## Poll DataSummary | Vo. 24

## AmericaSpealis!





Research!America's latest Poll Data Summary presents an important snapshot of public priorities as they concern medical and health research as well as science and technology more broadly. Understanding public sentiment is vital to assuring that public investment and public policies reflect public priorities. This 24th edition of our Poll Data Summary, made possible with the generous support of the American Medical Association, shows strong public agreement concerning the value of our nation's science and technology (S\&T) enterprise and the need for investment. The majority of Americans - regardless of political party affiliation - support Congress investing more taxpayer dollars to advance science and technology in the U.S. (62\%).

Our national findings strongly underscore that the public not only wants to invest more in S\&T, it wants to hear from the science community, with 8 in 10 respondents regarding communication with the public as part of the job of scientists. Americans also want scientists and public health officials to speak to elected officials about the impacts of their research ( $90 \%$ ).

Americans also tell us that the U.S. is experiencing a mental health crisis, and say it is important to increase funding for research in


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Chair
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this area. Additional high-profile health concerns for Americans include opioid addiction, climate change, and antibiotic resistance, among other issues. Public sentiment is clear: research can deliver solutions, but increased investment in medical and scientific progress is needed to keep pace!

Our recent work commissioning surveys has benefitted from partnerships that allowed us to assess public sentiment in specific areas. Our survey in partnership with Virginia Tech highlighted statelevel concerns; our survey in partnership with the Dana Foundation showed Americans' views on brain health. We would love to partner with you as well - what issue or demographic would you like to understand better?

We hope you will share this summary with your network. Research!America will continue to work with our members to make public perspectives broadly known; to support public engagement by the science community; and to work together with all stakeholders to raise the volume of advocacy for science. We are strongest when we work together!


## SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 7 in 10 Americans ( $87 \%$ of Democrats, $61 \%$ of Republicans, $77 \%$ of Independents) say they would be more likely to support a candidate if they favor increased spending on medical and health research.
- More than half (52\%) believe children in America will be worse off than people are now when they grow up. Growing social and political divides ( $65 \%$ ) and a weakening economy ( $65 \%$ ) were the top reasons listed. Those who believe children will be better off say it is because of advances in Science and Technology (S\&T) (81\%).
- Most Americans (90\%) say it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in S\&T and 78\% are concerned that China will surpass the U.S. as the world's leading S\&T power.
- An overwhelming majority of Americans ( $87 \%$ ) agree that health care professionals should discuss clinical trials with patients diagnosed with a disease as part of their standard of care.
- $82 \%$ of Georgians say it is important for the State of Georgia to increase investment in initiatives to reduce maternal mortality and support including maternal mortality as a state budget item.


## A MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By AMA CEO James L. Madara, MD



James L. Madara, MD
CEO, American Medical Association

The work of Research!America to promote science and innovation through active engagement and advocacy complements the mission of the American Medical Association (AMA) to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health. For that and other reasons, the AMA is proud to be a founding member of Research!America, and to work closely with its leadership and members to secure funding and policies that advance medical, health and scientific research.

An important element of Research!America's work involves understanding public support for this research, along with gauging public opinion on a wide range of regional, national and global issues related to public health and medical innovation. The insights gathered in America Speaks!: Poll Data Summary, Volume 24 provide a fresh look at the optimism but also areas of concern in health care today, while highlighting opportunities for improvement. These are invaluable insights as our health care system becomes more complex and technology-centered.

For example, respondents to the latest poll identified the cost of care as the single most important health issue facing the nation,
representing a double-digit percentage increase over 2023. Mental health concerns ranked second. However, less than a third of respondents said that candidates for Congress respond well to health concerns of people like themselves, with older Americans assigning the poorest grades.

Poll results also found strong support for a more rapid pace of health care innovation, with 84 percent of respondents sharing that it was important for political candidates to promote faster medical progress. Nearly 7 in 10 said they were more likely to back a candidate for national office if that person favored greater federal spending on medical and health research, while a majority said they would willingly pay \$1 more each week in taxes if they were certain it would be spent on such research.

The AMA is always eager to partner with Research!America to provide advocacy, leadership and outreach that supports expanded medical and scientific research. Our advocacy on behalf of physicians and their patients aligns with the aim of Research!America's to provide clarity on how the public views our changing health care system so that we can better advance scientific discovery, innovation and improve health for all people.

On behalf of all of us at the AMA, we thank Research!America for its continued efforts to promote a health system worthy of this nation and its people.

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## LOOKING TO THE ELECTION

## AMERICANS SAY COST OF HEALTH CARE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT HEALTH ISSUE

What would you say is the single most important health issue facing the nation?


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.

## HALF BELIEVE CHILDREN WILL BE WORSE OFF WHEN THEY GROW UP

When today's children in America grow up, do you think they will be:


- Worse off than people are now About the same as people are now Better off than people are now


## Ameriba Speaks! Vo. 24

## WILL CHILDREN BE BETTER OR WORSE OFF?



Why do you think today's children in America
will grow up better off?


## ONLY 30\% AMERICANS SAY CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES RESPOND WELL TO HEALTH CONCERNS

How well do you think candidates running for Congress respond to the health concerns of people like you?


Those aged 55-69 (20\%) and 70+ (22\%) are less likely to say "Very or somewhat well."


15\%
Say "Very or somewhat well"

## 84\% SAY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CANDIDATES TO PROMOTE FASTER MEDICAL PROGRESS

How important is it for your candidates in 2024 to promote faster medical progress?


## AMERICANS FEEL SCIENTISTS SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN A RANGE OF POLICY ISSUES

If you knew that a candidate for national office favored spending more federal dollars (tax dollars) on medical and health research, would you be more or less likely to support that person for election?


- Much more likely Somewhat more likely Neutral Somewhat less likely Much less likely


## 62\% WILLING TO PAY MORE TAXES IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH 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 and health research?


## NEARLY 9 IN 10 SAY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES TO LISTEN TO SCIENTISTS

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


- Very important Somewhat importan Not too important

Not at all important
Not sure

## AMERICANS FEEL SCIENTISTS SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN A RANGE OF POLICY ISSUES

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


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.

INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ONLY HALF SAY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT IN THE U.S. IS PROGRESSING WELL

Which statement is closest to your view?
Statement A: Scientific and technological advancement in the U.S. is progressing well.
Statement B: Scientific and technological advancement in the U.S. is not progressing well.


Those aged 35-54 (62\%) more likely to say S\&T advancement in the U.S. is progressing well. $70+(47 \%)$ less likely to say S\&T advancement in the U.S. is progressing well.

Those with a college degree and beyond are more likely (71\%) to say S\&T advancement in the U.S. is progressing well.

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.

## AMERICANS SAY STEM EDUCATION, TOO MUCH REGULATION, AND LACK OF A NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S\&T) STRATEGY ARE TOP OBSTACLES TO S\&T ADVANCEMENT

Of those that said the U.S. is not progressing well, what are the biggest obstacles to scientific and technological advancements in the United States? (Select up to three)


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.

AMERICANS SAY INVESTING IN RESEARCH DRIVES MANY PUBLIC BENEFITS

How important is investing in research to each of the following?



## A STRONG MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN S\&T

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


Those aged 25-34 less likely (73\%) to say, "Very or somewhat important."


Those with a college degree and beyond are more likely (91\%) to say, "Very or somewhat important."


Asian Americans more likely (88\%) to say, "Very or somewhat important."


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.

## VISIBILITY OF SCIENCE

## ONLY 30\% CAN NAME A LIVING SCIENTIST

Can you name a living scientist?


Those saying "Yes" up from 24\%
in 2023 to 30\% in January 2024.


Neil Degrasse Tyson ............ 19\%
Anthony Fauci......................18\%
*Stephen Hawking ..............9\%
Elon Musk............................5\%
Jane Goodall........................5\%
Bill Nye ................................4\%
Alan Guth ............................ 3\%
Timothy Berners-Lee ........... 2\%
James Watson .....................1\%
Bill Gates ............................. 1\%
Other ................................... 33\%

* Deceased


## ONLY HALF CAN NAME A MEDICAL OR HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTION

Can you name any institution, company, or organization where medical or health research is conducted?


## NEARLY 7 IN 10 UNAWARE RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED IN EVERY STATE

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



## TRUST IN SCIENCE

## CONFIDENCE IN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SCIENTISTS IS HIGH

How much confidence do you have in each of the following to act in your best interest?


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.


AmericaSpacaks!

WHILE CONFIDENCE IN SCIENTISTS IS HIGH, THE PARTISAN DIVIDE IS SIGNIFICANT

How much confidence do you have in scientists to act in your best interest?


All


Democratic


Republican


Independent

## 6 IN 10 THINK THE WORK OF SCIENTISTS BENEFITS ALL OR MOST IN AMERICA

In general, do you think the work that scientists do benefits all, most, some, very few people, or none in this country?



## THREE QUARTERS THINK THE WORK OF SCIENTISTS BENEFITS THEM, BUT A LARGE PARTISAN DIVIDE EXISTS

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


Those with a college degree and beyond are more likely (84\%) to say "To a great extent or somewhat" compared to those with no college degree (67\%).


January 2024


Democratic


Republican


Independent

- To a great extent Somewhat A little Not at all Not sure


MOST AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MIS/DISINFORMATION
$\qquad$

Misinformation is false or inaccurate information, while disinformation is false information which is deliberately intended to mislead. Please indicate to what extent you are concerned with the impact of misinformation/disinformation on the following?



## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

## AMERICANS SAY THE U.S. SHOULD BE A LEADER IN HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, AND MEDICAL \& HEALTH RESEARCH

How important is it that the U.S. be a leader in the following categories?


## Ameriba Speaks! <br> 10.24

## AMERICANS BELIEVE THE U.S. IS A LEADER IN DEFENSE, AEROSPACE, AND IT AMONG OTHER AREAS...

Please indicate whether or not you believe the U.S. is a leader in each of the following areas, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very much a leader and 5 is not at all a leader.


## 9 IN 10 SAY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE U.S. TO BE A GLOBAL LEADER IN HEALTH RESEARCH

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


18-24 year olds less likely (78\%)
to say "Very or somewhat important."


[^0]
## AMERICANS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM SAY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE U.S. BE A LEADER IN S\&T

How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in science and technology?


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2024.

## 78\% ARE CONCERNED WITH CHINA SURPASSING THE U.S. AS THE WORLD'S LEADING S\&T POWER

How concerned are you with the possibility of China surpassing the U.S. as the world's leading science and technology power?


Young people aged 18-24 (61\%) and 25-42 (60\%) are less likely to say "very or somewhat concerned".


Say "Very or somewhat concerned"


75\% Say "Very or somewhat concerned" 75\%
Say "Very or somewhat concerned" - Very concerned Somewhat concerned Not too concerned Not at all concerned Not sure

## 8 IN 10 SAY IT'S IMPORTANT TO SET A HIGHER GOAL FOR R\&D SPENDING

Some governments have a goal to spend $3 \%-5 \%$ of GDP on research and development. Some, including Japan and Korea, have already met this goal, and others, including China, have pledged to do so. The U.S. currently spends $0.7 \%$ of our GDP on research and development. How important is it for the U.S. to set a higher goal?


- Very importan
- Somewhat important

Not very important
Not at all important
Not sure


## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS

## 88\% SUPPORT RESEARCH TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES

Studies show that in addition to increased risk from COVID-19, some health problems such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and infant mortality happen more often among certain minorities or citizens with lower incomes. How important do you feel it is to conduct research to combat health disparities?



## STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR INVESTMENT IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY RESEARCH

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


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



## 67\% SAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVEST IN PREVENTING AND CURING DISEASES WHEREVER THEY OCCUR

Which statement is closest to your view?
Statement A: The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases wherever they occur. Statement B:The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases only if they pose an immediate risk to people in this country.


Statement A:
The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases wherever they occur.


The federal government should invest in preventing and curing diseases only if they pose an immediate risk to people in this country.

## **** 75\%

Say "Statement A"


66\%
Say "Statement A"


America Speaks!

80\% OF AMERICANS SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR OPIOID ADDICTION RESEARCH

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



## STRONG BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INCREASE FUNDING FOR MATERNAL MORTALITY RESEARCH

How important is it to increase government funding for research on maternal mortality?


[^1]
## PERSPECTIVES ON CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION

## NEARLY 7 IN 10 FEEL POSITIVELY ABOUT CLINICAL TRIALS

What is your perception of clinical trials?


## LACK OF TRUST AND INFORMATION ARE TOP REASONS PEOPLE DON'T PARTICIPATE IN CLINICAL TRIALS

Fewer than 10\% of Americans participate in clinical trials. Which of the following do you think is a reason that individuals don't participate in clinical trials? (Check all that apply)


Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with ACRO and Zogby Analytics in October 2023.

## Ameriba Speaks! <br> Vol. 24

## MANY FACTORS PLAY INTO THE DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLINICAL TRIAL

How important would each of the following factors be in your decision to participate in a clinical trial:


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


## AMERICANS AGREE THAT CLINICAL TRIALS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT SHARE OF STRONGEST AGREEMENT IS SHRINKING

Do you agree or disagree that clinical trials are important to improving our nation's health?


## 8 IN 10 SAY CLINICAL TRIALS DISCUSSION SHOULD BE PART OF STANDARD OF CARE FOR THOSE WITH DIAGNOSED DISEASE

Do you agree or disagree that health care professionals should discuss clinical trials with patients diagnosed with a disease as part of their standard of care?


## AMERICANS INCREASINGLY AGREE THAT CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE A PART OF REGULAR HEALTH CARE

Do you agree or disagree that consideration of clinical trial participation should be a part of your regular health care with your health care provider?


## 85\% SAY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CLINICAL TRIALS ARE REPRESENTATIVE

In your opinion, how important is it that clinical trial populations are representative of the U.S. population?


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


## AMERICANS' WILLINGNESS TO SHARE HEALTH INFORMATION IS TRENDING DOWN

For the following, please indicate your willingness to share your personal health information, assuming that privacy protections are in place :


So health care providers can improve patient care


So public health officials can better track diseases, disabilities, and their causes


To advance medical and health research



## STATE FOCUS: MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS IN GEORGIA

## 6 IN 10 AGREE THAT MATERNAL MORTALITY IS A PROBLEM IN GEORGIA

To what extent do you agree that maternal mortality is a problem in the state of Georgia?


Urban respondents (63\%) are more likely to agree that maternal mortality is a problem in Georgia.


African Americans (68\%) are more likely to agree that maternal mortality is a problem in Georgia.


- Strongly agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Not sure



## 57\% OF GEORGIANS KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS

Have you or someone you know (friend or family) experienced complications during pregnancy?


What pregnancy complication(s) did you or they experience?


- Yes, myself Yes, someone I know No Not sure

Source: A Research!America survey of adults in Georgia conducted in partnership with the Emory University and Zogby Analytics in October 2023.


## 10\% OF GEORGIANS KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS DIED DURING PREGNANCY, AT DELIVERY, OR SOON AFTER BIRTH

Do you know of someone (friend or family) who has died during pregnancy, at delivery, or within 12 months after the end of the pregnancy where death was related to the pregnancy?


Urban respondents more likely (19\%) to say yes.


- Yes No Not sure



## SUBSTANCE USE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND LACK OF INSURANCE ARE TOP FACTORS INCREASING RISK OF MATERNAL MORTALITY ACROSS RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS

To what extent to do you think the following factors contribute to an increased risk of maternal mortality from 1 to 5 , with 1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'a great deal'



HISPANIC RESPONDENTS



- A great deal 4 3 2 Not at all



## GEORGIANS SAY AFFORDABILITY OF CARE AND ACCESS TO INSURANCE ARE TOP PRIORITIES TO REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY

Which of the following areas should be prioritized in order to reduce maternal mortality? (Choose all that apply)


Source: A Research!America survey of adults in Georgia conducted in partnership with the Emory University and Zogby Analytics in October 2023.

## 8 IN 10 SAY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY

How important is it for elected officials to support efforts to reduce maternal mortality?


- Very important Somewhat important Not too important Not at all important Not sure

How important is it to increase government funding for research on maternal mortality?


- Very important Somewhat important Not too important Not at all important Not sure

,



## GEORGIANS ARE HOPEFUL ABOUT MATERNAL MORTALITY, BUT CONCERNS REMAIN

Please select from the following the top five words that best reflect your attitudes toward the future of maternal health in Georgia:

```
AFRICAN AMERICAN RESPONDENTS CONCERNED \({ }^{397}\)
HOPEFUL \(59 \%\)
OPEN- MINDED \(43 \%\) OPTIMISTIC 41\%
UNINFORMED 41\%
```


## ENGAGED $40 \%$

## CURIOUS 39\%

```
HESITANT \({ }^{367}\)
EXCITED
CAUTIOUS \({ }^{337}\)
WORRIED \(29 \%\)
UNINTERESTED 20\%
PESSIMISTIC 7\%
```

HISPANIC RESPONDENTS

## HOPEFUL

 OPTIMISTIC 74\%CONCERNED $67 \%$ CURIOUS 52\%
CAUTIOUS 41\%
ENGAGED 38\%
OPEN- MINDED $34 \%$
UNIFORMED ${ }^{29 \%}$
HESITANT 18\% EXCITED 17\% UNITERESTED $17 \%$
WORRIED $15 \%$

ASIAN RESPONDENTS
HOPEFUL CONCERNED ${ }^{372}$
CAUTIOUS $53 \%$
OPTIMISTIC
$52 \%$ OPEN-MINDED 51\% CURIOUS 44\% ENGAGED $42 \%$
WORRIED ${ }^{327}$ HESITANT ${ }^{25 \%}$ UNIFORMED 21\%
EXCITED
UNINTERESTED 11\%
PESSIMISTIC
NON-HISPANIC WHITE RESPONDENTS
HOPEFUL ${ }^{m>}$ CONCERNED 69\%
OPEN-MINDED $62 \%$ OPTIMISTIC 56\% CAUTIOUS ${ }^{52 \%}$
CURIOUS 40\%
ENGAGED ${ }^{27 \%}$
WORRIED
HESITANT ${ }^{25 \%}$
UNIFORMED $24 \%$
PESSIMISTIC $15 \%$
EXCITED
UNINTERESTED ${ }^{13 \%}$

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## METHODOLOGY

- Online surveys are conducted with an approximate sample size of 1000+, adults (ages 18 and up) and a maximum theoretical sampling error of $+/-3.1 \%$.
- Data are demographically representative of adult U.S. residents.
- Survey data in this publication was conducted by Zogby Analytics.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add to $100 \%$ on some charts.

Research!America began commissioning polls in 1992 in an effort to understand public attitudes toward medical, health, and scientific research. The results of Research!America's polls have proven invaluable to our alliance of member organizations and, in turn, to the fulfillment of our mission to advocate for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all. In response to growing usage and demand, Research!America has expanded its portfolio, which includes state, national, and issue-specific polling.

## Poll data is available at www.researchamerica.org/surveys

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## RESEARCH AMER CA DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

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[^0]:    - Very important $\qquad$ Somewhat important
    Not too important
    Not at all important
    Not sure

[^1]:    - Very important
    - Somewhat important

    Not very important
    Not at all important Not sure

