



# CanadaSpeaks! 2022

## A National Public Opinion Poll on Health and Medical Research

October 2022

Research Canada



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# Methodology

From September 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 an online survey of 1,518 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Maru Voice Canada panelists was executed by Maru/Blue.

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size has an estimated margin of error (which measures sampling variability) of +/-2.5%, 19 times out of 20.

The results have been weighted by education, age, gender and region (and in Quebec, language) to match the population, according to Census data. This is to ensure the sample is representative of the entire adult population of Canada.



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# 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).

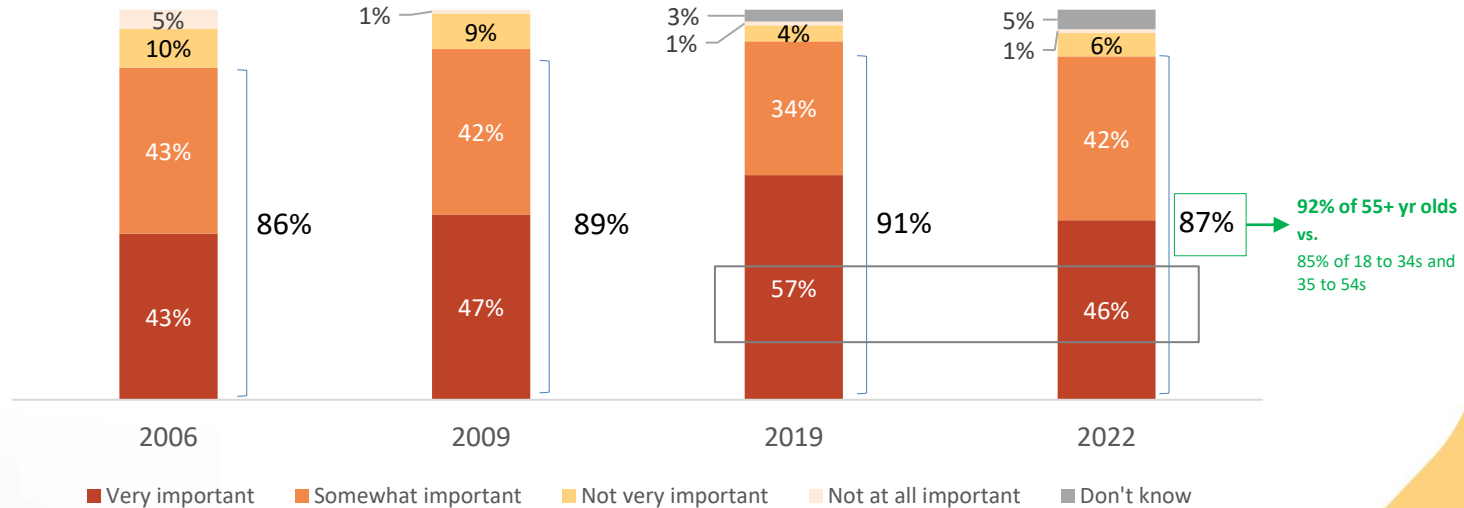


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# 87% of Canadians believe Canada should be a global leader in health and medical research—a slight decrease from 2019

Canada should be a global leader in health and medical research



87% → 92% of 55+ yr olds vs. 85% of 18 to 34s and 35 to 54s

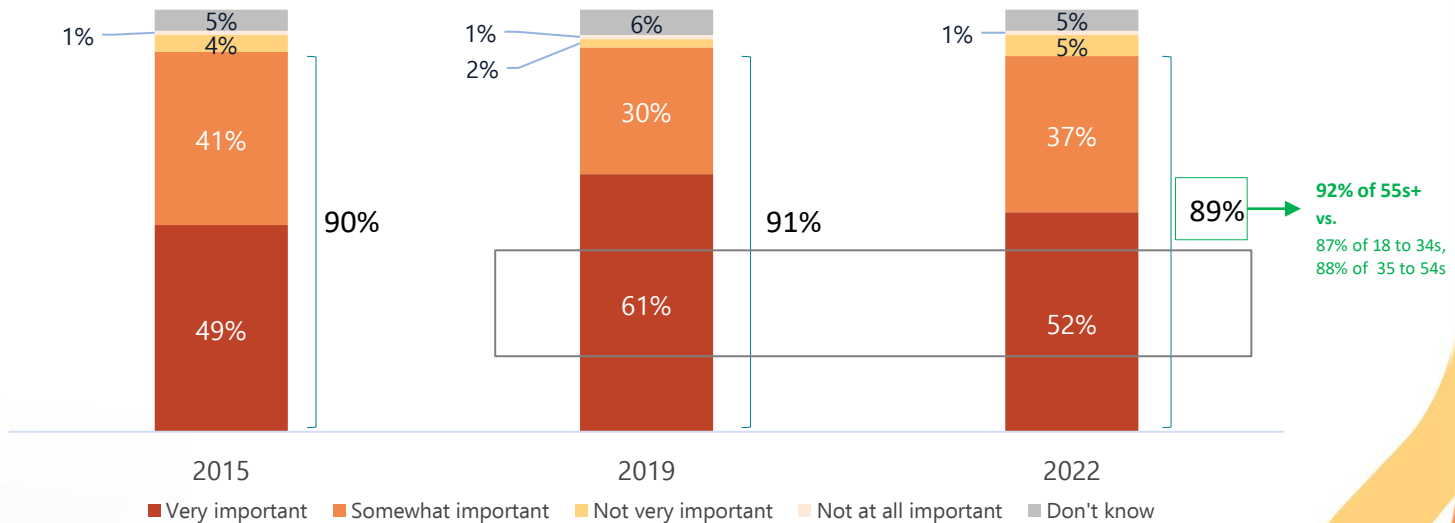
Q1. Is the following important: That Canada be a global leader in health and medical research?

(Base: all respondents, n=1,518)

Note: Significant differences are highlighted in green

Similarly, health and medical research is viewed by most as being an important contributor to the healthcare system, however, slightly fewer Canadians feel this way as compared to 2019

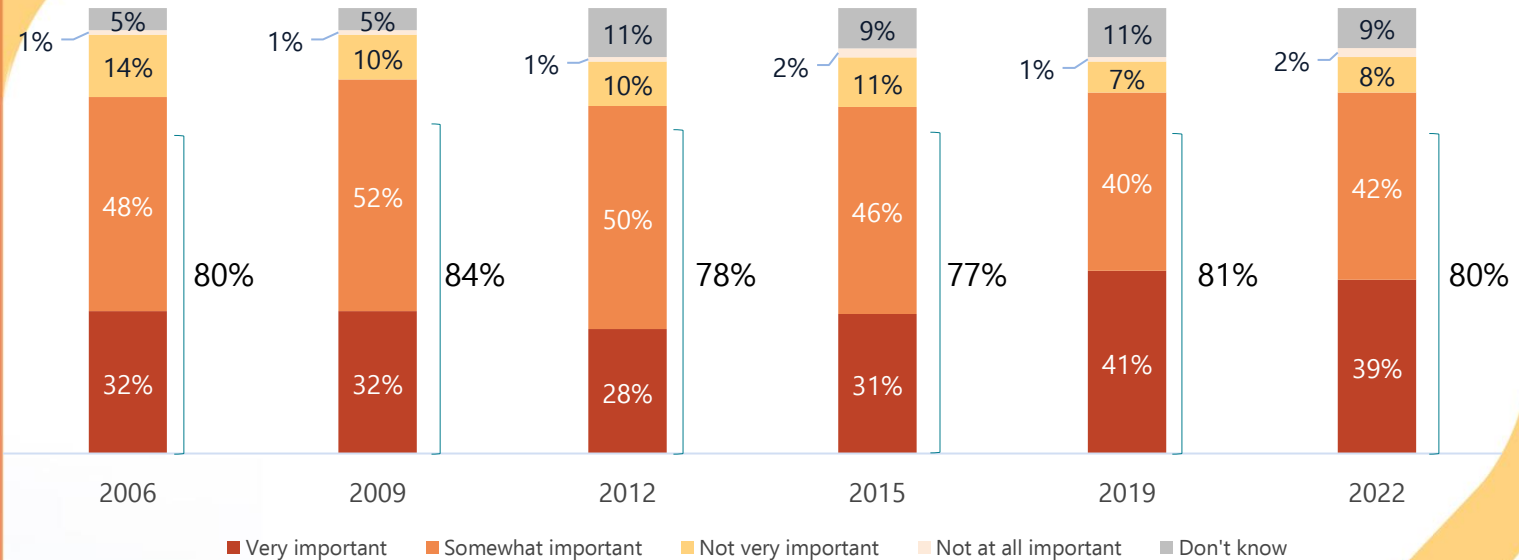
Health and medical research makes an important contribution to the Canadian healthcare system



Q2. Would you say that health and medical research makes an important contribution to the Canadian healthcare system?  
 (Base: all respondents, n=1,518)

# When it comes to the economy, the contribution by health and medical research remain as important now as in 2019 for Canadians

Health and medical research makes an important contribution to the Canadian economy



Q3. Would you say that health and medical research makes an important contribution to the Canadian economy?  
(Base: all respondents, n=1,518)



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# Investments

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

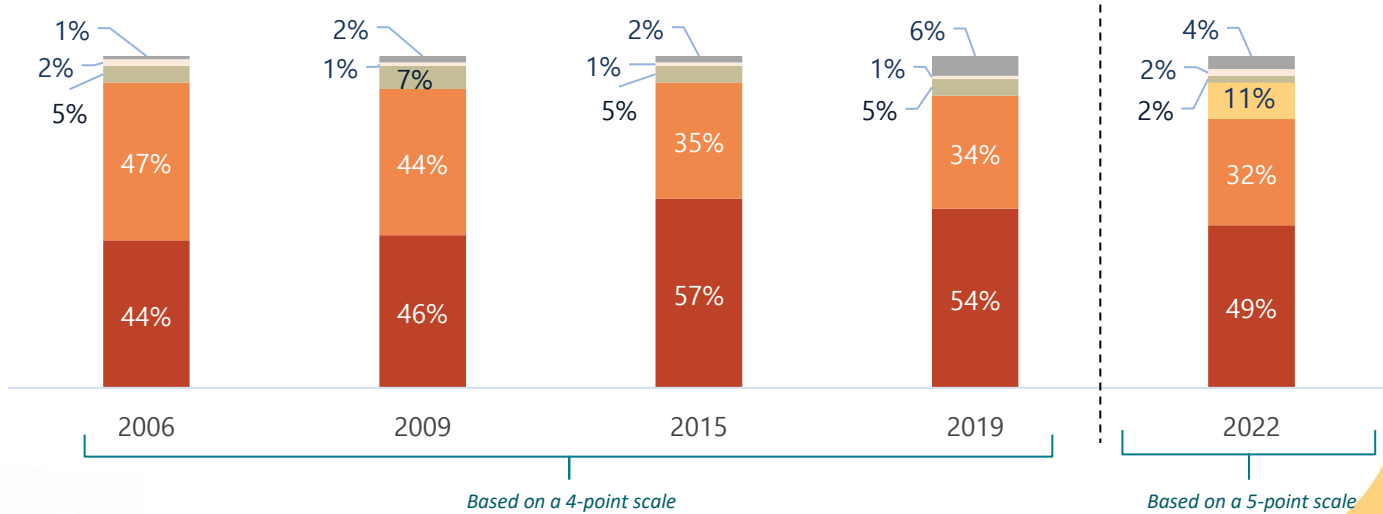
- 81% of Canadians agree that basic research is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.
- However, there has been a downward trend in this belief over the past seven years, going from 92% in 2015 to 88% in 2019.

**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.

The majority of Canadians strongly or somewhat agree that basic research is necessary and should be supported by the federal government. However, there is a downward trend since 2015

Basic research is necessary and should be supported by the federal government



■ Strongly agree 
 ■ Somewhat agree 
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree 
 ■ Somewhat disagree 
 ■ Strongly disagree 
 ■ Don't know

Q4. Do you agree with the following statement: Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic research, which builds our foundation of knowledge, is necessary and should be supported by the federal government?  
 (Base: all respondents, n=1,518)



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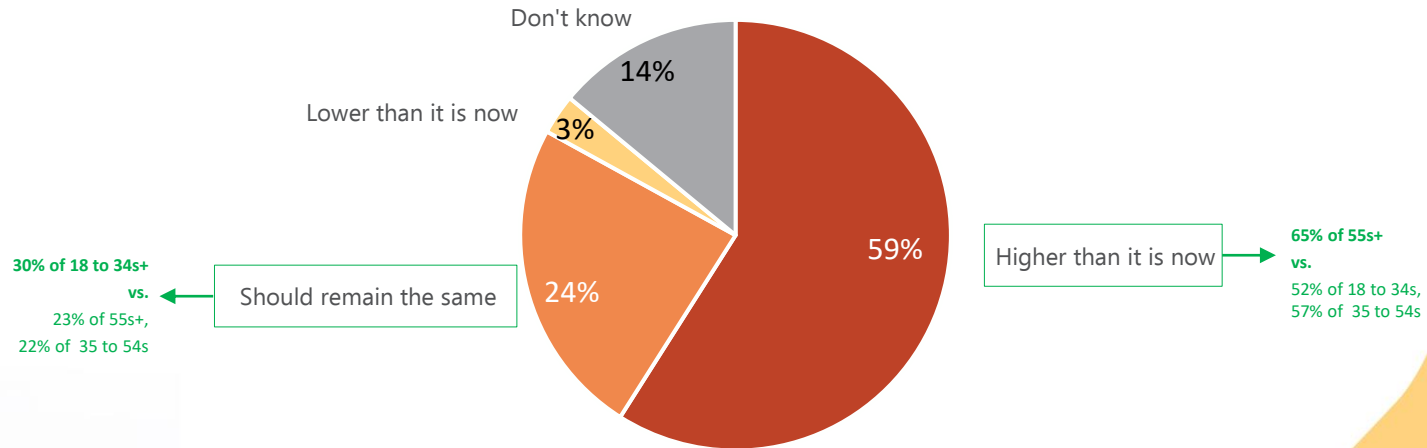
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After being informed of the dollar amount and share of spend, 6 out of 10 Canadians believe the federal government's funding for health and medical research should be higher than 1.4%

Federal government's funding for health and medical research should be higher



Q5. Currently, 1.4% of Canada's spending on health goes toward health and medical research. Do you think the federal government's funding of health and medical research should be...?

(Base: all respondents, n=1,518)

Note: Significant differences are highlighted in green



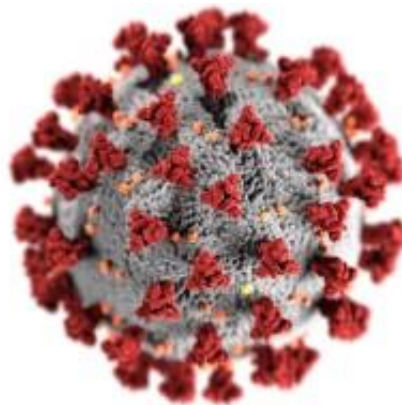
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# COVID-19

## 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.



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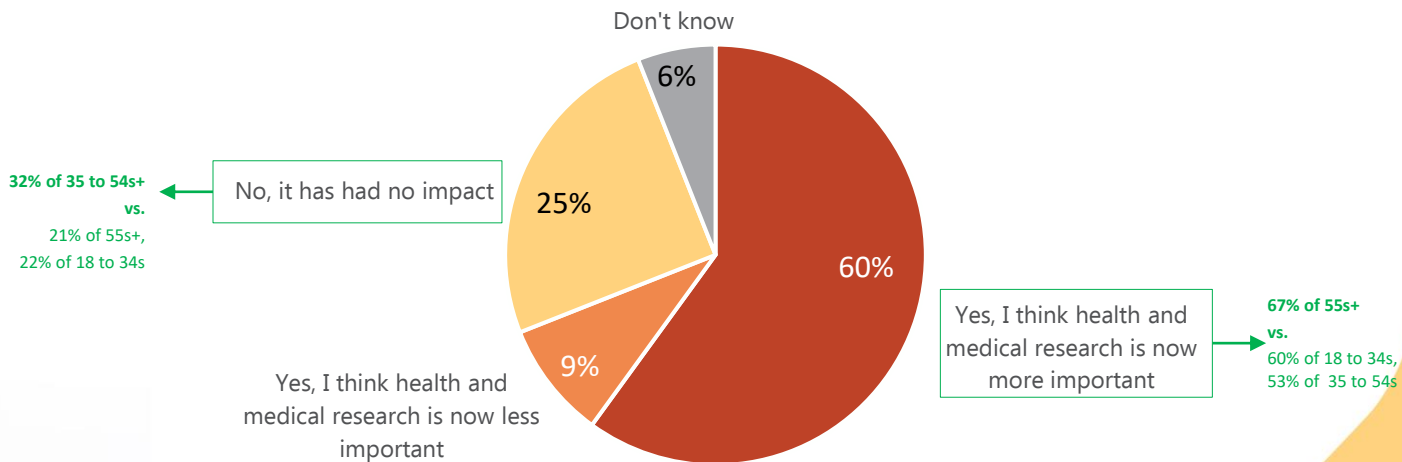
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# The COVID-19 pandemic has led most Canadians to realize the importance of health and medical research

The pandemic has led to the realization of the importance of health and medical research



Q6. Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted how important you think health and medical research is?  
(Base: all respondents, n=1,518)



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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).

For inquiries about the results of this **CanadaSpeaks! 2022 National Public Opinion Poll**, please contact **Christie Tomkins**, Manager of Policy and Public Affairs at [ctomkins@rc-rc.ca](mailto:ctomkins@rc-rc.ca).



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