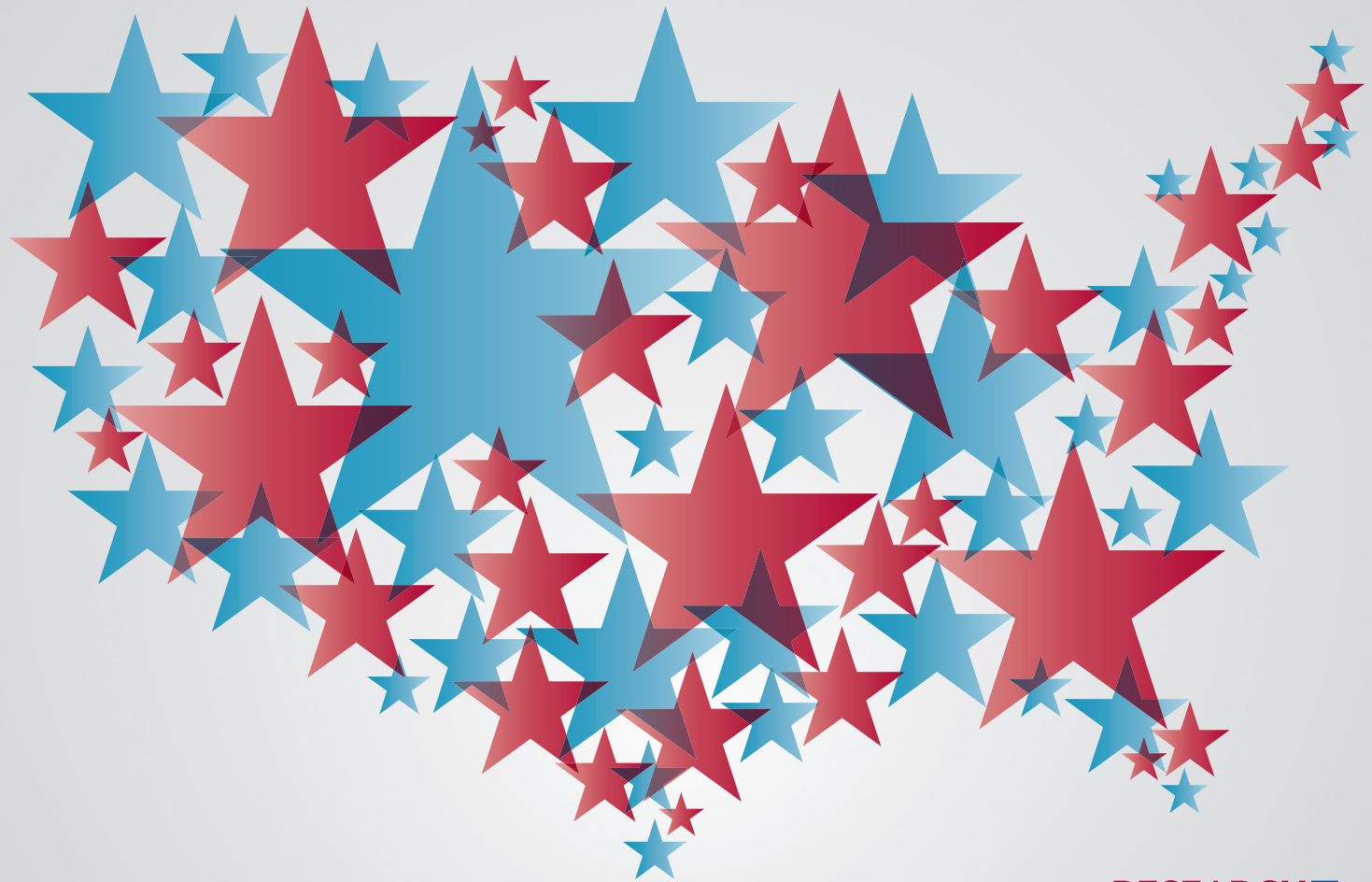


# AMERICA SPEAKS

POLL DATA SUMMARY \* VOLUME 17



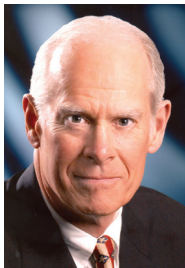
# A message from Research!America Leadership

**TRANSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT BRING NEW LEADERSHIP**, new visions and new directions for our nation. That said, some things remain unchanged, including the fact that an overwhelming majority of Americans remain strongly supportive of making research and innovation a higher priority. A majority are even willing to pay more in taxes to support it, a strong statement to be sure. Further, Americans agree that Congress should support legislation that will encourage private investments in research.

In 2016, bipartisan congressional support for research was evident with the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, landmark legislation that aims to modernize our research ecosystem and speed up the delivery of lifesaving therapies to patients. Our national public opinion surveys show that strengthening our ability to fight public health threats ranks high among the national priorities that Americans expect Congress and the Administration to address in both the short and long-term. They also agree that scientists should play a role in shaping policy for a broad range of issues including national defense, education and job creation.

Although there's a sense of optimism about the potential of major initiatives like the cancer moonshot, precision medicine, BRAIN initiative and other innovative research, Americans are divided on whether the health care services they personally receive are based on the latest research. A significant percentage don't know whether they support or oppose gene therapy, stem cell research and other technologies that could lead to medical breakthroughs, another reason why it's critically important for scientists to increase their level of engagement with the public to assure that research is given the attention it deserves. Many Americans agree that scientists are the most trusted messengers for science, well above elected officials. As we power forward

with efforts to create a favorable policy climate for public and private sector research through robust and sustained investments, infrastructure measures, tax reform and other means, we must ensure that national priorities align with the hopes and expectations of Americans.



**Hon. John Edward Porter**  
CHAIR  
RESEARCH!AMERICA



**Mary Woolley**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
RESEARCH!AMERICA

## AMONG SURVEY RESULTS:

★★★★★

*A strong majority (80%) of Americans say it's important for President Trump to assign a high priority to putting health research and innovation to work to assure continued medical progress.*

★★★★★

*More than half (52%) are willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if they were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical research.*

★★★★★

*72% say it is important for the federal government to support incentives for private sector investment in new treatments and cures.*

★★★★★

*A significant number (79%) say investing in research is important to job creation, technological breakthroughs and economic growth.*

★★★★★

*71% say it is important to conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate health disparities.*

# 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 17*. Each year this series offers timely insight for policymakers, practitioners and the public and is a must-read for anyone concerned about medical research and scientific innovation.

Research!America's findings this year highlight the sharp political divide in the U.S. and show that Americans are uncertain about the national commitment to medical research and scientific discovery under the new president and Congress. Americans continue to place a high priority on health research and innovation, and a majority would even pay more in taxes to support it. But a majority also worry that America's health care system is faltering and wonder whether the U.S. will continue to be a recognized world-leader in medical research and innovation under the new administration.

The AMA and America's physicians join Research!America and the public in recognizing the importance of research and study in medical progress. Such efforts have had a profound impact on American life, from the development of life-saving technologies and devices to other clinical advancements to prevent illness, treat chronic disease, produce safer medications or make health care more accessible, effective and equitable for patients of all cultural backgrounds and identities. Research is fundamental in the pursuit of medical progress, innovation and discovery.

The AMA is proud of our partnership with Research!America and offer our continued support of their mission to raise awareness about the importance of health research and to advocate for a greater investment in scientific study. Americans have demonstrated their desire for public policies that support pioneering research, strengthen our nation's health system, and improve the lives and livelihoods for generations to come.



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

Americans continue to place a high priority on health research and innovation, and a majority would even pay more in taxes to support it.

# CONTENTS

- 3** 2017 National Priorities
- 7** Research and Public Health
- 11** Stem Cell Research
- 13** Economy and Competitiveness
- 15** Opioid Addiction and Research
- 16** State Perspective: Georgia
- 18** State Perspective: Ohio
- 20** Survey Methodology
- 21** Board of Directors



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

Look for these indicators throughout this publication

NEW QUESTION

Indicates new question not previously asked by Research!America.

TREND CHANGE

Indicates significant change from previous years.

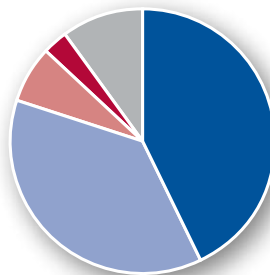
# 2017 National Priorities

*“There has never been a more remarkable time in biomedical research.”* ★ **SEN. LAMAR ALEXANDER (R-TN)**

## Important to Assign High Priority to Health Research and Innovation

*In your view, how important is it for President Trump to assign a high priority to putting health research and innovation to work to assure continued medical progress?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

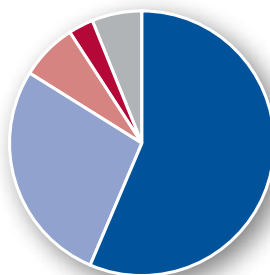


**43%** Very important  
**37%** Somewhat important  
**7%** Not too important  
**3%** Not at all important  
**10%** Not sure

## Important for the U.S. to Remain a Global Leader in New Medicines

*How important do you think it is that the U.S. remains the global leader in bringing new medicines to patients?*

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

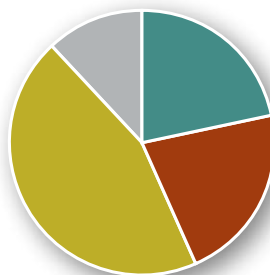


**57%** Very important  
**28%** Somewhat important  
**7%** Not too important  
**3%** Not at all important  
**6%** Not sure

---

## Americans Agree FDA Needs to be Reformed

*The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for assuring the safety and effectiveness of medicines and medical technologies. Which statement comes closer to your view?*



**22%** The Food and Drug Administration needs to be reformed to speed patient access to new medicines and medical technologies

**22%** The Food and Drug Administration needs to be reformed to focus more attention on preventing unsafe or ineffective drugs and medical technologies from being sold

**45%** Both

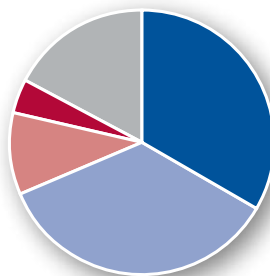
**12%** None of the above

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

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## Important for Federal Government to Assign High Priority to Improving STEM Education

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



**33%** Strongly agree

**36%** Somewhat agree

**10%** Somewhat disagree

**4%** Strongly disagree

**17%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

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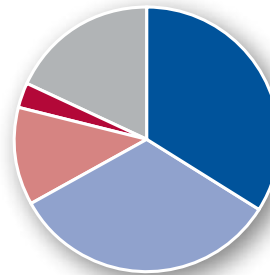
*“STEM fields are the primary drivers of American competitiveness in an increasingly global economy. Research shows that more than half of U.S. economic growth over the last 50 years has resulted from improved productivity brought about by STEM-led innovations. This is why expanding and extending STEM opportunities across the nation is critical to our future.”* ★ **FRANCE CÓRDIVA, PHD** DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

“The need for scientists and scientific institutions to effectively communicate about science and its relevance is more important than ever.” ★ **RUSH HOLT, PHD** CEO, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

## Public Policies Should be Based on Science

Do you agree or disagree that public policies should be based on the best available science?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



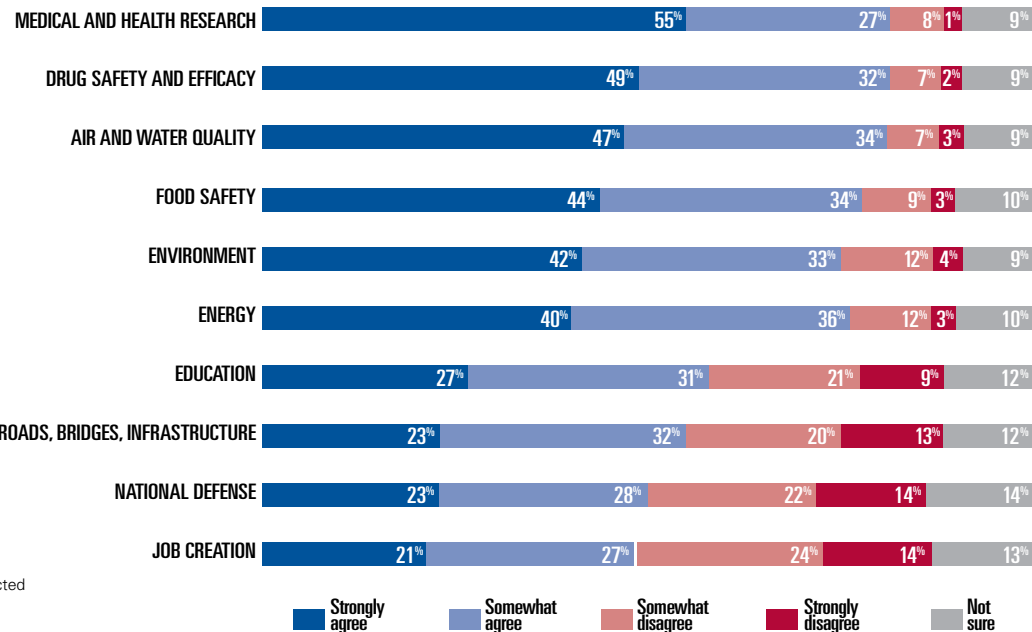
TREND CHANGE: Significant increase in percentage that selected don't know

**34%** Strongly agree  
**33%** Somewhat agree  
**12%** Somewhat disagree  
**3%** Strongly disagree  
**18%** Don't know

## Scientists Should Play Major Role in Shaping Public Policy

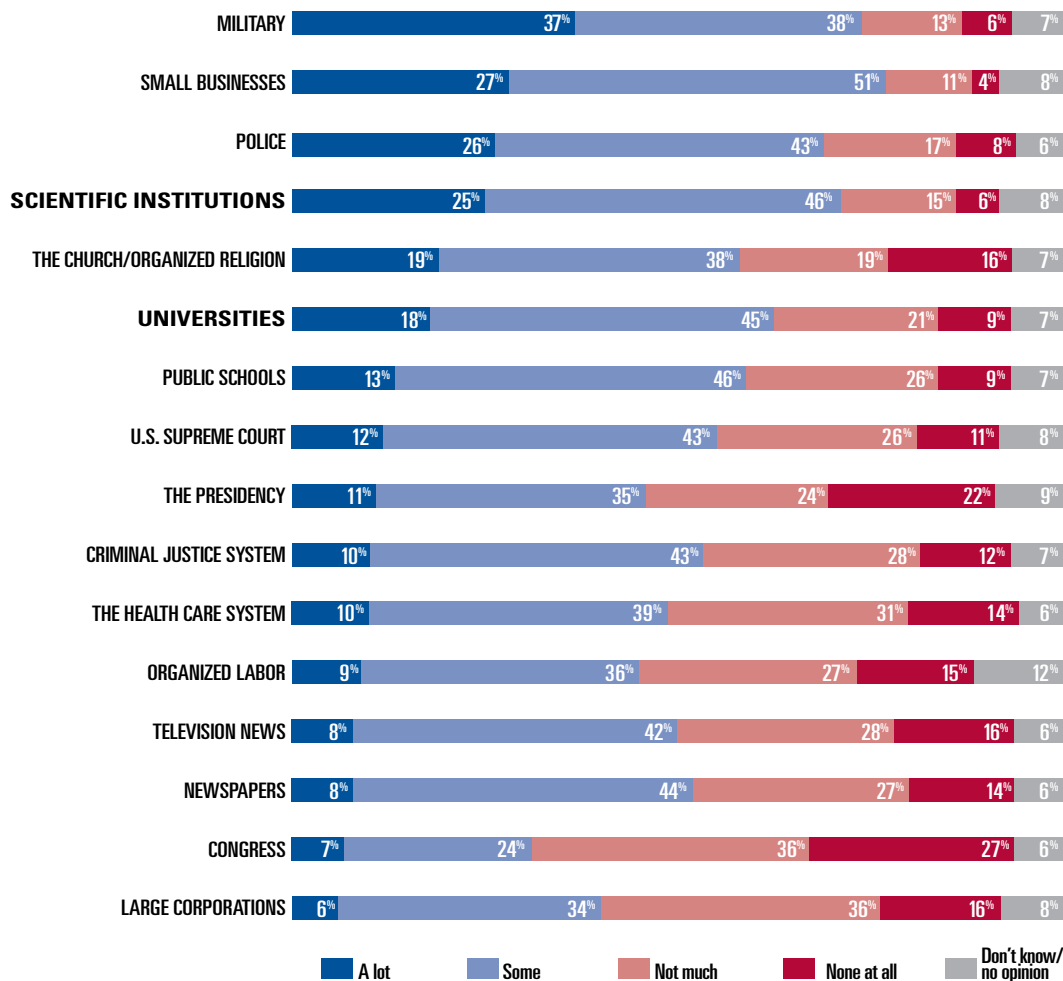
Do you agree or disagree that scientists should play a major role in shaping policy for the following?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



## Americans Confident in Scientific Institutions

How much confidence do you have in each of the following institutions?



Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

*“We’re on the cusp of major breakthroughs on so many of the illnesses that cost lives and hurt families each day. I think we should make sure our scientists and researchers have all the tools and resources they need.”* ★ **SEN. PATTY MURRAY (D-WA)**

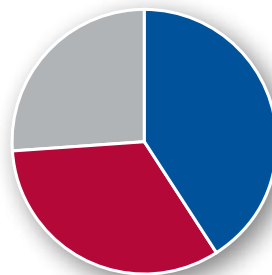


# Research and Public Health

*"I believe that the foundation for a healthy life is tied to a culture of prevention."* ★ **VIVEK MURTHY, MD** 19th U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

## Plurality Willing to Pay More in Taxes to Address Health Threats

*Would you be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes to support an emergency public health fund to address health threats like Ebola?*

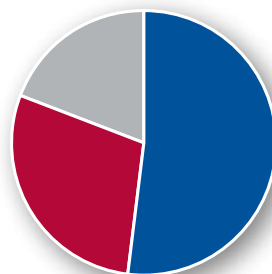


**41%** Yes  
**33%** No  
**26%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

## Majority Willing to Pay More in Taxes for Medical Research

*Would you be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical research?*



**TREND CHANGE:** Significant increase in percentage that selected Yes

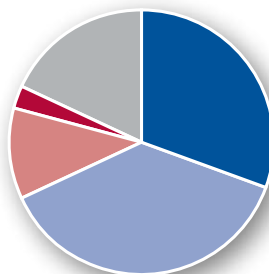
**52%** Yes  
**29%** No  
**19%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

## Important for U.S. to Invest in Health Care Delivery Research

*A type of research called health care delivery research seeks to translate discoveries from research into medical practice. How important do you think it is for the United States to invest in health care delivery research?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

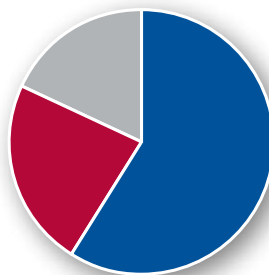


**31%** Very important  
**38%** Somewhat important  
**11%** Not too important  
**3%** Not at all important  
**18%** Not sure

## Majority Say Medical Research Has Improved Family's Health

*Would you say your family's health has been improved by medical research?*

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

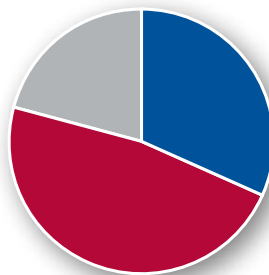


**59%** Yes  
**23%** No  
**18%** Not sure

## Nearly Half Doubt Progress Developing New Medicines

*Do you believe we are making enough progress in developing new medicines?*

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



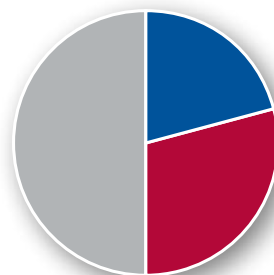
**32%** Yes  
**48%** No  
**21%** Not sure

*"Lupus is a complex disease that presents challenges that can only be overcome by a robust public and private medical research effort."* ★ **SANDRA RAYMOND** CEO, LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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## Less Than A Quarter Know Medical Research Is Conducted Nationwide

*To the best of your knowledge, would you say that medical research in the U.S. is conducted in all 50 states?*



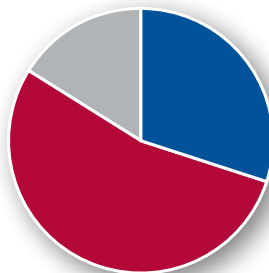
**21%** Yes  
**29%** No  
**50%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

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## Majority Do Not Believe U.S. Health Care is World's Best

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



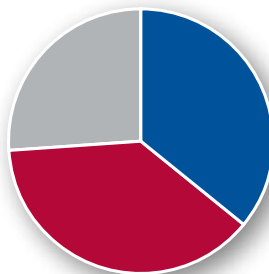
**30%** Yes  
**54%** No  
**16%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

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## Americans Split on Whether Health Care Based on Recent Research

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



**36%** Yes  
**38%** No  
**26%** Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

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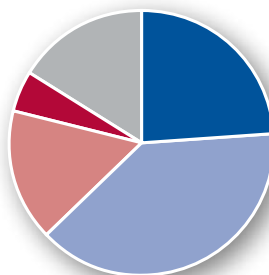
*“In order for the U.S. to remain a global leader in biomedical innovation, we need to double-down on support for academic and clinical research, while giving health agencies like the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the funding and resources they need to be successful. Without funding great basic research and a strong FDA, we cannot make progress developing medicines for the many untreated rare diseases.”* ★ **EMIL KAKKIS, MD, PHD** PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF THE EVERYLIFE FOUNDATION FOR RARE DISEASES

---

## Federal Support for 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.*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



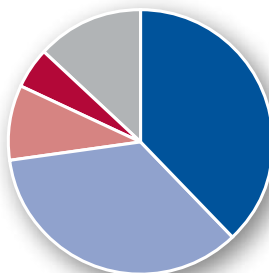
**24%** Strongly agree  
**39%** Somewhat agree  
**16%** Somewhat disagree  
**5%** Strongly disagree  
**16%** Not sure

---

## 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?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



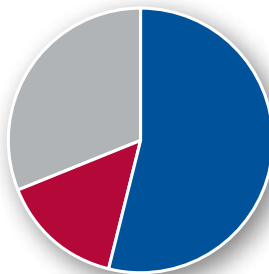
**38%** Very important  
**36%** Somewhat important  
**9%** Not too important  
**5%** Not at all important  
**13%** Not sure

---

## More than Half Say Gene Therapy Research Should Continue

*Based on what you know of gene therapy, that is, the altering of human genes to treat disease, do you think that research into gene therapy should be continued or should it be stopped?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



**54%** Continued  
**15%** Stopped  
**31%** Don't know

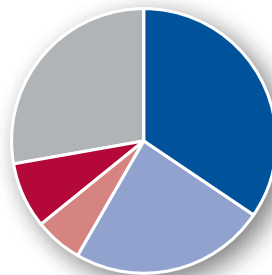
# Stem Cell Research

*“Government, at both the state and federal level, has a vital role to play in protecting public health. The money it provides is a long-term investment that supports innovation, advances our knowledge and, in the case of stem cell research, has the potential to completely transform the way we treat disease.”* ★ **JONATHAN THOMAS, PHD, JD** CHAIR, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

## More Than Half Favor Research Using Embryonic Stem Cells

*Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose) medical research using embryonic stem cells?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



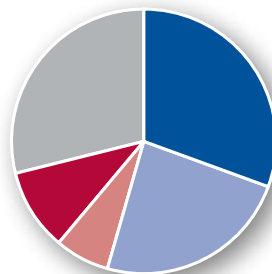
TREND CHANGE: Significant increase in percentage that say don't know/not sure.

- 35%** Strongly favor
- 24%** Somewhat favor
- 6%** Somewhat oppose
- 8%** Strongly oppose
- 28%** Don't know/not sure

## More Than Half Favor Using Federal Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research

*Do you strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose) federal funding for medical research using embryonic stem cells?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



TREND CHANGE: Significant increase in percentage that say don't know/not sure.

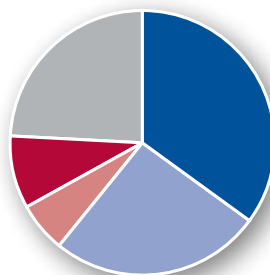
- 31%** Strongly favor
- 24%** Somewhat favor
- 7%** Somewhat oppose
- 10%** Strongly oppose
- 29%** Don't know/not sure

---

## Nearly A Quarter Unsure about Embryonic Stem Cell Research

*Scientists can extract embryonic stem cells from fertilized eggs that are voluntarily donated by fertility clinic patients. These fertilized eggs would otherwise be discarded. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose embryonic stem cell research?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



TREND CHANGE: Significant increase in percentage that say don't know

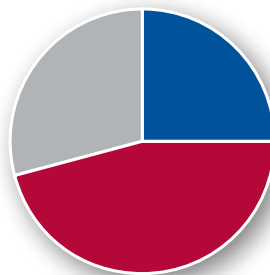
- 35%** Strongly favor
- 26%** Somewhat favor
- 6%** Somewhat oppose
- 9%** Strongly oppose
- 24%** Don't know/Refused

---

## Almost Half of Americans Don't Know Anyone With Disease Treatable Through Embryonic Stem Cell Research

*Do you or anyone you care about suffer from a disease or condition that you hope will become treatable or curable as a result of embryonic stem cell research?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



TREND CHANGE: Significant increase in percentage that say don't know

- 25%** Yes
- 46%** No
- 29%** Don't know

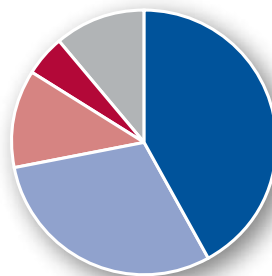
# Economy and Competitiveness

*“Discovering transformational innovations for patients is at the heart of our industry — it is our purpose. We must continue to look for new opportunities to collaborate with government, academia and other thought leaders to ensure we can nurture a thriving ecosystem, delivering the treatments of today and the cures of tomorrow.”* ★ **JOAQUIN DUATO** WORLDWIDE CHAIRMAN, PHARMACEUTICALS, JOHNSON & JOHNSON

## Strong Majority Say Government Should Support Private Sector Research

*How important is it for the federal government to support incentives for private sector investment in new treatments and cures?*

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

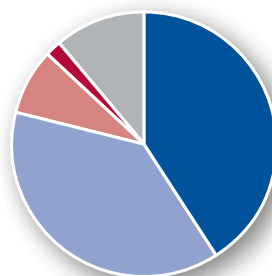


**42%** Very important  
**30%** Somewhat important  
**12%** Not too important  
**5%** Not at all important  
**11%** Not sure

## Strong Majority Say Research Investment Important to Job Creation

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

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



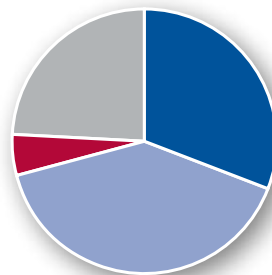
**41%** Very important  
**38%** Somewhat important  
**8%** Not too important  
**2%** Not at all important  
**11%** Not sure

---

## Majority of Americans Say U.S. Not Spending Enough on Research

*The U.S. spends about 5 cents of each health dollar on research to prevent, cure and treat disease and disability. Do you think that this is too much, the right amount or not enough?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



TREND CHANGE: Significant decrease in percentage that say not enough

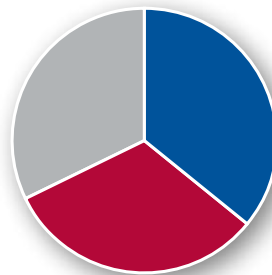
- 31%** The right amount
- 40%** Not enough
- 5%** Too much
- 24%** Not sure

---

## Americans Split on Whether Research is Part of Solution to Rising Health Care Costs

*When it comes to rising health care costs, would you say medical research and development is part of the problem or part of the solution?*

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



- 36%** Part of the solution
- 32%** Part of the problem
- 32%** Not sure

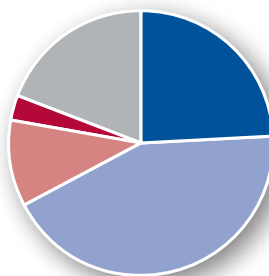


# Opioid Addiction and Research

## Majority Support More Funding to Address Opioid Addiction

*Do you support or oppose increased funding for research to better understand and combat the opioid addiction?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



**23%** Strongly support  
**36%** Somewhat support  
**14%** Somewhat oppose  
**8%** Strongly oppose  
**19%** Not sure

## Plurality Say Prescription Pain Medication Abuse a Major Problem

*Is prescription pain medication abuse and addiction a major problem in your community?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.

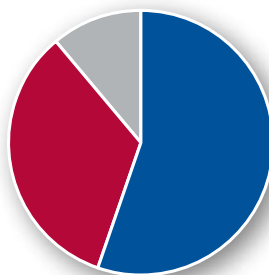


**45%** Yes  
**25%** No  
**31%** Not sure

## More Than Half Know Someone Who Has Sought Prescription Pain Medicine

*Do you know anyone who experienced pain so severe that they sought prescription medicines to treat it?*

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2017.



**56%** Yes  
**34%** No  
**11%** Not sure

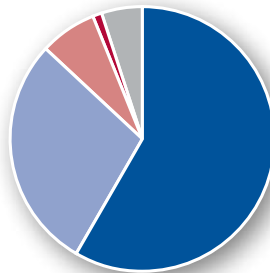
# State Perspective: Georgia

*“Medical research is important for the health of Georgians and for the health of Georgia’s economy. Georgia’s universities and biomedical companies are major drivers of discoveries that will continue to improve the quality of life of our citizens and also serve as an engine for economic development for our state.”* ★ **RUSSELL ALLEN** PRESIDENT AND CEO, GEORGIA BIO

## Important for Georgia to Lead in Medical Research

*Please indicate how important you think it is that Georgia be a leader in medical research.*

Source: A Research!America survey of Georgians conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2016.

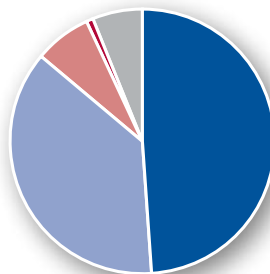


**59%** Very important  
**29%** Somewhat important  
**7%** Not too important  
**1%** Not at all important  
**5%** Not sure

## Medical Research Important to Georgia Economy

*How important do you think medical research is to the economy of Georgia?*

Source: A Research!America survey of Georgians conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2016.



**49%** Very important  
**37%** Somewhat important  
**7%** Not too important  
**.4%** Not at all important  
**6%** Not sure

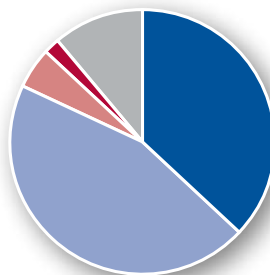


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## Georgia Should Support Private Investments in Research

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

Source: A Research!America survey of Georgians conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2016.



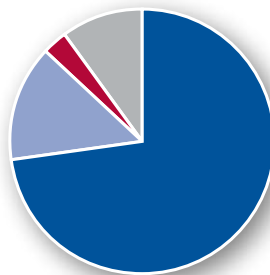
**37%** Strongly agree  
**45%** Somewhat agree  
**5%** Somewhat disagree  
**2%** Strongly disagree  
**11%** Not sure

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## Strong Majority of Georgians Say U.S. Not Spending Enough on Research

*The U.S. spends less than 5 cents of each health dollar on research to prevent, cure and treat disease and disability. Do you think that this is too much, the right amount or not enough?*

Source: A Research!America survey of Georgians conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2016.



**73%** Not enough  
**14%** The right amount  
**3%** Too much  
**10%** Not sure

*{A higher percentage of Georgians than the general U.S. population say this is not enough}*

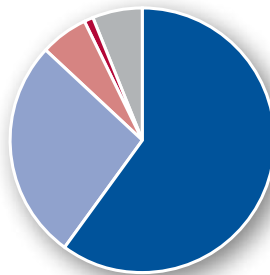
# State Perspective: Ohio

*“What’s important is making northeast Ohio a corridor of medical research. I do believe we can do that. We have some of the greatest universities. We have some of the greatest medical facilities. Putting together those organizations and getting the power of that joint effort will be unbelievable.”* ★ **REP. JIM RENACCI (R-OH)**

## Strong Majority Think Ohio Should Lead in Health Research

*Please indicate how important you think it is that Ohio be a leader in medical and health research.*

Source: Research!America surveys of Ohioans conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2016.

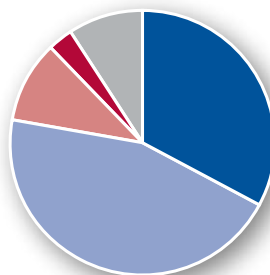


**60%** Very important  
**27%** Somewhat important  
**6%** Not too important  
**1%** Not at all important  
**6%** Not sure

## Significant Majority Say Research Investment Important to Ohio’s Economy

*In terms of jobs and incomes, how important do you think spending money on scientific research is to Ohio’s economy?*

Source: A Research!America survey of Ohioans conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2016.



**33%** Very important  
**45%** Somewhat important  
**10%** Not too important  
**3%** Not at all important  
**9%** Not sure

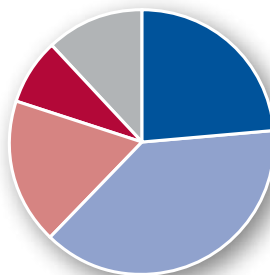


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## Ohio Should Support Research at Universities

*Do you agree or disagree that the state of Ohio (taxpayer) funds should be used to support scientific research at public universities?*

Source: A Research!America survey of Ohioans conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2016.



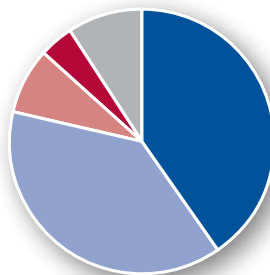
**24%** Strongly agree  
**39%** Somewhat agree  
**18%** Somewhat disagree  
**8%** Strongly disagree  
**12%** Not sure

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## Important for Ohio State Government to Fund Research on 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 for Ohio's state government to fund and conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate these differences?*

Source: A Research!America survey of Ohioans conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2016.



**40%** Very important  
**38%** Somewhat important  
**8%** Not too important  
**4%** Not at all important  
**9%** Not sure

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](http://www.researchamerica.org).

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## **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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