



During a Highly Partisan Time in Our Nation, Survey Shows Broad Bipartisan Support for a Stronger Focus on Science

October 2020

Results from a Public Opinion Survey

# Survey Methodology

This online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in August 2020, among 1,025 adults plus 869 additional adults for minority oversampling. The survey was supported in part by the Kavli Foundation as a component of support for a working group formed to assess America's commitment to science. For the national sample, the survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points.\* Sample sizes for minority groups are as follows:

- African American: sample size = 404, margin of error +/- 4.9 percentage points
- Hispanic: sample size = 409, margin of error = +/- 4.8 percentage points
- Asian: sample size 403, margin of error = 4.9 percentage points

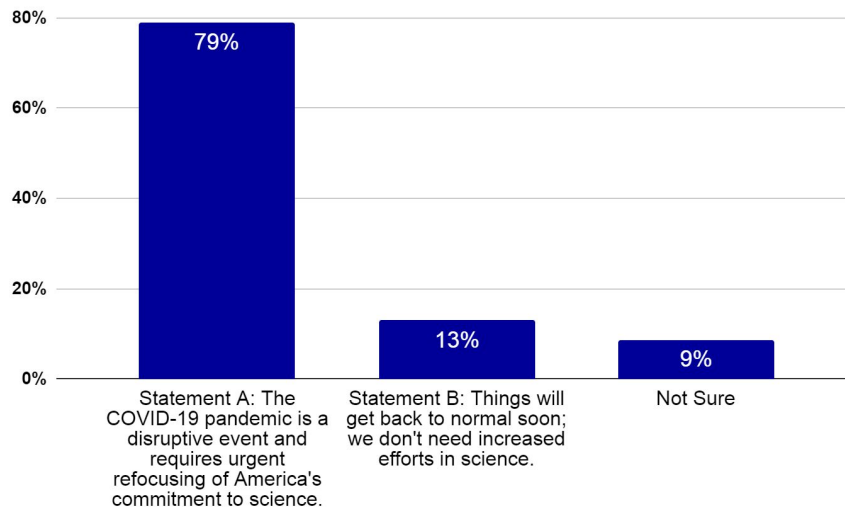
Sample sizes for other subgroups are as follows:

Democratic: 369	Republican: 349	Independent: 309	
Age 18-29: 213	Age 30-49: 335	Age 50-64: 254	Age 65+: 213

# Four of Five of Americans Agree: It's Time for a Urgent Refocus on Science

Which statement is closest to your view? Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires urgent refocusing of America's commitment to science. Statement B: Things will get back to normal soon; we don't need increased efforts in science.

Young people (18-29) slightly less likely (67%) to choose "Statement A".



91%

Chose "Statement A"



75%

Chose "Statement A"



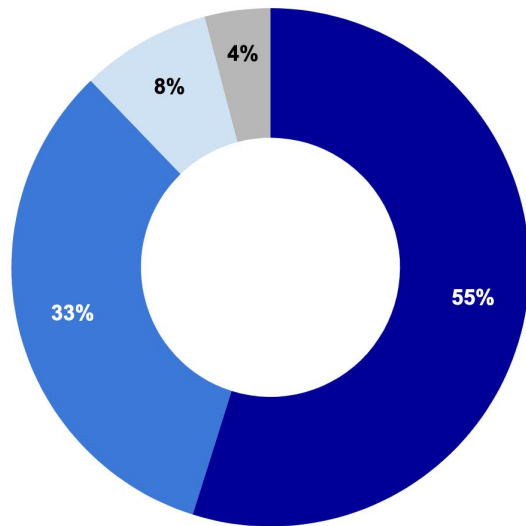
67%

Chose "Statement A"

# Strong Majority Agree the Work of Scientists Benefits Them

In general, to what extent do you think the work that scientists do benefits you?

Younger Americans (18-29) show weaker support (81% say “to a great extent” or “somewhat”)



● To a great extent ● Somewhat ● A little ● Not sure



93%

Say “To a great extent” or “somewhat”



88%

Say “To a great extent” or “somewhat”



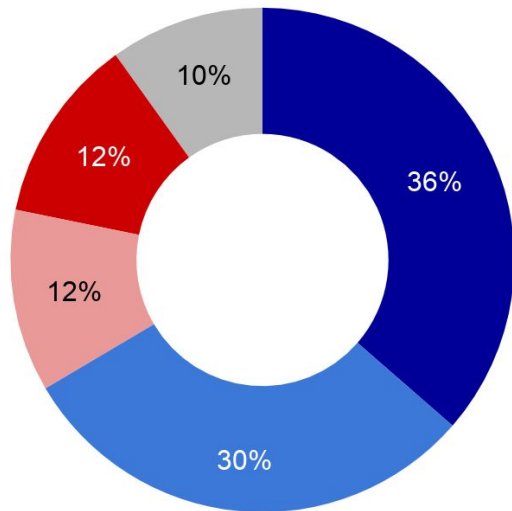
80%

Say “To a great extent” or “somewhat”

# Two Thirds of Americans Would Pay More in Taxes for More Scientific Research

Would you support or oppose paying \$1 more per week in taxes for more scientific research?

Younger Americans (18-29) show weaker support (59% strongly or somewhat support)



● Strongly Support    ● Somewhat Support    ● Somewhat Oppose  
● Strongly Oppose    ● Not Sure



81%

Strongly or somewhat support



64%

Strongly or somewhat support



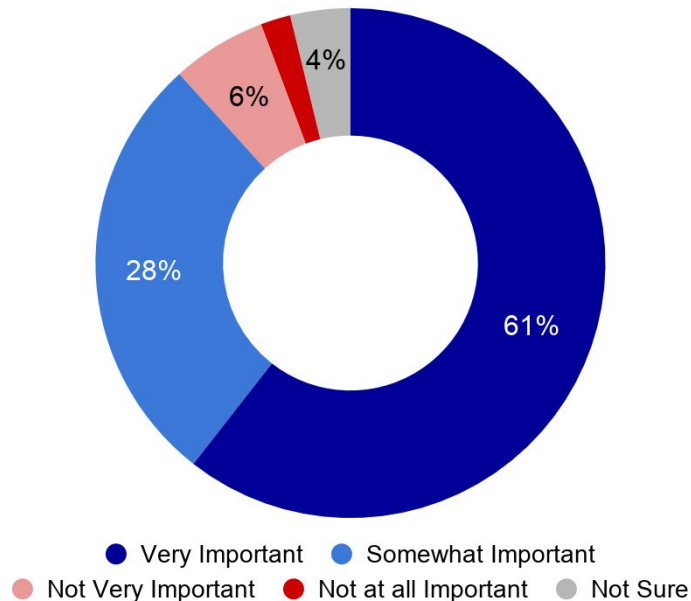
52%

Strongly or somewhat support

# 9 of 10 Agree U.S. Should Be Global Leader in Scientific Research

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

Young people (18-29) less likely to say very or somewhat important (74%)



94%

Say very or somewhat important



93%

Say very or somewhat important

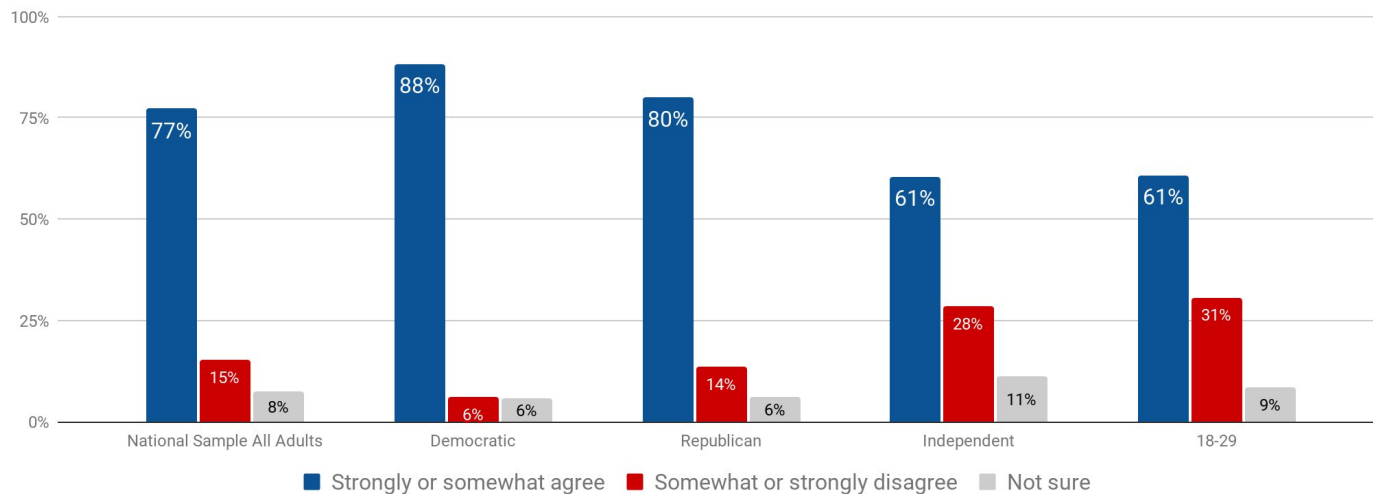


76%

Say very or somewhat important

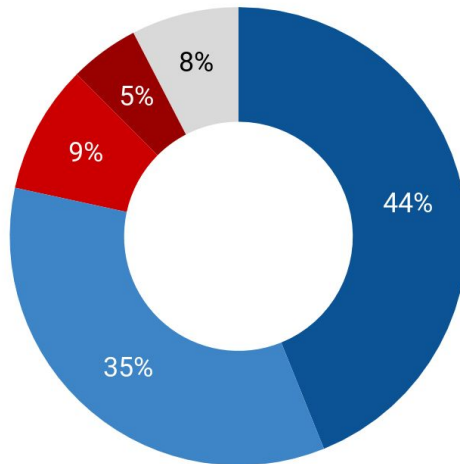
# Strong Majority Agree on the Importance of Basic Science

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.



# Three of Four Support Federal Incentives for Private Investment in Science and Technology

How important is it for the federal government to support incentives for private sector investment in science and technology?

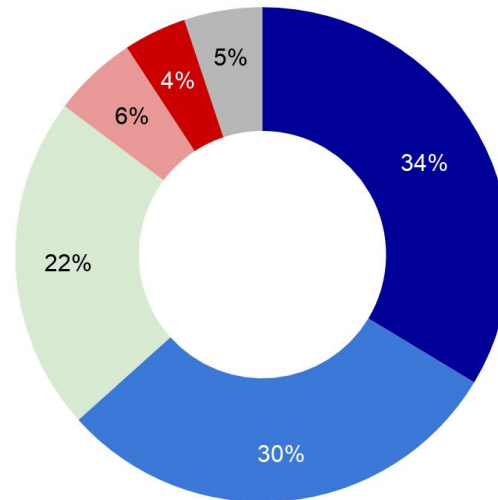


● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Not very important ● Not at all important ● Not sure



# Many Are Concerned About Children Without Internet Access

How concerned are you about each of the following? - Currently, 14% of children ages 3-18 - about 9.4 million in total - are without home internet access.



● Very concerned ● Somewhat concerned ● Neutral  
● Somewhat unconcerned ● Not at all concerned ● Not sure

# It's Time To Commit to a Major New Initiative to Assure the Health, Security, and Prosperity for the Nation

After the Soviet Union beat the U.S. to put the first satellite in space in the 1950s, the U.S. created NASA. After 9-11, the U.S. created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). To what extent do you agree or disagree that the U.S. is again at a critical point when we need to commit to a major new initiative to assure the health, security and prosperity for the nation?



89%

Strongly or somewhat agree



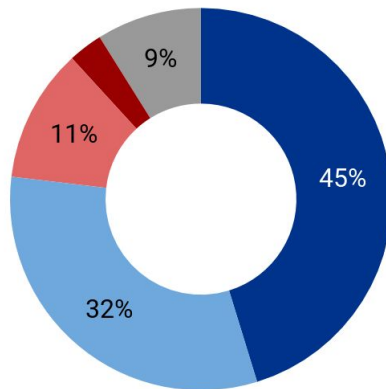
81%

Strongly or somewhat agree



57%

Strongly or somewhat agree

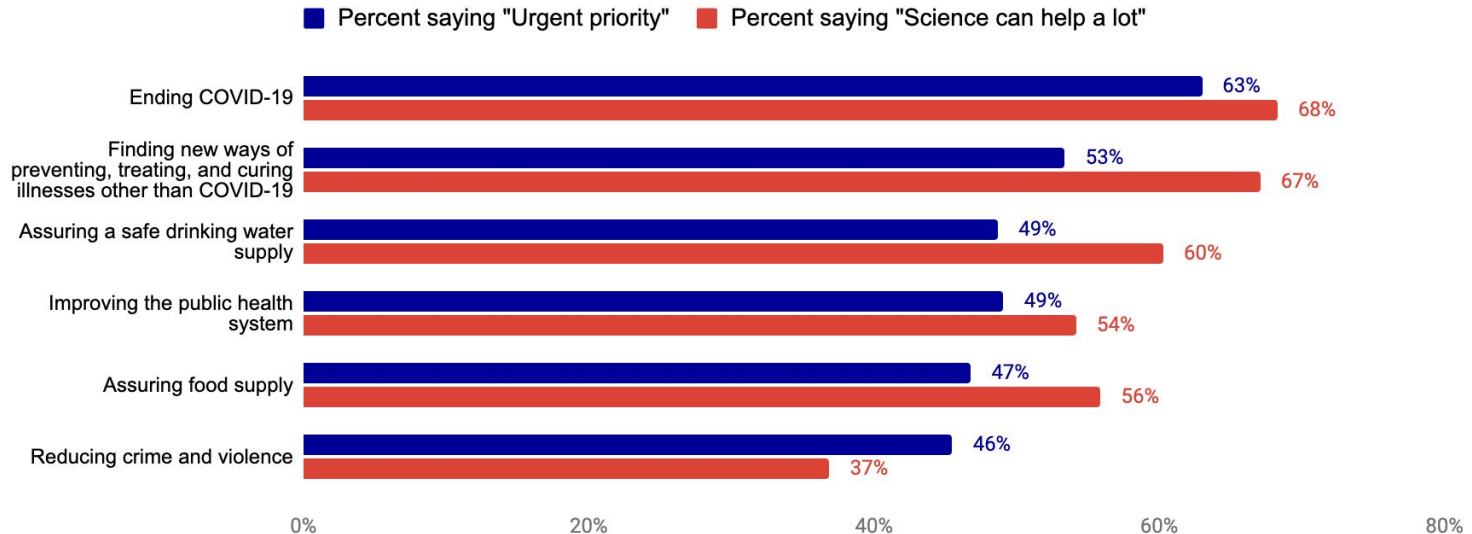


● Strongly Agree ● Somewhat Agree ● Somewhat Disagree  
● Strongly Disagree ● Not Sure

Young people ages 18-29 less likely to strongly or somewhat agree (67%)

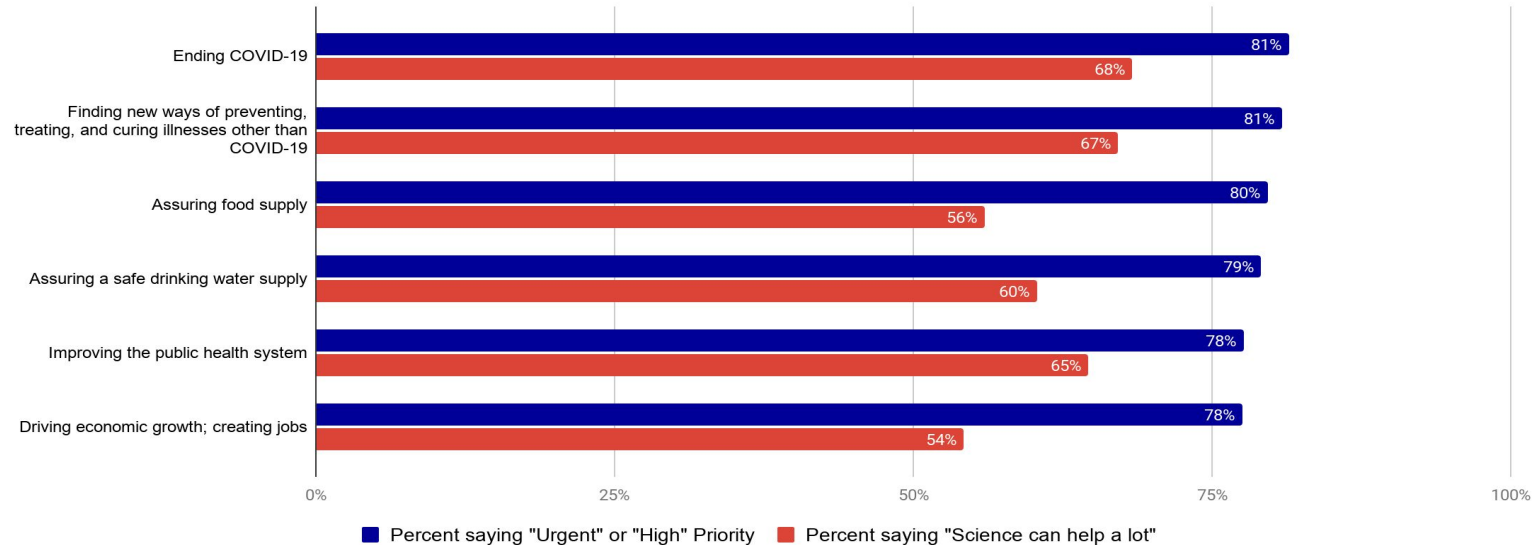
# Urgent Priorities for Americans – Science Can Help

How much of a priority are each of the following issues for the United States and how can science technology, and innovation help address them? (Top 6 responses)



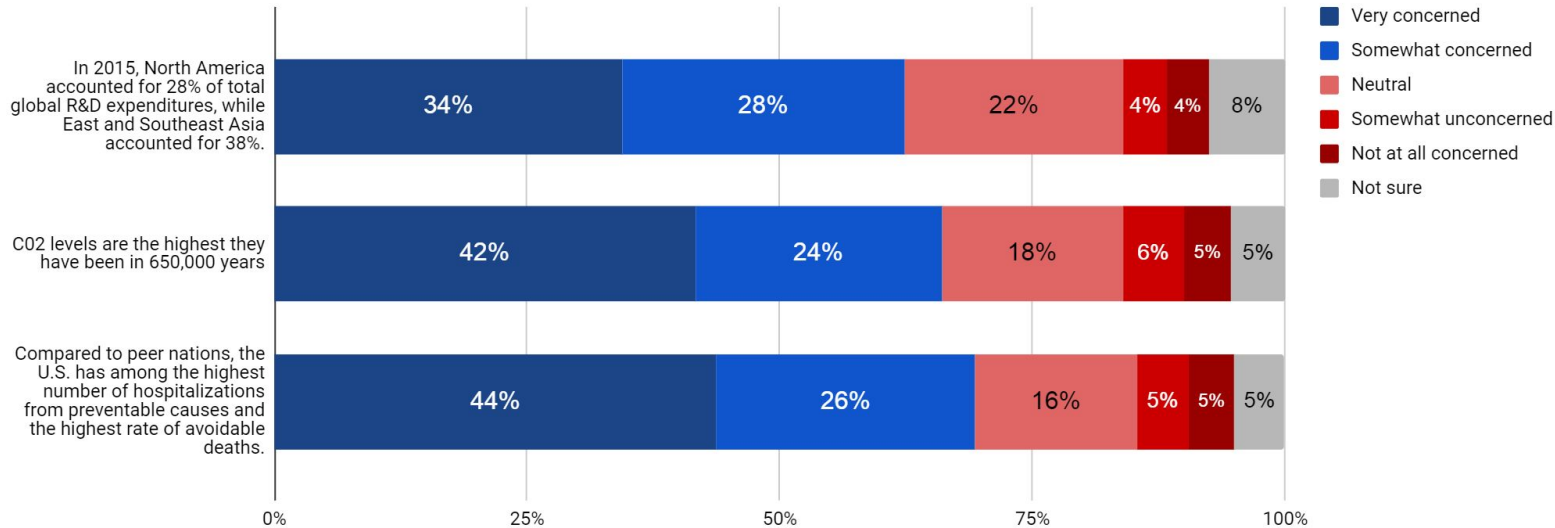
# Urgent and High Priorities for Americans – Science Can Help

How much of a priority are each of the following issues for the United States and how can science technology, and innovation help address them? (Top 6 responses)



# Americans Concerned About Global Standing, Climate Change, and Health Care

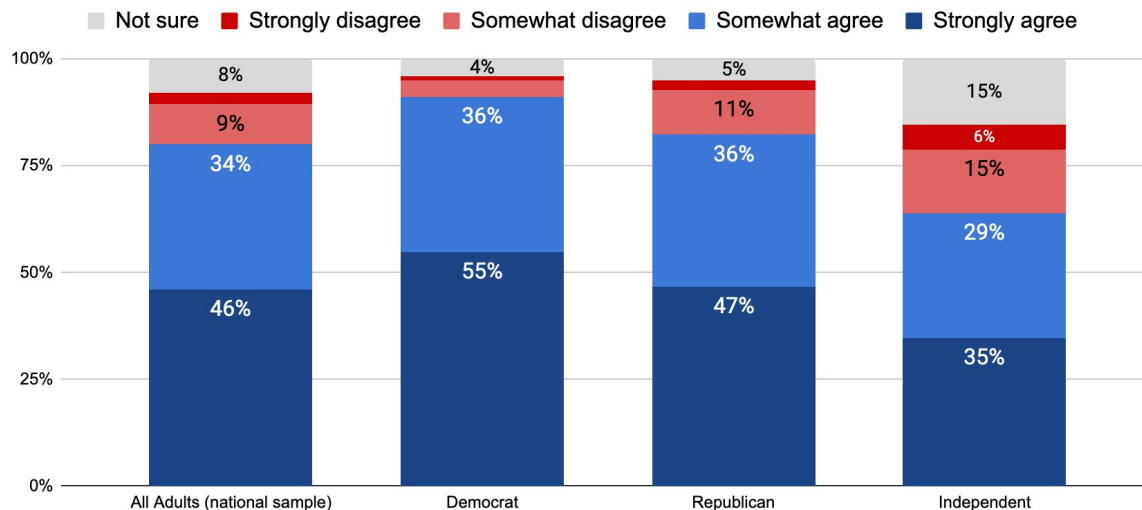
How concerned are you about each of the following:



Young people (18-29) less likely to be concerned about “CO2 levels” (53%) and “Hospitalizations” (49%).

# Strong Support for Improving STEM Education

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should assign a higher priority to improving education focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and careers in those fields?



▲ Among national sample of American adults, there is an increase in those saying “Strongly agree”, up to 46% from 33% in 2017.

▼ Among national sample of American adults, “Not sure” down to 8% from 17% in 2017.

# Americans Support Federal Incentives for STEM Programs

If the federal government offered a special incentive payment for students to enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educational programs, would you approve or disapprove of this expenditure of taxpayer funds?



**84%**

say "Strongly or Somewhat approve"



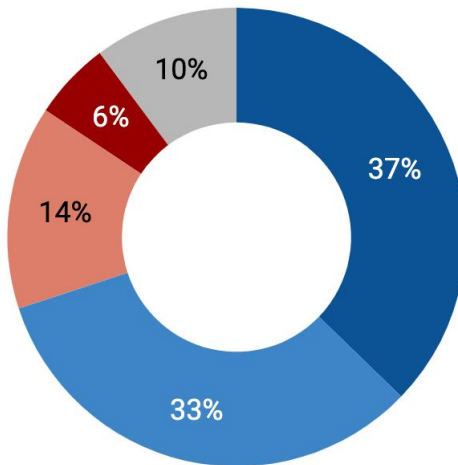
**70%**

say "Strongly or Somewhat approve"



**54%**

say "Strongly or Somewhat approve"



● Strongly approve ● Somewhat approve ● Somewhat disapprove  
● Strongly disapprove ● Not sure

Younger Americans (18-29) show weaker support (58% strongly or somewhat agree)

# Americans Support Importance of Increasing Percent GDP on Research

Some governments have a goal to spend 3%-5% of GDP on research and development, and some, including Japan and Korea, have already met this goal, and others, including China, have pledged to do so. How important do you think it is for the U.S. to achieve this goal?



87%

Say very or somewhat important



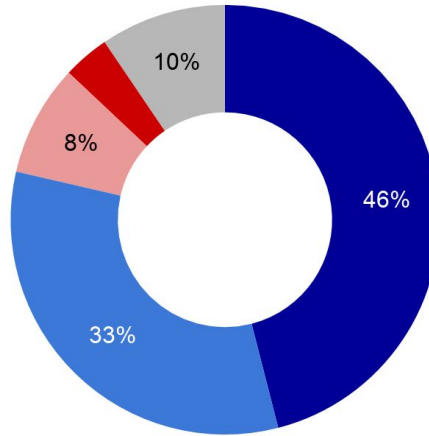
79%

Say very or somewhat important



68%

Say very or somewhat important



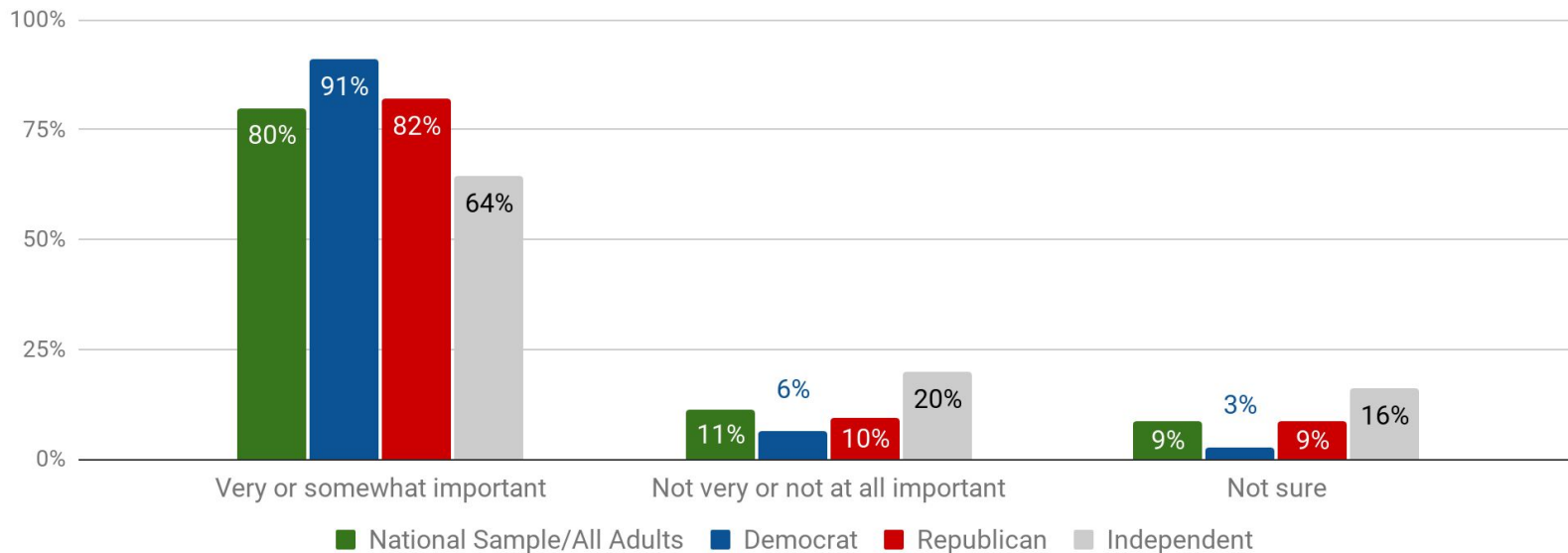
● Very Important ● Somewhat Important  
● Not Very Important ● Not at all Important ● Not Sure

Younger Americans (18-29) show weaker support (69% say very or somewhat important)



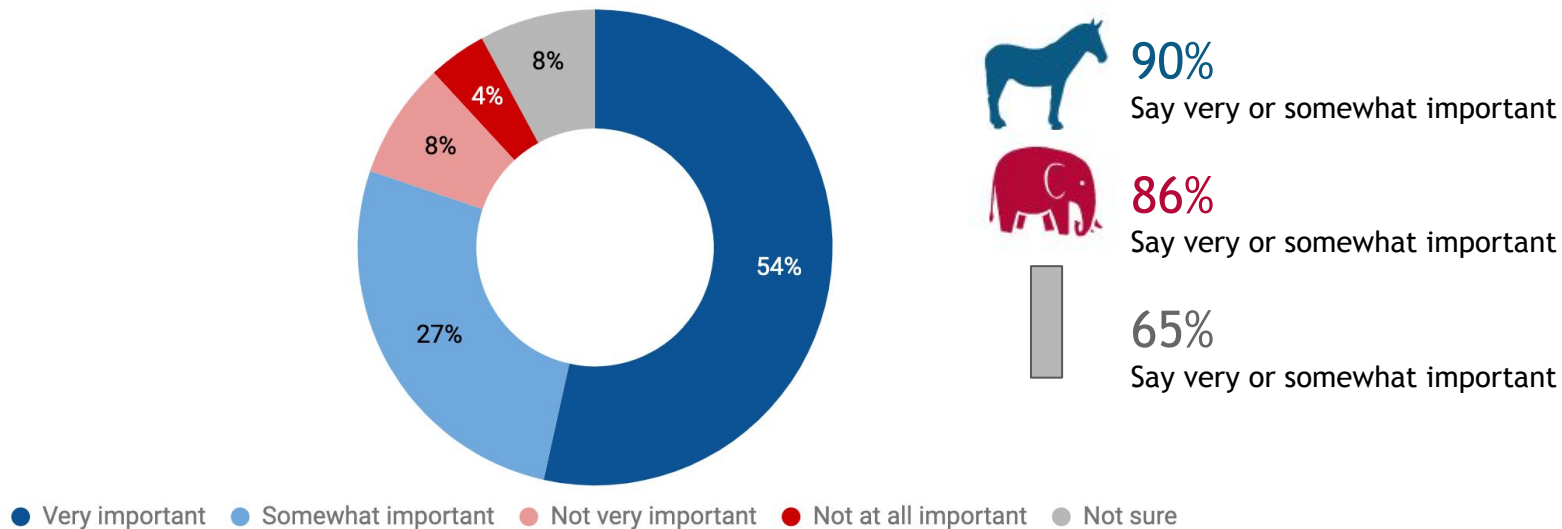
# Strong Majority Agree Across Parties: Elected Officials Should Listen to Scientists

How important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from scientists?



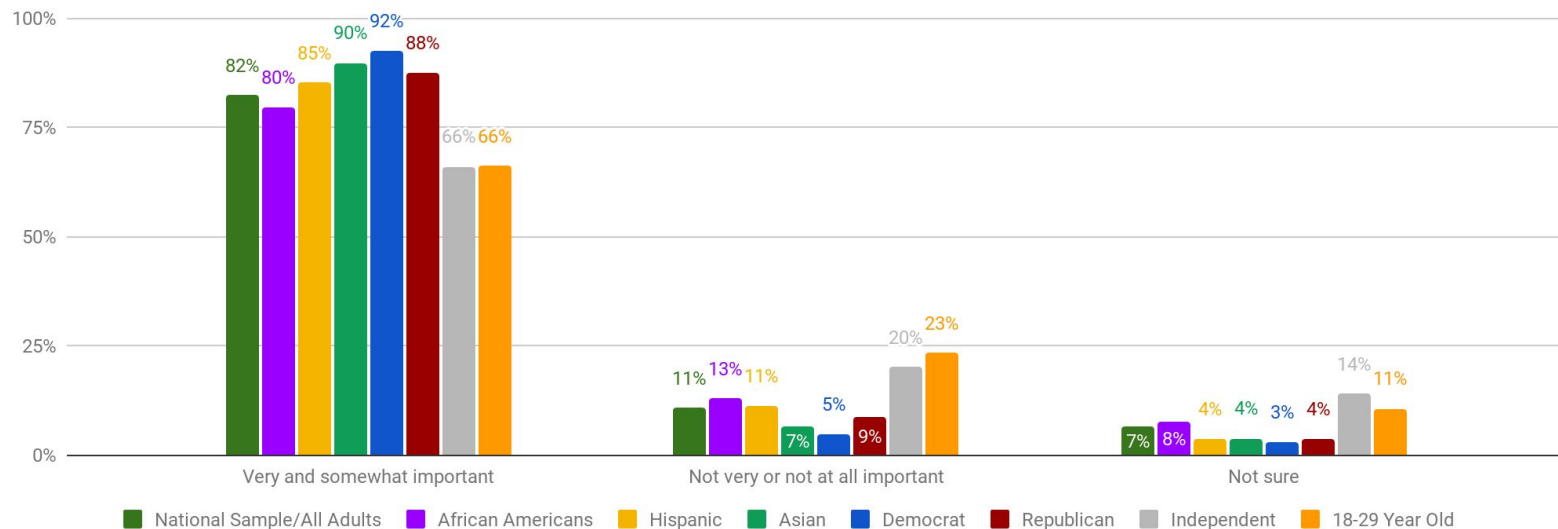
# Scientists Should Inform Elected Officials About Their Work

How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society?



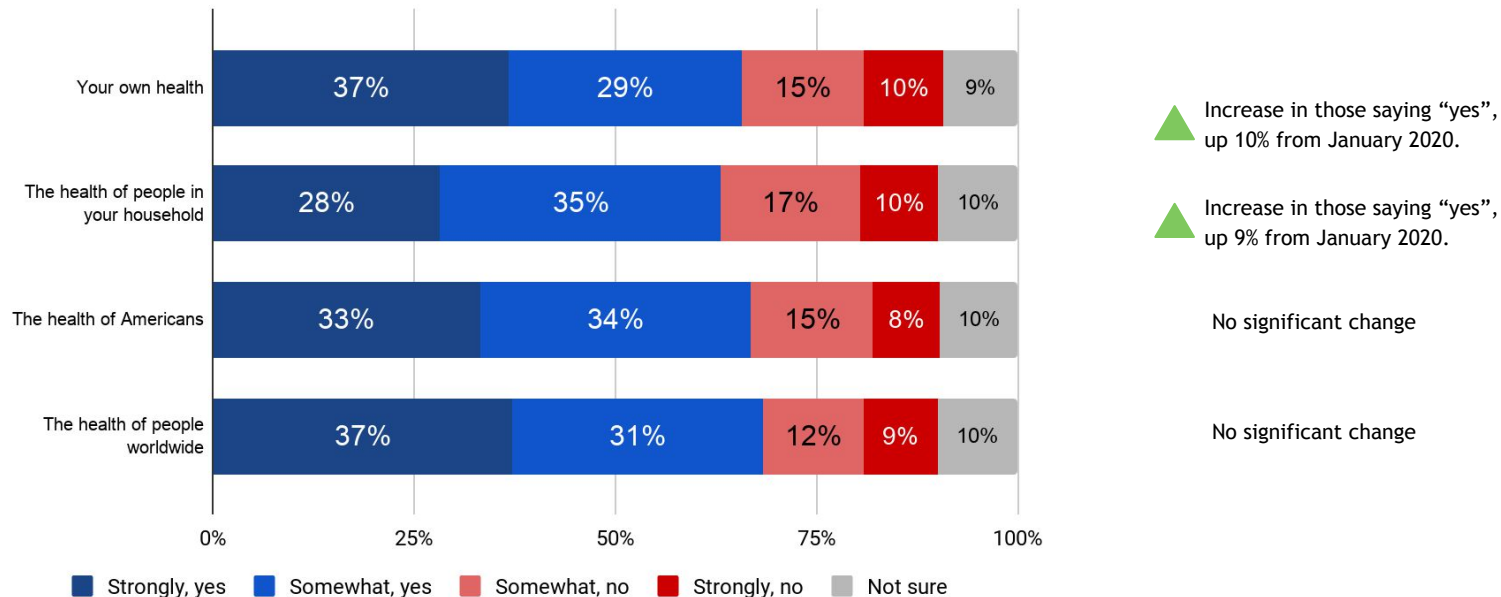
# The Public Also Wants to Hear from Scientists

How important is it for scientists to inform the public about their research and its impact on society?



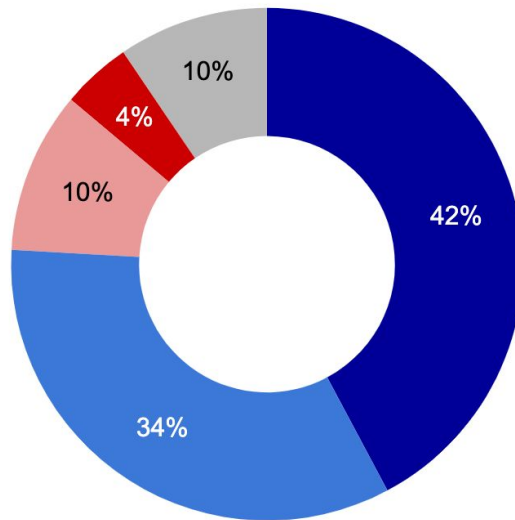
# Americans Increasingly Say Climate Change is Harming Health

How much, if at all, do you think climate change is currently harming the following?



# Strong Majority Agree That Basic Research is Important to Private Sector Innovation

How important is basic research funded by the federal government to private sector innovation?



● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Not very important ● Not at all important ● Not Sure

# Americans See a Positive Future for Science Fields

Would you recommend or discourage your child, family member, or another young person from entering a science, technology, engineering, or medical field?



90%

say "Strongly recommend or Somewhat recommend"



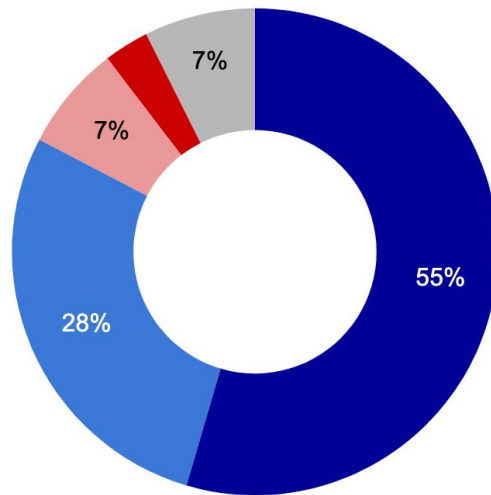
85%

say "Strongly recommend or Somewhat recommend"



70%

say "Strongly recommend or Somewhat recommend"



● Strongly recommend ● Somewhat recommend ● Somewhat discourage ● Strongly discourage ● Not Sure

Younger Americans (18-29) less likely to recommend STEM (72%).

# Research!America Works for You

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