



# CanadaSpeaks! 2022

A National Public Opinion Poll on  
Health and Medical Research

**KEY MESSAGES**

*October 2022*

## Priorities and Impact

**Canadians continue to be convinced that Canada should be a global leader in health and medical research:**

- 87% of Canadians believe Canada should be a global leader in health and medical research—a slight decrease from the 91% of Canadians who believed the same in 2019.

**Similarly, Canadians continue to view health and medical research as making an important contribution to both the healthcare system and the economy:**

- 89% of Canadians say that health and medical research makes an important contribution to the health care system, a rate consistent with three years ago (91%). Notably, however, fewer Canadians consider it to be a *very* important contributor (52% in 2022 compared to 61% in 2019).
- When it comes to the economy, the contributions of health and medical research remain as important now as in 2019 for Canadians (80% compared to 81% in 2019). More notable, however, is the increased percentage of Canadians who consider it a *very* important contributor compared to a decade ago (39% in 2022 compared to 28% in 2012).

## Investment

**There continues to be a strong view among Canadians that health and medical research should be funded directly by the federal government:**

- 81% of Canadians agree that basic research is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.
- However, there has been a downward trend in this belief over the past seven years, going from 92% in 2015 to 88% in 2019.

**Despite these downward trends, the majority of Canadians believe that the federal government should be spending more on health and medical research:**

- 6 out of 10 Canadians think that the federal government's funding of health and medical research—currently \$4.3 billion—should be higher than it is now. Just three per cent (3%) think it should be lower.

## COVID-19

**The COVID-19 pandemic has led most Canadians to realize the importance of health and medical research:**

- 6 out of 10 Canadians said that they now think health and medical research is more important compared to before the pandemic.

The full results of the *CanadaSpeaks! 2022 National Public Opinion Poll* can be found on Research Canada's website: [rc-rc.ca/polling/canadaspeaks-2022/](https://rc-rc.ca/polling/canadaspeaks-2022/)

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## About Research Canada

Research Canada is a national alliance dedicated to increasing investments in health research through collaborative advocacy and engaging government, academia, industry and non-profit sectors to build support for long-term health research funding. For more information, visit [rc-rc.ca](https://rc-rc.ca).