

America Speaks



Survey data reflecting the views of Americans
on medical, health and scientific research

VOLUME **16**

RESEARCH
AMERICA
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

A message from Research!America Leadership

The momentum to advance research and innovation is building among Americans and policymakers across the political spectrum as legislation to accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures for patients moves forward. Americans care deeply about federal support for research to tackle deadly and disabling diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer and emerging health threats. The cancer 'moonshot' initiative, precision medicine, and efforts to address opioid abuse and antimicrobial resistance demonstrate the commitment of elected officials to protecting the health of Americans. Congressional action in 2015 that removed barriers to innovation such as making the R&D tax credit both stronger and permanent, and suspending the medical device tax, thus broadened our ability to expand cutting-edge research and bring state-of-the-art technologies to patients. Bipartisan support for research is not only a win for patients but a win for our economy and a win for our global competitiveness in science and innovation. A majority of Americans agree, as illustrated in our national public opinion surveys, which help to inform policymakers about the priorities of their constituents. Research for health continues to be a priority for Americans who believe the public and private sectors play critical roles in treating and preventing disease, improving quality of life, creating jobs and sustaining economic growth.

The desire to assure our nation's preeminence in science remains strong among Americans. Elected officials and candidates running for national office should embrace that same level of commitment if we are to stay one step ahead of the next global health threat. They must also redouble efforts to assure sustained and predictable funding increases for our federal health agencies, assure the conduct of health services research and social and behavioral research, pass measures aimed at assuring faster medical progress and repeal the medical device tax. By enacting smart policies and bringing sufficient resources to bear, we will accelerate medical progress at a greater pace, and in so doing, find the solutions to what ails us.

Among recent survey results:

- 78% of Americans agree that Congress should make health promotion and disease prevention research a priority.
- 59% of Americans say they are willing to share their personal health information to advance medical research.
- 74% of Americans say it is important that Congress pass legislation to increase the pace of medical progress.
- A strong majority (81%) agree that Congress should support legislation that will encourage private investments in medical research.
- 79% say it is important that the U.S. work to improve health globally through research and innovation.



Hon. John Edward Porter
CHAIR
RESEARCH!AMERICA



Mary Woolley
PRESIDENT AND CEO
RESEARCH!AMERICA

A message from The American Medical Association

The American Medical Association (AMA) is pleased to join Research!America in its release of *America Speaks: Poll Data Summary*, Volume 16. This series offers timely insight for policymakers, practitioners and the public and is a must-read for anyone concerned about medical research.

As Americans prepare to elect a new president and a new Congress later this year, Research!America's findings show they are looking for leaders with a strong commitment to evidence-based public policies. Further, voters are looking for candidates who place a high priority on increasing funding for medical research. And overwhelmingly, they believe Congress should place a high priority on disease prevention and health promotion research.

Like Research!America and a growing majority of Americans, the AMA and America's physicians understand that research is the foundation of continued progress in medicine. In the last century, research made possible a number of life-saving medical advances such as vaccines, antibiotics and antiseptics. Whether it is identifying genes linked to particular illnesses, developing safer medications with fewer side effects, or studying effective approaches to creating health equity for patients of all cultural identities, research is fundamental.

Research will undoubtedly drive our discovery of ways to prevent and treat chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and asthma.

The AMA is proud of our partnership in Research!America's mission to increase awareness of the benefits of health research and to advocate for a greater investment of resources in such research. This work is vitally important if we are to continue building on our nation's strong history of medical innovation for the benefit of future generations.

Research underpins each of the AMA's three areas of strategic focus:

- *Improving health outcomes associated with type 2 diabetes and heart disease;*
- *Envisioning and creating the medical school of the future, while equipping future physicians to be lifelong learners who care for a diverse population, integrate technology into the care setting and lead medical teams; and*
- *Enabling physicians to provide innovative, high-quality care through practice improvements.*



James L. Madara, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CEO
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Due to rounding, the total may not add to 100% on some charts.

Look for these indicators throughout this publication

TREND CHANGE
Up or down

Indicates significant change from previous years.

NEW QUESTION

Indicates new question not previously asked by Research!America.

Election-Year Priorities

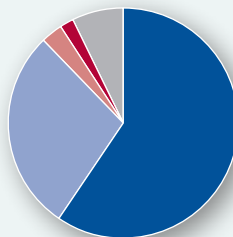
“It is incredibly humbling to see, firsthand, the remarkable efforts researchers, health care professionals, advocates, and families are making to improve the lives of those diagnosed with incurable diseases. It is imperative that we continue to invest in scientific research, in Missouri and across the nation, to support those efforts and advance progress toward cures that will save lives and drive down the cost of care.”

SEN. ROY BLUNT (R-MO)

NEW QUESTION

Candidates Should Have Basic Understanding of Science

How important do you think it is that candidates for President and Congress have a basic understanding of the science informing public policy issues?



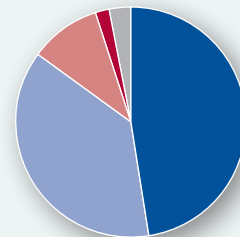
59% Very important
28% Somewhat important
3% Not very important
2% Not important at all
7% Not sure

Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

NEW QUESTION

Candidates Must Prioritize Research Funding

How important is it for candidates running for national office to assign a high priority to increasing funding for medical research?



48% Very important
38% Somewhat important
10% Not too important
2% Not at all important
3% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

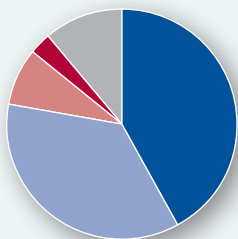
“Early on in my tenure as LHHS (Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee) chair, I recognized that adequate disease research was not only a clearly unmet need in our society, but it was an issue that could and should be met with bipartisan cooperation and agreement by lawmakers.”

REP. TOM COLE (R-OK)

NEW QUESTION

Health Promotion and Prevention Research Should be a Priority

Compared with other policy areas, how high a priority should Congress make health promotion and disease prevention research?



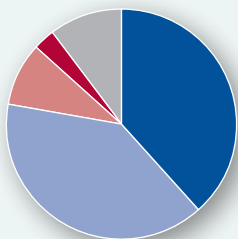
42% A very high priority
36% A somewhat high priority
8% A somewhat low priority
3% A very low priority
11% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

NEW QUESTION

Majority Agree Public Policies Should be Based on Science

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Public policies should be based on the best available science?

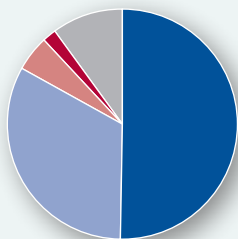


38% Strongly agree
39% Somewhat agree
9% Somewhat disagree
3% Strongly disagree
10% Don't know

Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

Important for Scientists to Engage with Elected Officials and Public

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

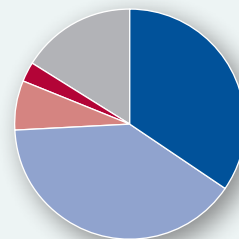


51% Very important
33% Somewhat important
5% Not very important
2% Not important at all
10% Not sure

Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

Americans say Candidates Should Have Science Advisors

How important is it that candidates for President and Congress have a science advisor?



35% Very important
40% Somewhat important
7% Not very important
3% Not important at all
16% Not sure

Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

Advancing Discovery, Development and Delivery

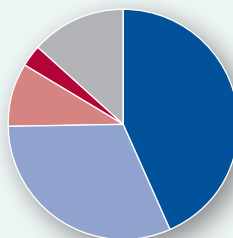
“We are working in the Senate health committee to send to the president’s desk bipartisan legislation that would safely bring lifesaving drugs and medical devices to patients more quickly.”

SEN. LAMAR ALEXANDER (R-TN)

NEW QUESTION

Important for Congress to Speed Medical Progress

How important is it that the current Congress pass legislation to increase the pace of medical progress?



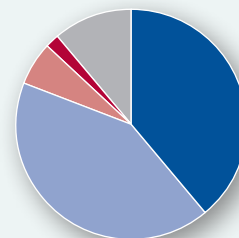
43% Very important
31% Somewhat important
9% Not too important
3% Not at all important
13% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

NEW QUESTION

Congress Should Encourage Private Investments in Research

Do you agree or disagree that Congress should support legislation that will encourage private investments in medical research?

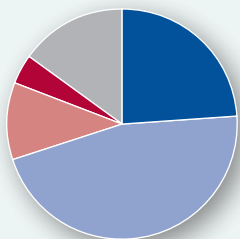


39% Strongly agree
42% Somewhat agree
6% Somewhat disagree
2% Strongly disagree
11% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Majority Agree that Basic Research is Critical

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?

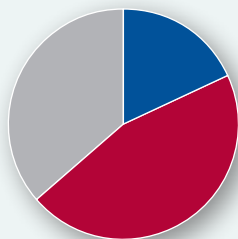


24% Strongly agree
46% Somewhat agree
11% Somewhat disagree
4% Strongly disagree
15% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015

Plurality say Health Services Research Funding Should Increase

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is the federal agency charged with funding health services research. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects your view?



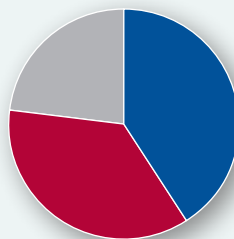
18% Funding for AHRQ is not a priority
45% AHRQ funding should be increased as a strategy to improve health care quality and safety in the U.S.
36% Don't know/no opinion

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

TREND CHANGE:
 Decrease in percentage that selected yes

Americans Split on Whether Health Care is Based on Latest Research

Do you believe the health care services you personally receive are based on the best and most recent research available?



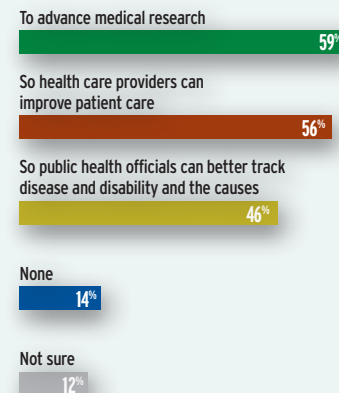
41% Yes
36% No
23% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

TREND CHANGE:
 Increase in percentage that selected to advance medical research

Americans Willing to Share Personal Health Data for Research

For which of the following would you be willing to share your personal health information? (choose all that apply)



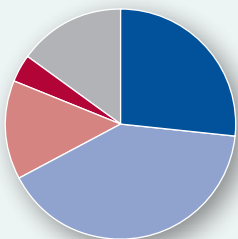
Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

“My family has experienced firsthand how important it is to find a critical balance between innovative treatments and appropriate safeguards for patients. The American people need access to cutting edge treatments, but also must be able to trust the information they are given about that treatment.”

ROBERT M. CALIFF, MD | COMMISSIONER, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Majority say Critical to Increase NIH Funding

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. How important is it to increase funding for NIH?

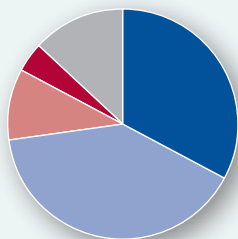


27% Very important
41% Somewhat important
14% Not too important
4% Not at all important
15% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015

Majority say Important to Boost FDA Funding

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the agency responsible for the safety and effectiveness of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics and products that emit radiation. How important is it to increase funding for the FDA?



33% Very important
40% Somewhat important
10% Not too important
4% Not at all important
13% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

“Collaboration between academia and industry proved itself time and again in the 20th Century – delivering such progress as antibiotics, vaccines for polio and other dread diseases, increasingly effective cancer treatments, and medicines to cut the risk of heart disease. It’s important that we understand and strengthen the qualities that make such collaborations work.”

JOHN C. LECHLEITER, PHD

CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ELI LILLY AND COMPANY

Responding to Health Threats

“If you just look at history of new infections – the pandemic flu of 1918, the first recognition of Ebola in 1976, HIV in 1981 – as microbes evolve with humans, there will be a continual emergence of brand new infections. To think that it’s going to stop is extremely naive, because the history of civilization has told us that this just happens in a continuum. What can we do about it? We can try and prepare ourselves as best as we can.”

ANTHONY S. FAUCI, MD

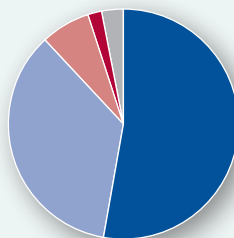
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TREND CHANGE:

Significant increase in percentage that selected very important

Elected Officials Should Heed the Advice of Scientists

In thinking about threats to your health, how important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from scientists?

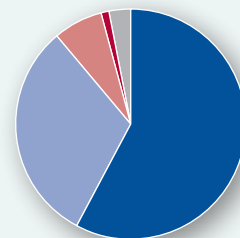


54% Very important
36% Somewhat important
7% Not too important
2% Not at all important
3% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Elected Officials Should Listen to Public Health Professionals

In thinking about threats to your health, how important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from public health professionals?



58% Very important
31% Somewhat important
7% Not too important
1% Not at all important
3% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

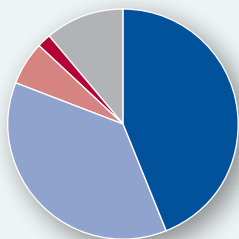
NEW QUESTION

TREND CHANGE:

Significant increase in percentage that selected very important

Americans Support TBI Research

How important is it for our nation to support traumatic brain injury (TBI) research?

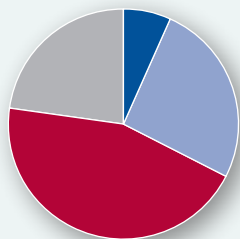


44% Very important
37% Somewhat important
6% Not too important
2% Not at all important
11% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Government Investments in Research to Benefit Military Lacking

Would you say government investment in health research for the benefit of military veterans and service members is...?

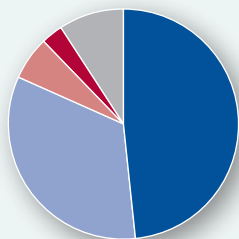


7% Too much
26% About right
45% Not enough
23% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015

Important to Conduct Research to Eliminate Health Disparities

Studies show that certain health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, and infant mortality happen more often among minorities or citizens with lower incomes. How important do you feel it is to conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate these differences?

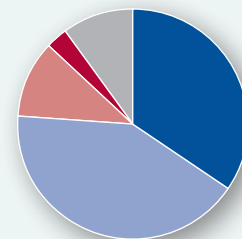


48% Very important
33% Somewhat important
6% Not too important
3% Not at all important
9% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Majority say Funding for the CDC Should Increase

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. How important is it to increase funding for the CDC?



35% Very important
42% Somewhat important
11% Not too important
3% Not at all important
10% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015

“Even the most successful public health programs require constant evaluation, innovation, and improvement. The progress we achieve builds on itself to create new opportunities to improve the nation’s health and reduce disparities.”

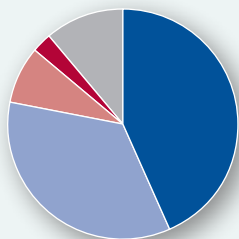
THOMAS R. FRIEDEN, MD, MPH | DIRECTOR, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

TREND CHANGE

Significant increase in percentage that selected very important

Research Important to Improving Global Health

How important would you say it is that the U.S. work to improve health globally through research and innovation?

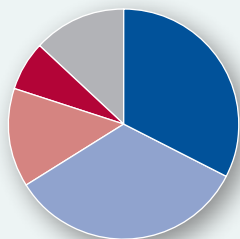


44% Very important
35% Somewhat important
8% Not too important
3% Not at all important
11% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

Public Dollars Critical to Suicide Prevention

How important do you think it is for the U.S. to invest public dollars in the prevention of suicide?

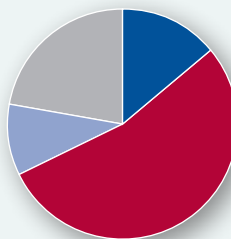


33% Very important
34% Somewhat important
14% Not too important
7% Not at all important
13% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

Public Investment in Mental Health Research Not Enough

Do you think public investment in mental health research is enough, not enough, about right or not sure?



14% Enough
54% Not enough
10% About right
22% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

“You don’t have to be a psychiatrist to know our society has a serious mental health problem. To address this issue, we need facilities and practitioners who can help people with mental illness and we need to support research that will lead to faster diagnosis and more effective treatments.”

HERBERT PARDES, MD

| EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR, NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL

Job Creation & Competitiveness

“As a committed partner in the global community of scientific research, NSF believes it is imperative that all of us promote the benefits that investing in research and discovery yield to everyone on the planet.”

FRANCE A. CORDOVA, PHD

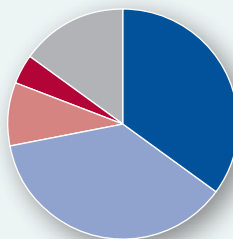
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

TREND CHANGE

Significant increase in percentage that selected very important

Majority say Important to Increase NSF Funding

The National Science Foundation (NSF) works to promote the progress of science; advance the national health, prosperity and welfare; and secure the national defense. How important is it to increase funding for NSF?

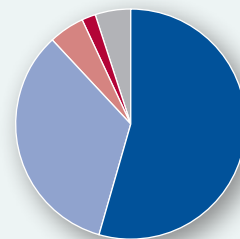


35% Very important
37% Somewhat important
9% Not too important
4% Not at all important
15% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Research is Key to Job Creation

How important is investing in research to job creation, technological breakthroughs and economic growth?



55% Very important
34% Somewhat important
5% Not too important
2% Not at all important
5% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

TREND CHANGE:

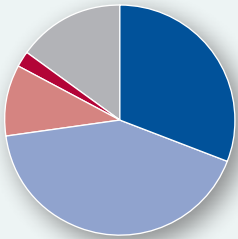
Percentage that selected
U.S. increased

TREND CHANGE:

Percentage that selected
U.S. increased

Majority of Americans Agree Research Investments Fuel the Economy

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: If the United States increased public investment in scientific research, it would help grow the economy?

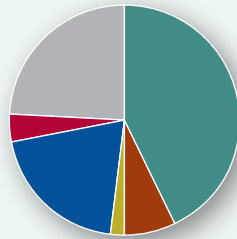


31% Strongly agree
42% Somewhat agree
10% Somewhat disagree
2% Strongly disagree
15% Don't know

Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015

Plurality Say U.S. Will Be Leader in Health Care in 2020

In your view, which of the following will be considered the number one world leader in health care in the year 2020?

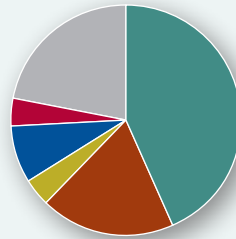


43% United States
7% China
2% India
20% European Union
4% Other
24% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Plurality Say U.S. Will Lead in Science and Technology in 2020

In your view, which of the following will be considered the number one world leader in science and technology in the year 2020?

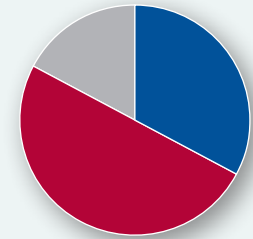


44% United States
19% China
4% India
8% European Union
4% Other
22% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Only a Third Believe U.S. Health Care System is Best in World

Do you believe the United States has the best health care system in the world?



33% Yes
50% No
17% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

“Investments in biomedical research through NIH are advancing human health, spurring innovations in science and technology, stimulating economic growth, and laying the groundwork for the future of the United States biomedical research enterprise. We have never witnessed a time of greater promise for advances in medicine than right now.”

FRANCIS S. COLLINS, MD, PHD

DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

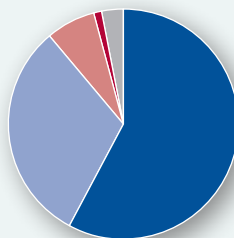
One State's Perspective: Louisiana

“Many diseases that we once felt were death sentences; progress in research has totally changed their outlook. I was doing my residency when HIV/AIDS was first recognized. It was truly a death sentence. And yet now if someone takes the prescribed dosage of medicine, they are not going to die from HIV/AIDS. We must acknowledge our research successes and apply that same urgency to new diseases.”

SEN. BILL CASSIDY, MD (R-LA)

Important for Louisiana to be a Research Leader

How important do you think it is for Louisiana to be a leader in medical and health research?

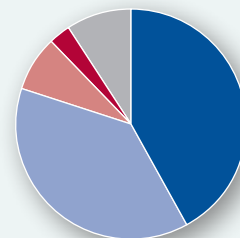


58% Very important
31% Somewhat important
7% Not too important
1% Not at all important
3% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Louisiana Should Encourage Private Investments in Research

Do you agree or disagree that the Louisiana state legislature should support legislation that will encourage private investments in medical research?

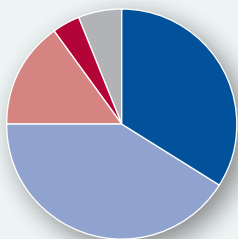


42% Strongly agree
38% Somewhat agree
8% Somewhat disagree
3% Strongly disagree
9% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Louisianans say Investments in Research Important to Local Economy

In terms of jobs and incomes, how important do you think spending money on medical research is to Louisiana's economy?

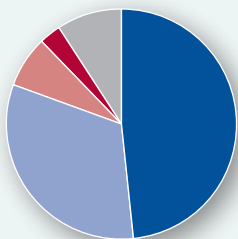


34% Very important
41% Somewhat important
15% Not too important
4% Not at all important
6% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

Louisiana Should Prioritize STEM Education and Careers

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



48% Strongly agree
32% Somewhat agree
7% Somewhat disagree
3% Strongly disagree
9% Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016

“Louisianans understand the importance of research. They know it represents the most direct route to finding solutions for our state’s most pressing problems. To that end, our citizens agree that additional support is needed to maximize the impact of our research.”

F. KING ALEXANDER, PHD

PRESIDENT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Campaign for Cures, a national voter education initiative led by Research!America and partner organizations, is elevating the impact of research and innovation to our health and the economy in the national conversation during election season. Through strategic grassroots activities, communications initiatives and partnerships with preeminent voter education groups, the campaign is raising awareness about the importance of sustaining medical progress and galvanizing research advocates to ensure their voices are prominent on the campaign trail. For more information, visit www.campaignforcures.org.

methodology

Research!America began commissioning surveys in 1992 in an effort to understand public attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research, and this informs our advocacy. The results of Research!America's surveys have proven invaluable to our alliance of member organizations and, in turn, to the fulfillment of our mission to make research to improve health a higher national priority. In response to growing usage and demand, Research!America has expanded its portfolio, which includes state, national and issue-specific surveys. More survey data is available by request or at www.researchamerica.org.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Online surveys are conducted with a sample size of 800-1,052 adults (age 18+) and a maximum theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.2%. Data are demographically representative of adult U.S. residents. Survey data in this publication was conducted by Zogby Analytics.

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