Research!America/APHA National Poll on Americans’ Attitudes Toward Public Health

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Survey Methodology

- Telephone survey of 1,064 U.S. residents age 18 and older

- Conducted: October 1-October 4, 2004

- The survey data were weighted by age, sex, race/ethnicity and geographic region to reflect the demographic composition of the total population of the United States age 18 and older.

- Margin of error ± 3% with a 95% confidence interval
Majority of Americans Benefit from Public Health

Would you say you and your community have benefited from public health services?

- **74%** Yes
- **19%** No
- **7%** Don’t Know

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
Many Americans Know Someone Working in Public Health

Do you know anyone personally who works in a field of public health?

56%

Yes

44%

No

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
## Communities Benefit from Public Health

Would you say you and your community benefit from…? (% Saying “Yes”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childhood vaccination programs</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant sanitation and safety inspections</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water quality inspections</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daycare safety and health inspections</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency family violence &amp; sexual assault hotlines</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family planning and counseling services</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease outbreak investigations</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant safety seat installation programs</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS/HIV testing and counseling</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency response and bioterrorism prevention</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
Americans Don’t Know Where Research is Conducted

Please name any organization or agency that you can think of that does research designed to prevent disease, disability and injury and to promote health.

- Don't Know: 33%
- American Cancer Society: 15%
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: 13%
- American Heart Association: 9%
- Health department: 5%
- American Diabetes Society: 5%
- National Institutes of Health: 5%

Notes:
- Other organizations were mentioned by fewer than 5% of the respondents.
- Respondents had the opportunity to name more than one organization.

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
Americans’ Priorities

If you had an opportunity to speak with the President of the United States, how high of a priority would you say each of the following is to you and your family?

(\textit{\% Saying Very High Priority})

- Education: 74\%
- Creating jobs: 65\%
- Preserving Social Security: 64\%
- National defense: 63\%
- Homeland security: 62\%
- Protecting natural resources and the environment: 52\%
- Research to prevent disease, disability and injury: 49\%
- Reducing federal deficit: 45\%
- Tax cuts: 39\%
- Promoting democracy around the world: 27\%

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
The U.S. government currently provides federal funds for faith-based sex education programs that teach abstinence-only to teens. Do you believe the abstinence-only approach will prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies?

- Yes: 39%
- No: 56%
- Don't Know: 5%

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
Factors Determining High Quality Health Care

The quality of health care varies among populations in the U.S. How important do you think each of the following is in determining if someone receives high-quality health care? (% Saying Very Important)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to health insurance</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment status</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban vs. rural</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/ethnicity</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
Investment in Environmental Research Very Important

Environmental health experts conduct research on how to improve the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and how we can protect and preserve the environment. How important is it for the U.S. to invest in this type of research?

- **Very**: 64%
- **Somewhat**: 30%
- **Not**: 6%

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America
Americans Support Cutting Greenhouse Emissions

Would you support federal regulations which require industries to decrease their greenhouse gas emissions?

- 77% Yes
- 15% No
- 8% Don't Know

Source: Research!America/APHA National Survey, 2004
Harris Interactive for Research!America