



# America Speaks!

POLL DATA SUMMARY | VOL. 25

RESEARCH  
**AMERICA**  
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

## A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



**Mary Wooley**  
President and CEO  
Research!America



**Sudip S. Parikh, PhD**  
Chair  
CEO, American Association for the  
Advancement of Science; Executive  
Publisher, Science Family of Journals

**As we write this letter, federal research agencies face drastic staff and budget cuts.** We are all impacted by science in so many ways, including health and quality of life, prosperity, and security. The cuts now being proposed will be felt for generations. In challenging times like these, it's important to understand what the public truly thinks about medical and health research. And about science and technology more broadly – not least because it is all interrelated. Research!America's latest Poll Data Summary highlights public opinion on timely issues related to health research, food and nutrition, and the broader science and technology (S&T) enterprise in the U.S. Understanding the public's sentiment can help us shape effective advocacy for robust research funding and more effective policymaking that truly reflects public priorities and sets us on a path of achieving aspirations we all share.

This 25th edition of our Poll Data Summary, made possible with the generous support of the American Medical Association (AMA), shows widespread public agreement across the political spectrum concerning the value of our nation's leadership in science and research. [Nine in 10 Americans](#) think it's important that the U.S. is a global leader in S&T and, as well, [research to improve health](#).

The findings from our commissioned national survey show that even in a challenging environment for science and research, there is strong bipartisan support for investment in innovation. An overwhelming majority ([92%](#)) of Americans — Republicans, Democrats and Independents — believe President Trump and Congress should elevate the priority of faster medical progress. The majority ([63%](#)) of Americans also believe Congress should invest more taxpayer dollars to advance S&T in the U.S.

We [collaborated with the American Heart Association](#) to commission a survey that identified affordability and access to nutritious foods as a barrier to healthy eating for many Americans. Findings from this survey were included [in a report](#) from the American Heart Association and Deloitte, detailing urgent challenges to creating a food system that integrates nutritious food into advancing the prevention, treatment, and care of cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions.

We encourage you to share this summary with your networks. Research!America will continue to partner with our members and other stakeholders to amplify responsiveness to values we all share and commit to uniting stakeholders to strengthen advocacy for research. Working together, we can make an even greater impact!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



**James L. Madara, MD**

CEO  
AMA

Since our founding in 1847, the American Medical Association (AMA) has advanced scientific research, physician advocacy, collaboration and training in accordance with our mission to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health. Our pursuit of these principles and purpose led us to become a founding member of Research!America, and has served to link our two organizations in support of scientific discovery and innovation.

Today, this alignment has never been more important as we seek to maintain funding and resolve that have made our nation the global leader in medical research and technological innovation. Collaboration with the leadership and membership of Research!America is more important than ever to ensure recognition of the integral role that medical, health and scientific research play in achieving longer and healthier lives for all.

The insights gathered here in *America Speaks!: Poll Data Summary, Volume 25* help us frame the work ahead by showing how our fellow citizens perceive challenges within the health care system, as well as how highly they value both basic and medical research. For example, most respondents identified cost as the single most important issue in U.S. health care – but the percentage of respondents citing cost

dropped by six percentage points this year (16% vs. 22%) compared with 2024. Cancer (15%) supplanted mental health (12%) for second place in this category, while access to care, opioid addiction, obesity and firearm violence all ranked highly in respondents' minds.

It is concerning that only a fourth of respondents believe that upon reaching adulthood, today's children will be better off than people are today. However, an overwhelming majority said it was important that the new administration and Congress assign a higher priority to accelerating medical progress.

The AMA welcomes collaboration with Research!America to provide advocacy, leadership and outreach in support of 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 health care, and our partnership helps advance the types of scientific discovery and breakthrough innovations that improve patient outcomes.

The AMA thanks Research!America for its years of partnership, and for remaining steadfast in its pursuit of a more robust and responsive health system to better serve the needs of people and communities across our nation.

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Look for these indications  
throughout this publication:



AMONG  
DEMOCRATS



AMONG  
REPUBLICANS

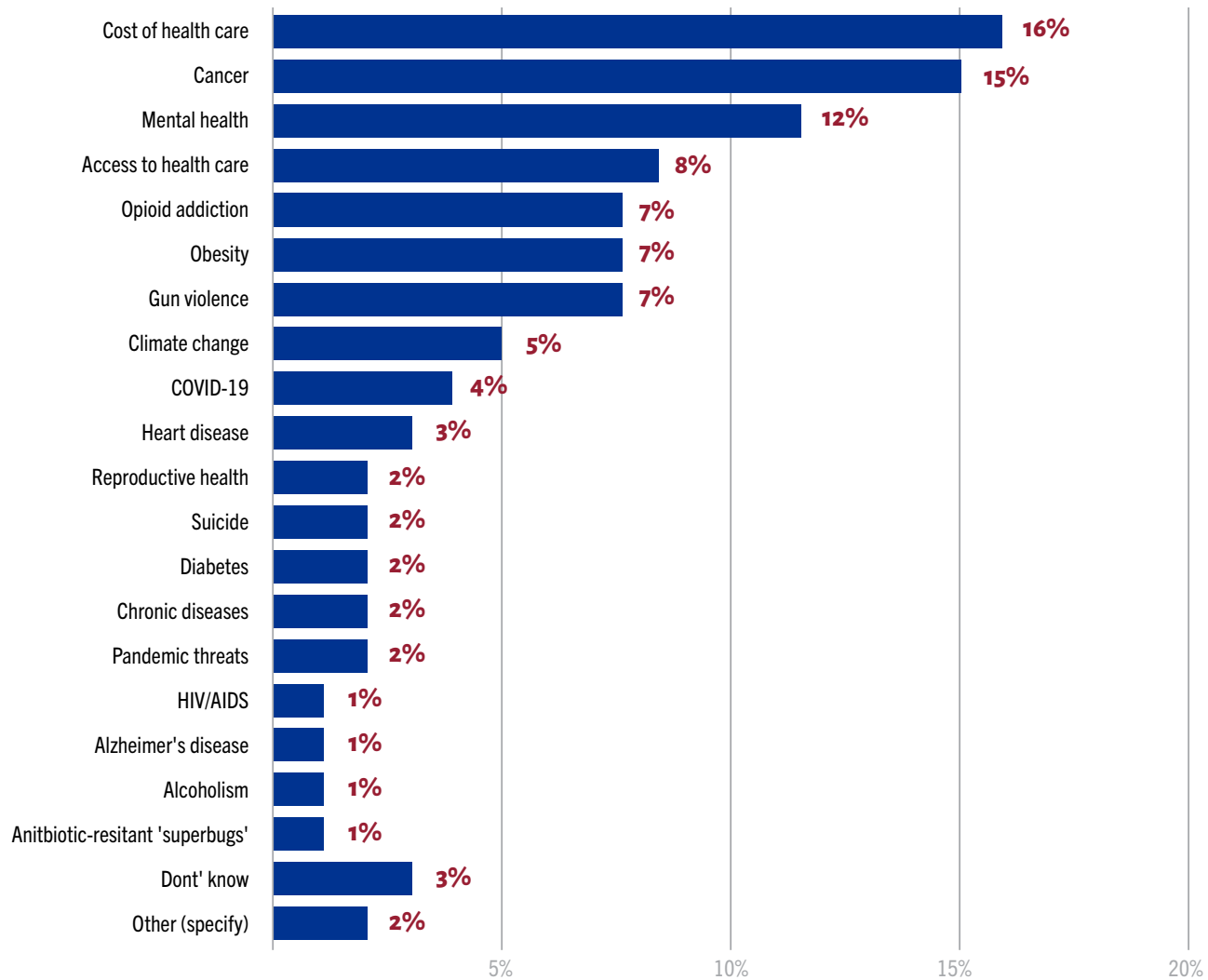


AMONG  
INDEPENDENTS

## PRIORITIES

### 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?



## Only 23% of Americans Think Children Will Be Better Off Than People Today

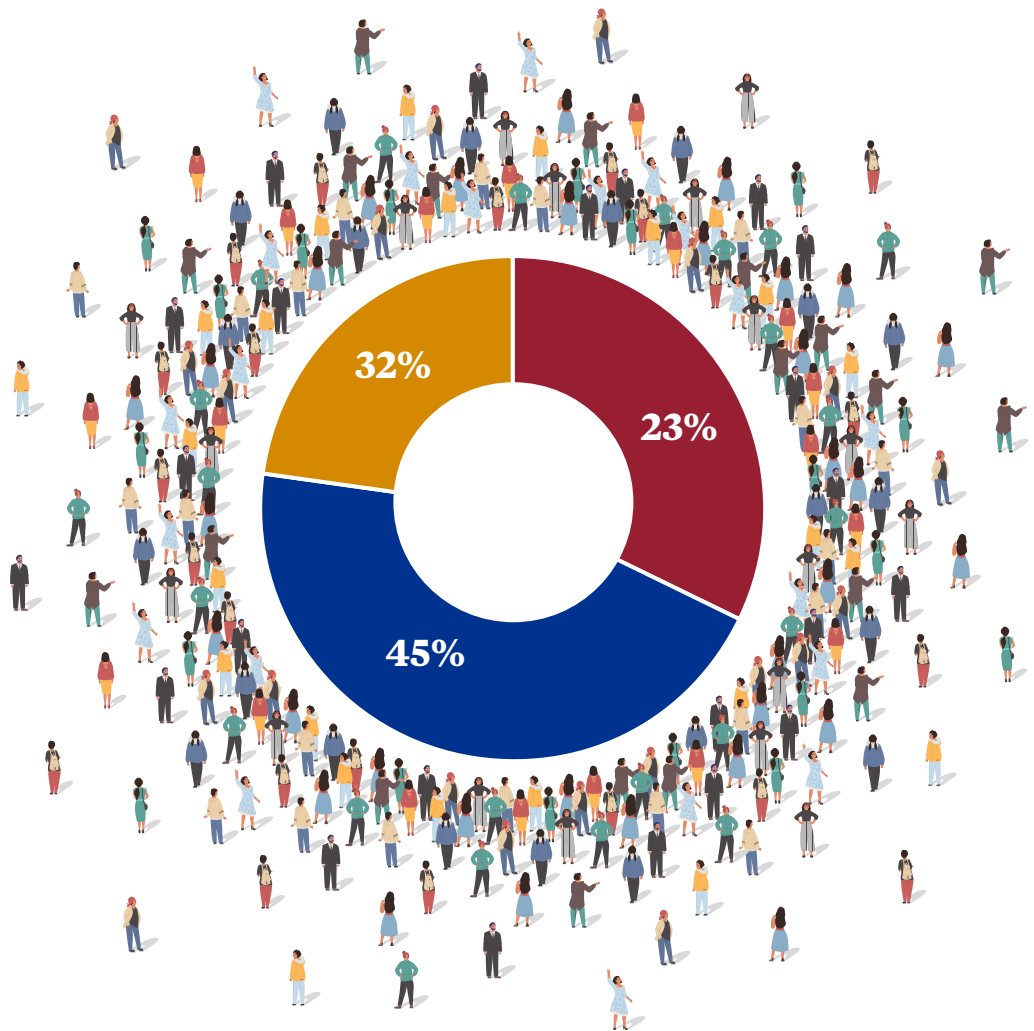
When today's children in America grow up, do you think they will be:

- 45%** Worse off than people are now
- 32%** About the same as people are now
- 23%** Better off than people are now

 **30%** say "Better off"

 **25%** say "Better off"

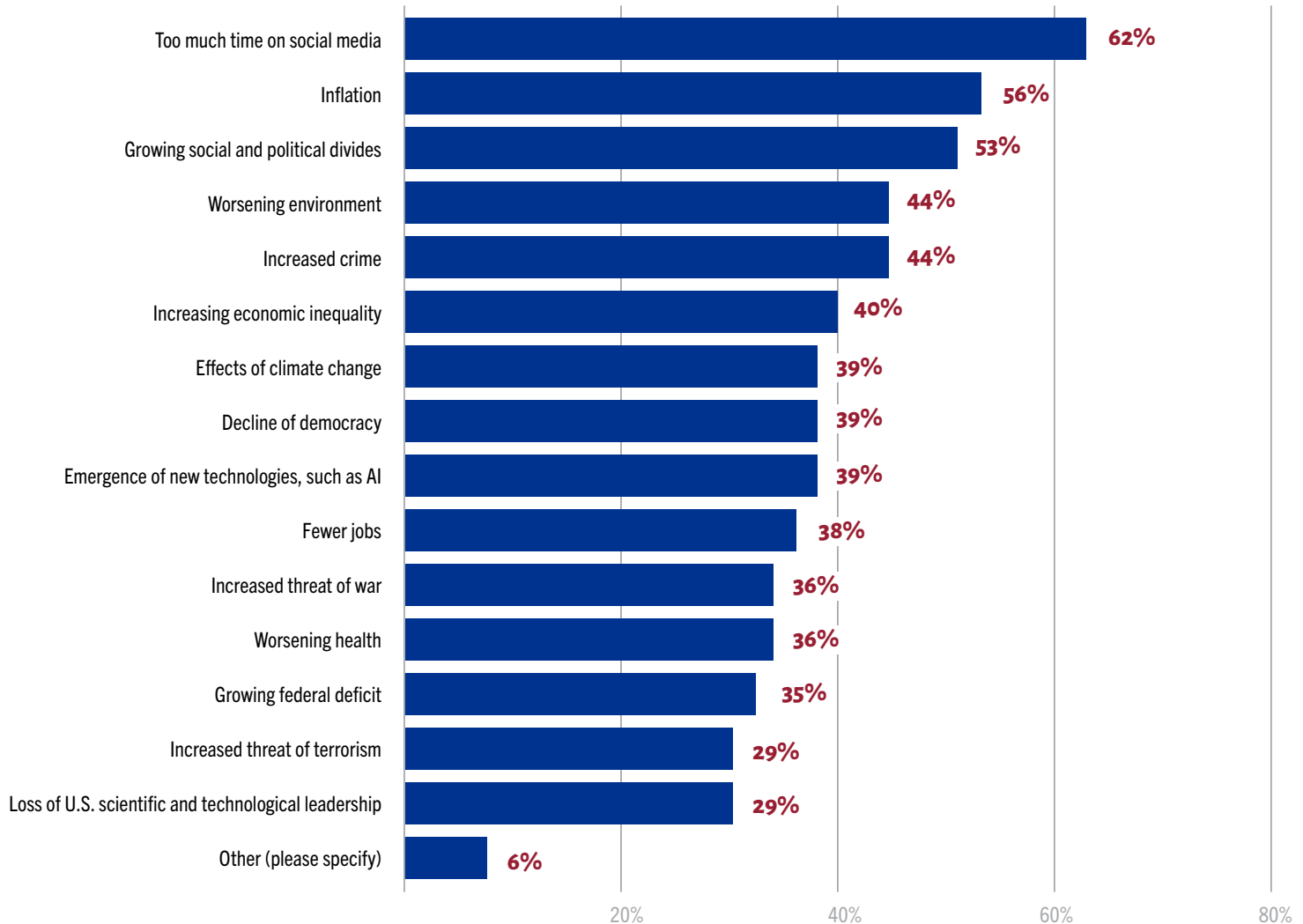
**I** **10%** say "Better off"



## PRIORITIES

### Those 45% Who Believe Children Will Be Worse Off Say It Is Because of Too Much Time on Social Media, Inflation, More

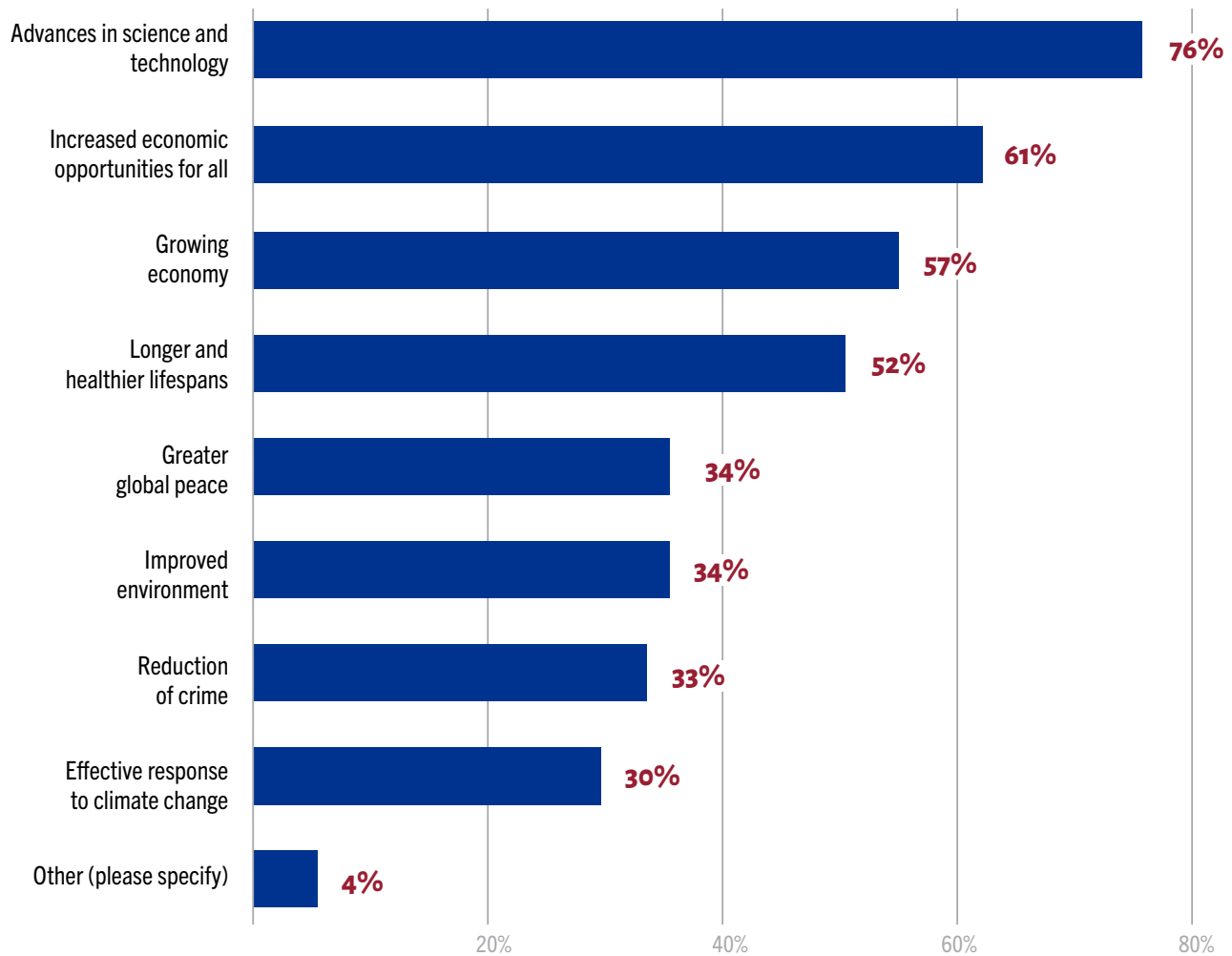
Why do you think today's children in America will grow up worse off? Select all that apply.



## PRIORITIES

### Advances in Science and Technology Is the Top Response by the 23% Who Think Children Will Be Better Off

Why do you think today's children in America will grow up better off? Select all that apply.



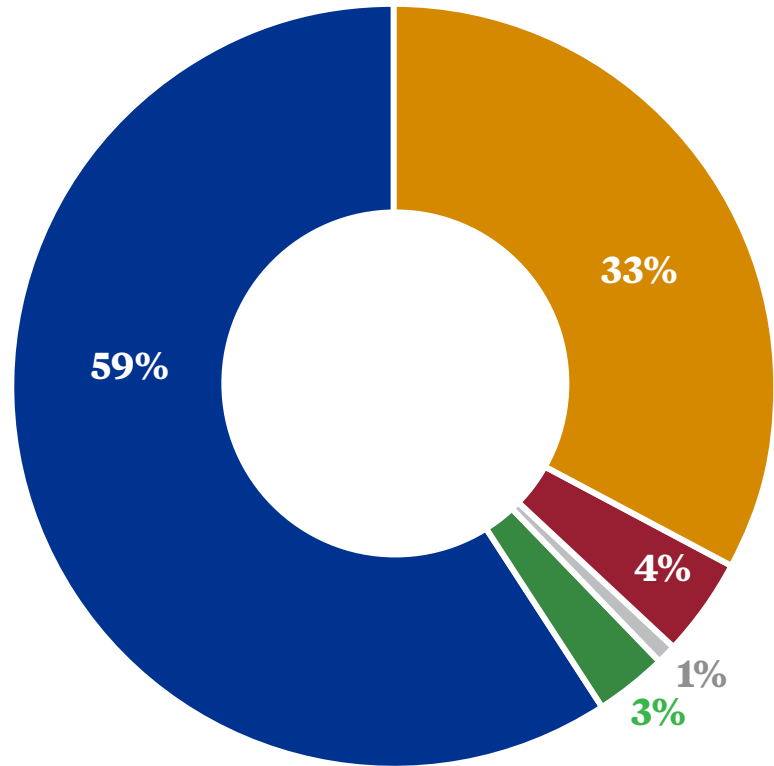


## PRIORITIES

### Americans Say It Is Important for President Trump and Congress To Assign a Higher Priority to Medical Progress

How important is it for President Trump and the new Congress to assign a higher priority to ensuring faster medical progress?

- 59%** Very important
- 33%** Somewhat important
- 4%** Not too important
- 1%** Not at all important
- 3%** Not sure



 **96%** say "Very or Somewhat Important"

 **93%** say "Very or Somewhat Important"

 **87%** say "Very or Somewhat Important"

## PRIORITIES

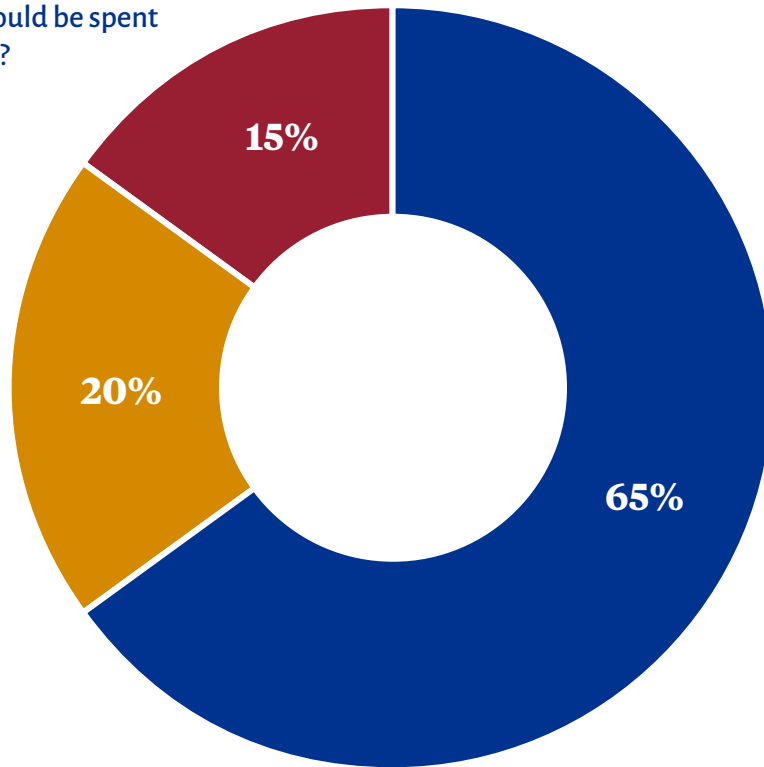
### 65% Are Willing To Pay More Taxes in Support of Medical and Health Research

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?

**65% Yes**

**20% No**

**15% Not sure**



 **71%** say "Yes"

 **62%** say "Yes"

 **60%** say "Yes"

## INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### Strong Bipartisan Support for Basic Research

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.

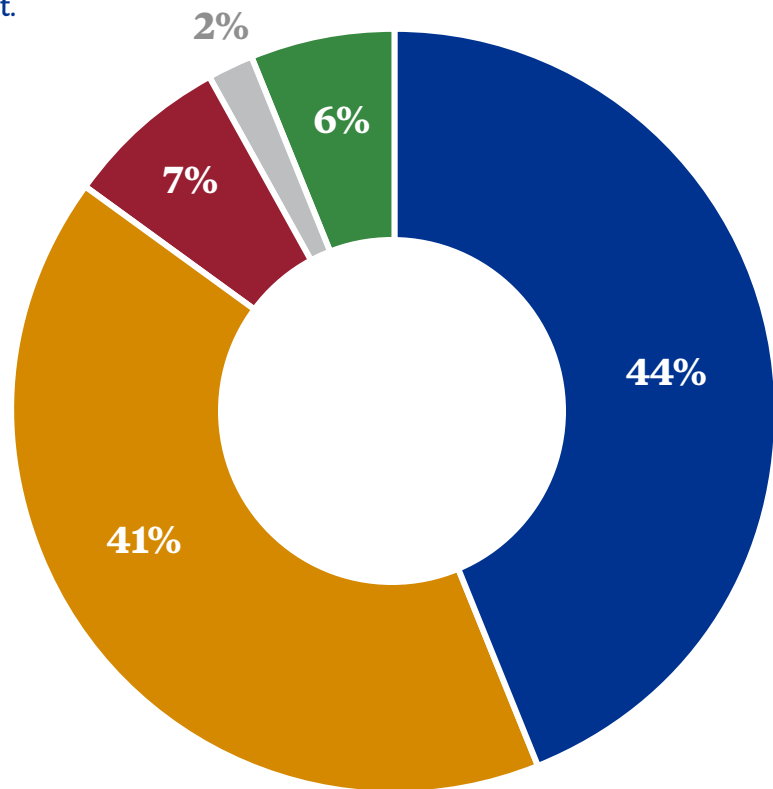
**44% Strongly agree**

**41% Somewhat agree**

**7% Somewhat disagree**

**2% Strongly Disagree**

**6% Not sure**



 **91%** say “Strongly or somewhat agree”

 **85%** say “Strongly or somewhat agree”

 **78%** say “Strongly or somewhat agree”

## INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### Nearly Half Say Investments in S&T Are Creating Jobs for All or Most in This Country

In general, do you think investments in science and technology are creating employment opportunities for all, most, some, or very few people in this country?

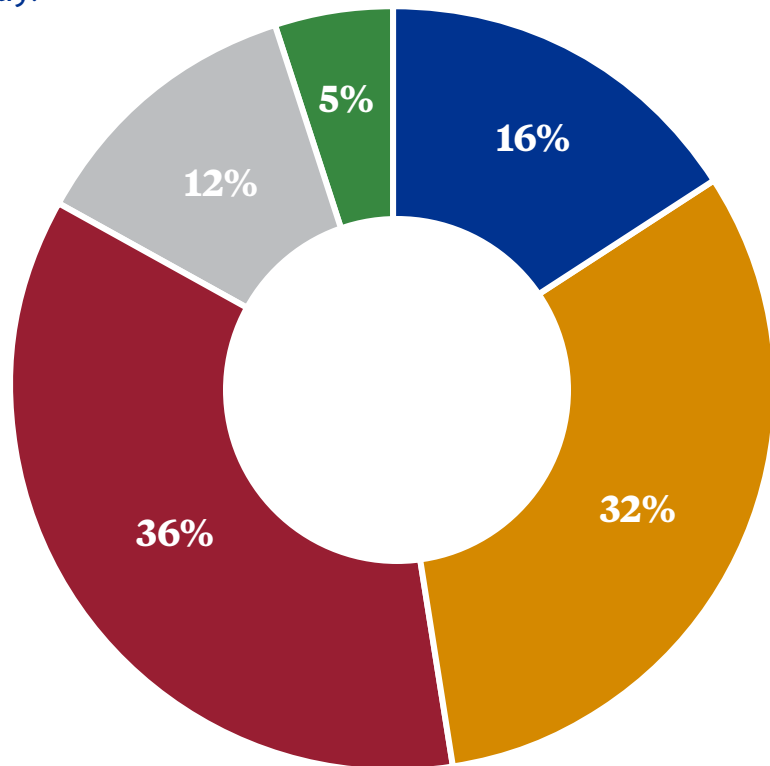
**16% All**

**32% Most**

**36% Some**

**12% Very few**

**5% Not sure**



**59%** say "All or most"



**50%** say "All or most"



**33%** say "All or most"

## INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

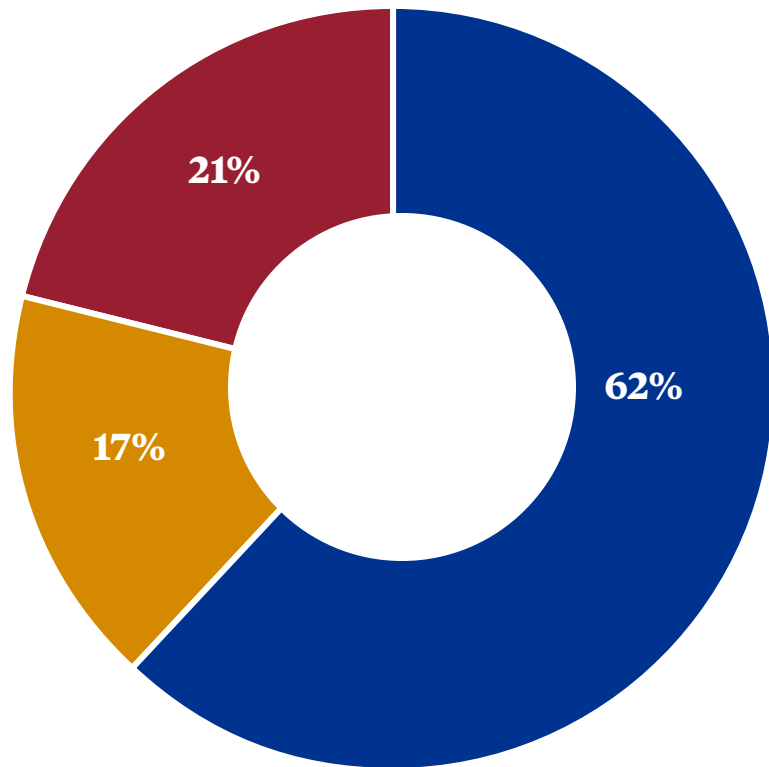
### 6 in 10 Say Congress Should Invest More Taxpayer Dollars To Advance S&T

Do you believe Congress should invest more taxpayer dollars to advance science and technology in the U.S.?

**62% Yes**

**17% No**

**21% Not sure**



**75%** say "Yes"



**59%** say "Yes"



**52%** say "Yes"

## INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### 8 in 10 Approve of Federal Government Spending To Sponsor Basic Scientific Research at Universities

As you may know, the federal government provides public funds on a competitive basis to universities to conduct basic scientific research. Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government spending to sponsor scientific research at universities?

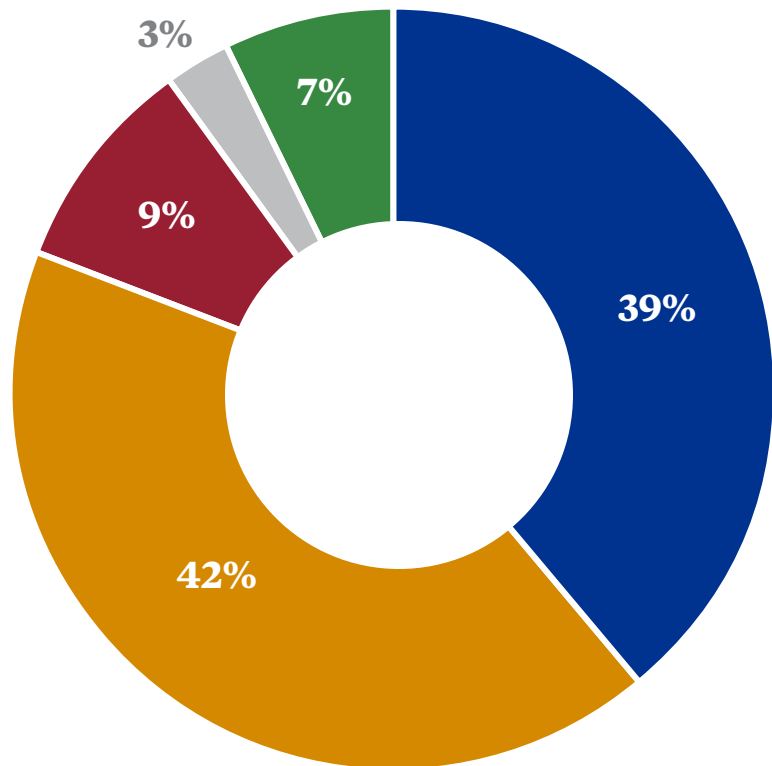
**39% Strongly approve**

**42% Somewhat approve**

**9% Somewhat disapprove**

**3% Strongly disapprove**

**7% Not sure**



**89%** say "Strongly or somewhat approve"



**76%** say "Strongly or somewhat approve"

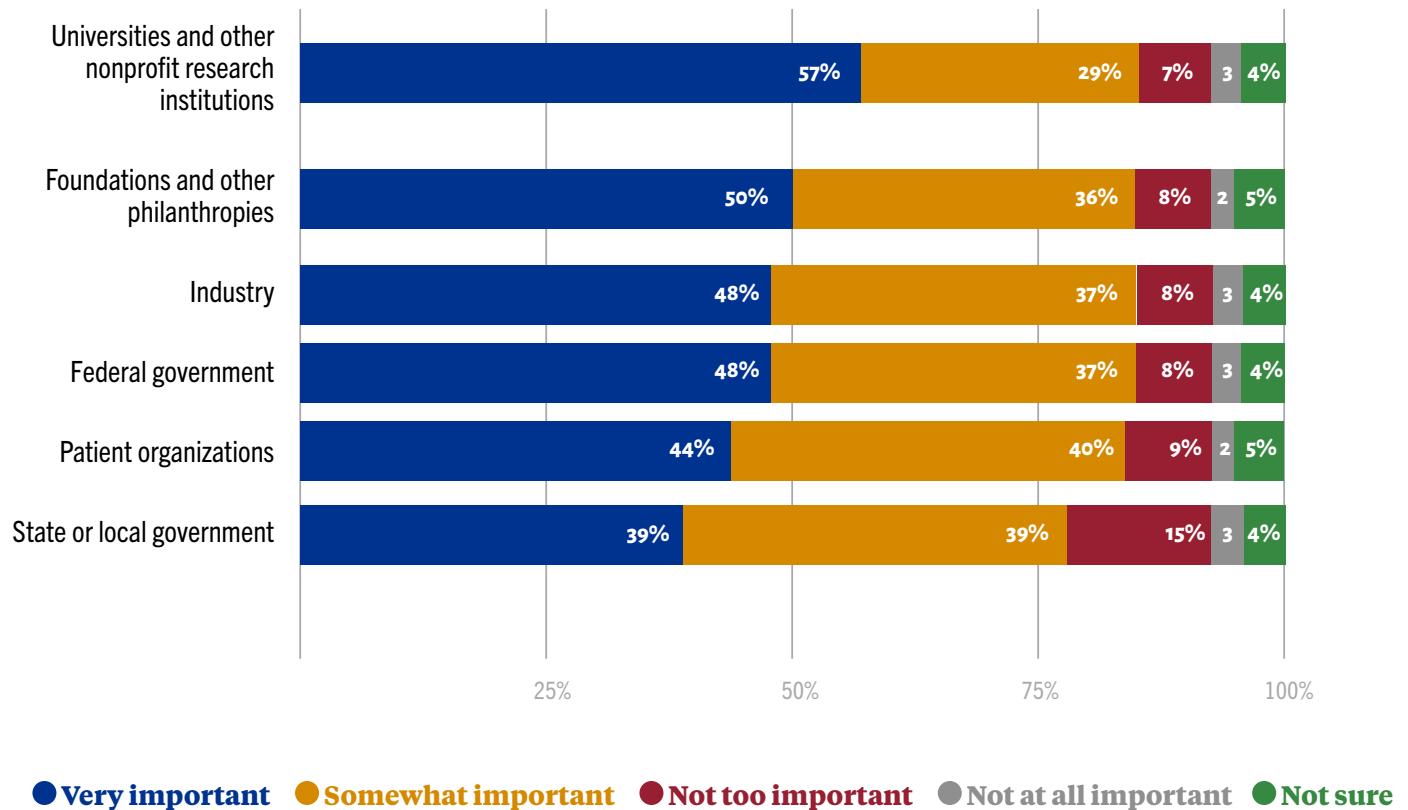


**72%** say "Strongly or somewhat approve"

## INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

### Many Sectors Play an Important Role in the Development of New Treatments and Cures

How important are each of the following in the development of new treatments and cures?



## Only 33% Can Name a Living Scientist

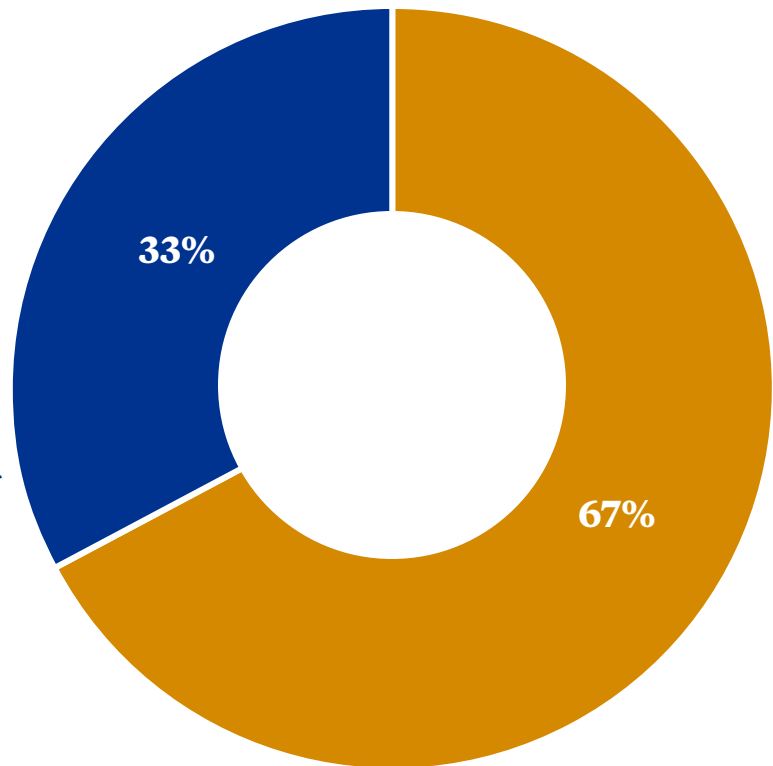
Can you name a living scientist?

**33% Yes**

**67% No/Not sure**

Anthony Fauci	11%
Neil deGrasse Tyson	11%
Bill Nye	11%
Jane Goodall	6%
Alan Guth	4%
Stephen Hawking*	4%
Albert Einstein*	3%
Elon Musk	3%
Timothy Berners-Lee	2%
Jennifer Doudna	2%
Michiu Kaku	2%
Other	41%

*\*Deceased*





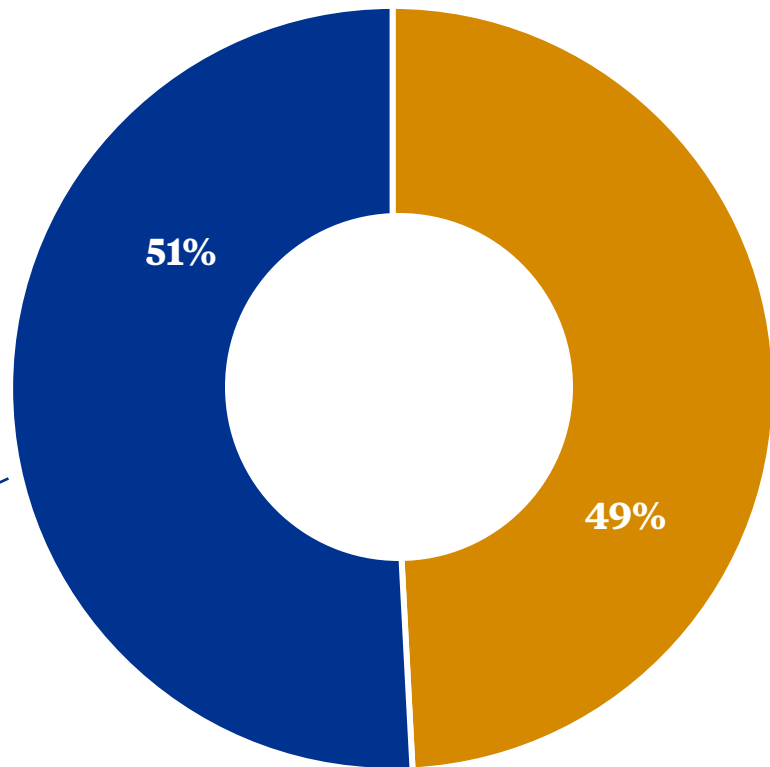
## Only Half Can Name a Medical or Health Research Institution

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

**51% Yes**

**49% No/Not sure**

Mayo Clinic	11%
Pfizer	9%
Johns Hopkins	8%
NIH	6%
St Jude's	6%
CDC	4%
WHO	2%
Cleveland Clinic	2%
Duke University	2%
Eli Lilly	2%
Stanford University	2%
Harvard University	1%
Johnson & Johnson	1%
Other	55%



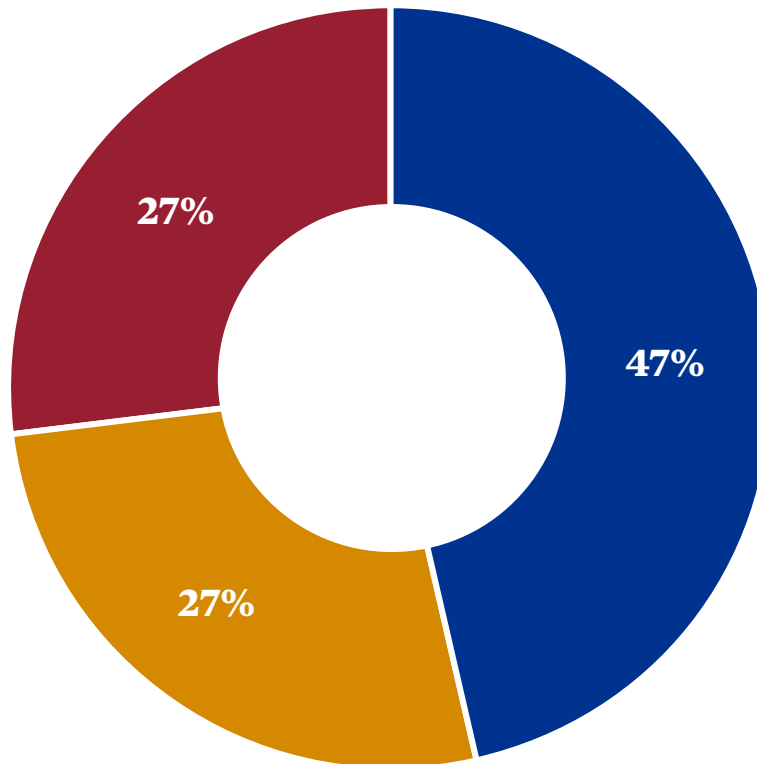
### Only Half Are Aware S&T Research Is Conducted in Every State

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

**47% Yes**

**27% No**

**27% Not sure**



## Bipartisan Agreement That Scientists' Job Should Include Communicating Their Research to the Public

Should scientists consider it part of their job  
to inform the public about their research  
and its impact on society?

**85% Yes**

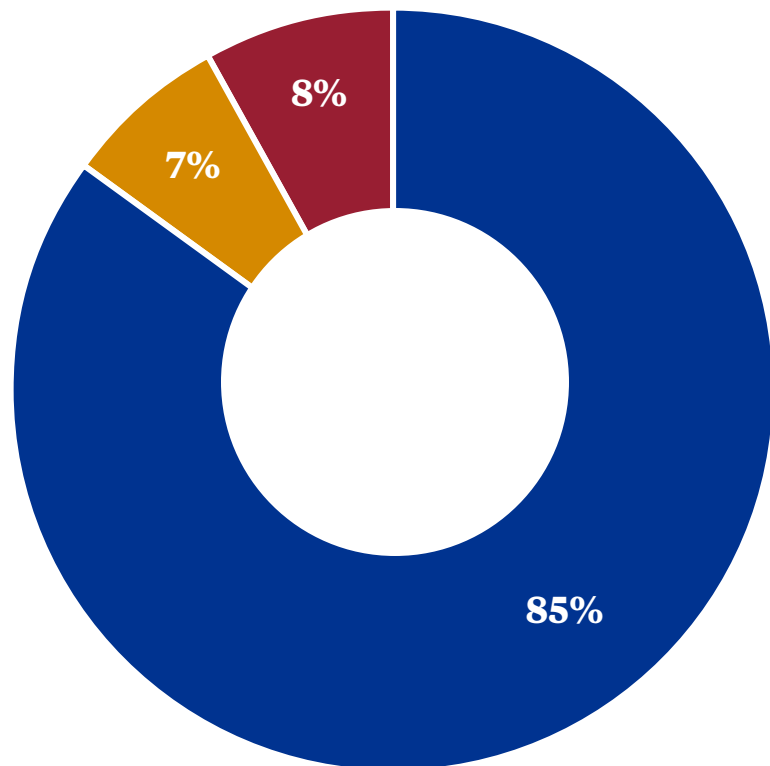
**7% No**

**8% Not sure**

 **87% say "Yes"**

 **85% say "Yes"**

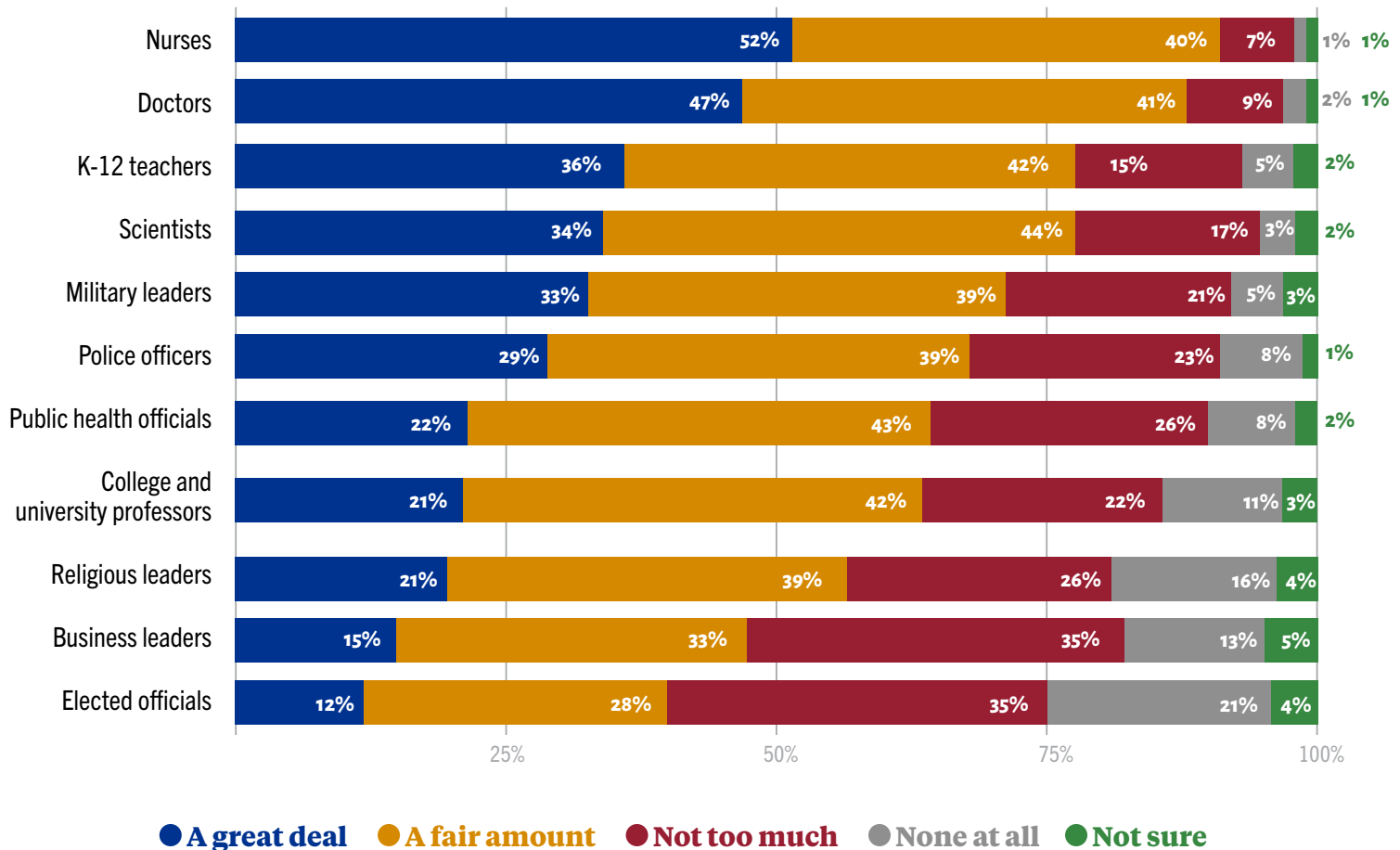
 **81% say "Yes"**



# TRUST IN SCIENCE

## Confidence in Health Care Providers, Teachers, and Scientists Is High

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

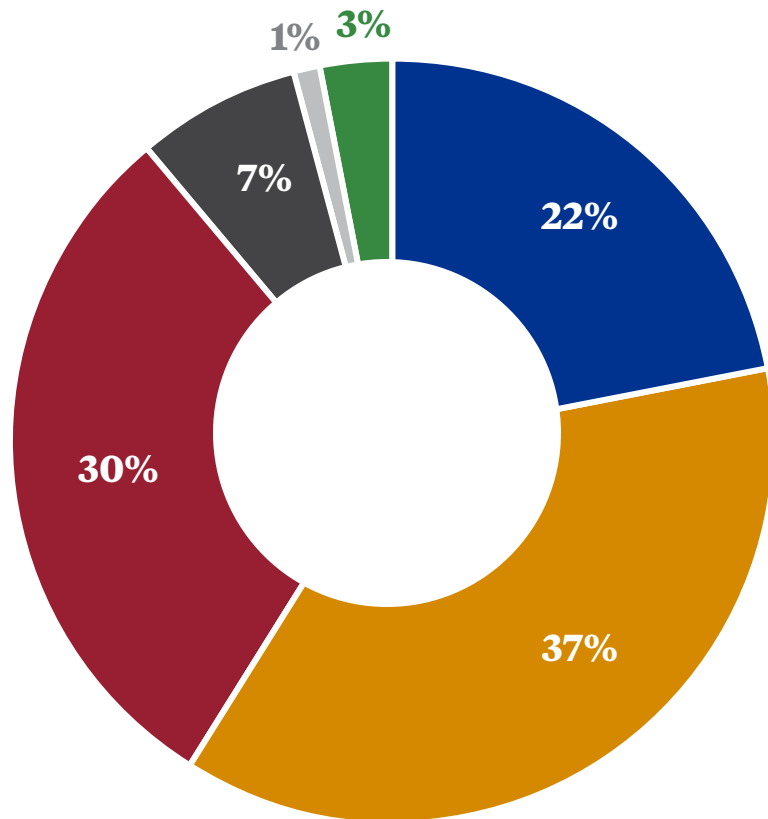


## TRUST IN SCIENCE

### Only 6 in 10 Think the Work of Scientists Benefits All or Most of America


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

**22% All**  
**37% Most**  
**30% Some**  
**7% Very few**  
**1% None**  
**3% Not sure**



 **71%** say "All or most"

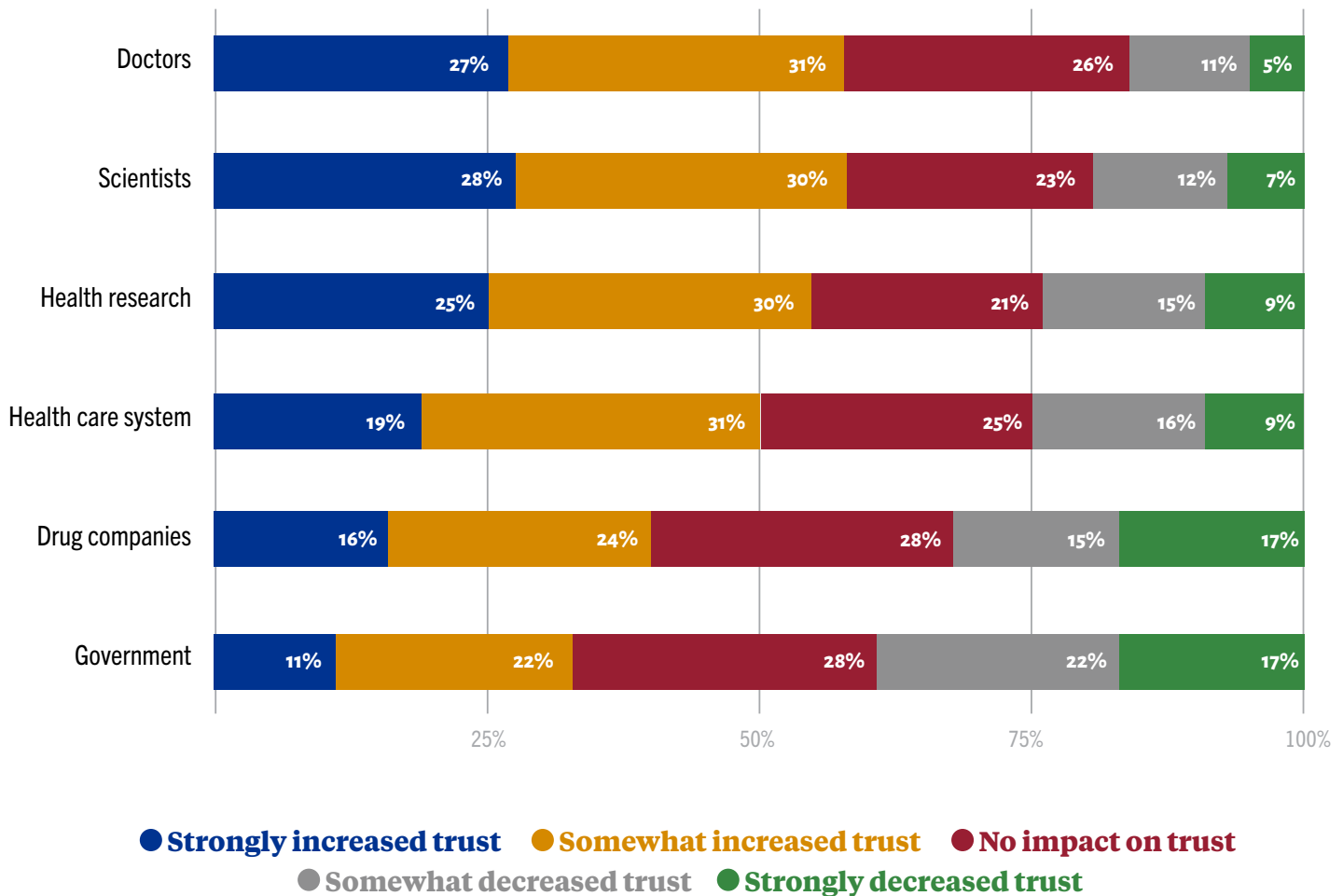
 **52%** say "All or most"

 **54%** say "All or most"

# TRUST IN SCIENCE

## COVID-19 Has Impacted Trust

Please indicate to what extent COVID-19 has impacted your trust in:

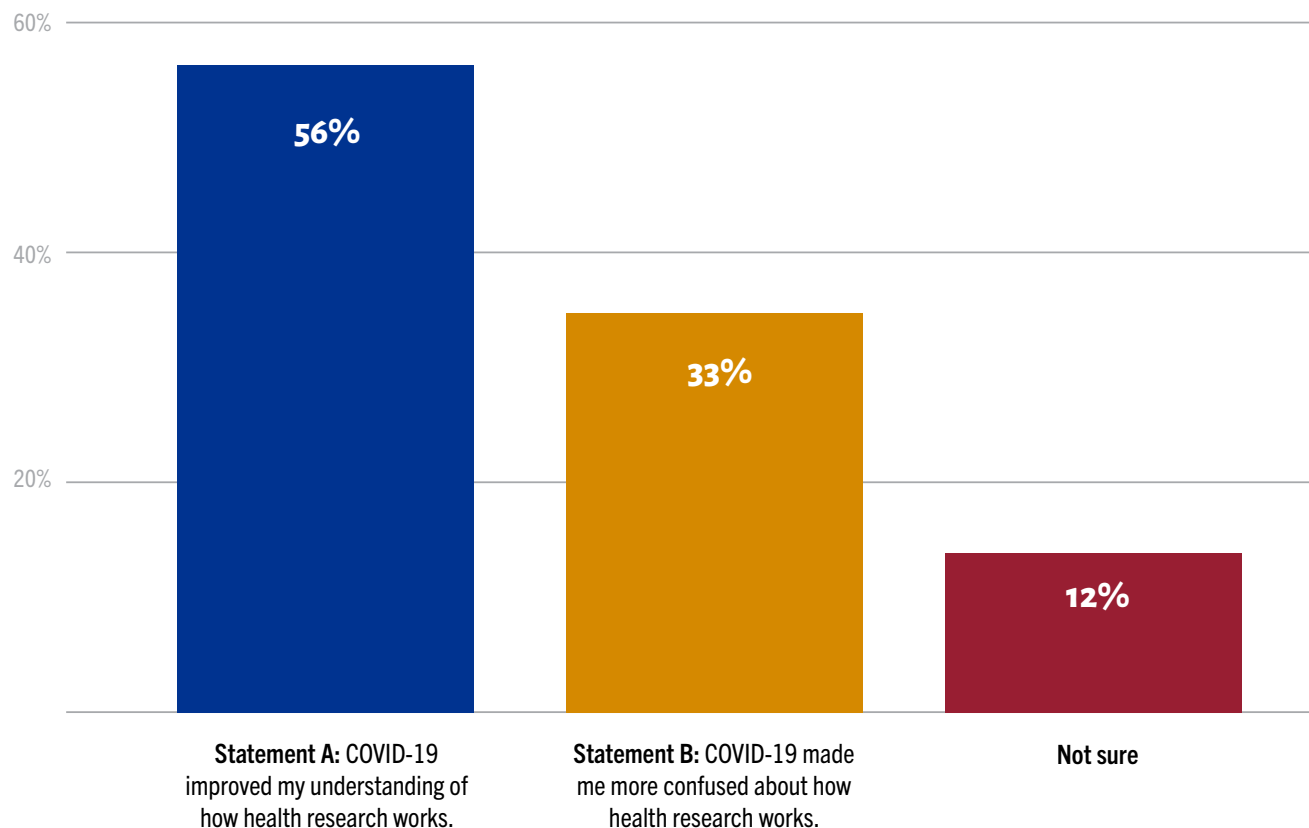


### More Than Half Say COVID-19 Improved Their Understanding of How Health Research Works

Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

**Statement A:** COVID-19 improved my understanding of how health research works.

**Statement B:** COVID-19 made me more confused about how health research works.



# TRUST IN SCIENCE

## Views Toward Science

Please select from the following the top five words that best reflect your attitudes toward science.

<b>CURIOUS</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>HOPEFUL</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>OPTIMISTIC</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>EXCITED</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>AMAZED</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>OPEN</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>CAUTIOUS</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>CONCERNED</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>SKEPTICAL</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>HESITANT</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>UNINFORMED</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>WORRIED</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>CONFUSED</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>PESSIMISTIC</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>UNINTERESTED</b>	<b>3%</b>



<b>HOPEFUL</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>CURIOUS</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>OPTIMISTIC</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>AMAZED</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>EXCITED</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>OPEN</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>CAUTIOUS</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>CONCERNED</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>SKEPTICAL</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>WORRIED</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>HESITANT</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>UNINFORMED</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>CONFUSED</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>PESSIMISTIC</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>UNINTERESTED</b>	<b>2%</b>



<b>CURIOUS</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>HOPEFUL</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>OPTIMISTIC</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>AMAZED</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>CAUTIOUS</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>EXCITED</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>OPEN</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>CONCERNED</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>SKEPTICAL</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>HESITANT</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>UNINFORMED</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>WORRIED</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>CONFUSED</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>PESSIMISTIC</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>UNINTERESTED</b>	<b>2%</b>

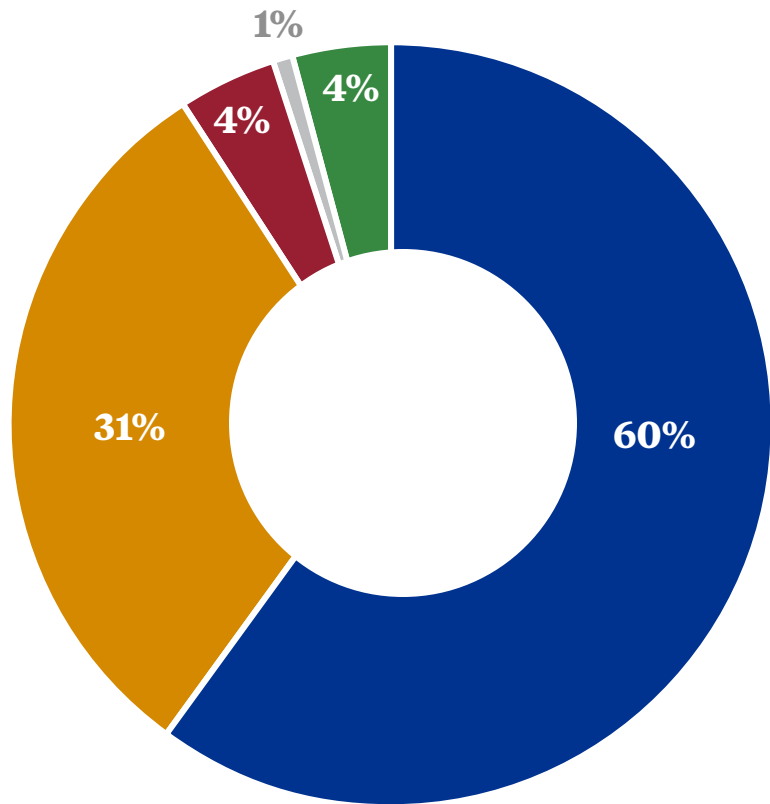


## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

### 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?

- 60% Very important**
- 31% Somewhat important**
- 4% Not too important**
- 1% Not at all important**
- 4% Not sure**



## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

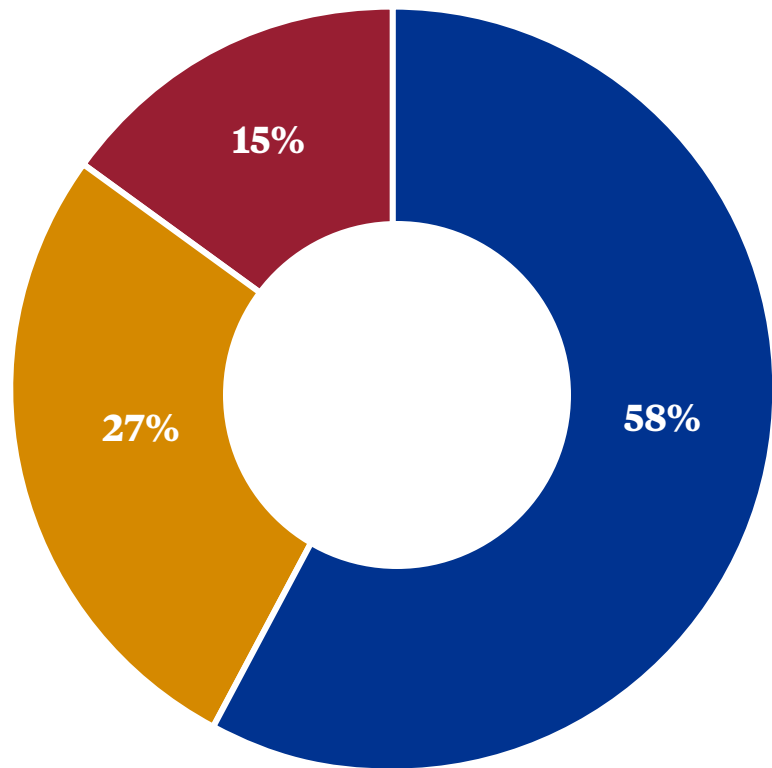
### 58% Believe the U.S. Is a Global Leader in Health Research

Do you believe the U.S. is a global leader in research to improve health?

**58% Yes**

**27% No**

**15% Not sure**

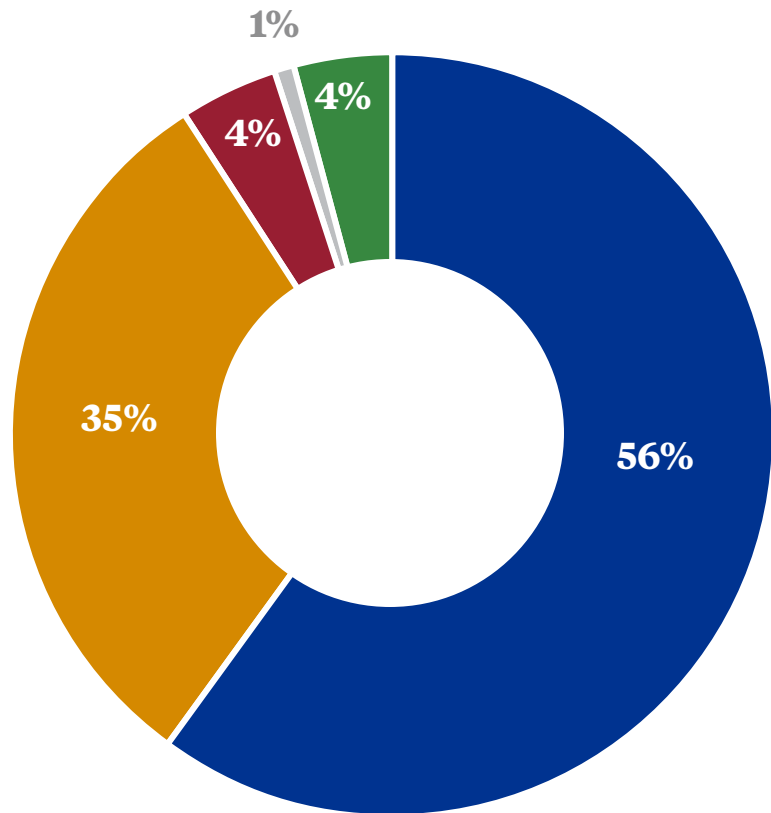


## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

### Americans Across the Political Spectrum Say It Is Important That the U.S. Is a Leader in S&T

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

- 56% Very important**
- 35% Somewhat important**
- 4% Not too important**
- 1% Not at all important**
- 4% Not sure**



**94%** say "Very or somewhat important"



**93%** say "Very or somewhat important"



**85%** say "Very or somewhat important"

## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

### 78% Are Concerned That China Could Surpass 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?

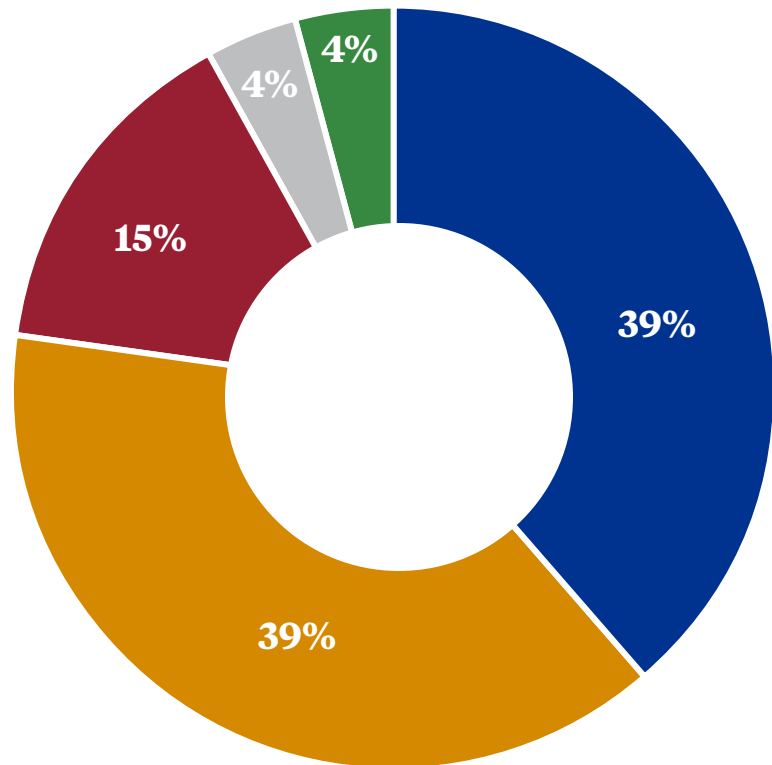
**39%** Very concerned

**39%** Somewhat concerned

**15%** Not too concerned

**4%** Not at all concerned

**4%** Not sure



**77%** say "Very or somewhat concerned"



**83%** say "Very or somewhat concerned"



**71%** say "Very or somewhat concerned"

## 85% 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?

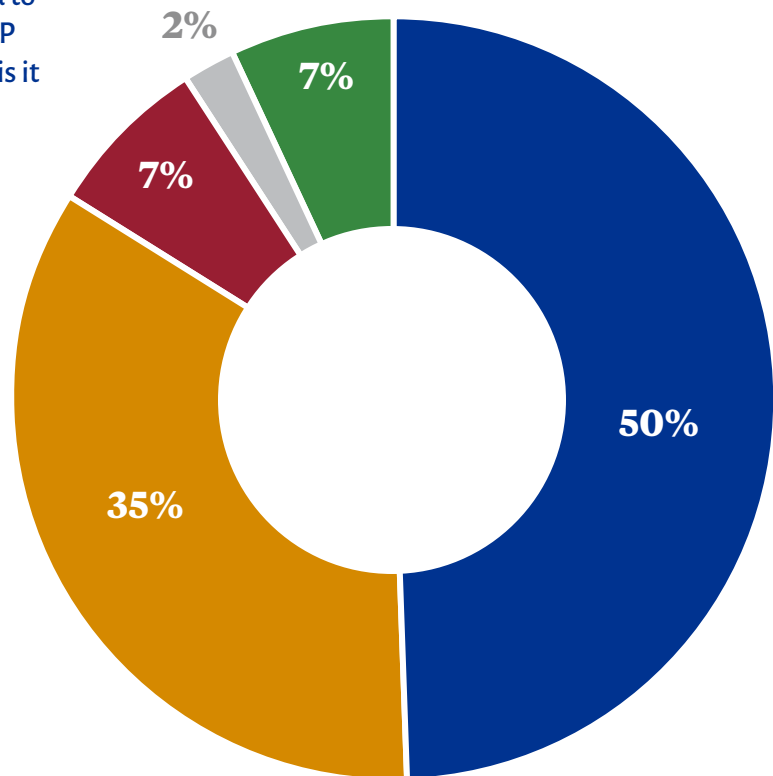
**50% Very important**


**35% Somewhat important**

**7% Not very important**


**2% Not at all important**

**7% Not sure**



 **92%** say "Very or somewhat important"

 **86%** say "Very or somewhat important"

 **74%** say "Very or somewhat important"

## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS

### 89% 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?

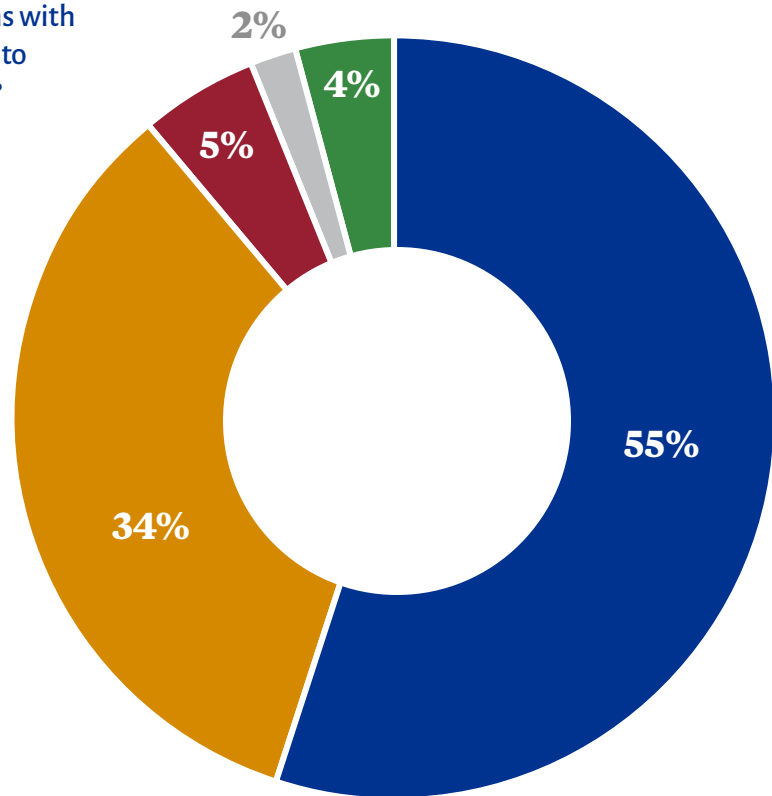
**55% Very important**

**34% Somewhat important**

**5% Not very important**

**2% Not at all important**

**4% Not sure**



**96%** say "Very or somewhat important"



**87%** say "Very or somewhat important"



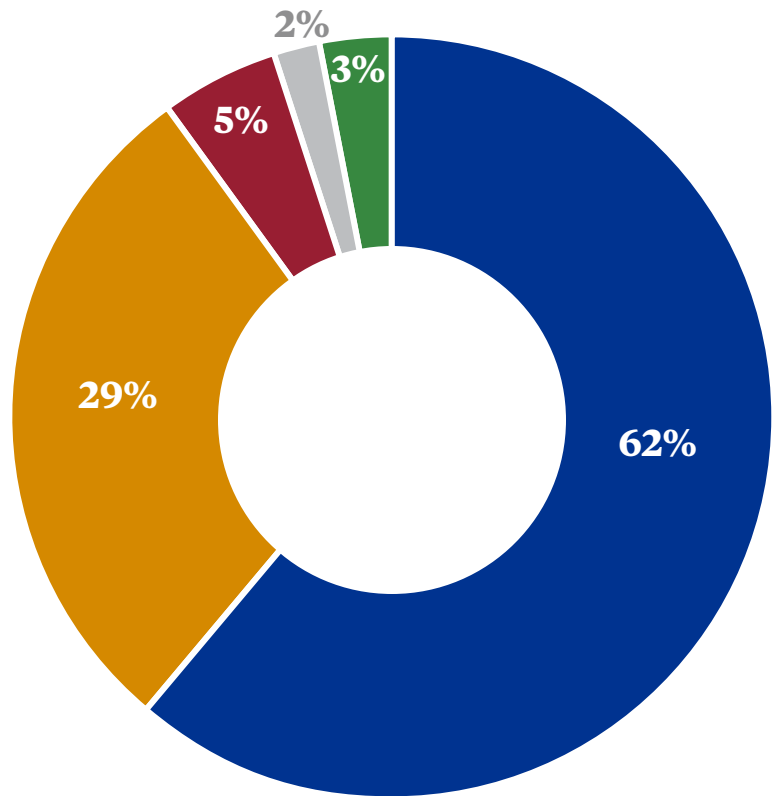
**84%** say "Very or somewhat important"


## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS

### 9 in 10 Say It's Important for Federal Government To Fund Chronic Disease Research


How important is it for the federal government to fund research to address chronic diseases?

- 62% Very important**
- 29% Somewhat important**
- 5% Not very important**
- 2% Not at all important**
- 3% Not sure**



 **95%** say "Very or somewhat important"

 **82%** say "Very or somewhat important"

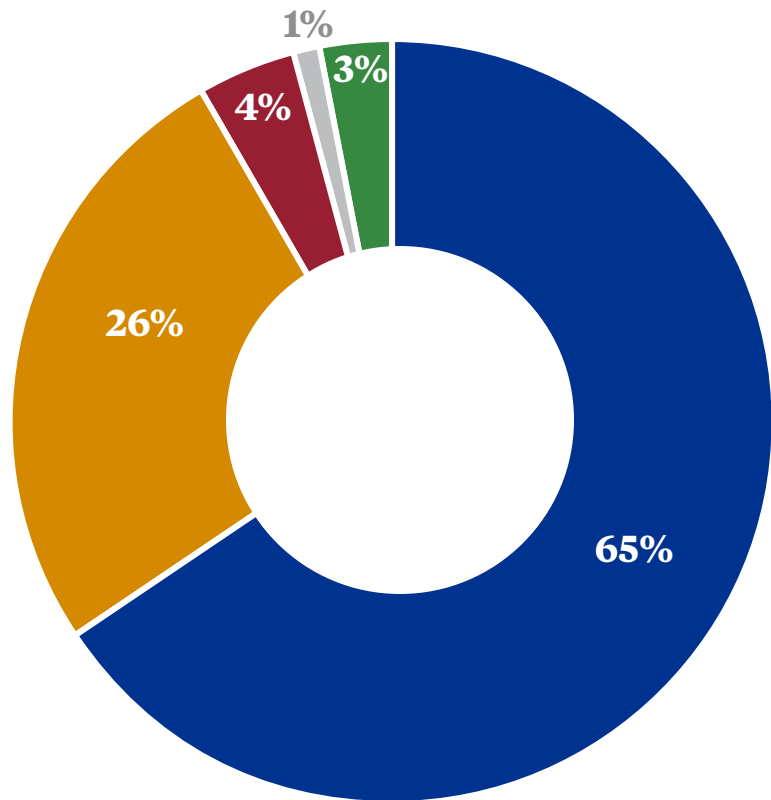
 **86%** say "Very or somewhat important"


## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS

### 9 in 10 Say It's Important for Federal Government To Fund Infectious Disease Research

How important is it for the federal government to fund research to address infectious diseases?

- 65% Very important**
- 26% Somewhat important**
- 4% Not very important**
- 1% Not at all important**
- 3% Not sure**



 **96%** say "Very or somewhat important"

 **93%** say "Very or somewhat important"

 **84%** say "Very or somewhat important"

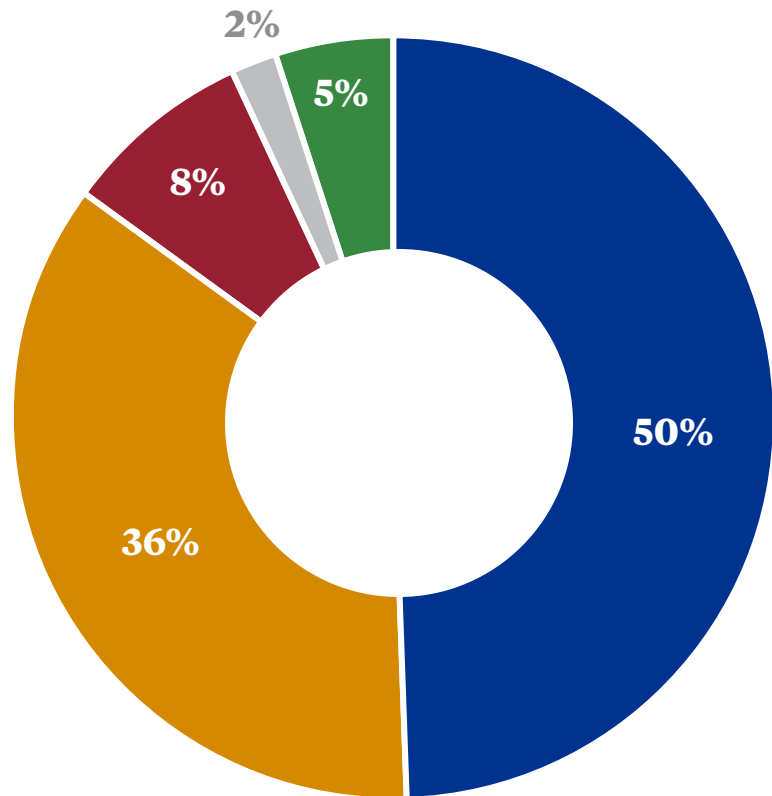


## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS

### 86% Say It's Important for Federal Government To Fund Rare Disease Research


How important is it for the federal government to fund research to address rare diseases?

- 50% Very important**
- 36% Somewhat important**
- 8% Not very important**
- 2% Not at all important**
- 5% Not sure**



 **93%** say "Very or somewhat important"

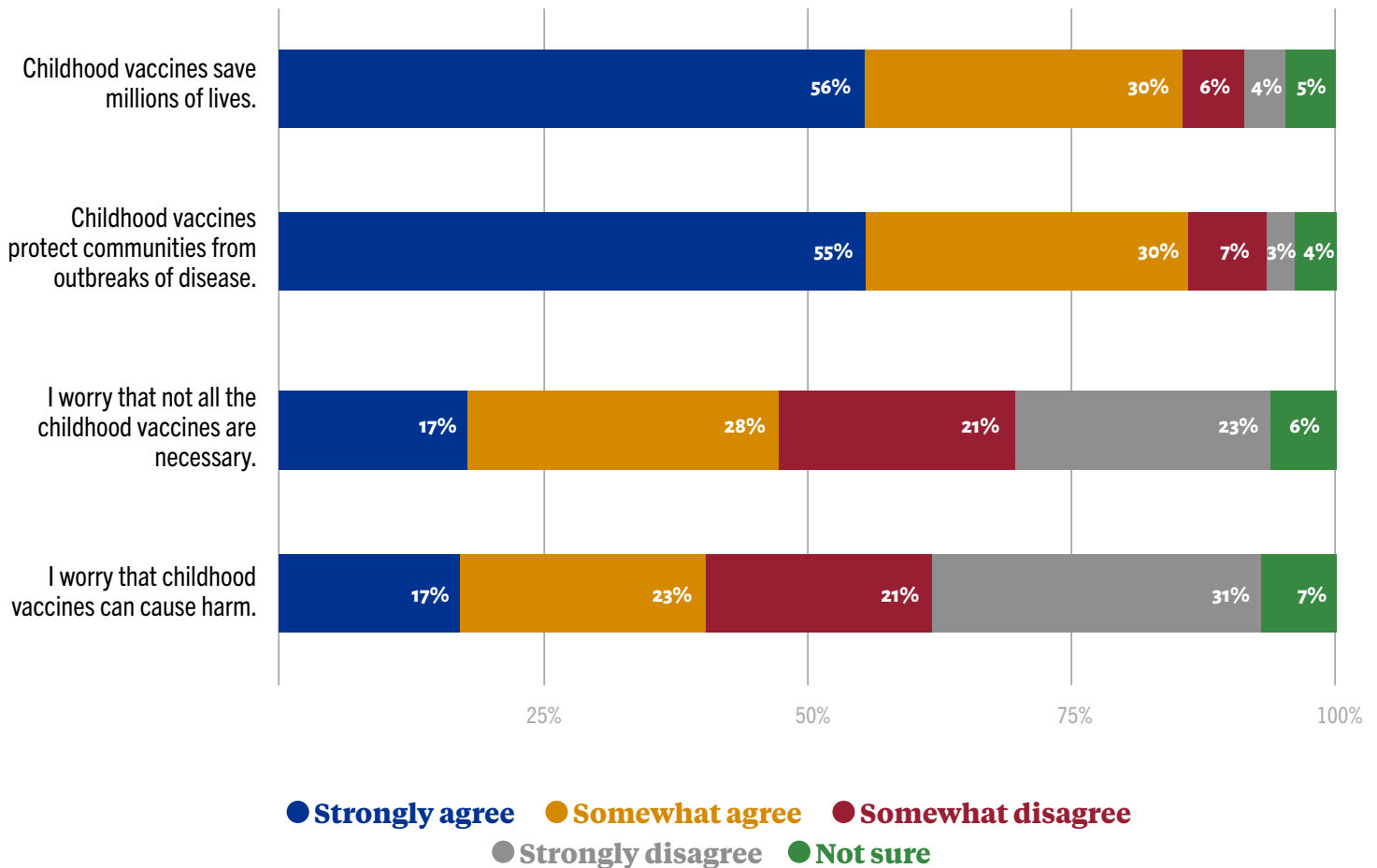
 **84%** say "Very or somewhat important"

 **81%** say "Very or somewhat important"

## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS

### Most Americans Agree Childhood Vaccines Save Lives and Prevent Outbreaks

In thinking about childhood vaccines, to what extent do you agree with the following?

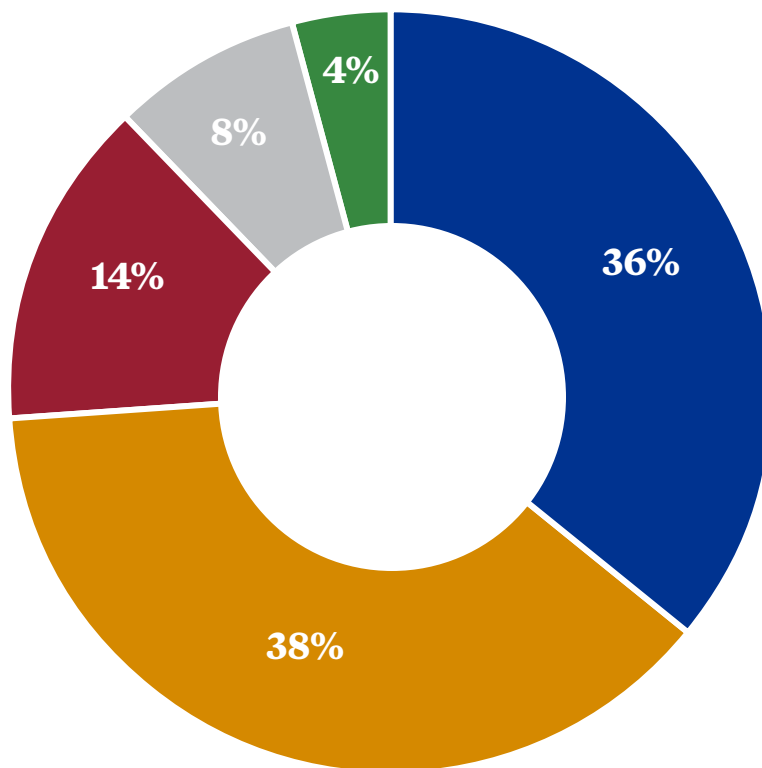


## SELECTED HEALTH CONCERNS


### 74% Are Confident About the Safety of Vaccines Used Today


In general, how confident are you in the safety of vaccines used today?

**36% Very confident**  
**38% Somewhat confident**  
**14% Not too confident**  
**8% Not at all confident**  
**4% Don't know**



 **89%** say "Very or somewhat confident"

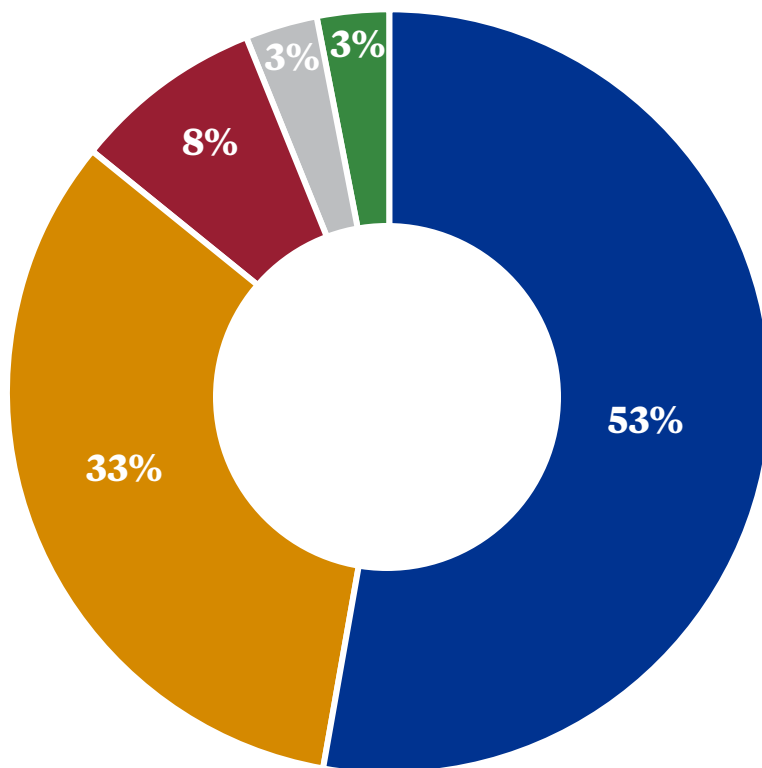
 **69%** say "Very or somewhat confident"

 **62%** say "Very or somewhat confident"

### 86% of Americans Are Concerned About the Mental Health Status of Youth in This Country

How concerned are you about the mental health status of youth in this country?

- 53%** Very concerned
- 33%** Somewhat concerned
- 8%** Not very concerned
- 3%** Not at all concerned
- 3%** Not sure



### 6 in 10 Say Federal Investment in Mental Health Research Has Not Been Adequate

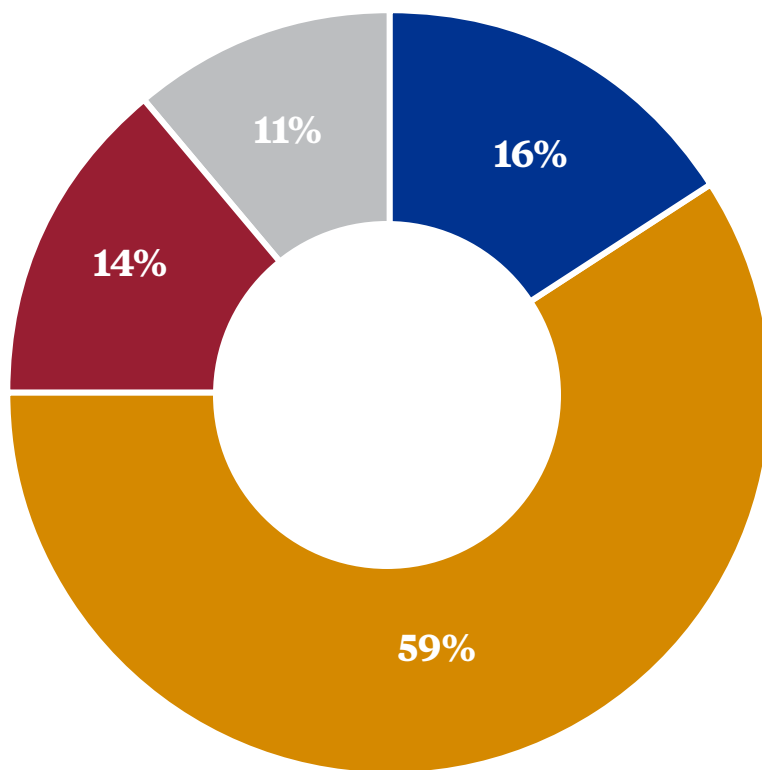
Do you think federal investment in mental health research has been adequate, not adequate, or about right?

**16%** Adequate

**59%** Not adequate

**14%** About right

**11%** Don't know



### 45% of Americans Say Opioid Addiction Has Gotten Worse

In the past 5 years, do you think the problem of people being addicted to opioids in your local community has gotten better, gotten worse, or remained about the same?

**11% A lot better**

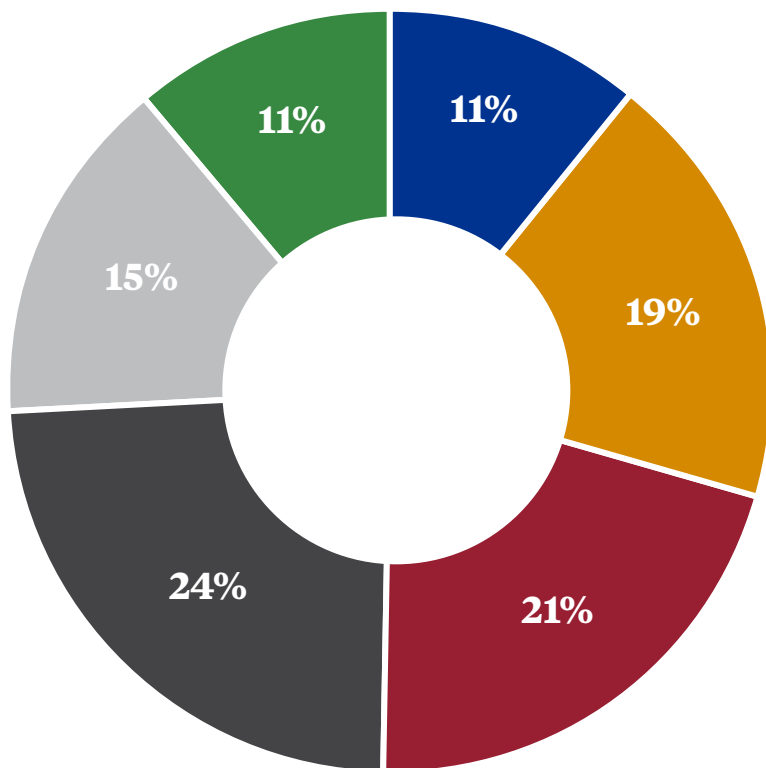
**19% Somewhat better**

**21% Somewhat worse**

**24% A lot worse**

**15% Mostly the same**

**11% Not sure**



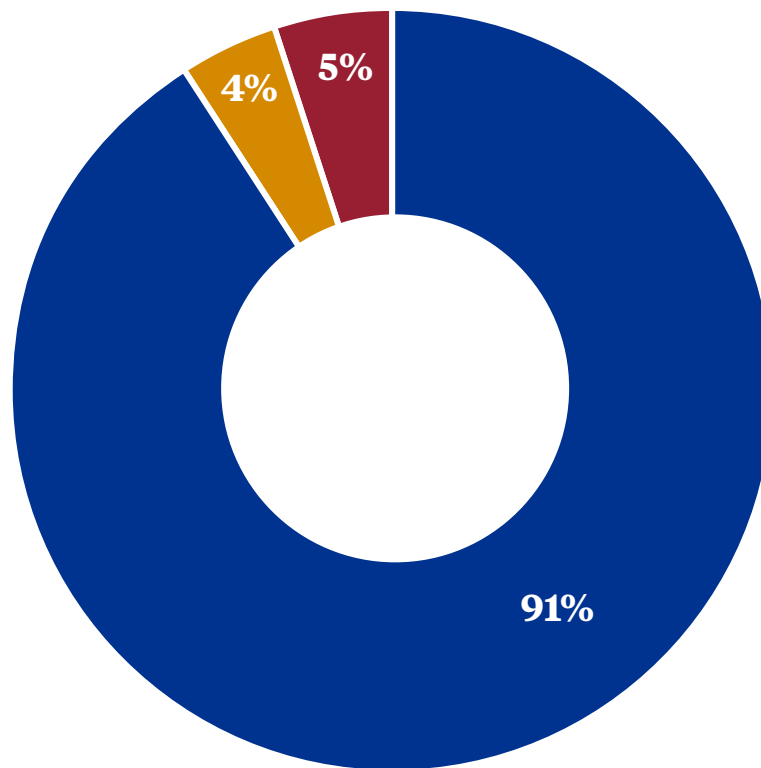
### 9 in 10 Say Unhealthy Eating Is a Problem in the U.S.

Do you think that unhealthy eating is a problem in the United States?

**91% Yes**

**4% No**

**5% Not sure**

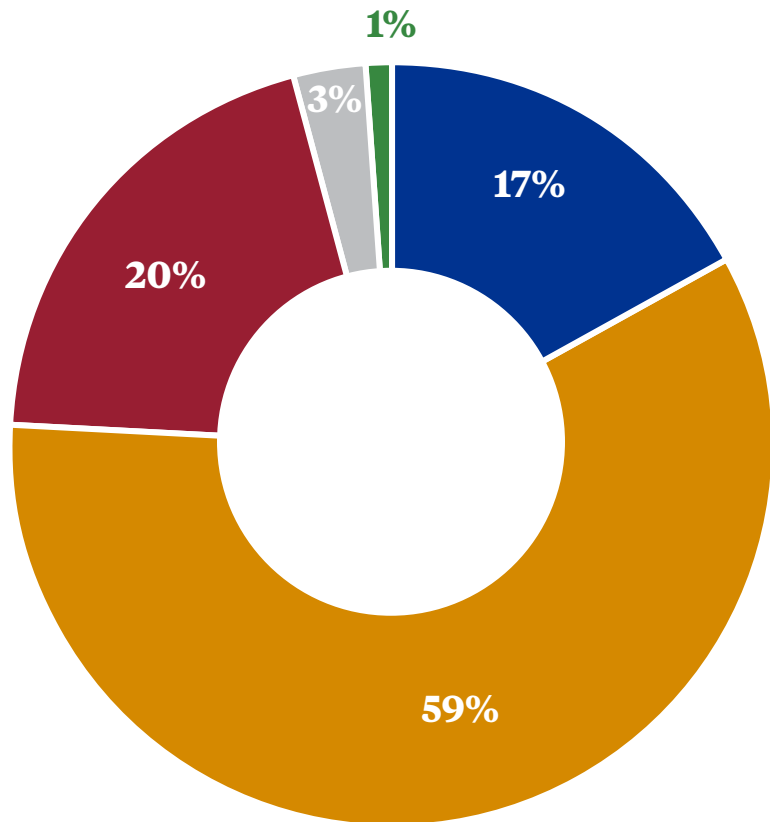


## PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

### 76% Report That Their Diet Is Healthy

Overall, how healthy would you say your eating pattern/diet is?

- 17% **Very healthy**
- 59% **Somewhat healthy**
- 20% **Not too healthy**
- 3% **Not at all healthy**
- 1% **Not sure**

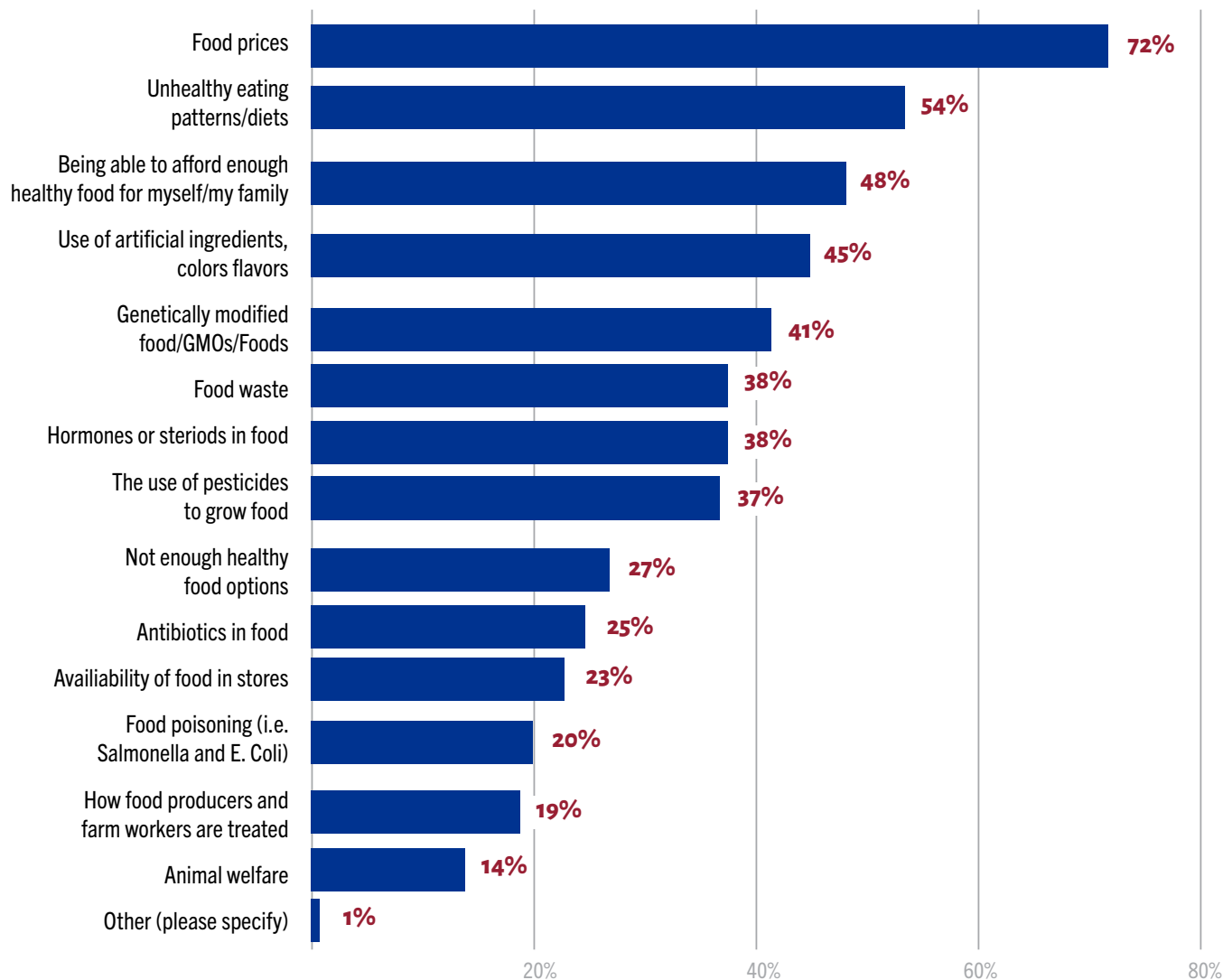




## PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

### Price Is the Top Food Issue Facing the U.S.

What would you say are the top five food issues facing the nation? (Choose five)



## PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

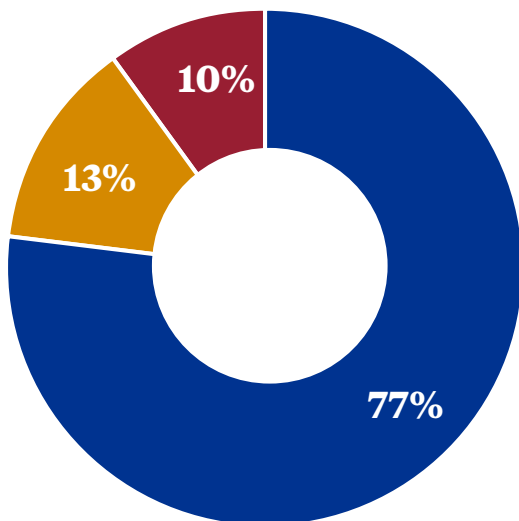
### Cost of Healthy Food Is the Biggest Barrier to a Healthier Diet

Would you like to eat a healthier diet?

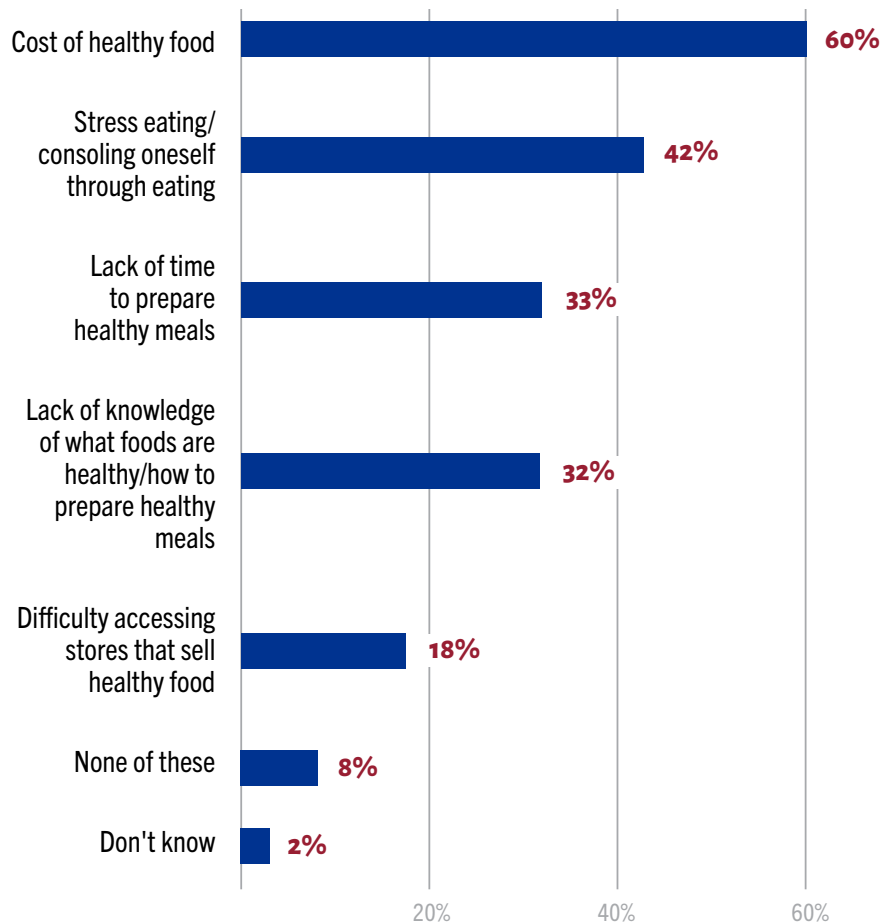
**77% Yes**

**13% No**

**10% Not sure**



What are biggest barriers to you eating a healthier diet?  
(Choose all that apply)



## PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

### 46% Said It Was at Least Somewhat Hard To Regularly Obtain and Eat Nutritious Foods in the Past Year

Thinking about the last 12 months, how hard was it for you to regularly obtain and eat nutritious foods that support you and/or your family's health and well-being?

**9% Very hard**

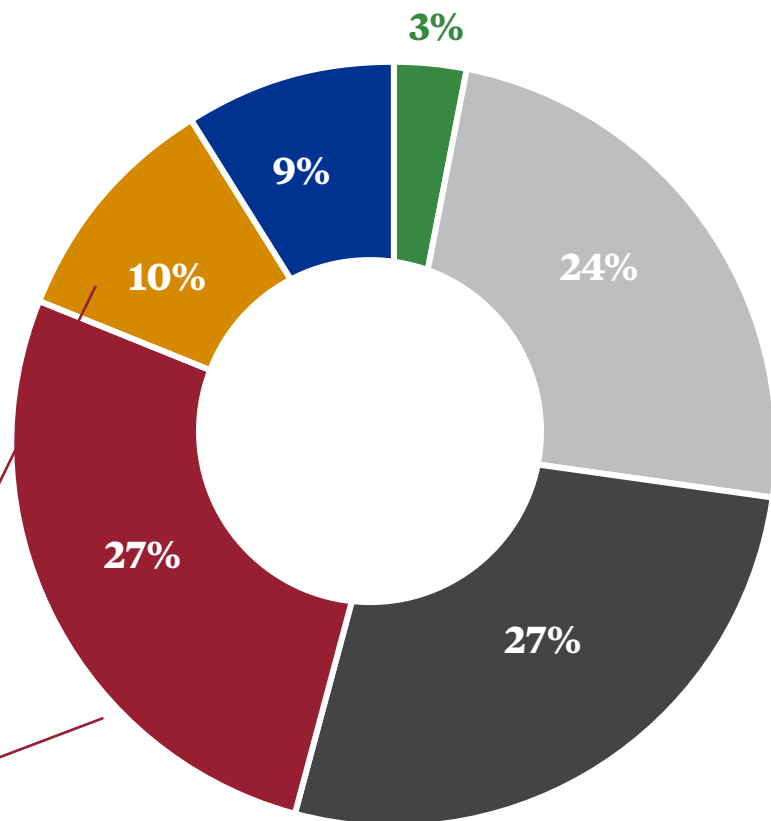
**10% Hard**

**27% Somewhat hard**

**27% Not very hard**

**24% Not hard at all**

**3% Don't know**



#### TOP REASONS

- Healthy foods are too expensive
- Not enough healthy food choices at the stores where I usually shop
- Stores with healthy foods are too far away or hard to reach
- Lack of transportation to reach stores that have healthy foods

## PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD AND NUTRITION

### Respondents Are Cautious About Ozempic, Wegovy, Similar Drugs

Please select from the following the top five words that best reflect your attitudes toward Ozempic, Wegovy, or other similar drugs.

<b>CAUTIOUS</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>HESITANT</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>CURIOUS</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>CONCERNED</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>COSTLY</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>SKEPTICAL</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>OPTIMISTIC</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>HOPEFUL</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>UNINTERESTED</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>OPEN</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>WORRIED</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>UNINFORMED</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>PESSIMISTIC</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>EXCITED</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>AMAZED</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>CONFUSED</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>DISGUSTED</b>	<b>8%</b>



## 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.

Zogby  
Analytics

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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 by request or at [researchamerica.org](https://researchamerica.org).**

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