

January National Survey

January 2026

RESULTS FROM A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY
COMMISSIONED IN JANUARY 2026



Survey Methodology

This online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America in early January 2026, among 1,007 adults plus additional adults for minority oversampling. The survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.1 percentage points. The sample is weighted to best represent the demographics of the population being surveyed. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, and party.

Due to rounding, the percent totals may not add up to 100 on some slides.



More Than Half Say Children Will Be Worse Off Than People Are Now

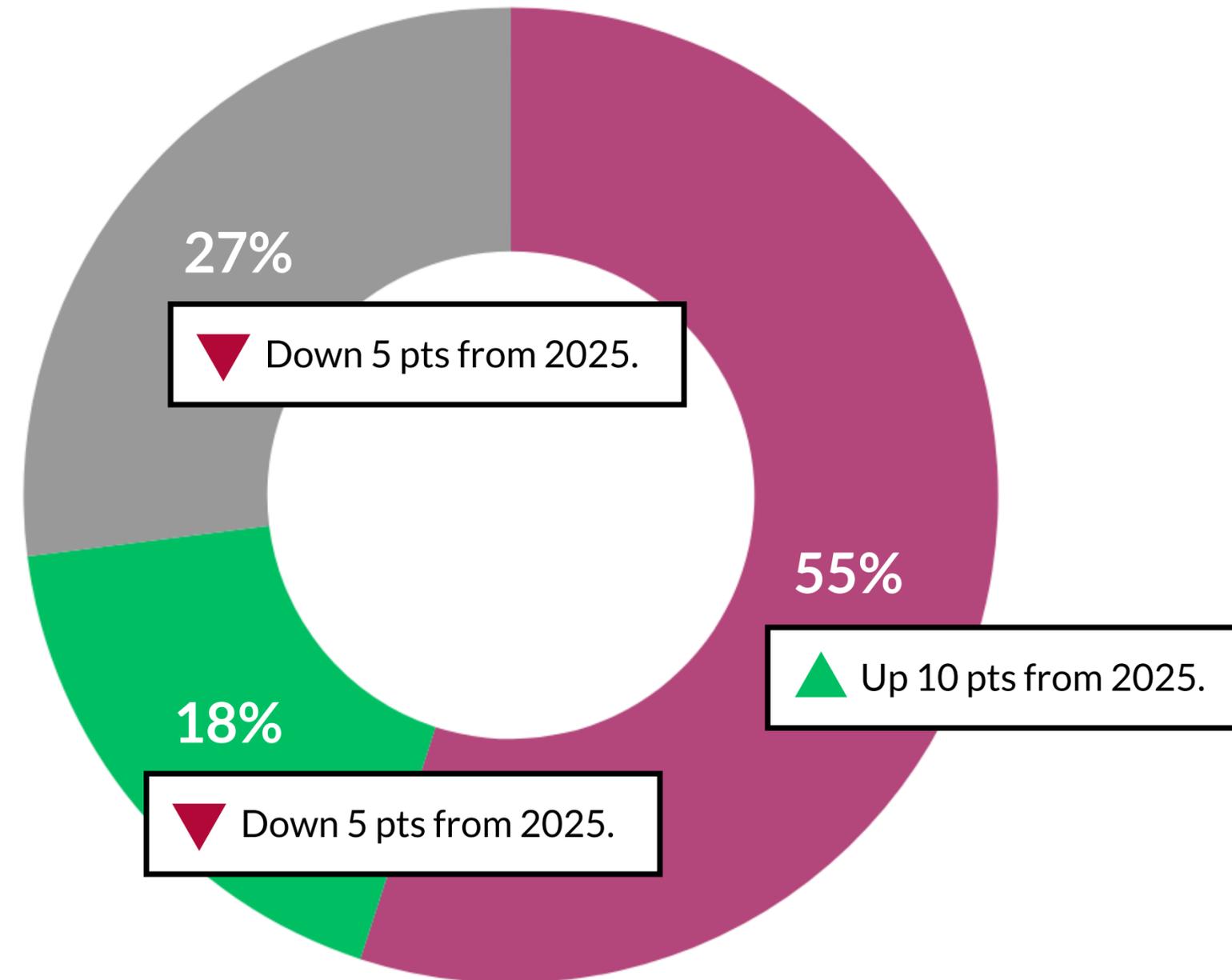
When today's children in America grow up, do you think they will be:

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

 60% say “worse off”

 46% say “worse off”

 62% say “worse off”

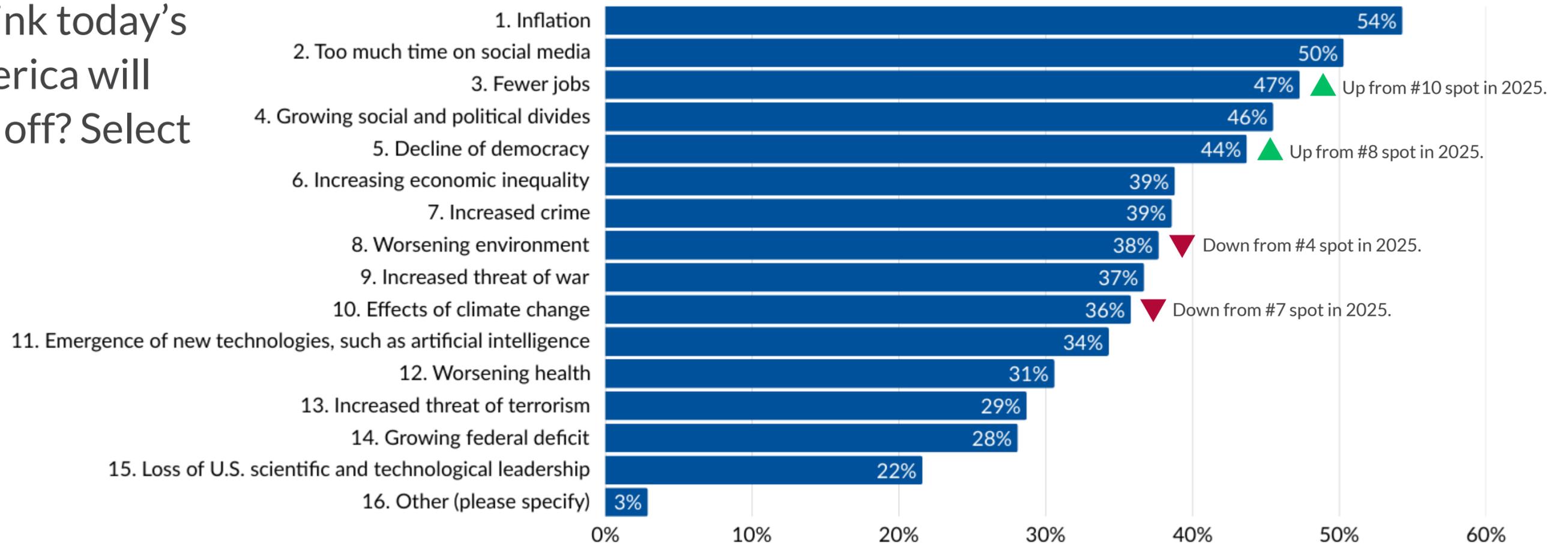


Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Those Who Say “Worse Off” Believe It Is Because of Inflation, Too Much Time on Social Media, Jobs



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

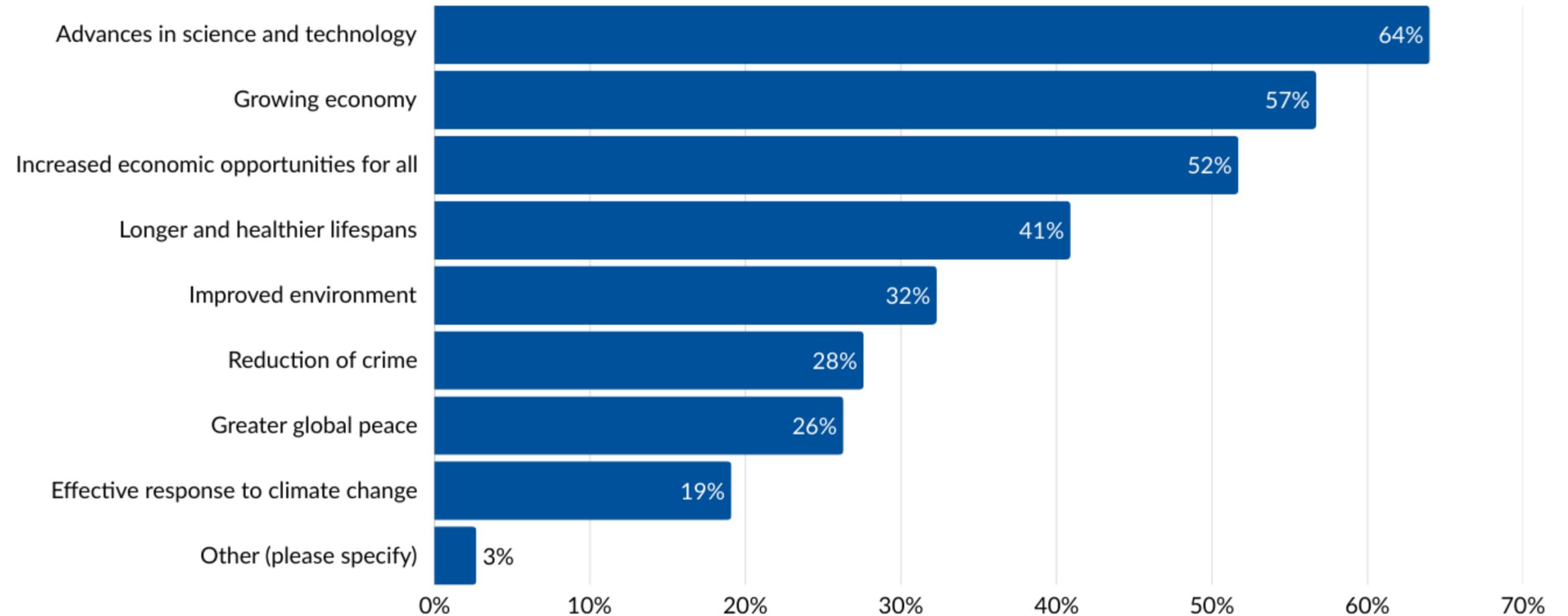


Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

“Advances in Science and Technology” is the Top Response From People Who Say “Better Off”



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



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Nearly 7 in 10 Say Congress Should Invest More Taxpayer Dollars To Advance S&T

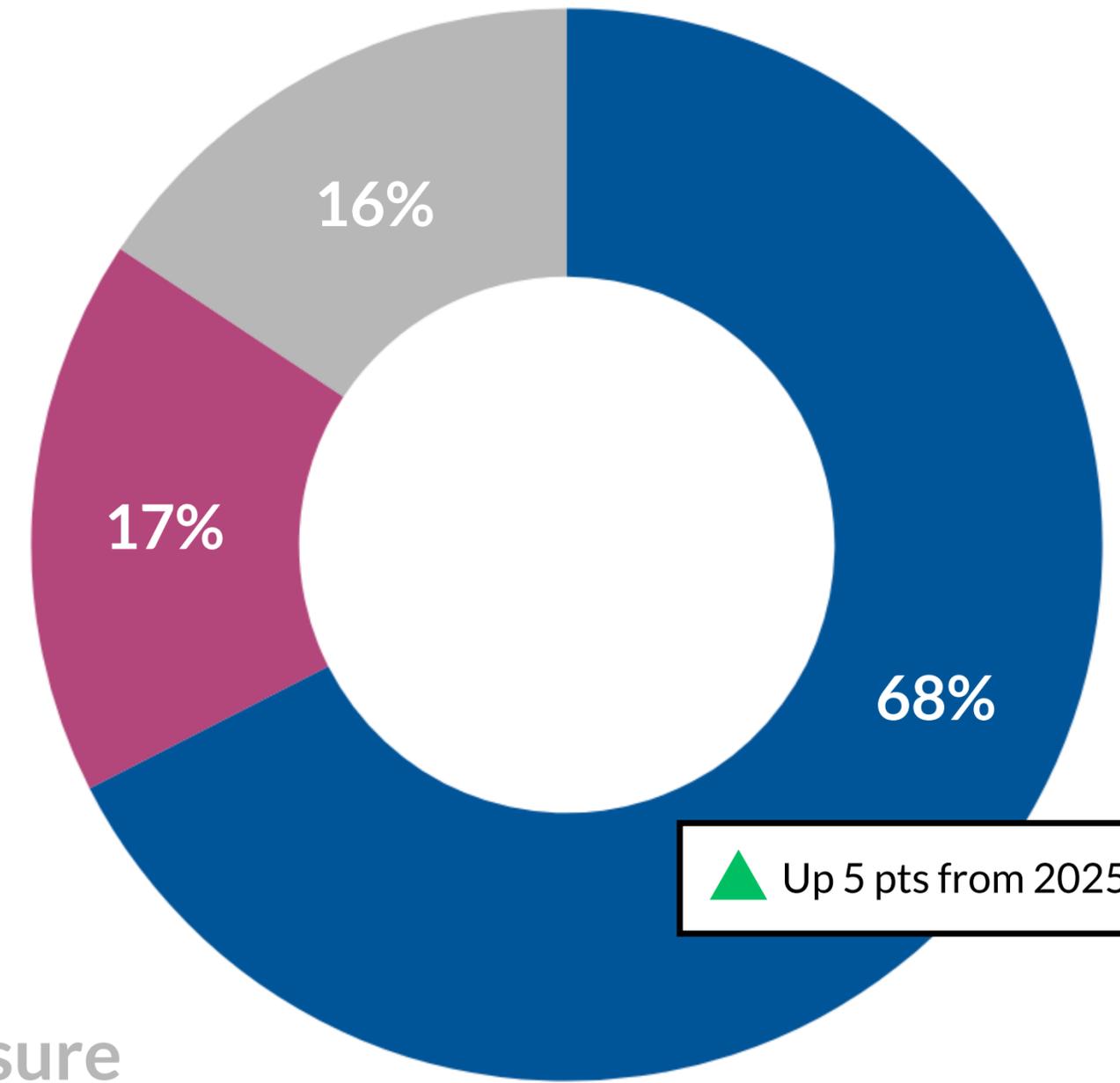
Do you believe Congress should invest more taxpayer dollars to advance science and technology in the U.S.?

 80% say “yes”  Up 5 pts from 2025.

 65% say “yes”  Up 6 pts from 2025.

 54% say “yes”

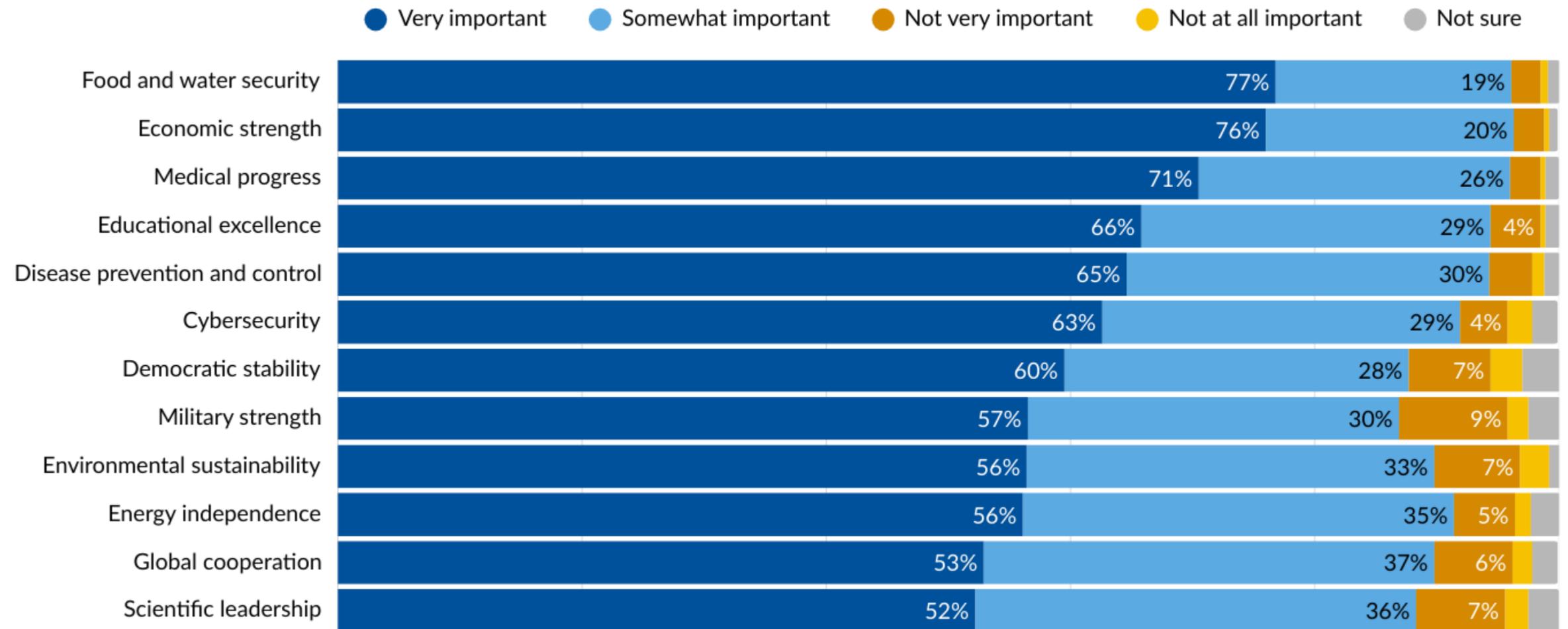
Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.



Americans Weigh In On Priorities Over the Next 50 Years



This year marks the United States' 250th birthday. In thinking about our nation's priorities over the next 50 years, how important do you think the following should be?

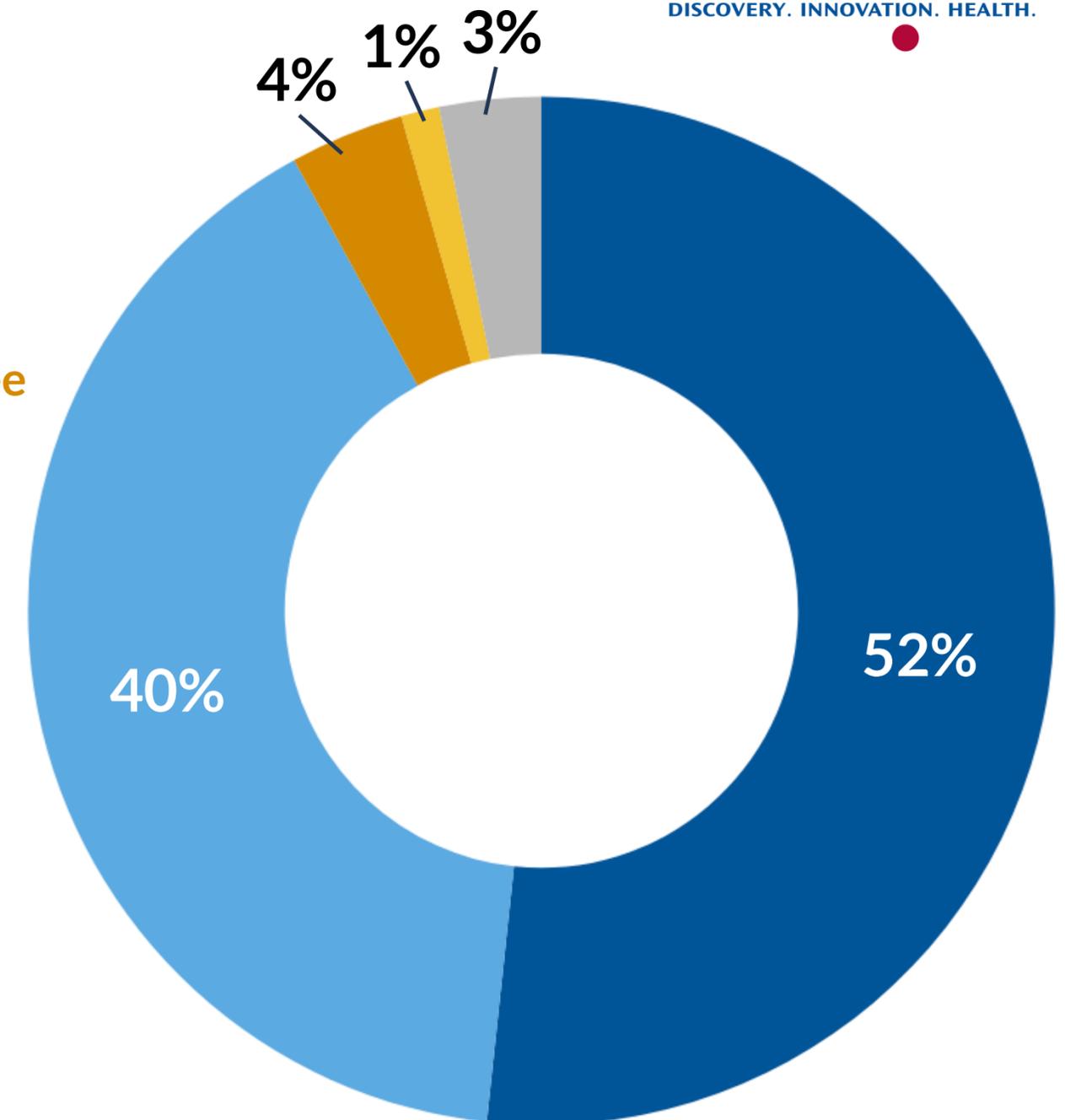


Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

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.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure



▲ “Strongly” or “somewhat” agree up 7 pts from Jan. 2025 (was 85%).

🐘 95% say “strongly” or “somewhat agree”

🐘 92% say “strongly” or “somewhat agree”

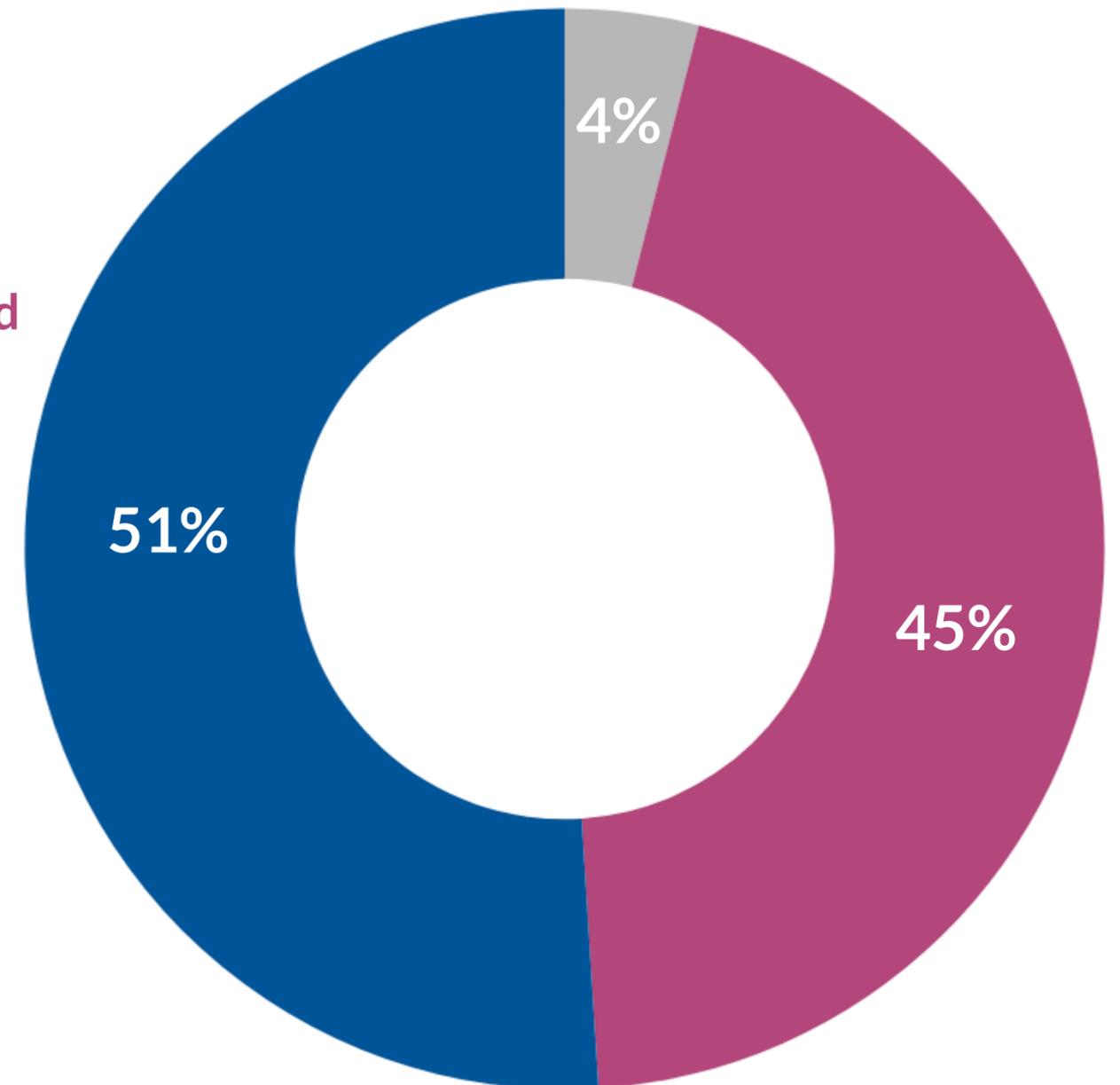
🗳️ 88% say “strongly” or “somewhat agree”

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Half of Americans Have Knowledge of Potential Cuts That Could Impact Research and Innovation

How informed do you feel about canceled federal programs or budget cuts that could impact science research and innovation?

- Very or somewhat informed
- Not very or not at all informed
- Not sure

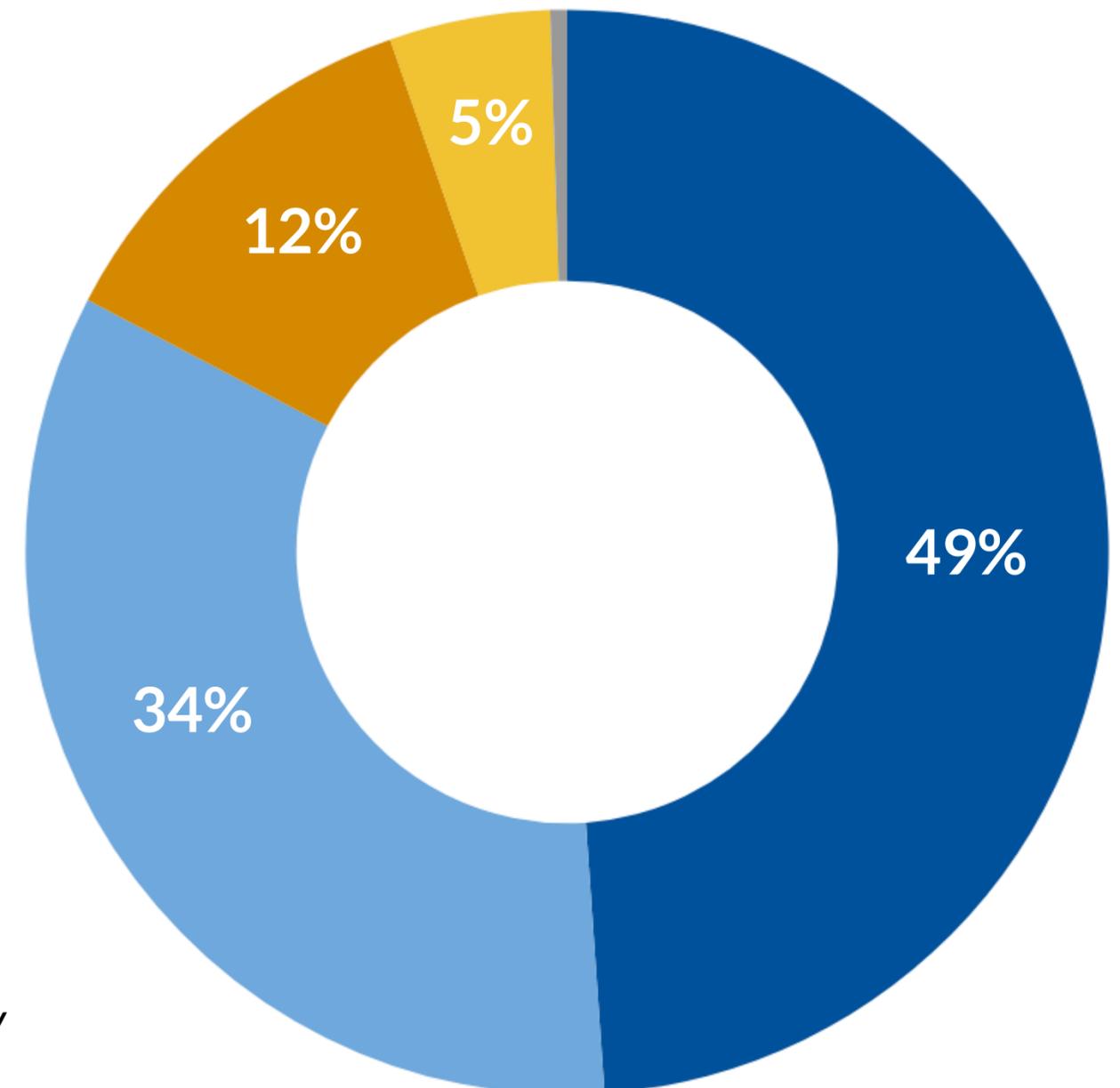


Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

8 in 10 Americans That Are Informed About Potential Cuts to Research and Innovation Are Concerned

If answered “very informed” or “somewhat informed previously, how concerned are you about these canceled federal programs or budget cuts?

- **Very concerned**
- **Somewhat concerned**
- **Not very concerned**
- **Not at all concerned**
- **Not sure**



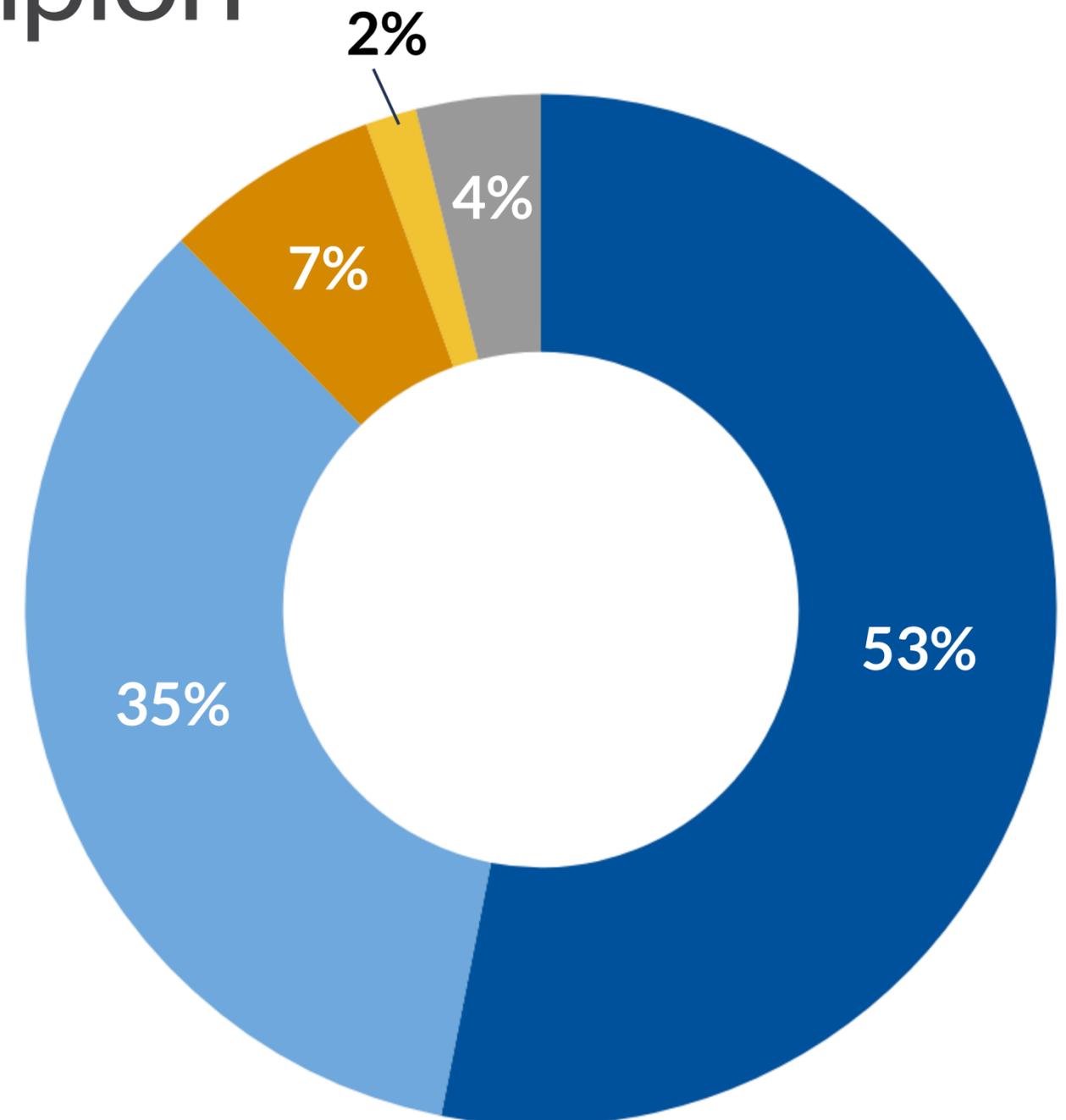
Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Nearly 9 in 10 Say It Is Important For 2026 Candidates To Champion Faster Medical Progress

How important is it for your candidates in 2026 to champion faster medical progress?

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

-  91% say “very” or “somewhat important”
-  90% say “very” or “somewhat important”
-  81% say “very” or “somewhat important”



7 in 10 Would Be More Likely to Support a Candidate Who Favors Increased Medical and Health Research Spending

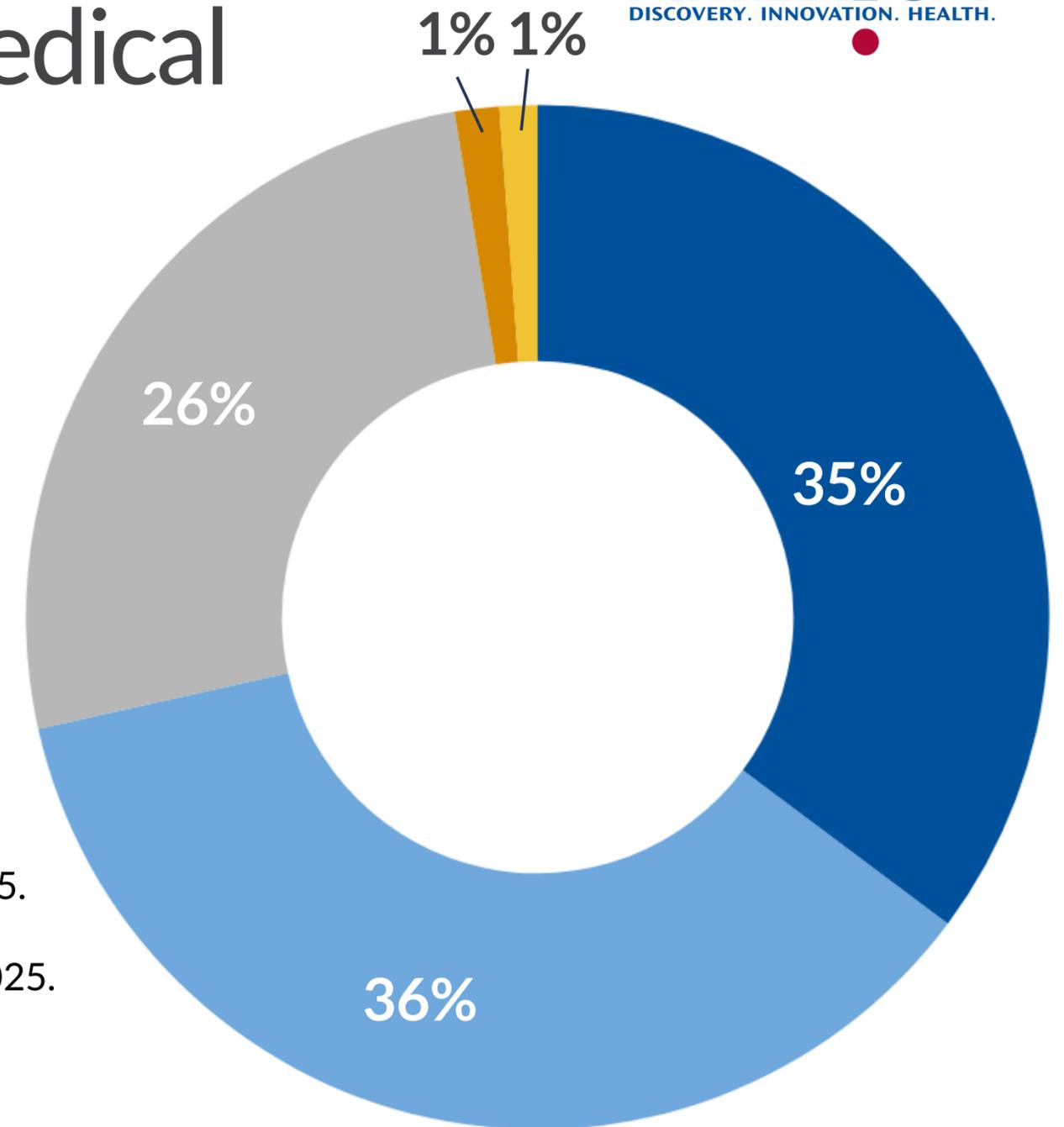
If you knew a candidate for Congress favored spending more on medical and health research, would you be more or less likely to support that person for election?

 83% say “much” or “somewhat more likely”

 70% say “much” or “somewhat more likely”  Up 10 pts from 2025.

 58% say “much” or “somewhat more likely”  Down 7 pts from 2025.

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

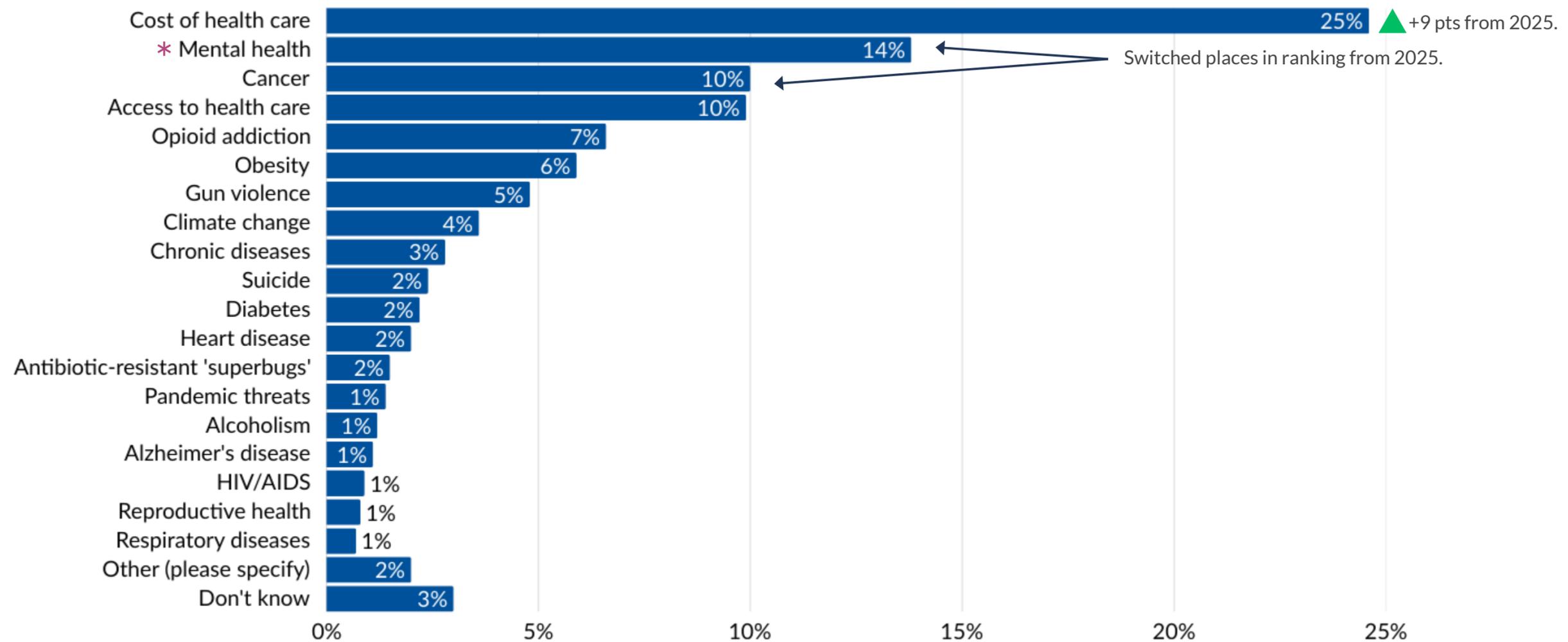


● Much more likely ● Somewhat more likely ● Neutral
● Somewhat less likely ● Much less likely

Americans Say Cost of Health Care Is the Most Important Health Issue Facing The Nation



What would you say is the single most important health issue facing the nation? (Choose one)



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

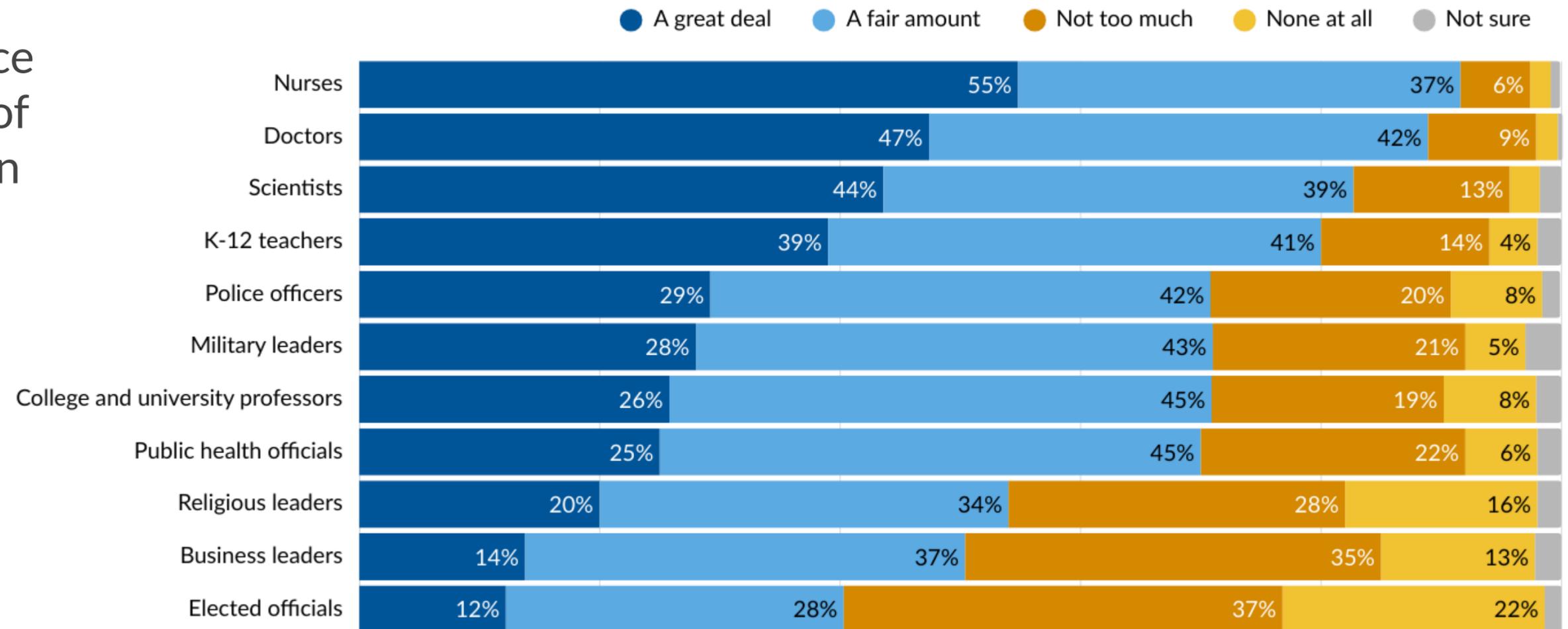
*Hispanic and African American respondents are more likely to say mental health is the most important issue.

Confidence In Nurses, Doctors, and Scientists Is High



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

- ▲ Confidence in scientists increased 5 pts from Jan. 2025 (“a great deal” + “a fair amount” was 78%, now 83%).
- ▲ Confidence in scientists is highest since 2020.



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

7 in 10 Think The Work of Scientists Benefits All or Most People in the U.S.

In general, do you think the work that scientists do benefits all, most, some, very few, or no people in this country?

 78% say “all” or “most”

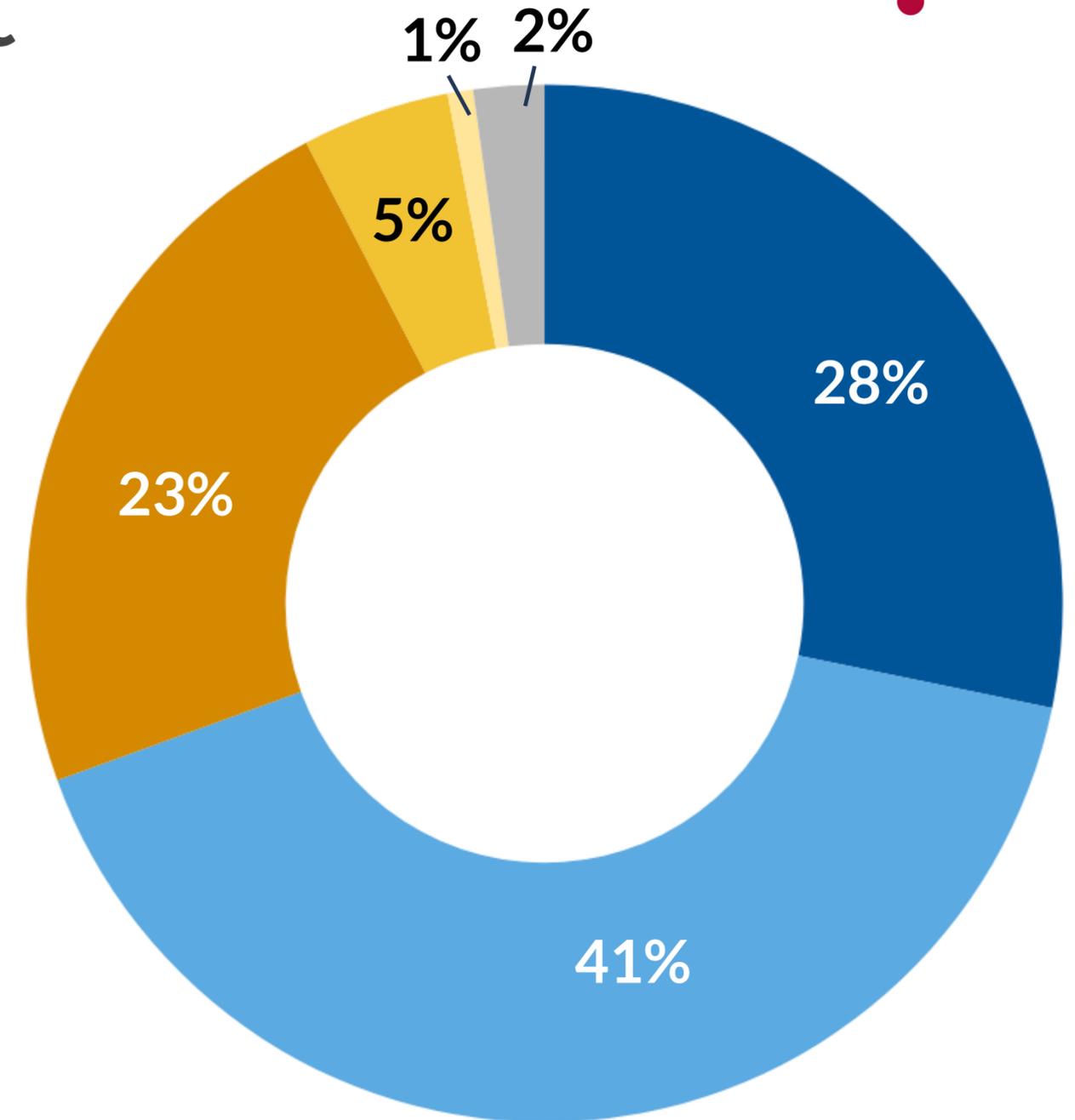
 68% say “all” or “most”

 61% say “all” or “most”

 Increased from 6 in 10 last year (59%)

Combined “all” or “most” number is highest in 5 years (since January 2021).

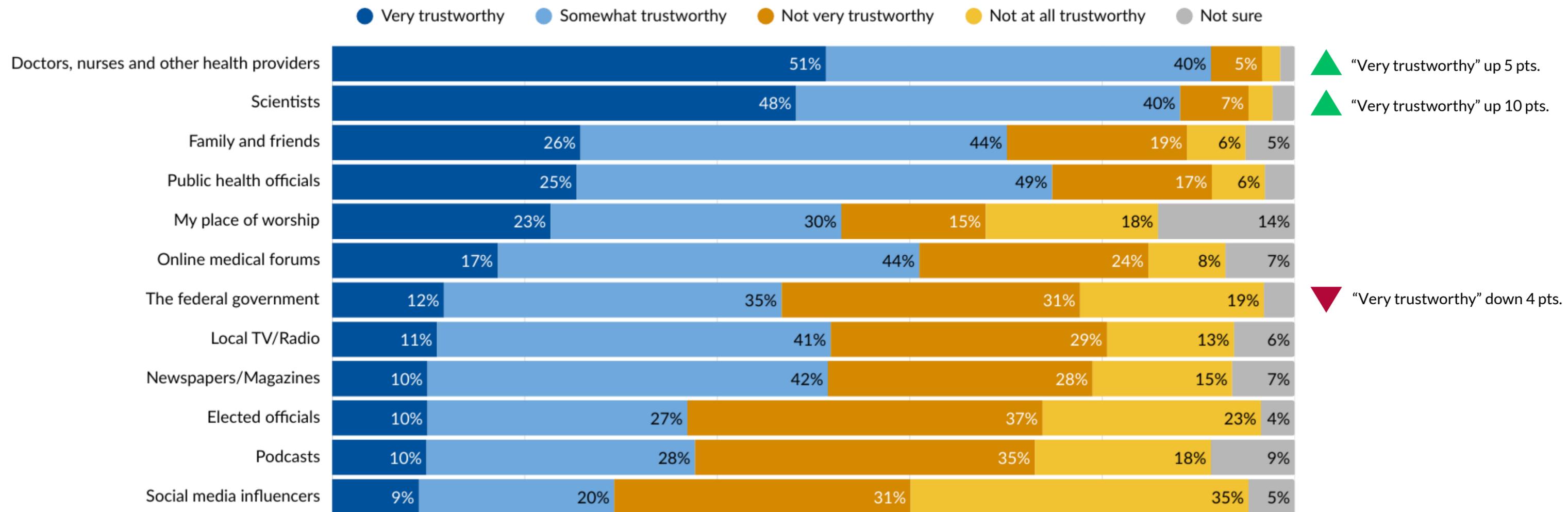
- All
- Most
- Some
- Very few
- None
- Not sure



Health Providers and Scientists Are Most Trusted Sources of Medical and Health Information



How trustworthy are the following sources of medical and health information?



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Only Half of Americans Can Name a Medical or Health Research Institution

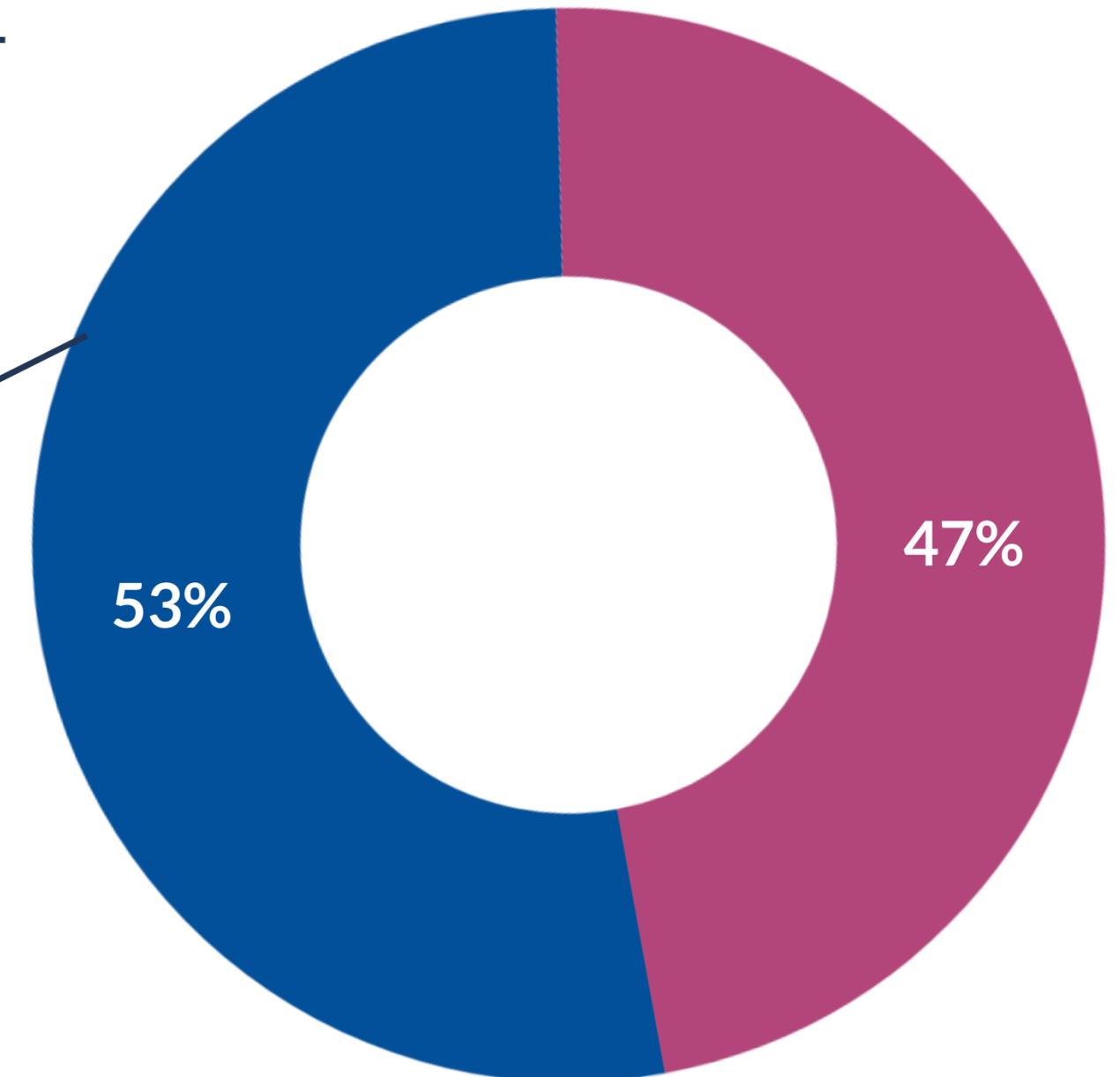
Can you name any institution, company, or organization where medical or health research is conducted?

● **Yes (specify)**

● **No/Not sure**

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Mayo Clinic	13%
Pfizer	11%
Johns Hopkins	8%
CDC	7%
NIH	5%
St. Jude's	4%
Harvard University	4%
WHO	3%
UCLA	2%
MD Anderson	2%
Johnson & Johnson	2%
Cleveland Clinic	1%
Emory University	1%
Other	37%

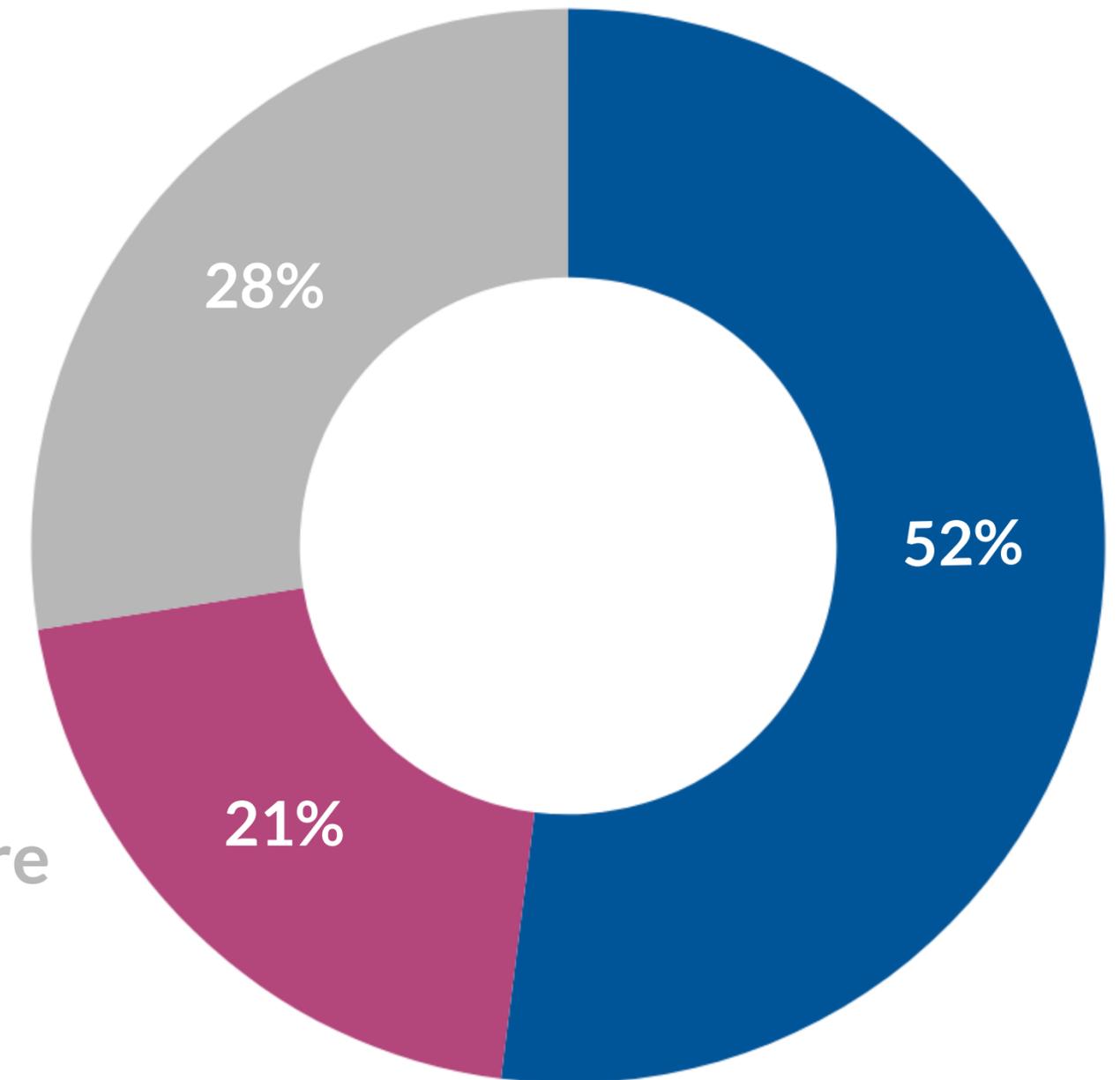


Only Half of Americans Are Aware S&T Research Is Conducted in Every State

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

▲ “Yes” up 5 pts from 2025 (was 47%).

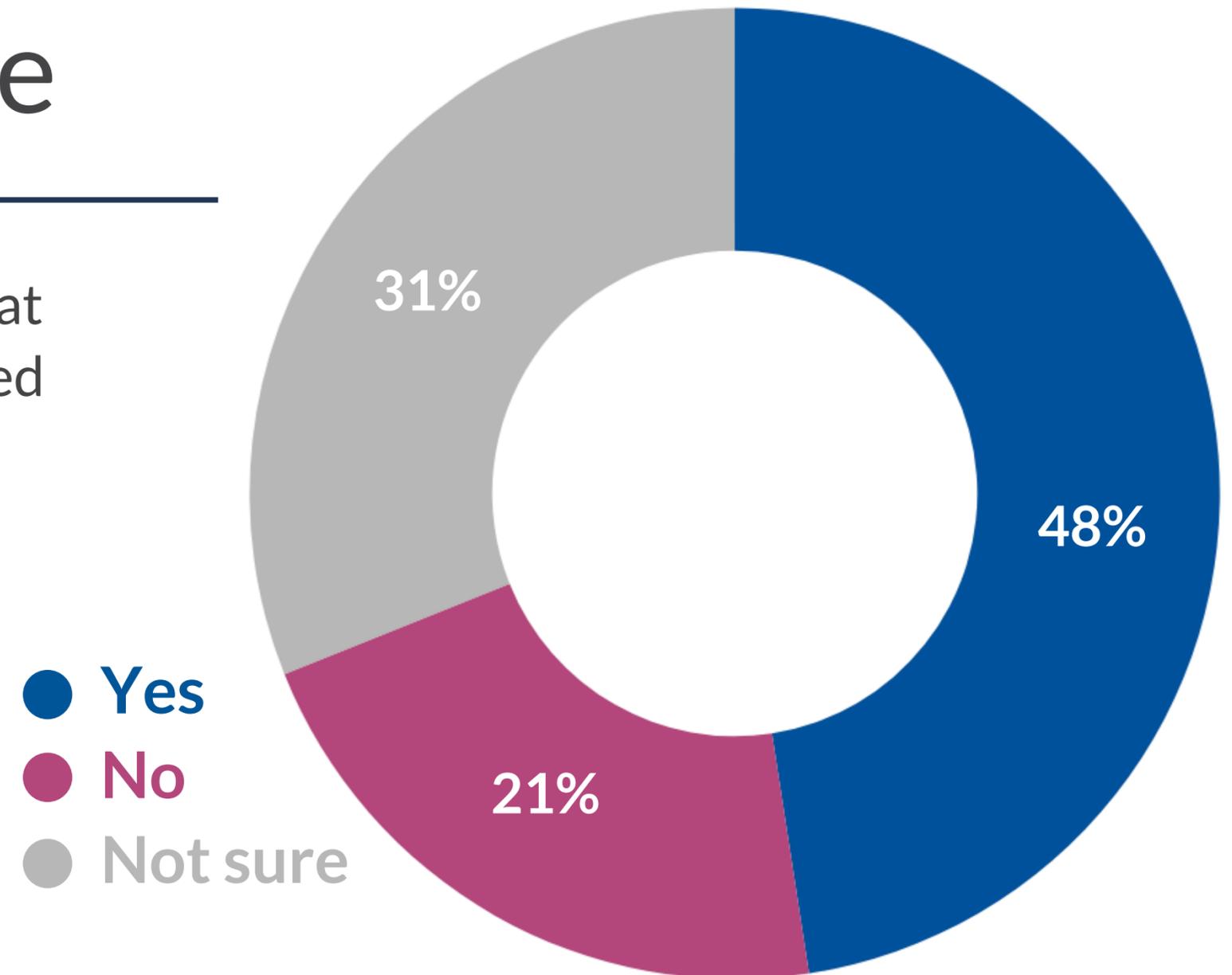
- Yes
- No
- Not sure



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Only Half Of Americans Are Aware Medical Or Health Research Is Conducted in Every State

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



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Only a Quarter of Americans Can Name a Living Scientist

Can you name a living scientist?

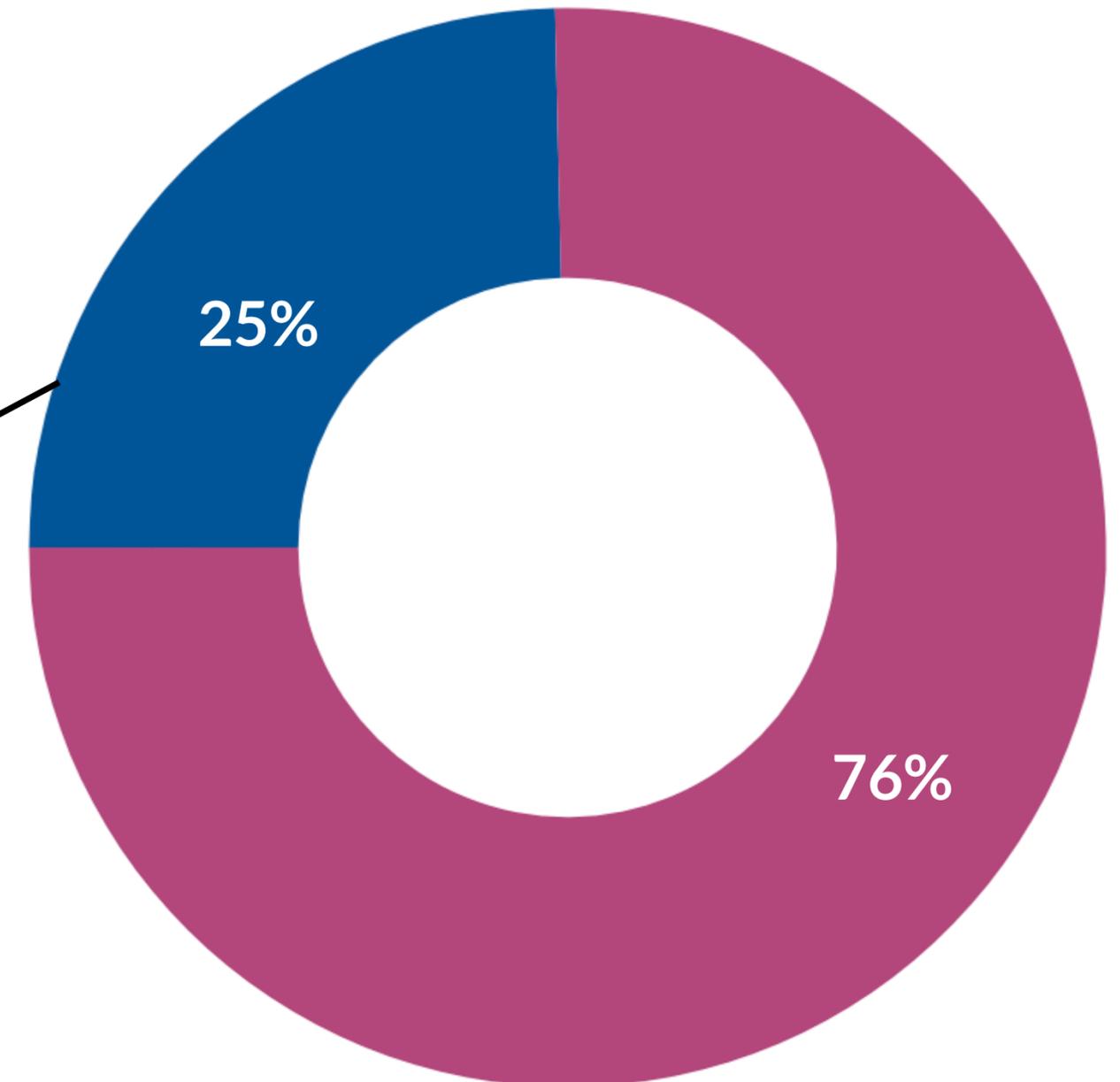
- **Yes (specify)**
- **No/Not sure**

▼ “Yes” decreased 8 pts (was 33% in 2025).

▲ Neil deGrasse Tyson up 13 pts (was 11% in 2025).

Neil deGrasse Tyson	24%
Anthony Fauci	13%
Bill Nye	11%
Jennifer Doudna	6%
Jane Goodall*	3%
Stephen Hawking*	2%
Brian Cox	2%
Timothy Berners-Lee	2%
Elon Musk	2%
Roger Penrose	2%
Other	33%

*deceased



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Americans Are Split on the Benefits and Risks of Artificial Intelligence

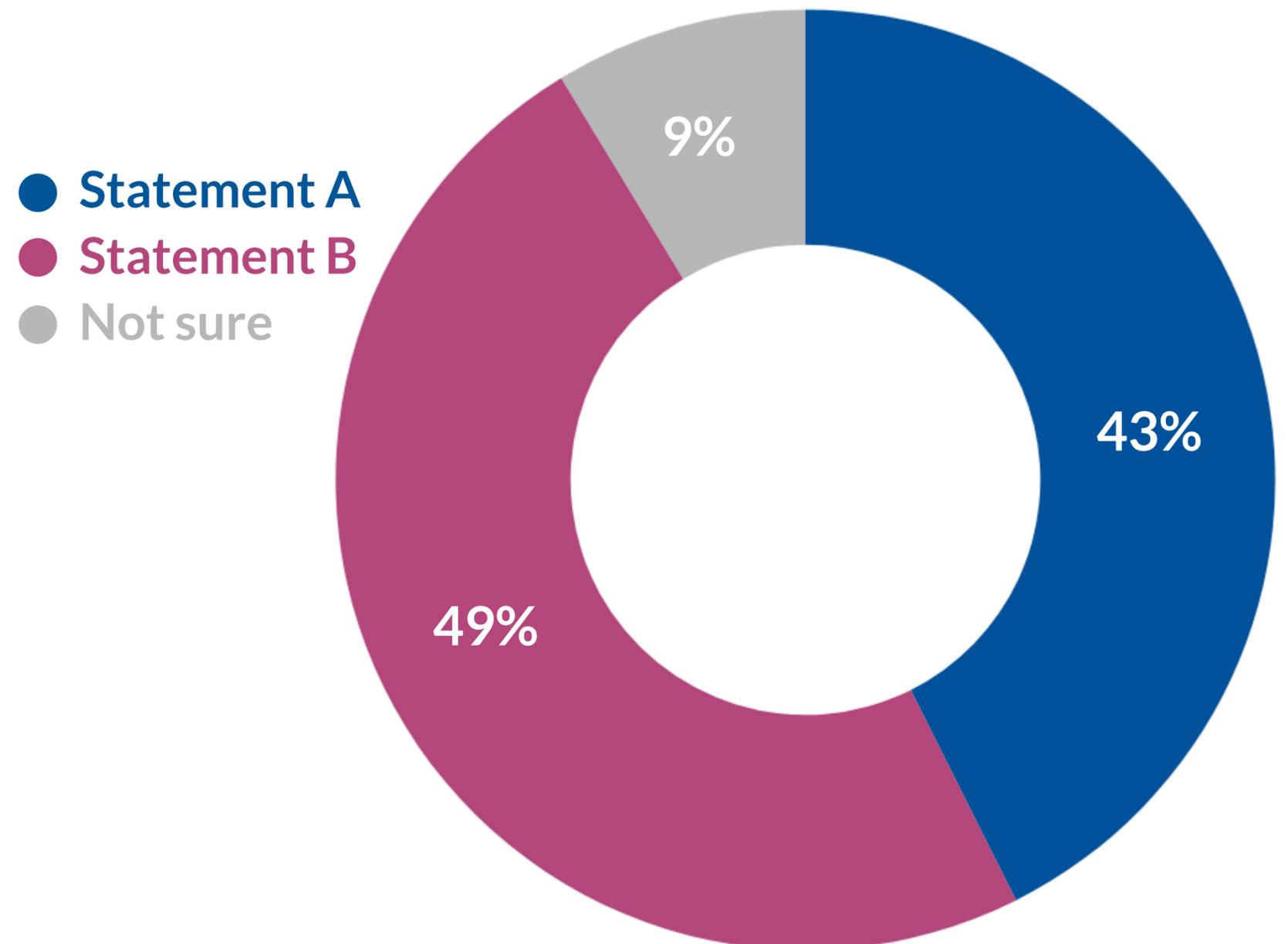
Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your view.

Statement A: Artificial intelligence has tremendous potential to bring about advancements that will improve my life.

Statement B: Artificial intelligence presents significant risks to my quality of life, through potential job loss, loss of privacy, or abuse of data.

18-24 60% chose “AI presents significant risks...”

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.



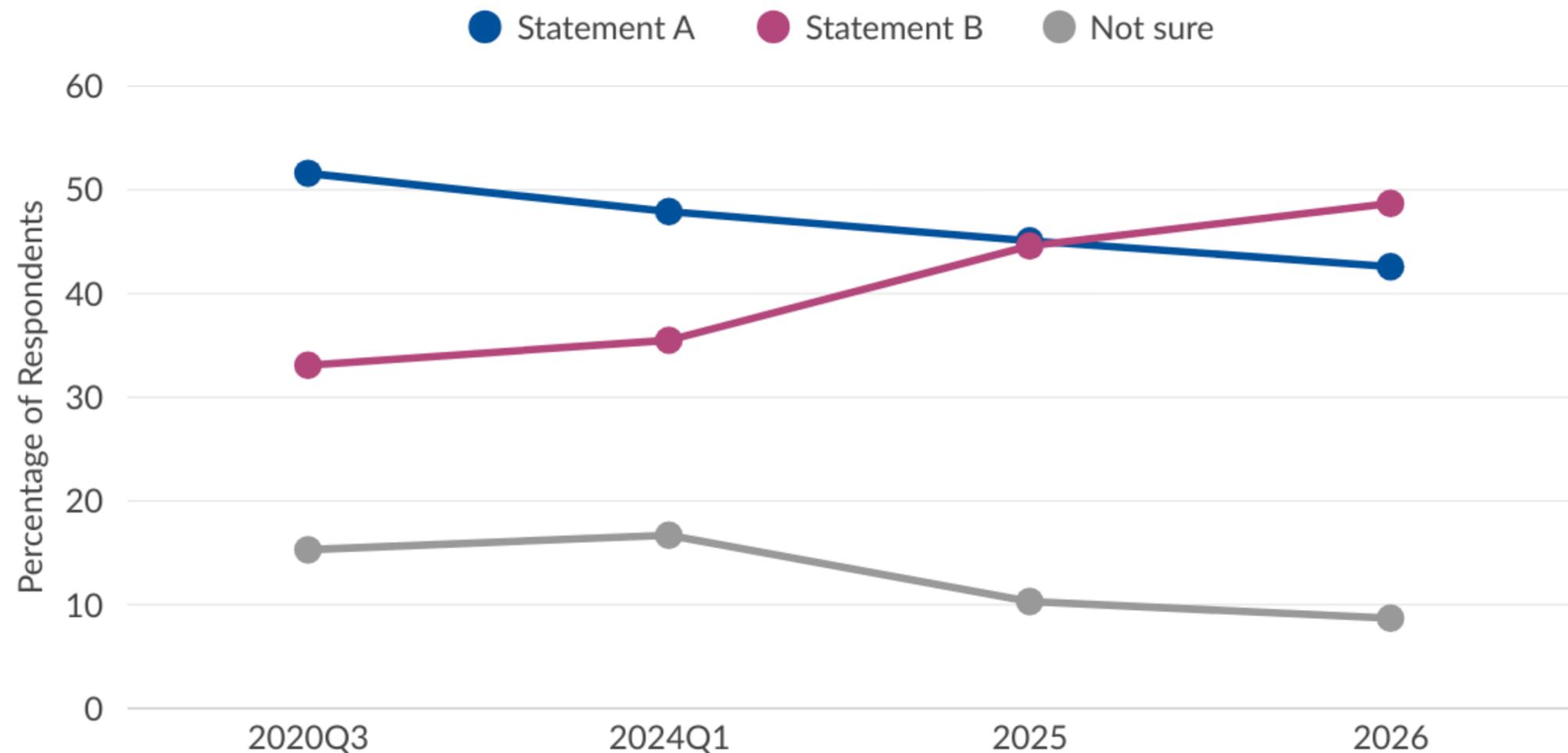
As Americans Learn More, They Are Growing More Concerned About The Risks Of Artificial Intelligence



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

Statement A: Artificial intelligence has tremendous potential to bring about advancements that will improve my life.

Statement B: Artificial intelligence presents significant risks to my quality of life, through potential job loss, loss of privacy, or abuse of data.

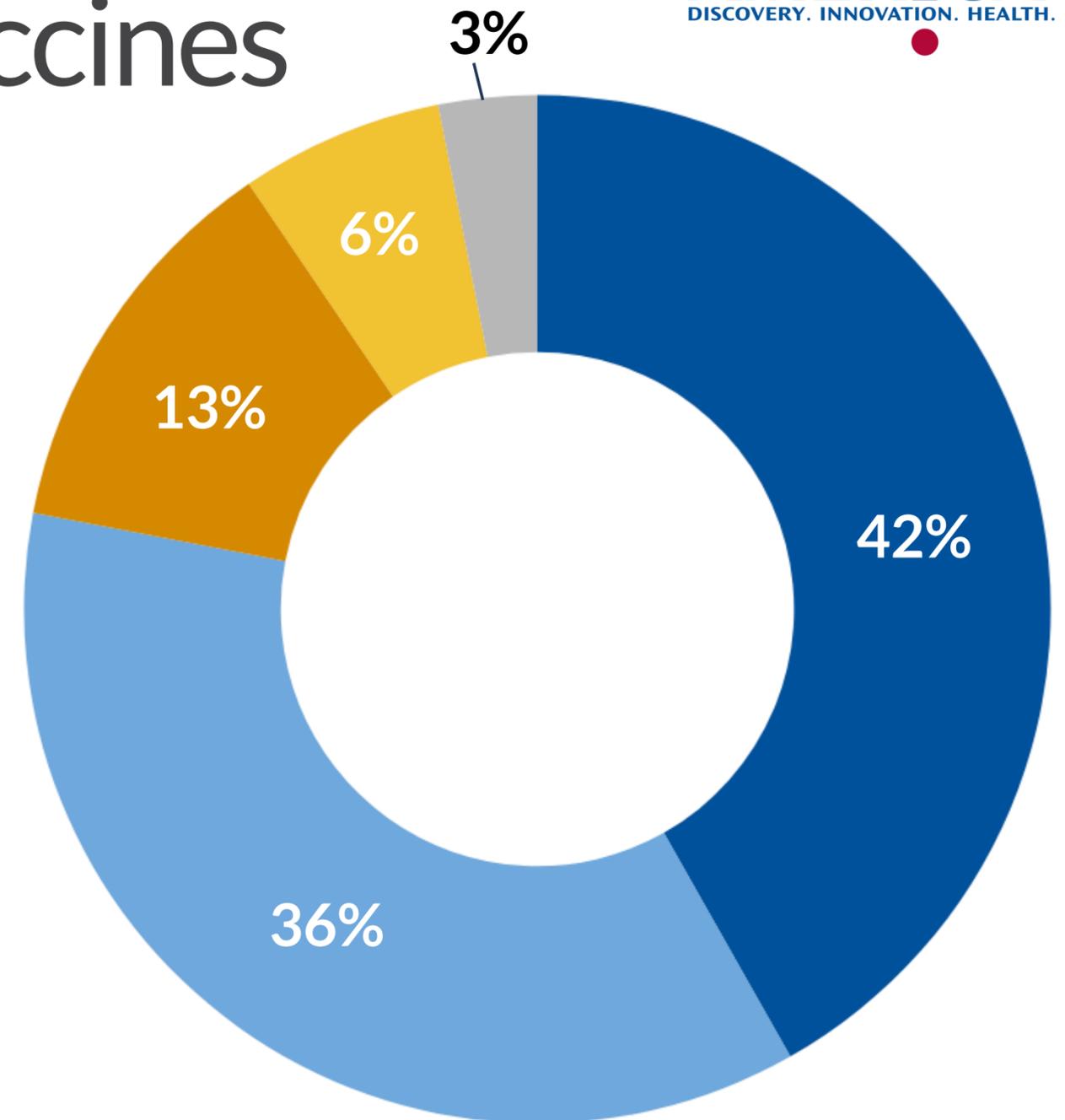


Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Nearly 8 in 10 Americans are Confident in the Safety of Vaccines Used Today

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

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



▲ “Very” or “somewhat” confident up 4 pts from January 2025 (was 74%).

🐘 91% say “very” or “somewhat confident”

🇺🇸 75% say “very” or “somewhat confident”

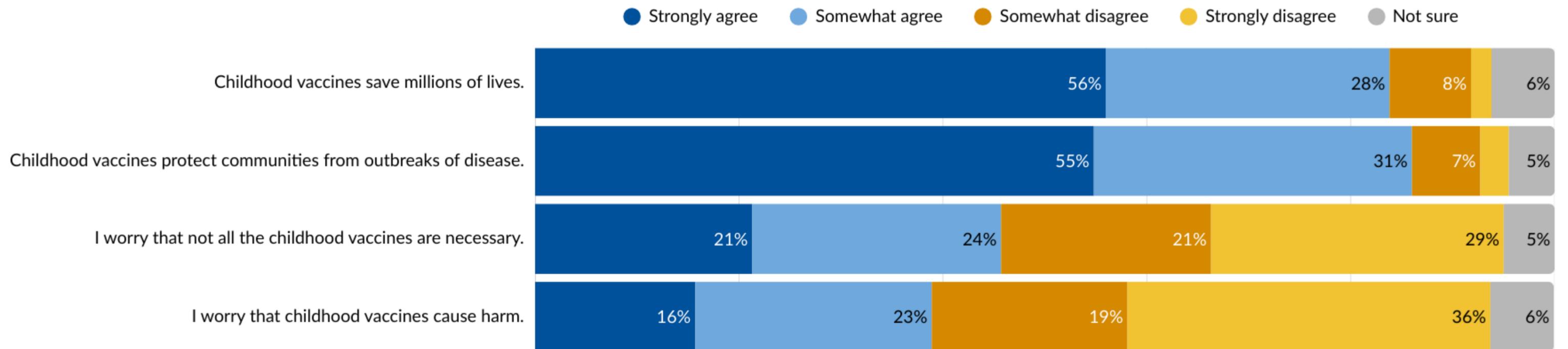
🇮 65% say “very” or “somewhat confident”

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

Most Americans Agree Childhood Vaccines Save Lives and Prevent Outbreaks



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



Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2026.

See More in Our Online Database

2026 JANUARY NATIONAL SURVEY

RELEASED: 02/10/2026

[VIEW SURVEY PRESENTATION >](#)

QUESTIONS	ALSO APPEARS IN
In your opinion, which of the following are the most serious issues facing this country? (Choose top three)	2024Q1, 2024, 2023, 2022
Should scientists consider it part of their job to inform the public about their research and its impact on society?	2025, 2024Q1, 2023, 2022
In general, do you believe investments in science and technology are creating employment opportunities for you or people you know?	2024Q1, 2022
How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society?	2025, 2024Q1, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020Q3
Can you name a living scientist?	2025, 2024Q1, 2023, 2022VA, 2022, 2021, 2020Q3, 2018, 2017, 2016

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