

## NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT ON RESEARCH

*A Public Opinion Study for Research!America*

*February 2004*

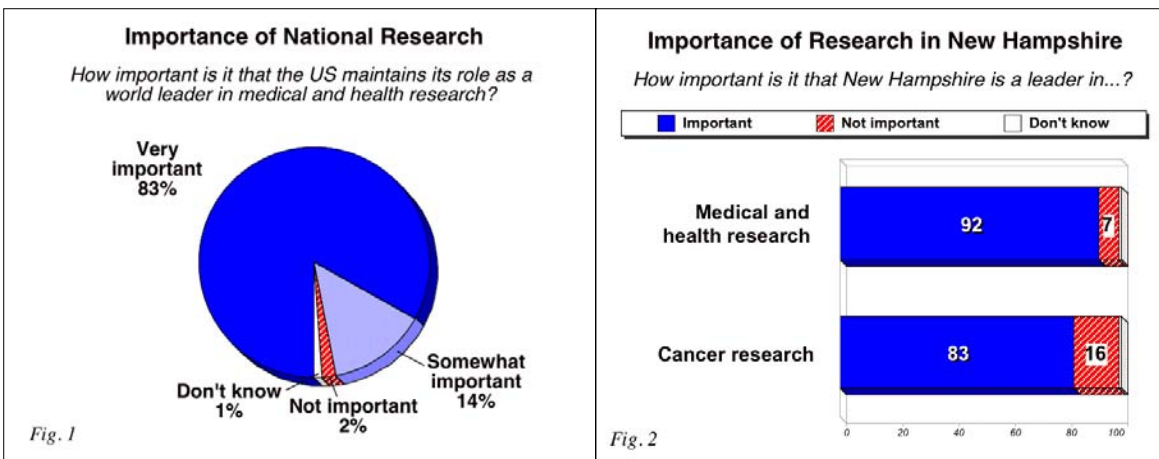
*Research!America has been gauging public opinion on people's attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research since 1992. Results of the recent poll in New Hampshire show a high level of support and value for research conducted in both the public and private sector. These poll responses indicate there is an overwhelming belief in New Hampshire that research is important and is a high priority for its citizens, particularly as it impacts the state's health, education and economy.*

### LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS

Research is clearly important to New Hampshire residents (see figure 1). In fact, 97% of New Hampshire residents say it is important that the United States maintains its role as a world leader in scientific research, with 83% saying this is *very* important.

Similarly, 92% of residents say it is important for New Hampshire to be a leader in medical and health research, and 65% say it is *very* important. However, only 32% say New Hampshire is currently very much a leader. Forty-one percent say the state is somewhat a leader, and 17% believe New Hampshire is not a leader.

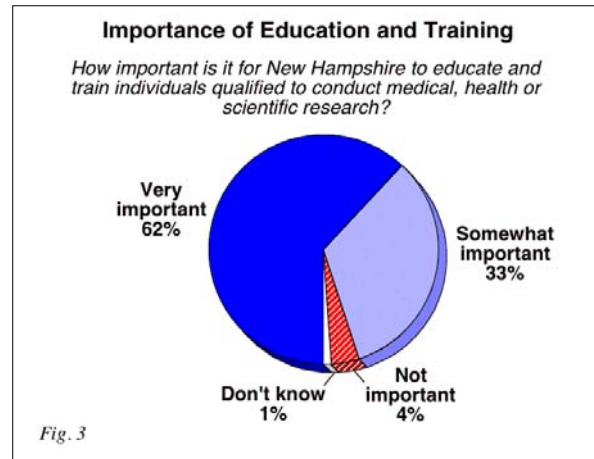
A large majority of residents feel it is important for New Hampshire to be a leader in cancer research. Eighty-three percent believe New Hampshire's leadership in cancer research is important, and 42% say it is *very* important (see figure 2).



## MEDICAL RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ECONOMY

Thinking in terms of jobs, incomes, and quality of life, four-in-five New Hampshire residents feel that spending money on medical and health research is important to the state's economy. Thirty percent feel spending on medical and health research is *very* important to New Hampshire's economy, and another 53% feel it is somewhat important.

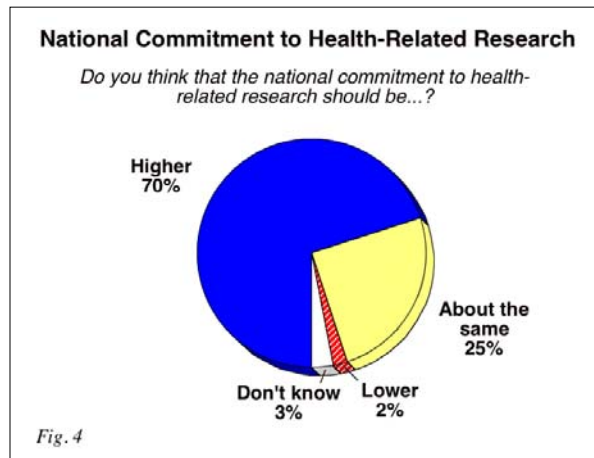
Nearly all New Hampshire residents also feel it is important for the state to educate and train individuals qualified to conduct medical, health, and scientific research. Ninety-five percent say this is important for New Hampshire, and nearly two-thirds say it is *very* important (see figure 3).



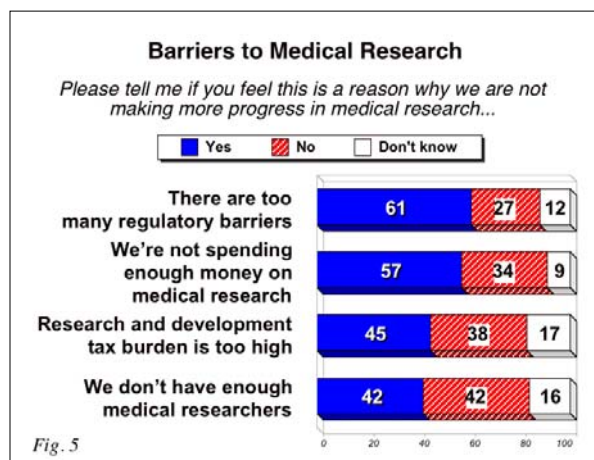
## RESIDENTS FAVOR ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH

Residents strongly support the state offering financial incentives to attract new scientific research. In fact, 47% *strongly* approve of such incentives and an additional 34% *somewhat* approve.

Furthermore, 70% of New Hampshire residents feel the national commitment to health-related research should be higher (see figure 4). A plurality of 59% of New Hampshire residents believe we should be spending more than the current five to six cents per US health care dollar on medical and health research. Twenty-one percent say this is the right amount and only 4% say we should be spending less.

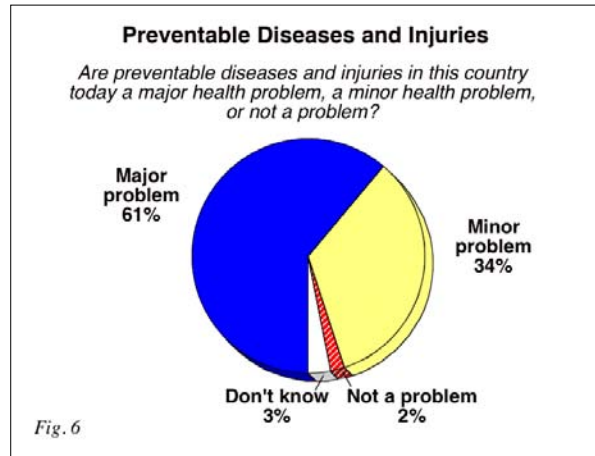


Additionally, 57% feel that too little funding is a barrier to medical and health research in the nation, and 61% of residents believe that an excess of regulations is a major barrier to medical and health research (see figure 5). Forty-five percent agree that the research and development tax burden is a barrier to progress in medical research.

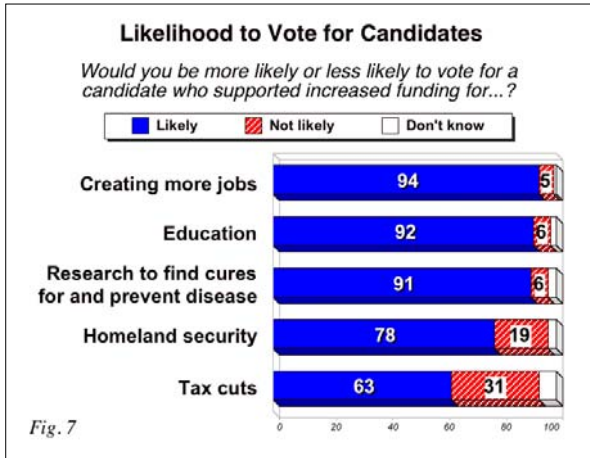


## PREVENTION RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS

Sixty-one percent of New Hampshire residents say preventable diseases and injuries in this country today are a major health problem (see figure 6). Thirty-four percent feel they are a minor health problem, and just 2% say they are not a problem. Over three-quarters of residents feel the US should be spending more than the current one cent per health care dollar on prevention and public health research, while 10% feel we are spending the right amount.



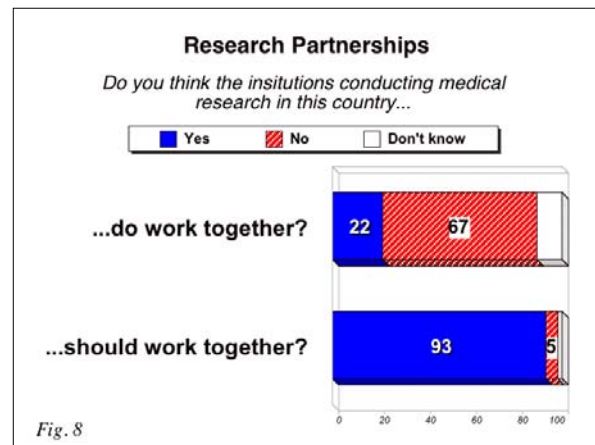
## RESIDENTS FAVOR ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO SUPPORT RESEARCH



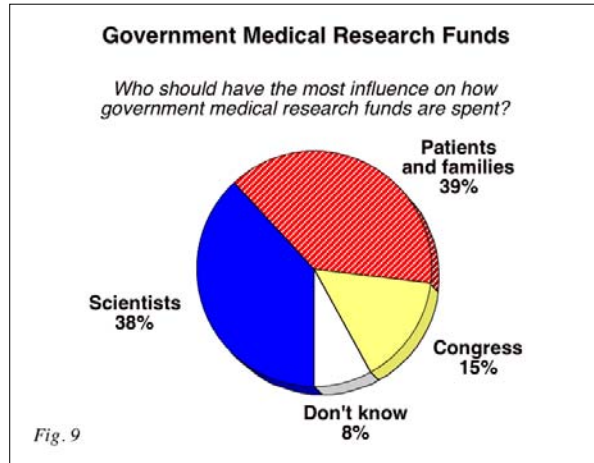
Ninety-four percent of New Hampshire residents say they would be more likely to vote for candidates who support increased funding for research to find cures for and prevent diseases, with 56% saying they would be *much* more likely to support them. Similarly, 89% would be more likely to vote for candidates who support increased funding for health services and education programs, with 57% saying they would be much more likely to support them (see figure 7).

## RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER

Interestingly, residents are not aware that the institutions conducting medical research in this country work together, although the vast majority believes they should (see figure 8). Two-thirds say institutions such as government, universities, and the pharmaceutical industry are in competition with each other, while just 22% say they work together. However, 93% feel these institutions *should* work together to develop new treatments and cures, while just 5% say they should not.



Residents are divided on who should have the most influence on how government medical research funds are spent (see figure 9). Thirty-nine percent feel patients with various diseases and their families should have the most influence, while 38% feel scientists who conduct research should have the most influence. Just 15% feel Congress should have the most influence on how these funds are spent.



**ALSO OF NOTE...**

Fifty-eight percent were unable to name any organization in New Hampshire where medical research is conducted (see figure 10). Dartmouth University received the most mentions with one-fifth mentioning Dartmouth in general and another 11% mentioning Dartmouth Medical School. The University of New Hampshire was mentioned by 2%, and all other organizations named were cited by fewer than 1%.

**Institutions Conducting Research**

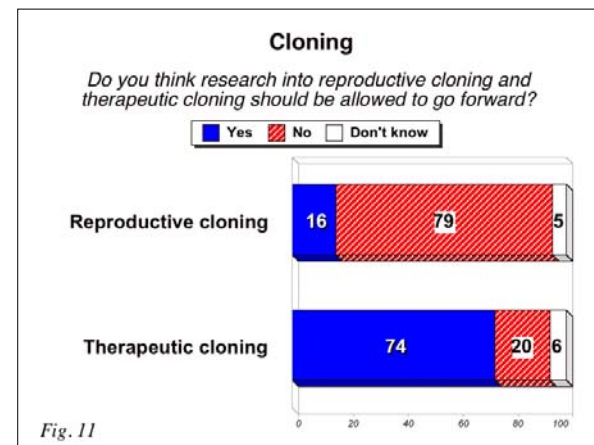
*Do you know of any institutions in New Hampshire where medical and health research is conducted?*

	First Mentions	Total Mentions
Dartmouth	21	23
Dartmouth Medical School	11	13
University of New Hampshire	2	6
Keene State	*	*
BioConcept Laboratories	*	*
New Hampshire Community Tech	*	*
St. Anselm	*	*
Other	8	14
Don't know	58	87

*Fig. 10*

Asked what concerns residents have about medical research, a plurality of 23% cite no concerns. Of those who mentioned a concern, 9% mentioned the need for more research and 8% cited wasting money, while 7% mentioned concerns that there is not enough funding. Six percent mentioned government involvement, and all other concerns were cited by fewer than five percent.

Cloning was mentioned as a concern by only 2% of residents. When given more information about types of cloning, residents express support for research into therapeutic cloning (used to help in the search for possible cures and treatments for diseases and disabilities). Three-quarters agree that research into therapeutic cloning should go forward, while one-fifth feel that it should not be allowed. Seventy-nine percent of New Hampshire residents say research into reproductive cloning should not be allowed to go forward, with 69% who feel *strongly* that it should not be allowed (see figure 11).



## **METHODOLOGY**

*Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey among 800 adults in New Hampshire. The entire sample was proportionate to the state's demographics, including geography, gender, voter registration and ethnicity. The survey, fielded February 11-16, 2004, has a theoretical sampling error of +/-3.5%. Please note that much of the question text in this report has been paraphrased.*

*This poll was commissioned by Research!America, a not-for-profit, membership-supported national alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to enhancing public education and advocacy for medical, health, and scientific research. For more information about the New Hampshire poll, including a list of sponsoring organizations, or for other questions about public attitudes towards scientific research, contact Research!America at: 1101 King Street, Suite 520, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 · Telephone: 703/739-2577 · Fax: 703/739-2372 · e-mail: [info@researchamerica.org](mailto:info@researchamerica.org) · [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org).*

