

It's Time to Take Action Against AMR

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a significant public health problem. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that AMR bacteria cause at least 2 million infections and result in 23,000 deaths in the United States each year.¹

AMR is recognized as one of the biggest public health challenges of our time by the CDC.² More needs to be done to address this critical issue, and a recent national public opinion survey found that a majority of those who responded agree:³ **65% of Americans** surveyed believe **antibiotic resistance is a public health problem**.⁴ And further, **similar majorities called for more to be done** to increase awareness and investment around AMR.⁵

Of those surveyed, four key takeaways were evident. It was found that:



In addition to health care professionals, hospitals, patients, and industry — the federal government has an important role to play in addressing AMR.

76% of Americans agree that the federal government **should increase funding** for research and public health initiatives to address antibiotic resistance.⁶

Agreement is high, despite party affiliation:

81% Democrats **76%** Republicans **70%** Independents

Government incentives are needed to encourage increased AMR-focused antibiotic development.

A majority of 73% across the political spectrum agree that the federal government **should provide incentives to encourage increased private sector investment** in the development of new antibiotics.⁸



Increased public awareness and stewardship practices are needed, and patients need to be educated.

37% say antibiotics can be used to address viral infections,⁹ **which is not true.**

Americans want robust, consistent stewardship practices.

Over 90% agree antibiotics should only be used **with a prescription** and that a prescription should only be provided when needed,¹⁰ which follows good stewardship practices.

At least 30% of antibiotics prescribed in the outpatient setting are unnecessary, according to the CDC,¹¹ and one third of inpatient antibiotic use is prescribed inappropriately.¹²



Antimicrobial stewardship programs **are not required** by the federal government, so **implementation is uneven**. However, these programs have been **proven to reduce** inappropriate antibiotic use and improve patient outcomes.¹³

AMR is a significant public health problem. Results of this national public opinion survey show that there is broad-based support for increasing awareness about the need for comprehensive AMR solutions, including increased federal government funding for education, stewardship, and research and development for new antibiotics.

Based on data from a national public opinion survey commissioned in October 2018 by Research!America in collaboration with the Infectious Disease Society of America. The survey was supported in part by Pfizer Inc. For additional information and for the full results of the survey, please visit <https://www.researchamerica.org/AMRsurvey>.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States. 2013. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/ar-threats-2013-508.pdf>. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Resistance (AR/AMR): Biggest Threats and Data. 2018. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/biggest_threats.html. 3. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 4. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 5. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 6. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 7. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 8. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 9. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 10. Based on findings from a two-day online survey of adults conducted in 2018 by Zogby Analytics. 11. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Antibiotic Use and Prescribing in Doctor's Offices. 2017. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/programs-measurement/measuring-antibiotic-prescribing.html>. 12. Hecker MT, Aron DC, Patel NP, Lehmann MK, Donskey CJ. Unnecessary use of antimicrobials in hospitalized patients: current patterns of misuse with an emphasis on the antianaerobic spectrum of activity. Archives of Internal Medicine 2003; 163(8): 972-8. 13. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2017 Antibiotic Use in the United States: Progress and Opportunities. 2017. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/stewardship-report/pdf/stewardship-report.pdf>.