



Science Policy and Advocacy:

Utilizing Public Opinion Survey Data

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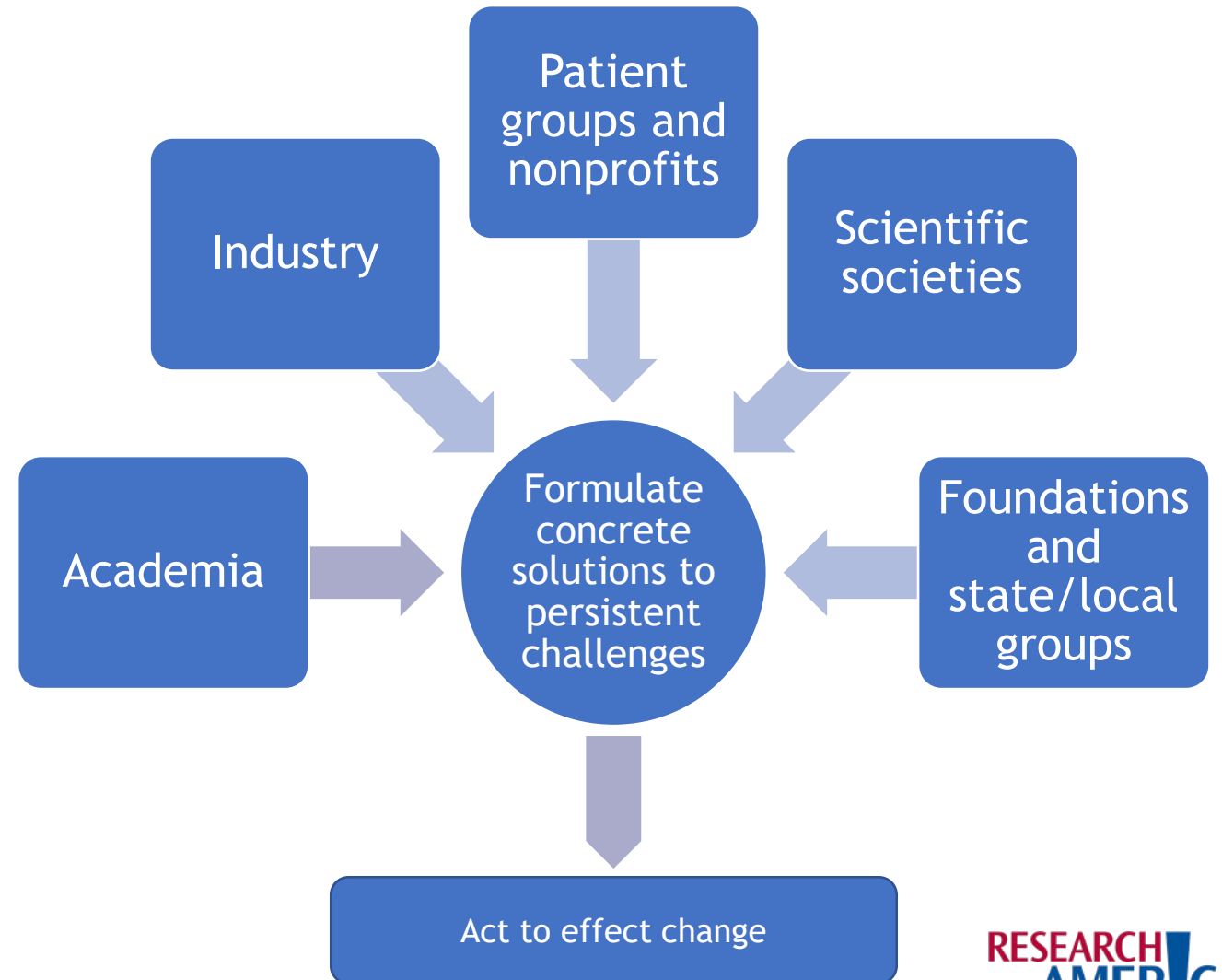
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Research!America's Mission

*The Research!America alliance
advocates for science, discovery,
and innovation to achieve better
health for all.*

Research!America's Mission

We bring stakeholders together in our work to heighten the priority of research and to help assure scientific progress and the health and vitality of the scientific enterprise.



Research!America's Strategies for Success

Keep a finger on
public pulse via
public opinion
surveys

Develop timely policy
and advocacy
resources

Continuously
cultivate new
advocates and
congressional
champions

Execute
grassroots/grasstops
advocacy campaigns

Monitor and share
federal developments

Convene cross-sector
discussions to inform
research-relevant
policy issues

Providing support for
public engagement of
early career
scientists

Work with the broad
science community
to assure all boats
will rise

Research!America Surveys

- Commissioning public opinion surveys on research issues for 31 years:
 - National Surveys
 - State-Based Surveys
 - Issue-Specific Surveys
- Online surveys are conducted online with a sample size of 1000-2000 adults and sampling error of +/-3.1% to +/-2.1%. The data are weighted in two stages to ensure accurate representation of the U.S. adult population.
- For many surveys, we oversample minority populations.



“...public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.”

- *President Abraham Lincoln*

Surveys as a Communication Tool

1. **Surveys tell where the public is, not what is right.** They can point to areas where leadership is needed.
2. **Surveys are a snapshot in time.** They tell us where the public is at a given point in time and are fluid. They can be influenced by events and what leaders say or do.
3. **Technical issues in surveys matter.**
4. **Limitations exist to surveys on complex topics and issues.**
5. **Dissemination is key.** It is important to share the data you find with the public and employ it in your advocacy and policy discussion.

Translating the Data

The screenshot displays an Excel spreadsheet with a survey question: "1. In your opinion, which of the following are the most serious issues facing this country? (Choose top three)". The data is organized into columns for each issue, with sub-columns for counts and percentages. The issues listed include COVID-19, Economic downturn caused by the loss of jobs, Inflation, Labor laws, Climate change, Crime, Immigration, Education, Healthcare, Terrorism, and Trade. The spreadsheet shows data for multiple groups, with the first group's data visible in the main view.

Issue	Count	%
COVID-19	204	35.4
Economic downturn caused by the loss of jobs	82	8.0
Inflation	969	49.7
Labor laws	522	22.4
Climate change	281	11.7
Crime	332	13.7
Immigration	144	5.4
Education	101	4.0
Healthcare	144	5.4
Terrorism	101	4.0
Trade	33	1.3

High 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.

15. 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.

	Total		White		Hispanic		Race African		Asian		Other	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Strongly agree	416	41.6	262	41.3	81	47.5	47	39.4	19	31.7	16	38.2
Somewhat agree	408	40.8	248	40.4	64	37.9	60	42.0	27	45.5	17	42.6
Somewhat disagree	73	7.3	45	7.5	15	8.6	7	6.1	3	4.8	3	6.8
Strongly disagree	23	2.3	15	2.4	3	1.9	1	0.5	4	7.2	1	2.4
Not sure	84	8.4	51	8.4	7	4.1	14	12.0	7	10.9	5	12.4
Total	1,002	100.0	610	100.0	170	100.0	120	100.0	60	100.0	40	100.0

	Total		Large city (greater than 500,000 residents)		Medium city (100,000-500,000 residents)		Small city (less than 100,000 residents)		Suburbs		Rural area		Married	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Strongly agree	416	41.6	99	43.8	47	38.8	52	42.8	90	38.3	60	32.2	211	42.6
Somewhat agree	408	40.8	114	31.4	38	30.8	47	38.8	94	39.6	39	20.2	208	42.0
Somewhat disagree	73	7.3	15	5.2	9	5.3	6	5.1	21	10.4	19	10.1	27	5.4
Strongly disagree	23	2.3	8	2.9	7	4.6	7	6.0	3	1.2	5	2.6	13	2.5
Not sure	84	8.4	70	19.8	15	11.6	9	7.4	24	10.2	17	8.7	31	6.1
Total	1,002	100.0	226	100.0	158	100.0	122	100.0	235	100.0	165	100.0	467	100.0



High bipartisan support for basic research

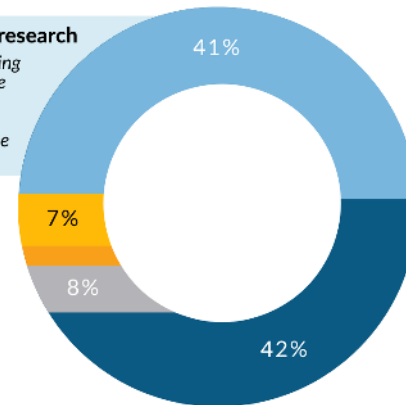
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

92%
DEMOCRATS
 Say "Strongly or somewhat agree"

78%
REPUBLICANS
 Say "Strongly or somewhat agree"

76%
INDEPENDENTS
 Say "Strongly or somewhat agree"

- STRONGLY AGREE
- SOMEWHAT AGREE
- SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- STRONGLY DISAGREE
- NOT SURE



Tailoring Your Data

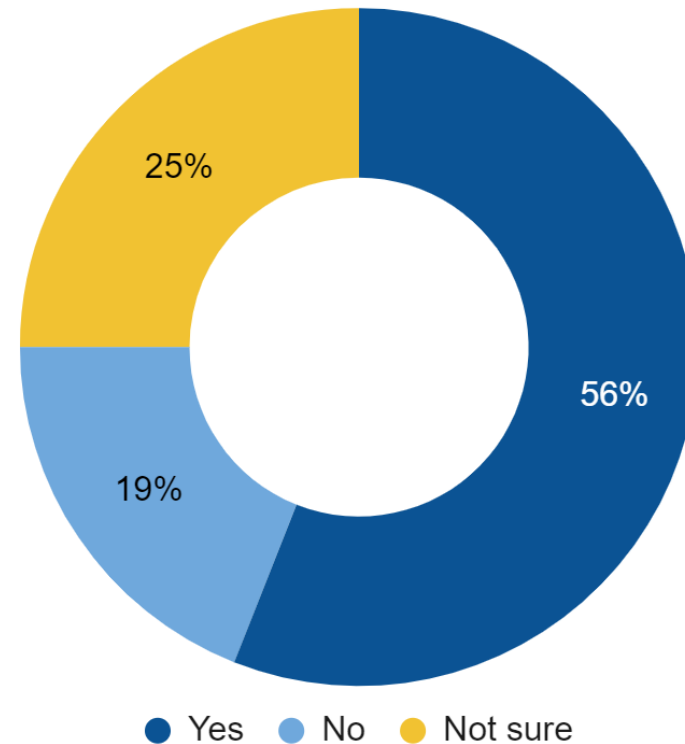


Policymakers

- Provide context for policymakers and staff
 - Utilizing public opinion data can be an effective tool in convincing legislators that it is in their best interest to align their decision-making with public interest.
- Reveal how constituents feel about timely issues and policies.

Half say investments in research are creating jobs for them or people they know

In general, do you believe investments in research and development are creating employment opportunities for you or people you know?



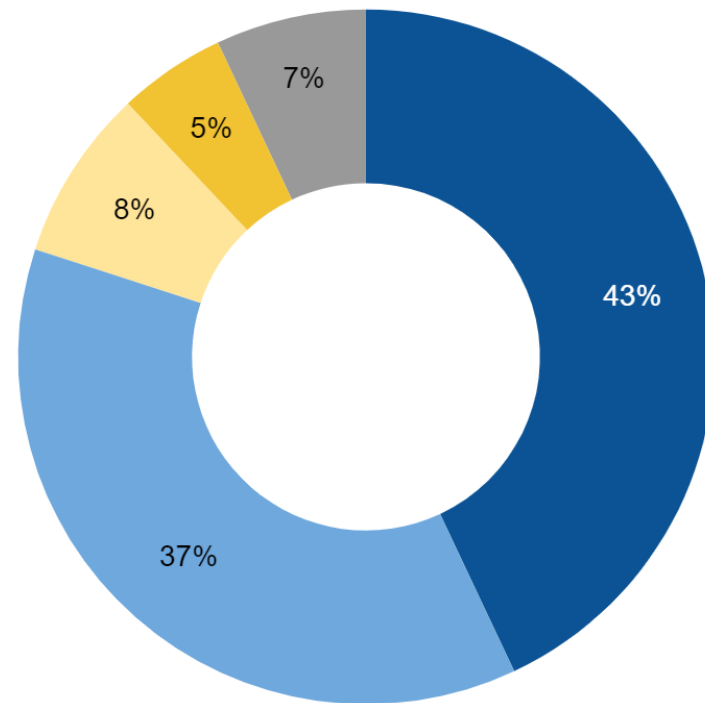
 69%
Say "Yes"

 47%
Say "Yes"

 48%
Say "Yes"

8 in 10 favor increased federal spending on vaccine research

Do you favor or oppose increased federal spending on research to improve and find new vaccines?



● Strongly favor ● Somewhat favor ● Somewhat oppose
● Strongly oppose ● Don't know



90%

Say "Strongly or somewhat favor"



75%

Say "Strongly or somewhat favor"



77%

Say "Strongly or somewhat favor"

Tailoring Your Data

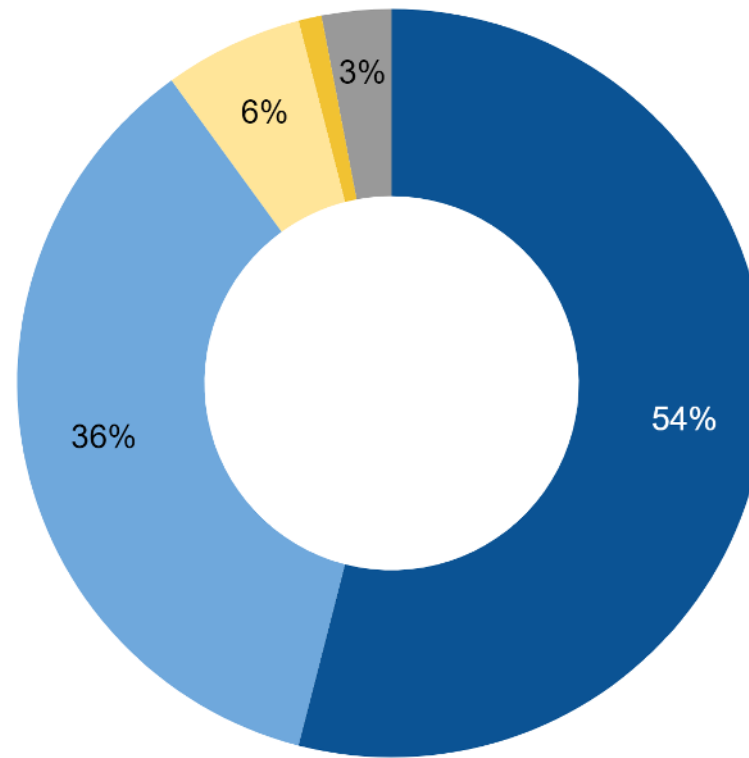


Scientists

- Reveal public support for scientists to engaged in communicating their research and its impact.
- Encourage scientists and researchers to share their research with the public and with policymakers.
- Scientists can play an active role in ensuring evidence-based policymaking.

90% say it's important that scientists inform elected officials about their research

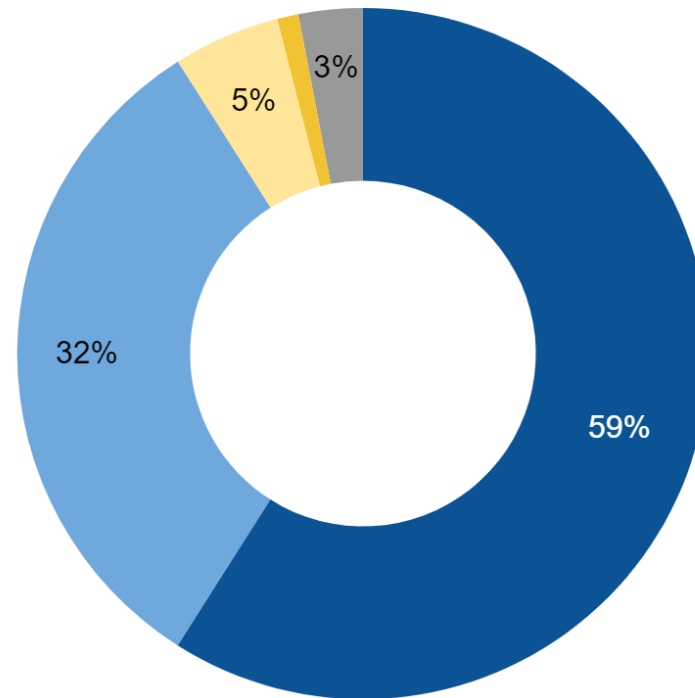
How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society?



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

9 in 10 say it's important for scientists to share their research with the public

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



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

Tailoring Your Data

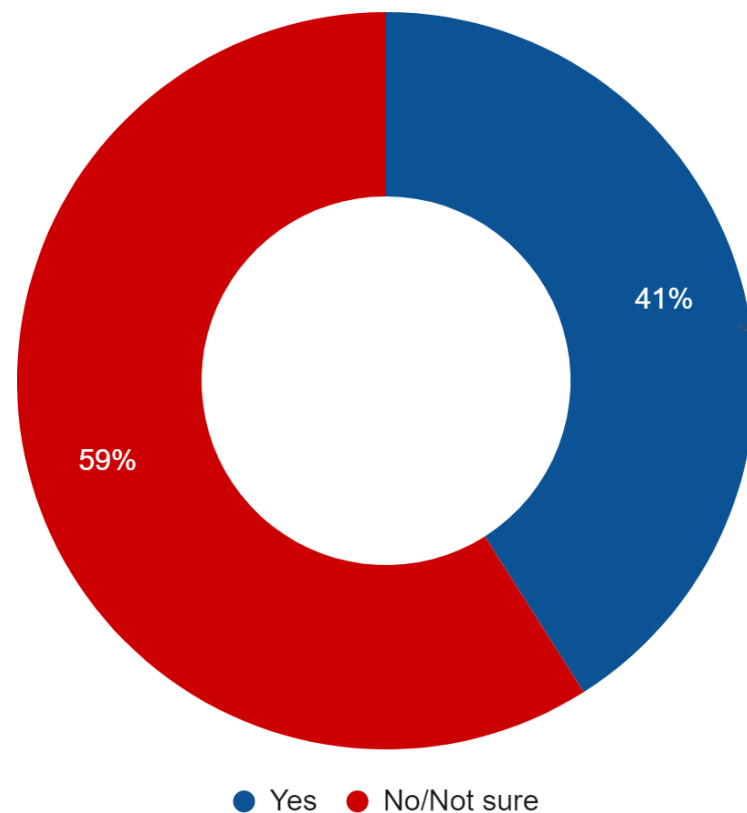


Public

- Provide a snapshot of top-of-mind issues for the public.
- Allow public to see where their beliefs and perceptions might align or misalign with the public.
- Reflect public opinion rather than headlines.

2 in 3 cannot name a medical or health research institution

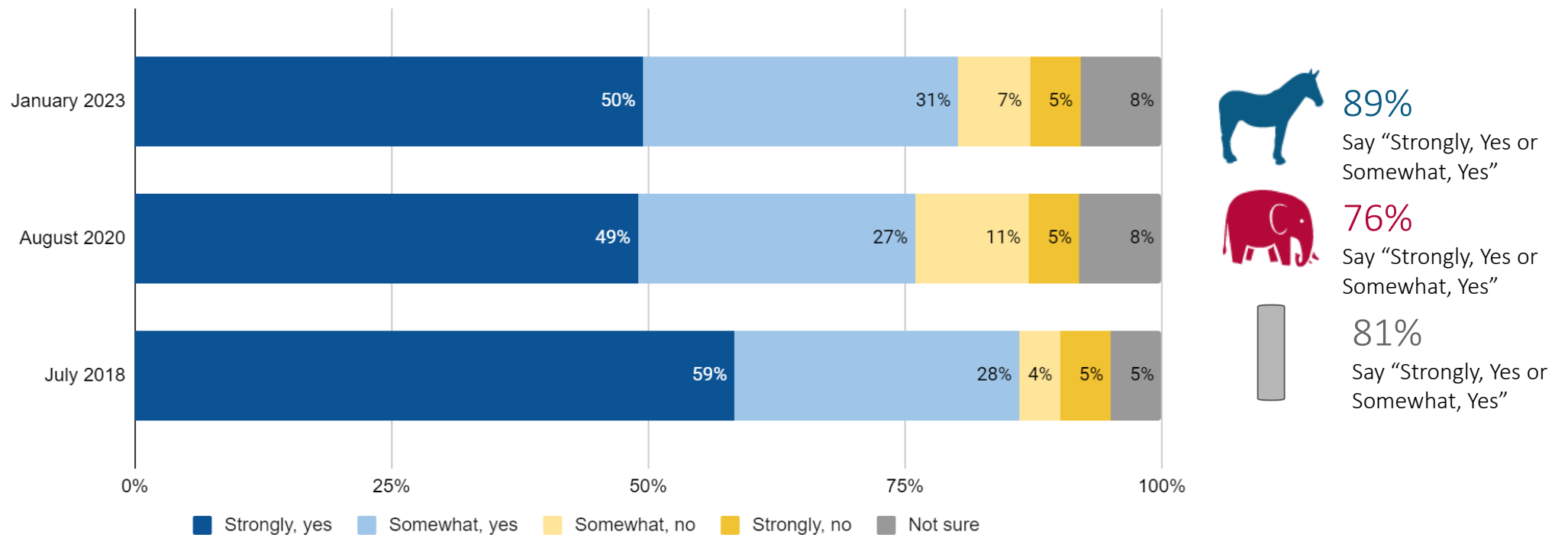
Can you name any institution, company, or organization where medical or health research is conducted?



Mayo Clinic	18%
Johns Hopkins	18%
Pfizer	8%
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	8%
St Jude	8%
World Health Organization	3%
MD Anderson	2%
UCLA	2%
Yale University	2%
Stanford University	2%
Other	30%

8 in 10 believe they have benefited from vaccines over the last 50 years

Do you believe that you have personally benefited from the development of vaccines over the last 50 years?



How We Use This Data

1. Social Media
2. Publications
3. Blogs, op-eds, and opinion pieces
4. Newsletters
5. Direct outreach to policymakers

How We Use the Data

Social Media

ResearchAmerica
@ResearchAmerica

A recently-commissioned survey by Research!America found that a strong majority (71%) of Americans believe that major changes are needed in our public health systems, including more funding. Use #PHTYD as an opportunity to advocate for #PublicHealth preparedness.

Public Health Thank You Day

71% of Americans believe that major changes are needed in our public health systems, including more funding.

researchamerica.org/phtyd
#PHTYD

PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY

ResearchAmerica @ResearchAmerica · Feb 18

Recent @pewresearch data indicates that confidence in institutions has declined compared w/ 2021. Our recently released January survey corroborates this. There's been a 15 point decrease in confidence in scientists acting in the public's best interest. bit.ly/JanSurvey22 ✓

Confidence in scientists and public health officials high, but losing ground
How much confidence do you have in each of the following to act in your best interest:

Profession	A GREAT DEAL + SOME	NOT MUCH + NONE AT ALL	NOT SURE	Change from 2021
Nurses	81%	17%	2%	
Doctors	78%	19%	3%	
Scientists	68%	29%	3%	↓ 12% (80% in 2021)
K-12 teachers	67%	28%	5%	
Police officers	65%	29%	6%	
Public health officials	62%	33%	5%	↓ 16% (78% in 2021)
Military leaders	62%	32%	6%	
Religious leaders	54%	38%	8%	
College and university professors	55%	35%	10%	
Business leaders	41%	48%	11%	
Elected officials	33%	58%	9%	↓ 17% (50% in 2021)

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2022.

RESEARCH AMERICA
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.

How We Use the Data

Fact Sheets and Infographics



If you think research is expensive, try disease.

INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH SAVES LIVES AND MONEY

Health Disparities

Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities and access to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.¹ These differences can include how people get certain diseases, how severe the diseases are, how many are affected by the disease, how many die prematurely, and more. Health disparities can affect groups of people based on multiple factors, including race/ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, socioeconomic status and years of formal education, geographical residence, and many other social determinants.² Health disparities are directly related to both the historical and ongoing unequal distribution of social, political, economic, educational, and environmental resources and opportunities.¹

TODAY

Black Americans are 77% more likely to develop diabetes compared to white Americans.³

40% of transgender adults reported having made a suicide attempt—nearly nine times the attempted suicide rate in the total U.S. population. 92% of these individuals reported having attempted suicide before the age of 25.⁴

Around 42.4 million women in the U.S. experience intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point in their lifetime.⁵

The Latino population is three times less likely to have health care coverage compared to the majority of the U.S. population.⁶

COST

\$1.24 trillion:⁷
Combined direct and indirect cost of racial health disparities to the U.S. between 2003 and 2006.⁷

\$230 billion:⁸
Estimated direct cost saved in medical care spending if health disparities were eliminated.⁸

\$39.8 billion:
Estimated direct and indirect costs stemming from indigenous health disparities.⁹

⁷Does not include indigenous health care disparity cost estimates.

Research Delivers Solutions

One study analyzed health disparities within the state of California. While their findings may not be generalizable to the whole country, the researchers found significant data on health disparities between **LGBTQ individuals** and **heterosexual individuals**. Some of those results include: LGBTQ adults are 11% more likely than heterosexual adults to experience psychological distress; transgender adults are 48% more likely to have suicidal ideation compared to heterosexual adults; and LGBTQ youth are 25% more likely to attempt suicide compared to heterosexual youth. This study outlined the mental health disparities that LGBTQ populations face, as well as the need for better population data.¹⁰

Researchers in a different study analyzed the relationship between **education and health**, where more schooling is linked with better health and longer life. They found that nearly all health outcomes in the U.S. were strongly patterned by education—less educated adults reported worse general health, more chronic conditions, and more functional limitations and disability. Findings among racial and ethnic groups also differed, highlighting systemic social differences and the need for more data and research to inform policies.¹¹

To address barriers to healthcare access, the federal **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** and state optional **Medicaid** expansion aimed to increase insurance coverage. Researchers examined percentages of nonelderly adults who were uninsured, covered by Medicaid, or covered by private health insurance between 2008 and 2014. Their results indicate that the ACA decreased racial disparities in health care coverage. Coverage gains were greater in states that expanded Medicaid programs. This study shows that the need for continued evaluation of health care reform efficacy remains crucial.¹²

Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV) was introduced in the U.S. and by 2008, rates of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) caused by resistant pneumococci had decreased by over 57%.¹³

Research has shown that interventions before treatment are also key to tackling AMR. **Rapid diagnostic tests**, which can quickly identify the exact nature of a patient's infection (e.g., what bacteria are present, and whether a bacterium is resistant to certain drugs) can be very beneficial in improving patient outcomes and decreasing the unnecessary use of antibiotics. For example, a 2014 study examining patients with a specific form of drug-resistant infection found that utilizing rapid diagnostics and responsible drug-prescription practices decreased hospital length of stay, costs, and mortality.¹⁰

If you think research is expensive, try disease.

Antibiotic Resistance (AMR)

when microbes (germs such as bacteria, to grow. Many types of antimicrobials exist. A source of the resistance cases we see is being overprescribed and used incorrectly

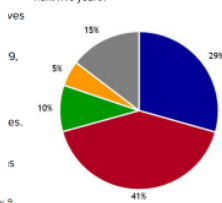
COST

\$1,383:
The amount antibiotic resistance adds to the cost of treating a bacterial infection.⁴

\$2.2 billion:
Annual direct health care costs associated with antibiotic resistance in the U.S.

\$100 trillion:
Estimated global cost of AMR between now and 2050.⁵

Do you favor or oppose doubling federal spending on medical research over the next five years?

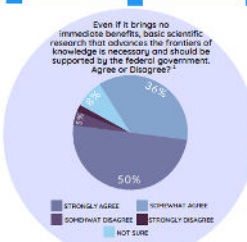


Source: A ResearchAmerica poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2019

THE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

WHAT ARE THE BASIC PHASES OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) PIPELINE?

There are five main phases in research and development (R&D): basic research, applied research, clinical trials, regulatory review, and production & distribution. Academic and independent research institutions, private companies, and the federal government play unique and complementary roles in the R&D ecosystem.

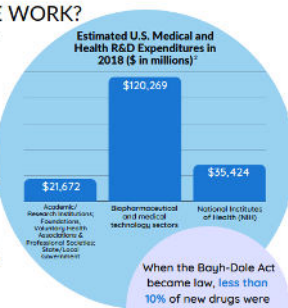


- Basic Research** explores living systems, seeking to understand how they are structured and work, the function or functions they carry out, and other defining information about these systems. Key findings are referred to as targets, because targeting and researching these findings further may yield critical medical advances.
- Applied Research** investigates the targets basic research reveals, conducting further studies and developing promising medical advances into interventions that are screened for potential to be tested for safety and effectiveness.
- Clinical Trials** test the safety and effectiveness of potential medical interventions identified via applied research in broader, more diverse samples of the population.
- Regulatory Review and Scale-Up** If regulatory review determines that an intervention is safe and effective, manufacturing and distribution is initiated at scale.

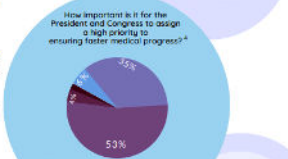
HOW DOES THE R&D PIPELINE WORK?

Health-focused R&D is not the responsibility of one sector—it is more like a relay race that plays to strengths of the public sector, academic and independent research institutions, and the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries.

- Grant Funding** The federal government is the largest U.S. funder of basic research. Intramural research conducted at federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health and at federal laboratories across the country contributes significantly to medical and scientific progress, but most federally-funded research is not conducted "in-house." Instead, federal agencies make use of a competitive "peer review" process to provide grant funding to universities, independent research institutes, academic health centers and small businesses across the country to conduct this research.



When the Bayh-Dole Act became law, less than 10% of new drugs were first introduced in the U.S. By the 2010s, over 60% were.³



- Bayh-Dole Pathway** Similarly, while federally-funded basic research is the "first leg" of the relay race, the federal government does not conduct or finance the bulk of R&D that leads to new medical advances. In fact, the private sector finances nearly 70% of U.S. biomedical R&D. Originally, the lack of a mechanism for incentivizing the entire discovery, development, delivery pipeline created a serious bottle neck, but the landmark 1980 Bayh-Dole Act addressed this chokepoint by ensuring that intellectual property rights can be transferred from the federal government to the institutions and businesses executing each phase of the R&D pipeline.

- Patient Contribution** Patients and non-patient clinical trial volunteers play a critical and growing role in the research pipeline. Not only do they enable clinical research, but they inform every step of the research process to ensure progress reflects true patient need.
- Regulatory Review** The Federal Food and Drug Administration assesses clinical trial results and other evidence to verify product safety and effectiveness before large-scale manufacturing and distribution occurs.

FDA regulates approximately 28,500 prescription drugs, medical devices and biologics.⁵

How We Use the Data

Publications

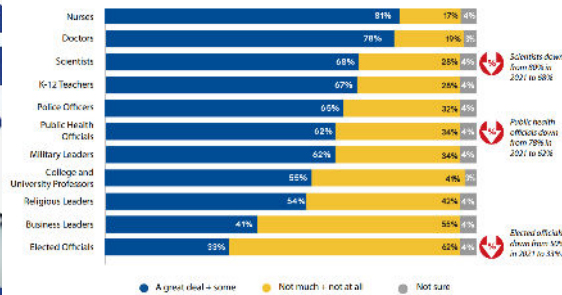
The Research!America Microgrant Program: Exploring its Impact on Early Career Scientists

Key Learning: Connecting With the Community

Instilling in early career researchers the importance of building connections and engaging in their local communities is one of the top priorities of the Microgrant program. There are several reasons why. Community members are taxpayers and since much of academic research is funded by taxpayer dollars, there needs to be a sense of accountability to the public. With communications training, scientists can humanize complex ideas, give personal answers to questions, and can be one of the strongest bulwarks we have to limit – and correct – the spread of misinformation.

There is no substitute for personal connections to build trust. As we have found in our survey work, scientists have one of the most trusted professions in society although that trust has shown troubling signs of erosion during the COVID-19 pandemic. A survey we commissioned earlier this year found 8 in 10 Americans consider scientists trustworthy spokespersons for medical and health research.

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



The above information is based on a survey conducted by Research!America in 2021.

Executive January 2022

Survey a top priority

Brain function healthy or we growing. In fa health: health several years, psychiatric di health as well

In line with ou the Dana Fou views on brai research. Our ensurin brai have outlined

Key finding

1. More th America
2. Overall,
3. America
4. America
5. America
6. Most An patient t



6. Most Americans support increased investment in brain health research, with greater patient engagement

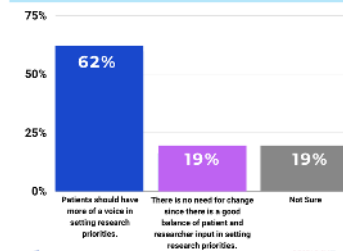
The majority of Americans believe brain health research will have an overall benefit to society (68%) and that it is important to improving family health (80%).

Most people somewhat or strongly agree that people like them benefit from brain health research (67%) and that treatments can typically be accessed by everyone (57%). However, 62% of respondents believe patients should have more of a voice in setting research priorities.

Despite optimism around the benefits, only 33% of respondents believe we are making enough progress in brain health research. Americans are strongly in favor of increased federal funding for brain health research (78%) and incentivizing private sector investment to find treatments and cures for diseases (80%).

6 in 10 Say Patients Should Have a Voice in Determining Research Priorities

Some people say that patients should have more of a voice in determining brain health research priorities. In general, which statement most closely matches your view?



Dana Foundation RESEARCH AMERICA

Executive Overview on Brain Health

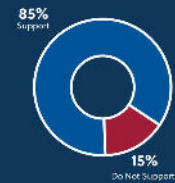
U.S. Investments in Medical and Health Research and Development (2016-2020)

“The value of biomedical research has never been more self-evident. Indeed the hope for our entire world is dependent upon it.”

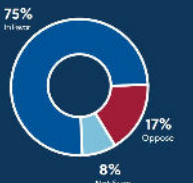
Roy A. Jensen, MD
Director, The University of Kansas Cancer Center

U.S. in M Res Dev 201

85% of U.S. adults support the federal government investing in basic research



75% of Americans favor doubling federal government spending on medical research



Source: A SurveyAmerica survey of U.S. adults conducted between 1/15/21 and 1/21/21.

JANUARY 2022



How We Use the Data

Blogs, Op-eds, and Opinion Pieces

THE IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH DURING A PANDEMIC

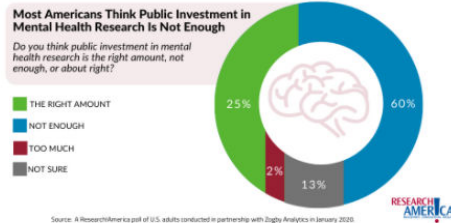
By Erin Brown, MPP on May 15, 2020

Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. Every May, National Mental Health Awareness month raises awareness about mental illness and educates the public about mental health. The goal is to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, encourage research, and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families. While one in five people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime, everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health. As we observe Mental Health Month this year, we do so during an unprecedented and stressful time. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have affected many people's mental health and created new barriers for people already suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders.

A public opinion survey conducted March 25-30, 2020, by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 47% of those sheltering in place reported negative mental health effects related to coronavirus. Furthermore, the survey and corresponding report also indicated that mental illness and substance use among adolescents may be exacerbated by the pandemic with many unable to access key mental health services through their schools. The survey also suggests mental health impacts including increased depression, anxiety, distress, loneliness, and low self-esteem for those experiencing job loss or income insecurity and frontline healthcare workers among other groups.

ResearchAmerica has commissioned numerous survey questions over the years to determine how Americans feel about the state of mental health in the United States as well as their support for investment in mental health research. The findings reveal that mental health is of increasing concern to Americans and a majority supports additional federally-funded research in this area. While this public opinion research predates the novel coronavirus pandemic, it suggests potential public support for further research and public health strategies dedicated to mitigating the mental health impact of COVID-19.

In our 2020 commissioned survey, 60% of respondents said that current public investment in mental health research is not enough. This is a 9% increase, up from 51% in 2018.



In addition, trend data dating back to 2012, the first time mental time was listed as a response option, show that, generally, public concern about mental health has increased in recent years, with 13% of respondents in 2020 saying it is the single most

Blog on Mental Health

U.S. must maintain global leadership in science, technology, and medicine

OP-ED: INCREASED NIH INVESTMENT PROVIDES RETURNS FOR EVERY AMERICAN

June 12, 2023



U.S. must maintain global leadership in science, technology, and medicine

Discovery and innovation are sewn into our nation's fabric. Many of humanity's greatest accomplishments of the past century were conceived by Americans and supported by government and private-sector investment in the United States.

In the realm of health and well-being, our most prolific federal accelerator of lifesaving discovery has been the National Institutes of Health. For more than 130 years, it has been America's most vital government-funded research treasure. From fighting cancer to understanding Alzheimer's to treating children with rare diseases, NIH has helped save countless lives in the United States and around the world. Its reach and research have eliminated untold human suffering.

NIH, which funds research in every state across our nation, is an emblem of American leadership, a testament to the power of priorities that endure regardless of which political party holds power, and an icon of innovation and excellence in the world of medicine. Investing robustly in NIH will ensure that this work continues unabated. Building on NIH's legacy rather than eroding its funding capacity will enable America to continue to lead life-saving medical exploration and illuminate new pathways of discovery.

With Washington's latest budget battle behind us, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that consistent and robust growth of NIH funding provides the path to a healthier and more prosperous American future. NIH produces an astounding return on investment to the American taxpayer. In Fiscal Year 2022, [NIH research funding](#) supported 568,585 jobs and generated \$96.84 billion in economic activity – that's **\$2.64 of economic activity for every \$1 of research funding**.

In 2022, more than 84% of the [agency's budget](#) was directed to researchers outside the federal government. NIH awarded nearly 50,000 grants to 300,000 scientists at 2,500 institutions, including awards in every state and nearly every congressional district. From testing new cancer therapies in Alabama to studying treatments for childhood asthma in rural Iowa to funding small business innovators looking at ways to prevent Alzheimer's disease, NIH research touches every corner of our nation.

With many grants led by [early-career scientists](#), this funding is also a critical tool for training the next generation of researchers. NIH is teaching the scientists who will make tomorrow's exciting breakthroughs and keep America on track to compete globally. Investing in NIH is a genuine investment in our workforce and our future.

NIH's track record is also impressive. Past NIH grantees have made significant progress in combatting diseases ranging from arthritis and cancer to heart disease and depression. Support from NIH helped to create a precision cancer treatment for patients with [chronic myelogenous leukemia](#). NIH also played a significant role in developing [deep brain stimulation](#), a life-changing therapy for people with Parkinson's disease. NIH supported [research on substance use](#) led to the development of buprenorphine, a treatment for opioid addiction, and naloxone nasal spray, which can reverse overdoses. The work of NIH-funded research is saving lives in real time.

Sustained NIH investments are necessary to keep the U.S. competitive globally at a time when our research supremacy is being tested. We cannot afford to cede more ground to China and other countries that are positioning themselves to become global R&D leaders.

Americans agree: [85% of respondents](#) in a survey commissioned by [ResearchAmerica](#) said it is important for Congress and the president to assign a high priority to faster medical progress. A related survey found [63% of Americans](#) would be willing to pay higher taxes if the funds were spent on medical and health research. And [more than 9 in 10](#) think it's important for America to be a global leader in science and technology, with [almost 80%](#) expressing concern China will soon overtake the U.S. The concern has merit: the National Science Board projects [China will spend \\$200 billion more](#) on research and development than the United States by 2030.

Op-Ed on Federal Investment in Science and Technology

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LOSING CONFIDENCE

August 3, 2023



A [Gallup poll](#) released just last month shows Americans continue to lose confidence in major institutions, including our medical system. Confidence in the U.S. medical system has dropped by 10% (44% in 2021 to 34% in 2023), a larger drop than any other institution except the Presidency. Small business commands the highest level of confidence.

Confidence improves when the questions ask about individuals rather than institutions. Our [January 2023 national public opinion survey](#) indicates that scientists, health care providers, and public health officials remain trusted sources of health information. We've long maintained that public engagement by individual members of the science and health community is an important part of the answer to bolstering public confidence in institutions; it's time to place a higher priority on assuring that members of these valued professions are empowered to engage the public. (We're working on this – stay tuned – and send suggestions to [Jenny Luray](#).)

On the Hill: Before adjourning for the August congressional recess, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved all 12 FY24 appropriations bills, and the House Committee approved 10 with the remaining two bills marked up in subcommittee, but not yet by the full Appropriations Committee. Only one bill, the FY24 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, has passed the full House. There are major funding differences between each body's bills, with the House bills coming in far below the spending levels agreed to in debt limit legislation passed earlier this year, so Congress has major differences to resolve. Review our [budget chart](#) laying out the numbers for federal research agencies to see what we are up against when Congress returns after Labor Day – with the Senate in session 17 days and the House just 12 days before the new fiscal year begins October 1.

Please take a moment to [thank your Senators](#) for acting on a bipartisan basis to avoid cuts in medical and health programs.

The Other End of Pennsylvania Avenue: The [White House has launched](#) the Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy (OPPR) to "coordinate and develop policies and priorities related to pandemic preparedness and response," building on the work done by the White House COVID-19 Response and Mpxx Teams during the pandemic. Retired Major General Paul Friedrichs will serve as inaugural Director of OPPR, leading the charge in preparing the nation for future pandemic threats.

New NIAID Director: Acting NIH Director Larry Tabak announced the appointment of [Jeanne M. Marrazzo, MD](#), to lead the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Dr. Marrazzo, who hails from University of Alabama at Birmingham, has a stellar record and also big shoes to fill following former Director Anthony S. Fauci, MD, and Acting Director Hugh Auchincloss, Jr., MD.

WHO Best Practices for Clinical Trials: Developing better health interventions and putting them into practice requires high-quality clinical trials. The World Health Organization is developing guidance on best practices for clinical trials. Your input will help improve research quality and coordination. [Comments are due September 15](#).

New Clinical Trial Data on the Horizon: Speaking of clinical trials, did you know that a majority of Americans admire people who donate blood, admire those who indicate willingness to donate organs, and also, admire those who participate in clinical trials to determine the effectiveness of treatments? Part of the problem, as many surveys have shown, is that people too often aren't asked to participate in this vital research. We are collecting more data and tracking innovative new approaches to trials in the months ahead. We will share what we learn and urge you to tell us about your experience.

Mary Woolley's Weekly Letter

How We Use the Data

Influencing Policymakers



January 4, 2021

President-elect Joe Biden
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

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Dear President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Research!America [alliance](#), thank you for stepping into the roles of President and Vice President at this profoundly challenging and defining moment in our nation's history. We are truly grateful for your respective records of service and for your commitment to not only navigate the COVID-19 pandemic but assure our nation emerges a far stronger and bolder adversary to the threats we face as a nation and global community.

The Research!America alliance advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all. We are fully committed to working side by side with you to secure the medical, public health, and scientific progress fundamental to protecting and advancing the health of Americans and meeting other pivotal societal needs. In that context, we respectfully offer the following recommendations:

Consistent with your *Build Back Better* platform, we urge you to boldly strengthen and mobilize our nation's public and private sector science and technology enterprise to out-innovate societal threats, fuel jobs, and spur economic growth.

Our nation and others across the globe have risen to meet COVID-19 in heroic and extraordinarily innovative ways, but the difficult truth is that as a nation and a global community, we were unprepared and overwhelmed by this virus. We have a new sense of the breadth and depth of devastation that can attend a crisis for which we are ill-prepared. COVID-19 is just one of a plethora of short and long-term threats to the safety, security, stability, health, and wellbeing of our nation and populations across the globe.

Our nation – working in a coordinated, methodical manner across sectors and in consultation with our global partners – can speed progress against debilitating and deadly health threats that come on suddenly or over time, destroying lives and undercutting fiscal stability. We can turn our vulnerabilities in the global

Elevate the Priority of Ending Deadly and Debilitating Health Threats.

The COVID-19 pandemic is clearly an urgent public health threat that must be stopped. For far too many Americans, COVID-19 is a health threat on top of other health threats they have been battling for years and, perhaps, all of their lives. As of January 4, 2021, nearly 17 million people in the United States are battling cancer,² more than five million are living with Alzheimer's,³ and over 32 million are living with diabetes.⁴ That is only a fraction of the number of people in our country living with chronic diseases. Compared to peer nations, the U.S. has among the highest number of hospitalizations from preventable causes and the highest rate of avoidable deaths.⁵ Americans want our nation to fight back. According to a national public opinion survey Research!America commissioned just before the pandemic emerged in the U.S., 88% of Americans believe it is important for the President and Congress to assign a high priority to ensuring faster medical progress, and nearly 70% would pay \$1 more in taxes each week if they knew the dollars were being spent on medical research.⁶

With the pandemic, we as a society are – together and individually – witnessing a horrific number of premature deaths. Diseases bring about these deaths every second of every day. We simply must speed progress against them.

Please include a major increase in the annual budgets of the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the National Science Foundation in your first proposed

²American Cancer Society. *Cancer Treatment & Survivorship Facts & Figures 2019-2021*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2019.

³Alzheimer's Association. *2020 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures*. Chicago: Alzheimer's Association; 2020.

⁴Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2020*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services; 2020.

⁵Roosa Tikkanen and Melinda K. Abrams. *U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2019: Higher Spending, Worse Outcomes?*. Commonwealth Fund; 2020.

Research Takes Cents



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RESEARCH TAKES CENTS

Research!America's signature Research Takes Cents compares selected consumer spending to the costs associated with conducting research. Research Takes Cents examples are easy to drop into a conversation, and they are particularly effective when used in presentations with images.

General



Alcohol

In 2022, total alcoholic beverage sales in the United States reached over \$261 billion – enough to fund NIH-sponsored research on alcoholism, alcohol use, and health for over 459 years.

Sources: [Statista/NIH](#)



Athletes

The combined salaries of the top ten highest-paid athletes in 2021 totaled more than \$991 million – enough to fund all NIH-sponsored traumatic head and spine research for more than three years.

Sources: [Forbes/NIH](#)



Coffee

In 2021, the United States imported \$6.9 billion worth of coffee which could fund all NIH-sponsored research on sleep for almost 14 years.

Sources: [WorldsTopExports/NIH](#)

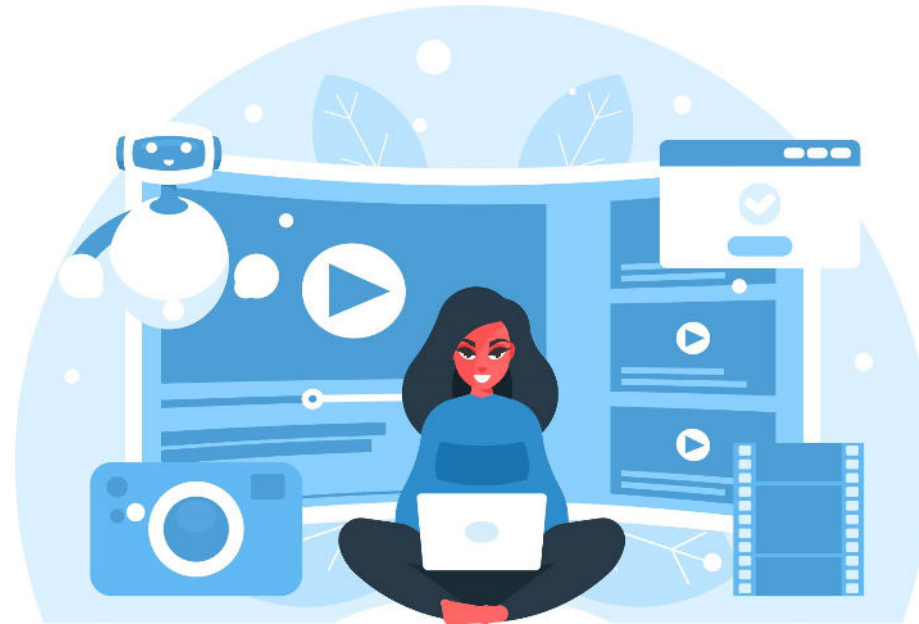


Cosmetic Surgery

Total revenue from surgical and nonsurgical cosmetic procedures in the U.S. in 2021 totaled \$14.6 billion – enough to fund all NIH-sponsored research on aging for 2.5 years.

Sources: [Statista/NIH](#)

The video streaming market in the U.S.
reached \$473.39 billion in 2022



which is enough to fund NIH-sponsored
mental health research for 129 years.

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