

Research!America has been gauging public opinion on people's attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research since 1992. Results of this recent national poll indicate teen suicide prevention and mental health research is important and valuable to Californians.

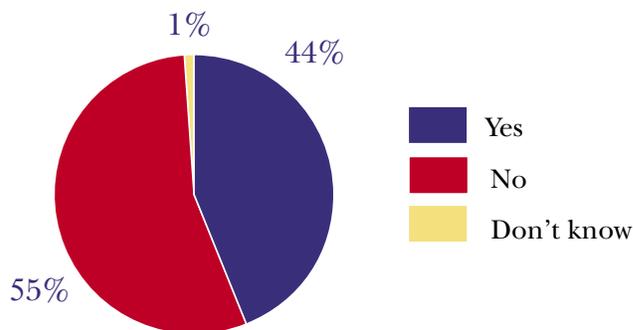
SUICIDE IS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR TEENS

Fifty-six percent of Californians say teen suicide is a major problem. In fact, 44% of Californians report knowing a teenager who has attempted or completed suicide (see Figure 1) and 43% say someone has told them that they were contemplating suicide (see Figure 2).

When asked their opinion, 20% of Californians say that lack of awareness of how to get help and parenting issues are barriers preventing teens who are depressed or contemplating suicide from seeking help (see Figure 3). Other cited barriers include social stigma/embarassment (17%), social/peer pressure (15%), depression (14%), fear (12%) and isolation (11%).

ALMOST HALF OF CALIFORNIANS KNOW A TEEN WHO ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED SUICIDE

Do you know anyone who attempted or completed suicide when s/he was a teenager?

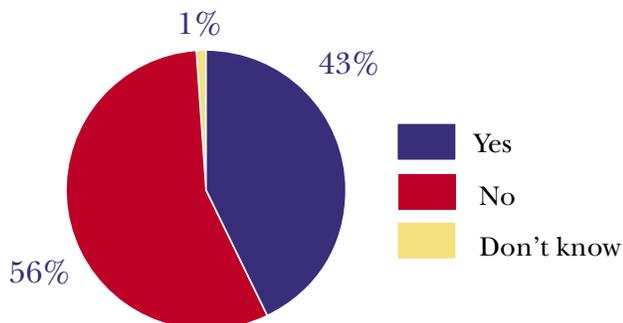


Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund
Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 1

MANY CALIFORNIANS HAVE HEARD DIRECTLY FROM SOMEONE CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE

Has anyone ever told you they were contemplating suicide?



Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund
Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 2

CALIFORNIANS SAY AWARENESS AND PARENTING ISSUES KEEP SUICIDAL TEENS FROM GETTING HELP

In your opinion, what are some of the barriers that prevent teens who are depressed or contemplating suicide from seeking help? {total responses}

Lack of awareness	20%
Parenting issues	20%
Social stigma/embarassment	17%
Social/peer pressure	15%
Depression	14%
Fear	12%
Isolation	11%
Don't know	10%

Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund
Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 3

MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH VALUABLE TO CALIFORNIANS

When asked where they would go for help if they thought a teenager might be considering suicide, 35% of Californians named trained professionals such as mental health counselors, help lines and the police. Almost one-third (33%) indicated that they would call a help line or go to the teen's parents and family or other adult authority figure (32%).

The vast majority of Californians think that research to prevent teens from attempting suicide is valuable (see Figure 4). One-fourth say that it is *somewhat* valuable, while 61% say this type of research is *very* valuable.

Most Californians (87%) believe that it is important for the United States to invest in medical and health research that can improve the mental well-being of teenagers (See Figure 5). A large majority (57%) say that mental health research is *very* important and another third say that it is *somewhat* important.

METHODOLOGY

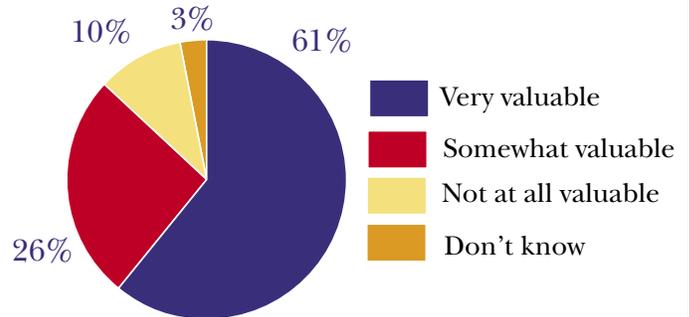
Research!America has been gauging public opinion on attitudes toward health-related research since 1992. The Iris Alliance Fund recently partnered with Research!America to commission a poll on Californians' attitudes about teen suicide and research to prevent suicide.

Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey among 600 California voters. The survey, fielded in September 2004, has a theoretical sampling error of $\pm 4\%$.

Research!America is 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, contact Research!America, 1101 King Street, Suite 520, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Telephone: 703-739-2577. E-mail: info@researchamerica.org. Web site: www.researchamerica.org.

TEEN SUICIDE RESEARCH IS VERY VALUABLE

How valuable is research that looks for ways to prevent teens from attempting suicide?

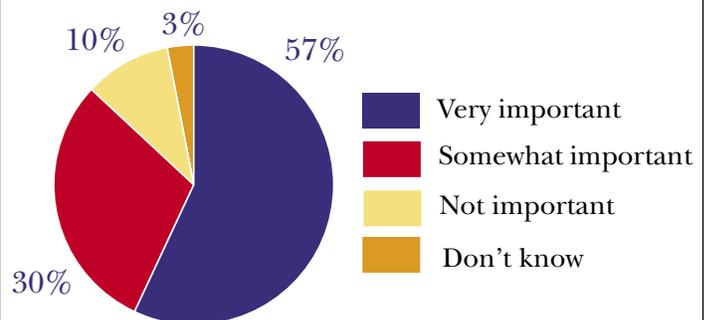


Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund
Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 4

INVESTMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH VERY IMPORTANT

How important is it for the U.S. to invest in research designed to improve the mental well-being of teens?



Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund
Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 5

