

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 Americans.

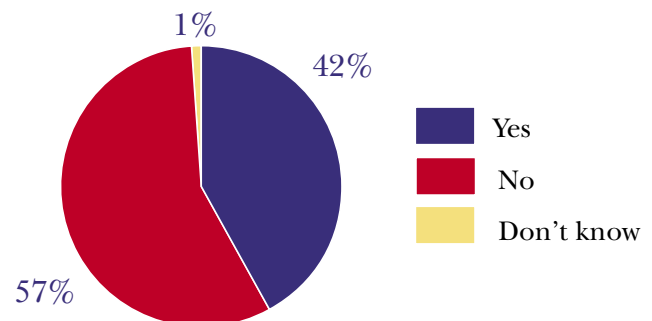
SUICIDE IS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR TEENS

Fifty-seven percent of Americans say teen suicide is a major problem. In fact, 42% of the public report knowing a teenager who has attempted or completed suicide (see Figure 1) and 38% say someone has told them that they were contemplating suicide (see Figure 2).

When asked their opinion, 28% of Americans say that social stigma and peer pressure are barriers preventing teens who are depressed or contemplating suicide from seeking help. Other cited barriers include lack of awareness about how to get help (12%), lack of parental/adult support (10%), depression and lack of hope (9%), isolation (9%), and fear (9%).

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

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

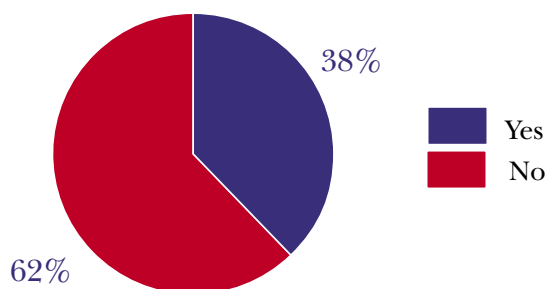


Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund National Survey, Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 1

MANY AMERICANS HAVE HEARD DIRECTLY FROM SOMEONE CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE

Has anyone ever told you they were contemplating suicide?



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

Figure 2

PUBLIC THINKS SOCIAL STIGMA PREVENTS 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? {first responses}

Social stigma/Embarrassment/Peer/Social pressure	28%
Don't know	13%
Lack of awareness concerning help	12%
Lack of support/Adults won't listen/No help available	10%
Depression/Lack of hope/Beyond help	9%
Lack of communication/Isolation	9%
Fear/Don't want to disappoint others	9%
Parenting issues/Lack of attention to the problem	8%
Other	2%

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

Figure 3

MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH VALUABLE TO AMERICANS

When asked where they would go for help if they thought a teenager might be considering suicide, 51% of Americans named trained professionals such as mental health counselors, help lines and the police. More than a third (36%) indicated that they would go the teen's parents and family or other adult authority figure.

The vast majority of Americans think that research to prevent teens from attempting suicide is valuable (see Figure 4). One-fourth say that it is *somewhat* valuable, while 62% say this type of research is *very* valuable.

Almost all Americans (95%) 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 (66%) say that mental health research is *very* important and another third say that it is *somewhat* important.

METHODOLOGY

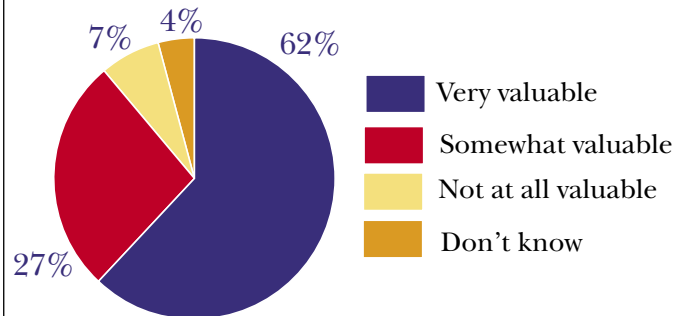
Research!America has been gauging public opinion on attitudes toward health-related research since 1992. The Iris Alliance Fund recently partnered with Research!America to commission a poll on Americans' attitudes about teen suicide and research to prevent suicide.

Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey among 800 adults nationwide. The sample was proportionate to the country's demographics, including geography, gender and ethnicity. The survey, fielded in September 2004, has a theoretical sampling error of $\pm 3.5\%$.

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?

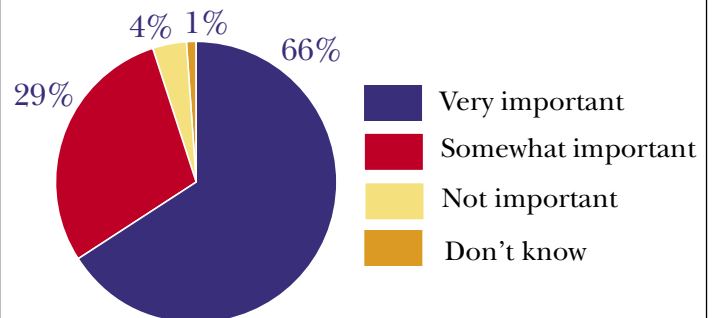


Source: Research!America/Iris Alliance Fund
National Survey, Charlton Research Company, 2004

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
National Survey, Charlton Research Company, 2004

Figure 5

