Likely Voters Overwhelmingly Concerned About Antimicrobial Resistance

The vast majority of likely voters are concerned about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and believe the development of new antibiotics should be a top or high priority.

- When presented with some background on AMR, 85% of respondents said they were very or somewhat concerned about the issue.
- 76% believe that the development of new antibiotics should be a top or high priority.

COVID-19 has increased the sense of urgency among voters on this issue.

- 59% of those who have been seriously impacted by COVID-19 are much more likely to say they are very concerned about AMR, and are also more likely to feel the development of new antibiotics should be a top or high priority (87%). Levels of concern were notably higher among people of color and older Americans, those most impacted by the current pandemic.

People agree that working together is the best way to solve the issue of AMR and they want policymakers who make developing new antibiotics a priority.

- 87% of respondents agree (53% strongly agree) say government, universities, and drug companies should all work together to deal with AMR.
- 65% of respondents said they would be more likely to support a political candidate who supports making the development of new antibiotics a priority.
There is broad agreement on policy proposals to address AMR.

- **83%** of respondents support (42% strongly support) the biopharmaceutical industry leading an initiative that brings together private-sector researchers, in collaboration with government and academia, to focus on what’s needed to develop new antibiotics.

- **78%** support (40% strongly support) the federal government investing in drug development of new products to treat resistant infections like it invests in other areas of health care and education because of the importance to our health of having these treatments available when we need them.

- **66%** support developing a financial incentive and providing it to drug companies that successfully develop new antibiotics that address unmet needs. The idea is that creating a financial reward will help increase commercial appeal to manufacturers.

- **66%** support tax incentives that help decrease the risk development of new antibiotics and help to support the commercialization of these products.

- **54%** support paying hospitals more to encourage them to use newer antibiotics when appropriate. This step is necessary to offset the lower than usual sales that result from hospitals not using newer antibiotics.

Agreement on these issues is incredibly strong.

- **87%** of respondents agree (50% strongly agree) especially now with the pandemic, it is even more urgent to invest in the research needed to combat infectious diseases, including research into new antibiotics.

- **87%** of respondents agree (47% strongly agree), just as we are benefitting now from antibiotics developed decades ago, we have to focus now on developing the antibiotics we will need 10 to 20 years from now.

- **86%** of respondents agree (46% strongly agree), investing in new antibiotics, like we invest in health care and education, is worth it because it will save lives and money.

- **84%** agree antimicrobial resistance is a serious problem that will only get worse in years to come without new antibiotics.

- **80%** of respondents agree the government should help fund the development of new antibiotics to ensure the health and safety of Americans.

- **72%** of respondents agree the development of new antibiotics will likely personally benefit me and my family.

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National Survey of 1,000 likely November 2020 voters; June 2-5, 2020; Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group