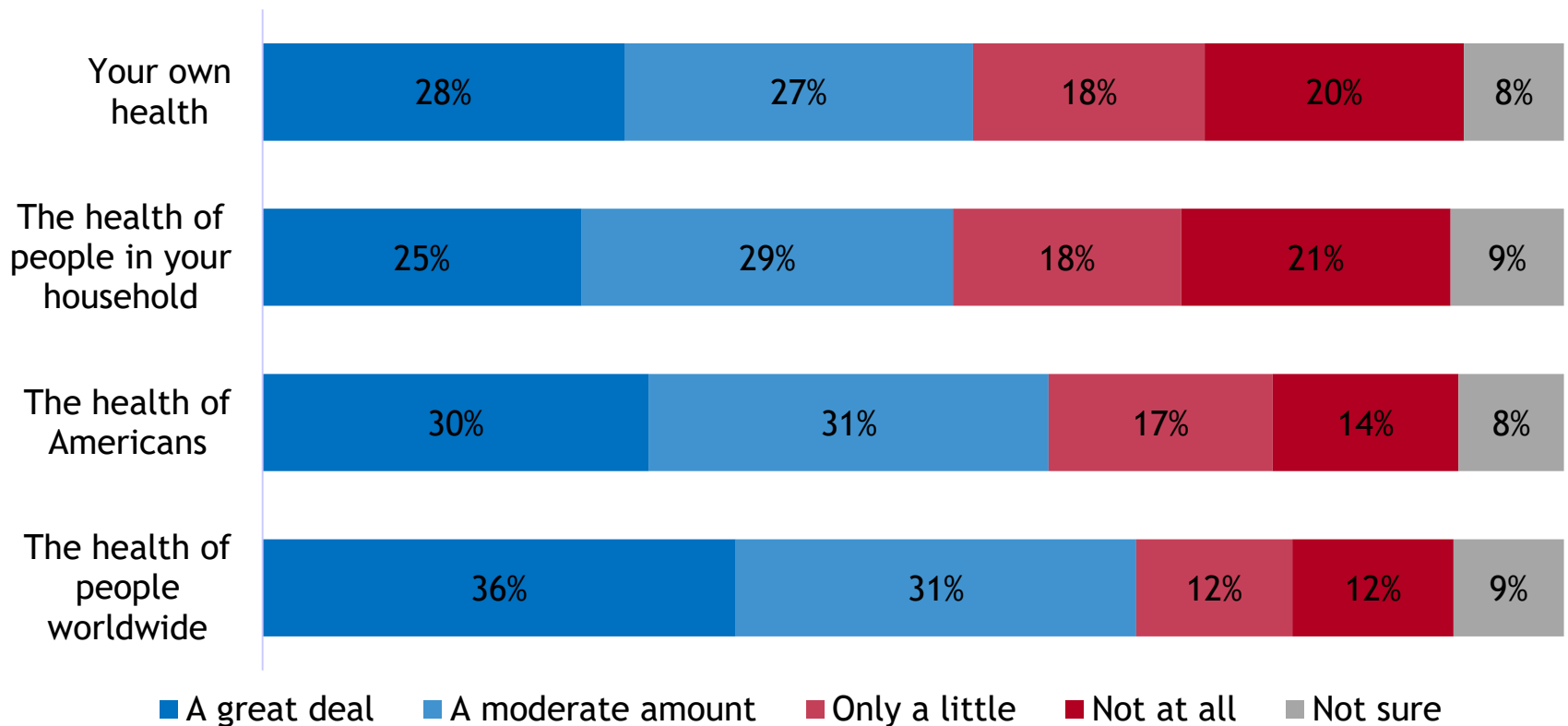
# More than Half of Americans Know Someone Who Has Sought Medical Treatment for Severe Pain

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



# Majority Think Climate Change is Harming Health

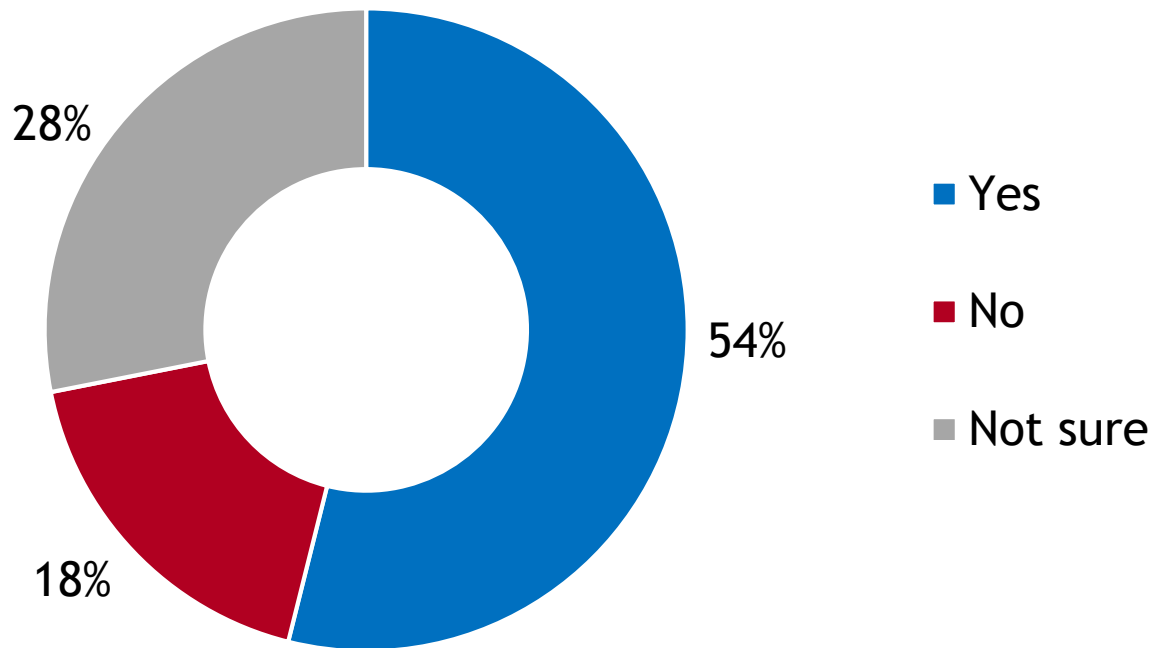
How much, if at all, do you think climate change is currently harming:



# 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?

New question



# Research!America Works for You

Connect with us



[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)



[www.facebook.com/researchamerica.org](http://www.facebook.com/researchamerica.org)



[www.twitter.com/researchamerica](http://www.twitter.com/researchamerica)