Americans’ Views on Vaccines and Infectious Diseases

Mary Woolley, president and CEO, Research!America
National public opinion survey commissioned by Research!America
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:

[Image of American Society for Microbiology logo]
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.
Concerns with Future Epidemics and Response

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% 20% 42% 12% 9%
- The global community will experience an epidemic in the next 10 years that includes cases in the U.S.
  - 15% 19% 42% 16% 8%
- The U.S. is prepared to respond to another epidemic like Ebola
  - 11% 23% 42% 16% 9%
- The global community is prepared to respond to another epidemic like Ebola
  - 8% 20% 40% 21% 10%

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?

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

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.

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.
Vaccination for Childhood Diseases Among Most Concerning Global Health Problems

Which of the following global health problems concern you the most?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Problem</th>
<th>Concerned Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunger and nutritional health</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination for childhood diseases like polio</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family planning and reproductive health</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</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.
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?

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

Source: Public Opinion Surveys, 2008-2018
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.
How confident are you that our current system ensures an adequate supply of necessary vaccines to prevent shortages?

- **May 2018**:
  - Very confident: 20%
  - Somewhat confident: 47%
  - Not too confident: 22%
  - Not at all confident: 15%
  - Don't know/Refused: 22%

- **Nov. 2008**:
  - Very confident: 21%
  - Somewhat confident: 57%
  - Not too confident: 15%
  - Not at all confident: 15%
  - Don't know/Refused: 22%

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?

- Strongly, Yes: 59%
- Somewhat, Yes: 28%
- Somewhat, No: 4%
- Strongly, No: 5%
- 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 ‘Strongly, Yes’ to Personally Benefiting From Vaccines

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

**May 2018**
- Strongly, Yes: 59%
- Somewhat, Yes: 28%

**Nov. 2008**
- Strongly, Yes: 75%
- Somewhat, Yes: 15%

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

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

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>Year</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>
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</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.
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?

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 2018</th>
<th>Nov. 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Refused</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.
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.
Less Than a Quarter Have 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%
- Don’t Know: 13%

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