

TEXAS RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT ON RESEARCH

A Public Opinion Study for Research!America

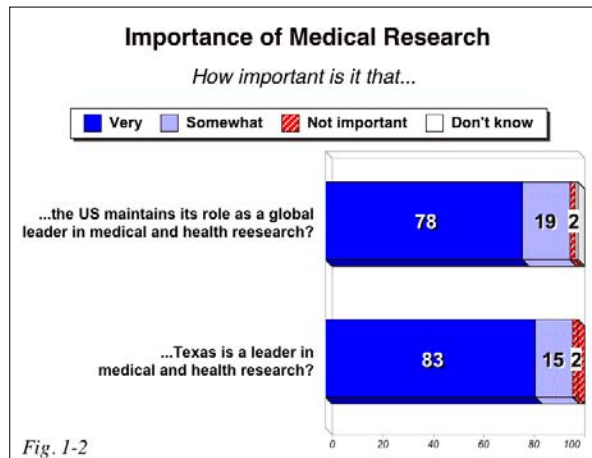
January 2006

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 Texas 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 Texas 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 TEXAS RESIDENTS

Research is clearly important to Texas residents (see figure 1). In fact, 97% of Texans say it is important that the United States maintains its role as a global leader in medical, health, and scientific research, with 78% saying this is *very* important.

Similarly, 98% of residents say it is important for Texas to be a leader in medical and health research, and 83% say it is *very* important (see figure 2). However, only 58% say Texas is currently very much a leader. Twenty-seven percent say the state is somewhat a leader, and 11% believe Texas is not a leader.



In terms of national priorities, health-related research is seen as an important priority by 98% of Texans. Only education is more important at 99%, followed by jobs, at 98%. Homeland security and Social Security and Medicare are also very important (97%), while tax cuts are slightly less important (85%).

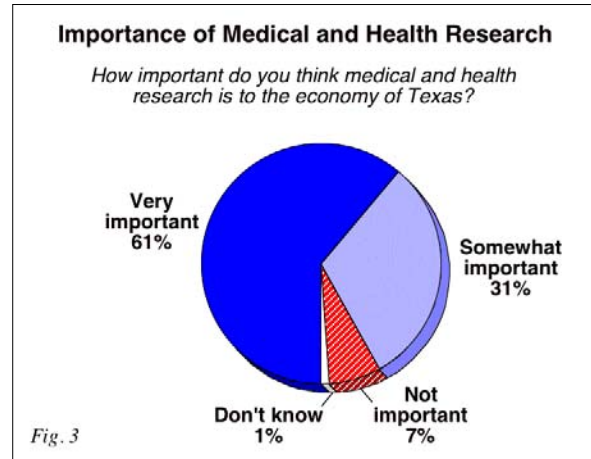
In terms of specific health-related priorities, accelerating medical and health research tops the list at 96%, along with improving health services and education programs and controlling the cost of healthcare. Controlling the cost of prescription drugs is a priority for 95% of Texans, followed by providing health care coverage for all Americans (89%), and reducing medical malpractice lawsuits (87%).

MEDICAL RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO TEXAS'S ECONOMY

Ninety-two percent of Texas residents feel that medical and health research is important to the state's economy. Sixty-one percent feel spending on medical and health research is

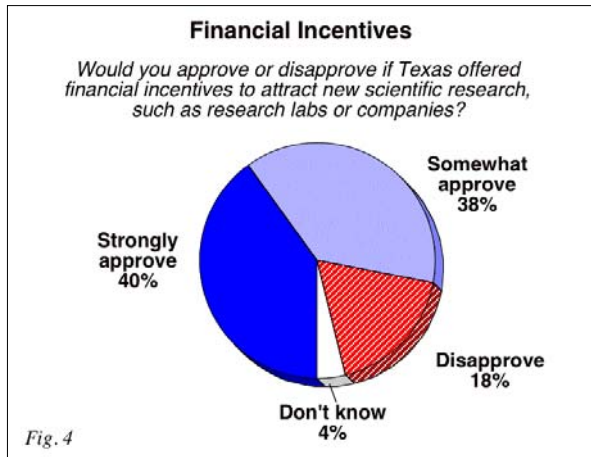
very important to Texas's economy, and another 31% feel it is somewhat important (see figure 3).

Similarly, thinking in terms of job creation and incomes, 92% of Texas residents feel that spending money on scientific research is important to the state's economy. Fifty-four percent feel spending on science research is *very* important, and another 38% feel it is somewhat important.



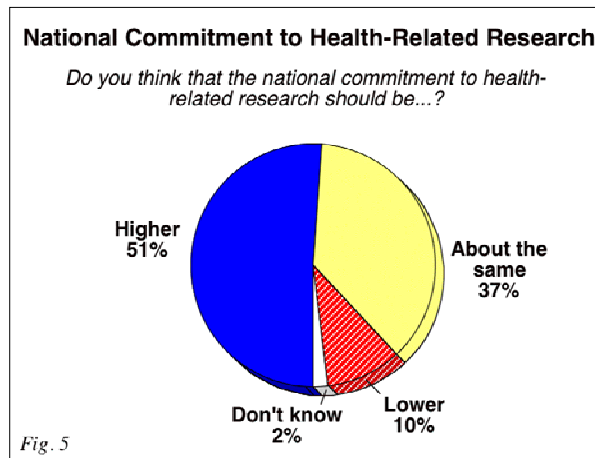
RESIDENTS FAVOR ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH

Residents strongly support the state offering financial incentives to attract new scientific research. In fact, 40% *strongly* approve of such incentives and an additional 38% *somewhat* approve (see figure 4). Three-quarters agree that Congress should support tax and regulatory policies that encourage private industries to conduct more medical research.



Additionally, 89% approve of the federal government spending to sponsor scientific research at universities. Fifty-seven percent strongly approve of the federal government providing public funds to universities to conduct basic scientific research, while another 32% somewhat approve.

Ninety-six percent of Texans feel it is important for the US to invest in science research such as physics, mathematics and engineering, and 71% feel this is *very* important.

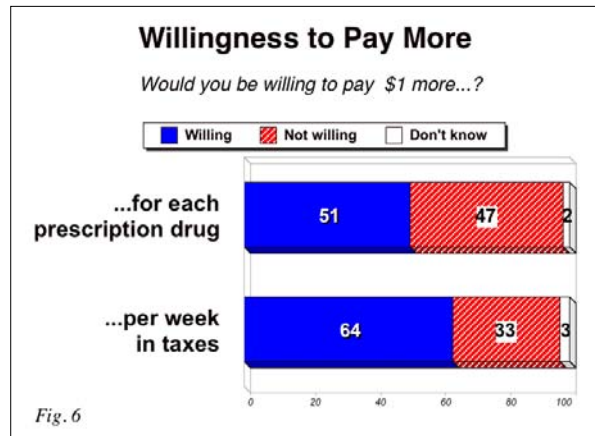


Seventy-eight percent agree that even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic research which advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

Furthermore, 51% of Texas residents feel the national commitment to health-related research should be higher (see figure 5). A plurality of 52% of Texas 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-two percent say this is the right amount and only 5% say we should be spending less. Ninety-five percent feel it is important for the US to educate and train individuals qualified to conduct medical and health research, and 71% feel this is *very* important.

Not only do residents approve of more government spending on research, they are also willing to pay more for it. Fifty-one percent would be willing to pay \$1 more for each prescription drug if the money would be spent on additional medical research. Sixty-four percent say they would be willing to pay \$1 more per week in taxes for more health research (see figure 6).

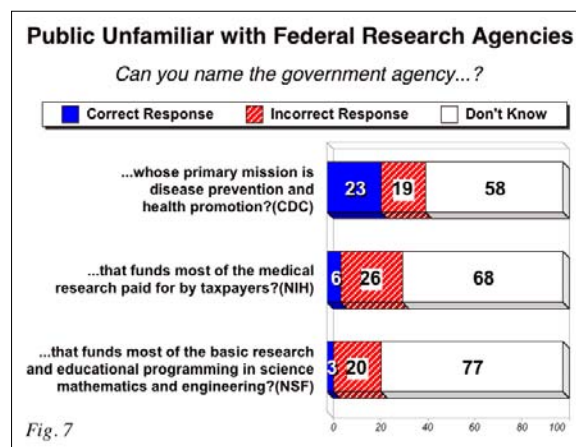


RESIDENTS PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON RESEARCH TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES

Texas residents believe it is important to study why some health problems disproportionately affect low income and minority citizens. Eighty-nine percent say it is important to conduct research to end these differences. Specifically, two-thirds feel this is *very* important and 23% feel it is somewhat important.

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, Texas residents generally do not know what agencies are responsible for spending their tax dollars on that research. Over two-thirds say they cannot name the government agency that funds most of the medical research paid for by taxpayers, and only 6% 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 three 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, 23% correctly identified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see figure 7).

Furthermore, 46% are unable to name any organization in Texas where medical research is conducted (see figure 8). Various University of Texas institutions were mentioned by a combined 23%. Baylor University was the most frequently mentioned single institution at 8%, followed by the MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas (7%). All other organizations named were cited by fewer than 3%.

Texans also 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 40% say they are somewhat informed and 53% feel they are not well informed.

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER

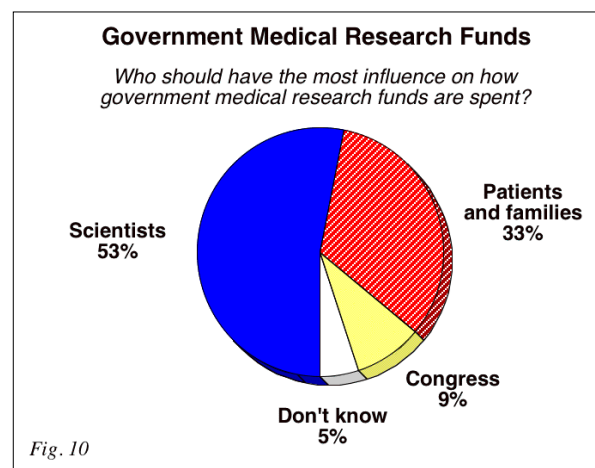
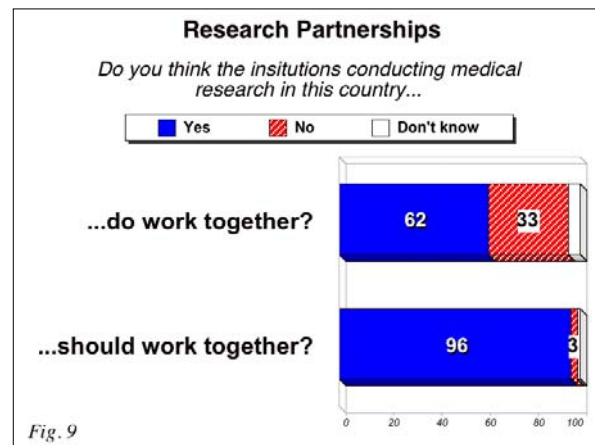
Nearly all Texans believe the institutions conducting medical research in this country *should* work together, while only two-thirds are aware that they do (see figure 9). Sixty-two percent say institutions such as government, universities, and the pharmaceutical industry work together, while 33% believe they do not. However, 96% feel these institutions *should* work together to develop new treatments and cures, while just 3% say they should not.

Residents are divided on who should have the most influence on how government medical research funds are spent (see figure 10). Fifty-three percent feel scientists who conduct research should have the most influence, while one-third feel patients with various diseases and their families should have the most influence. Just 9% feel Congress should have the most influence on how these funds are spent.

Institutions Conducting Research
Do you know of any institutions in Texas where medical and health research is conducted?

	First Mentions	Total Mentions
University of Texas (net)	23	45
UT MD Anderson	7	12
UT unspecified	6	10
UT Southwestern Med. Ctr.	4	6
UT Galveston	3	6
UT Houston	2	8
UT San Antonio	1	3
Baylor University	8	15
SoWestern Found. for Bio. Res.	2	2
Other	22	40
None/Don't Know	46	66

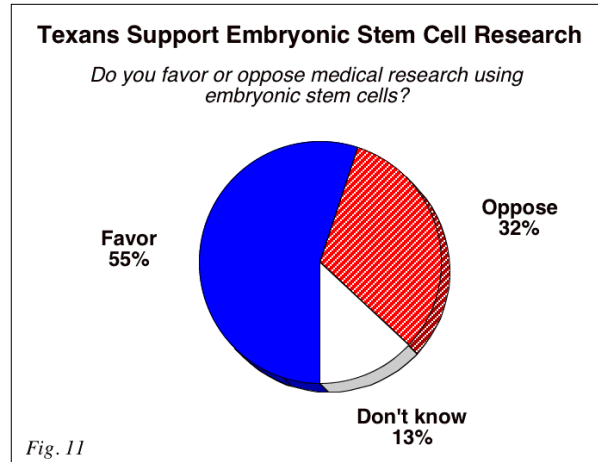
Fig. 8



CONCERNS ABOUT MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER AROUND FINDING CURES

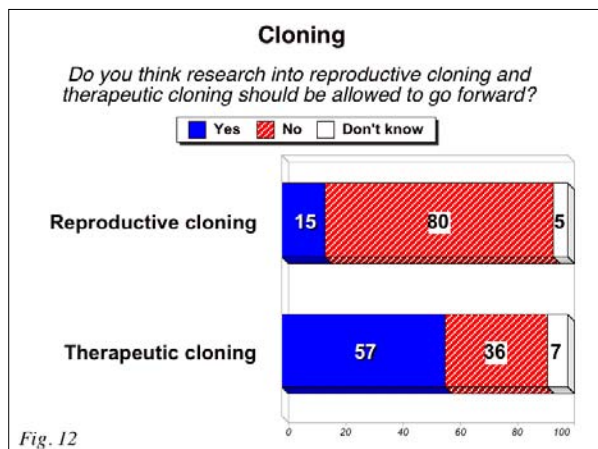
Asked what concerns residents have about medical research, a plurality of 18% cite no concerns. Of those who mentioned a concern, a combined 20% mention finding cures for various diseases. While 11% mention wasting money, 8% mention finding a cure for diabetes and 7% mention finding a cure for diseases (in general). Four percent mention a cure for cancer and 1% mention a cure for AIDS. Six percent are concerned about lack of funding, and all other concerns were cited by fewer than five percent.

No one mentioned stem cells specifically as a concern, however, 63% of Texans say they have been following the debate about stem cells (19% *very* closely, 49% *somewhat* closely). A majority of 55% of Texans favor medical research using embryonic stem cells, with one-third *strongly* in favor (see figure 11). Thirty-two percent of Texas residents oppose stem cell research. Fifty-three percent of Texans also support federal funding of medical research using embryonic stem cells.



Furthermore, a majority of 59% favor legislation that would allow scientists to receive federal funding for extracting embryonic stem cells from fertilized eggs that are voluntarily donated and would otherwise be discarded. About the same percentage (60%) of Texans favor legislation that would allow scientists to receive federal funding to make embryonic stem cells for medical research by merging an unfertilized egg with another type of cell. One third of Texans report that they or someone close to them suffers from a condition they hope will become treatable as a result of embryonic stem cell research, while two-thirds do not.

Cloning was mentioned as a concern by only 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). Fifty-seven percent agree that research into therapeutic cloning should go forward, while one-third feel that it should not be allowed. Four-in-five Texans say research into reproductive cloning should not be allowed to go forward, with 71% who feel *strongly* that it should not be allowed (see figure 12).



Just one percent of Texans mentioned that they are concerned about animal testing in medical research. Eighty-three percent believe the use of animals in medical research is necessary for progress in medicine.

METHODOLOGY

Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey among 800 adults in Texas. The entire sample was proportionate to the state's demographics, including geography, gender, voter registration and ethnicity. The survey, fielded October 10-16, 2005, 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 Texas 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 · www.researchamerica.org.

