

## INDIANA RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT ON RESEARCH

*A Public Opinion Study for Research!America*

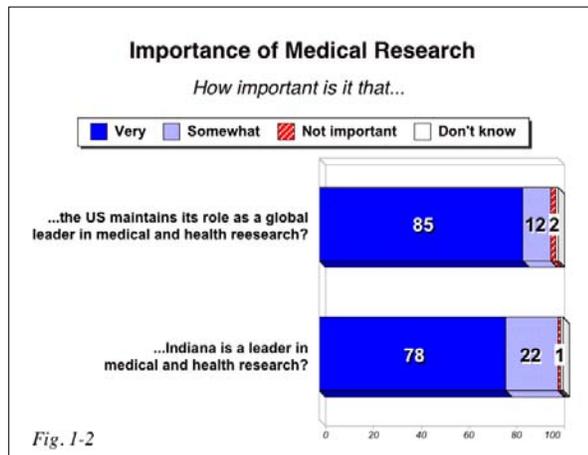
*January 2005*

*Research!America has been gauging public opinion on people's attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research since 1992. Results of the recent poll in Indiana show a high level of support and value for research conducted in both the public and private sector. These poll responses indicate there is an overwhelming belief in Indiana that research is important and is a high priority for its citizens, particularly as it impacts the state's health, education and economy.*

### LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO INDIANA RESIDENTS

Research is clearly important to Indiana residents (see figure 1). In fact, 97% of Indiana residents say it is important that the United States maintains its role as a global leader in scientific research, with 85% saying this is *very* important.

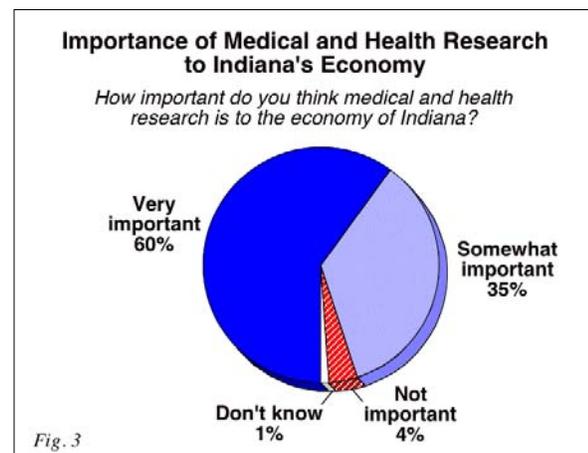
Similarly, 98% of residents say it is important for Indiana to be a leader in medical and health research, and 76% say it is *very* important (see figure 2). However, only 44% say Indiana is currently very much a leader. Thirty-nine percent say the state is somewhat a leader, and 12% believe Indiana is not a leader.



Furthermore, four-in-five residents agree that even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic research which advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

### MEDICAL RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO INDIANA'S ECONOMY

Ninety-five percent of Indiana residents feel that medical and health research is important to the state's economy. Sixty percent feel spending on medical and health research is *very* important to Indiana's economy, and another 35% feel it is somewhat important (see figure 3).



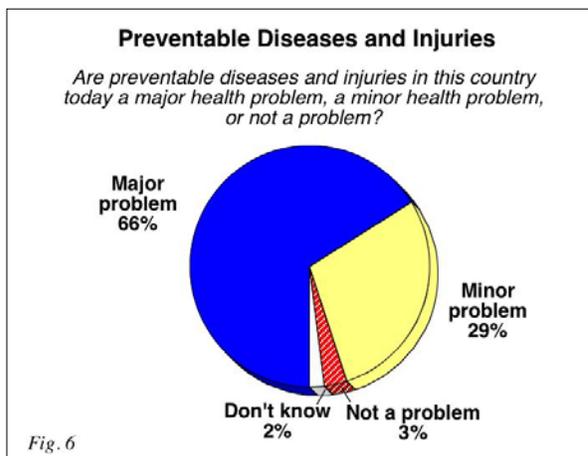
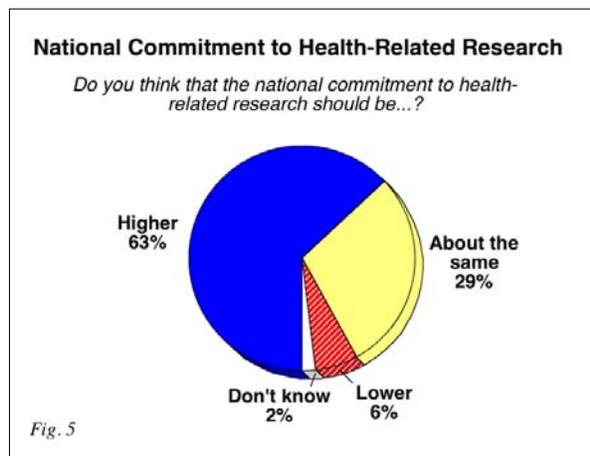
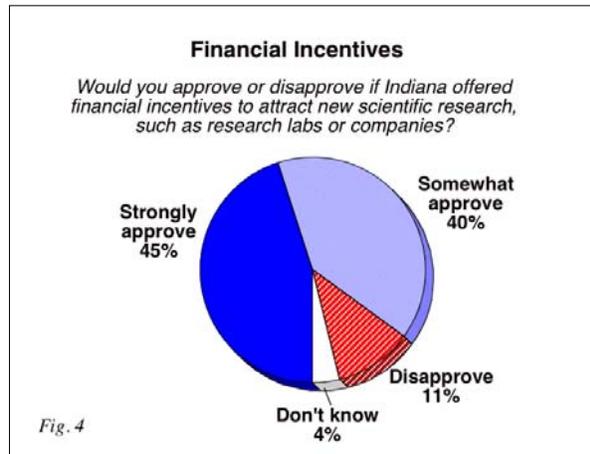
Similarly, thinking in terms of job creation and incomes, 96% of Indiana residents feel that spending money on science research is important to the state's economy. Two-thirds feel spending on science research is *very* important, and another 34% feel it is somewhat important.

**RESIDENTS FAVOR ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH**

Residents strongly support the state offering financial incentives to attract new scientific research. In fact, 45% *strongly* approve of such incentives and an additional 40% *somewhat* approve (see figure 4).

Additionally, 88% approve of the federal government spending to sponsor scientific research at universities. Fifty-three percent strongly approve of the federal government providing public funds to universities to conduct basic scientific research, while another 35% somewhat approve.

Furthermore, 63% of Indiana residents feel the national commitment to health-related research should be higher (see figure 5). A plurality of 50% of Indiana residents believe we should be spending more than the current five to six cents per US health care dollar on medical and health research. Twenty-six percent say this is the right amount and only 5% say we should be spending less.



**PREVENTION RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO INDIANA RESIDENTS**

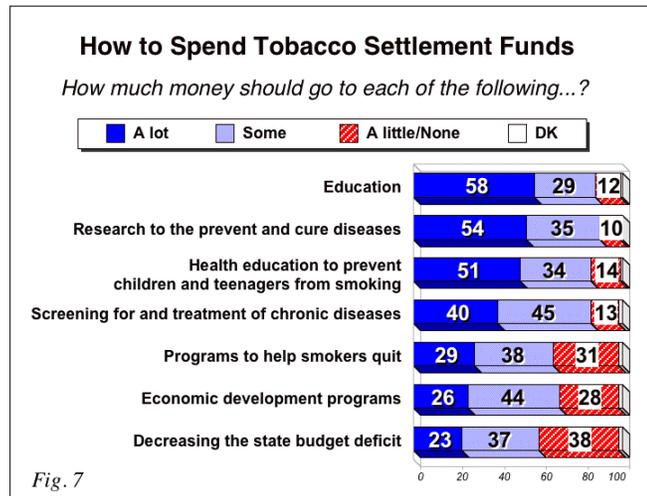
Two-thirds of Indiana residents say preventable diseases and injuries in this country are a major health problem (see figure 6). Twenty-nine percent feel they are a minor health problem, and just 3% say they are not a problem.

## RESIDENTS PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON RESEARCH TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES

Indiana residents believe it is important to study why some health problems disproportionately affect low income and minority citizens. Ninety-four percent say it is important to conduct research to end these differences. Specifically, 69% feel this is *very* important and 25% feel it is somewhat important.

## TOBACCO SETTLEMENT MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT ON MEDICAL RESEARCH AND HEALTH EDUCATION

When asked how Indiana should spend the settlement money it will receive from various tobacco companies, 89% feel it should be spent on research to prevent or cure disease (see figure 7). Fifty-four percent of residents feel the Indiana government should spend a lot of money on research. Eighty-nine percent believe Indiana should spend the money on education in general, and 85% feel the state should spend money on health education to prevent children and teens from smoking. Eighty-five percent also support spending the tobacco funds on screening for and treatment of chronic diseases, and two-thirds support spending the settlement funds on programs to help tobacco-users quit. Economic development programs (70%) and decreasing the state budget deficit (60%) receive less support.

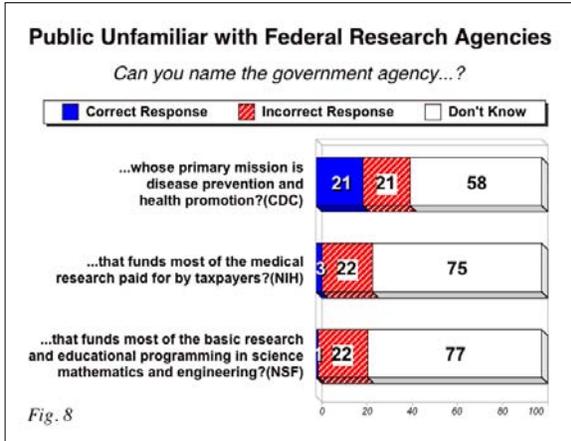


## NURSES, PHARMACISTS, AND TEACHING HOSPITALS ARE MOST TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH RESEARCH

Residents consider health care providers to be the most trustworthy sources of information about medical and health research, with 96% saying their physicians are very or somewhat credible, and 95% saying nurses and pharmacists are credible. Voluntary health agencies such as the American Heart Association are seen as credible by 93%, followed by dentists at 92%. Government agencies are slightly less credible at 86%, with 34% saying they are *very* credible. Pharmaceutical companies (64%), media sources (61%), and the internet (53%) are considered credible by smaller majorities, and the percentage who find these organizations *very* trustworthy is significantly lower (10%, 7% and 5% respectively).

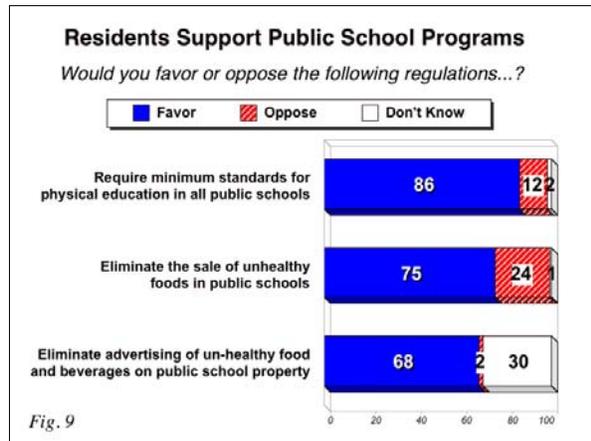
## NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, AND CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION HAVE LOW PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Despite their willingness to support medical, health, science and engineering research efforts, Indiana residents generally do not know what agencies are responsible for spending their tax dollars on that research. Three-quarters say they cannot name the government agency that funds most of the medical research paid for by taxpayers, and only 3% correctly identified the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Similarly, 77% say they cannot identify the government agency that funds most of the basic research and educational programming in the sciences, mathematics and engineering in this country. Only one percent correctly identified the National Science Foundation (NSF). Finally, while 58% say they do not know the name of the agency whose primary mission is disease prevention and health promotion, 21% correctly identified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see figure 8).



## RESIDENTS SUPPORT HEALTHY CHOICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Residents favor several proposed regulations for public schools aimed at improving health. Eighty-six percent favor requiring minimum standards for physical education in all public schools, and 57% *strongly* favor it. Three-quarters favor eliminating the sale of unhealthy foods in public schools. Fifty-two percent strongly favor this proposal while 23% are somewhat supportive. Furthermore, sixty-eight percent favor eliminating advertising of unhealthy food and beverages on public school property (see figure 9).



However, residents do not feel they are well-informed about the stance of their elected officials when it comes to their support of medical, health, and scientific research. Just 7% feel they are very well informed, while 45% say they are somewhat informed and 47% feel they are not well informed.

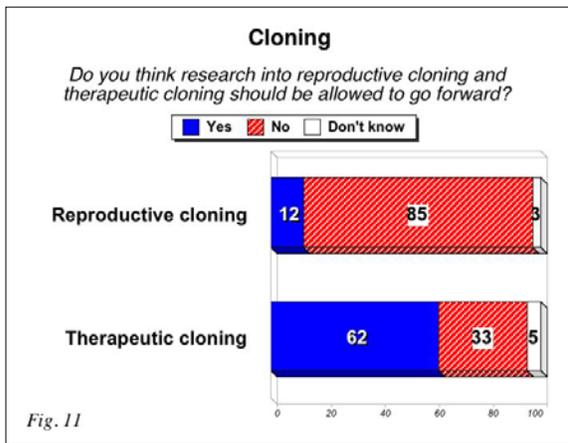
**ALSO OF NOTE...**

Thirty-nine percent were unable to name any organization in Indiana where medical research is conducted (see figure 10). Indiana University received the most mentions with 17%, followed by Eli Lilly at 9%. Other responses include Purdue University (6%), Indiana State University (3%), and Riley Hospital (3%). All other organizations named were cited by fewer than 3%.

Institutions Conducting Research		
Do you know of any institutions in Indiana where medical and health research is conducted?		
	First Mentions	Total Mentions
Indiana University	17	20
Eli Lilly	9	12
Purdue University	6	11
Indiana State University	3	4
Riley Hospital	3	4
Roche	2	3
Pfizer	2	3
Guidant	2	2
Other	17	23
None/Don't Know	39	39

*Fig. 10*

Asked what concerns residents have about medical research, a plurality of 20% cite no concerns. Of those who mentioned a concern, 6% mentioned finding a cure for diseases and 5% cited availability/affordability of medicines, while another 5% mentioned wasting money. Finding a cure for cancer and a lack of funding were each mentioned by 3%, and all other concerns were cited by fewer than three percent.



Cloning was mentioned as a concern by fewer than 1% of residents. When given more information about types of cloning, residents express support for research into therapeutic cloning (used to help in the search for possible cures and treatments for diseases and disabilities). Sixty-two percent agree that research into therapeutic cloning should go forward, while one-third feel that it should not be allowed. Eighty-five percent of Indiana residents say research into reproductive cloning should not be allowed to go forward, with

76% who feel *strongly* that it should not be allowed (see figure 11).

## **METHODOLOGY**

*Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey among 800 adults in Indiana. The entire sample was proportionate to the state's demographics, including geography, gender, voter registration and ethnicity. The survey, fielded December 14-19, 2004, has a theoretical sampling error of +/-3.5%. Please note that much of the question text in this report has been paraphrased.*

*This poll was commissioned by Research!America, a not-for-profit, membership-supported national alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to enhancing public education and advocacy for medical, health, and scientific research. For more information about the Indiana poll, including a list of sponsoring organizations, or for other questions about public attitudes towards scientific research, contact Research!America at: 1101 King Street, Suite 520, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 · Telephone: 703/739-2577 · Fax: 703/739-2372 · e-mail: [info@researchamerica.org](mailto:info@researchamerica.org) · [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org).*

