



National Health Issues Survey Results: Trust Among Healthcare Stakeholders

Patients Rising – in coordination with Gravis Marketing, a leading market research and polling firm – conducted a national survey of 1507 registered voters to ask their views on national health issues including patient access and affordability, drug pricing policies, and trust among healthcare stakeholders. The survey was conducted between April 29-May 12, 2021. This report explores responses regarding trust among healthcare stakeholders.

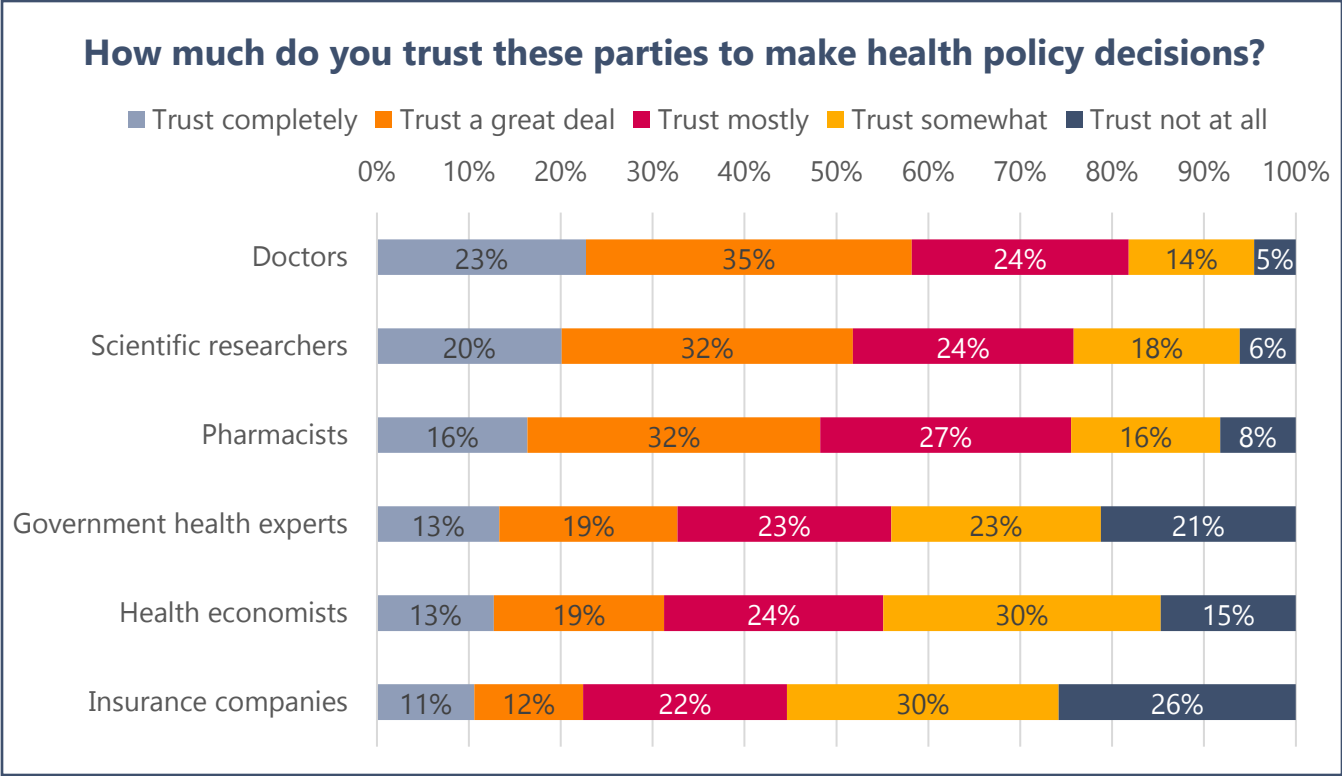
Top Themes

- Medicare and Medicaid remain popular programs.
- Doctors, scientists, and pharmacists are the most trusted stakeholders in healthcare.
- Voters are more skeptical about insurance companies, health economists, and government health experts, while views of the biopharmaceutical industry are mixed.
- Voters generally gave the FDA positive ratings for its handling of COVID-19 and would like to see the same nimbleness and quick action applied to other disease areas.
- A super majority of voters disagree with the use discriminatory tactics, like ICER's and CBO's use of the QALY, to make healthcare decisions for Americans with disabilities and chronic conditions.
- Voters are also wary of European systems, like international reference pricing and unelected bodies that conduct health technology assessments, which could limit patients' access to treatments.

Key Survey Results

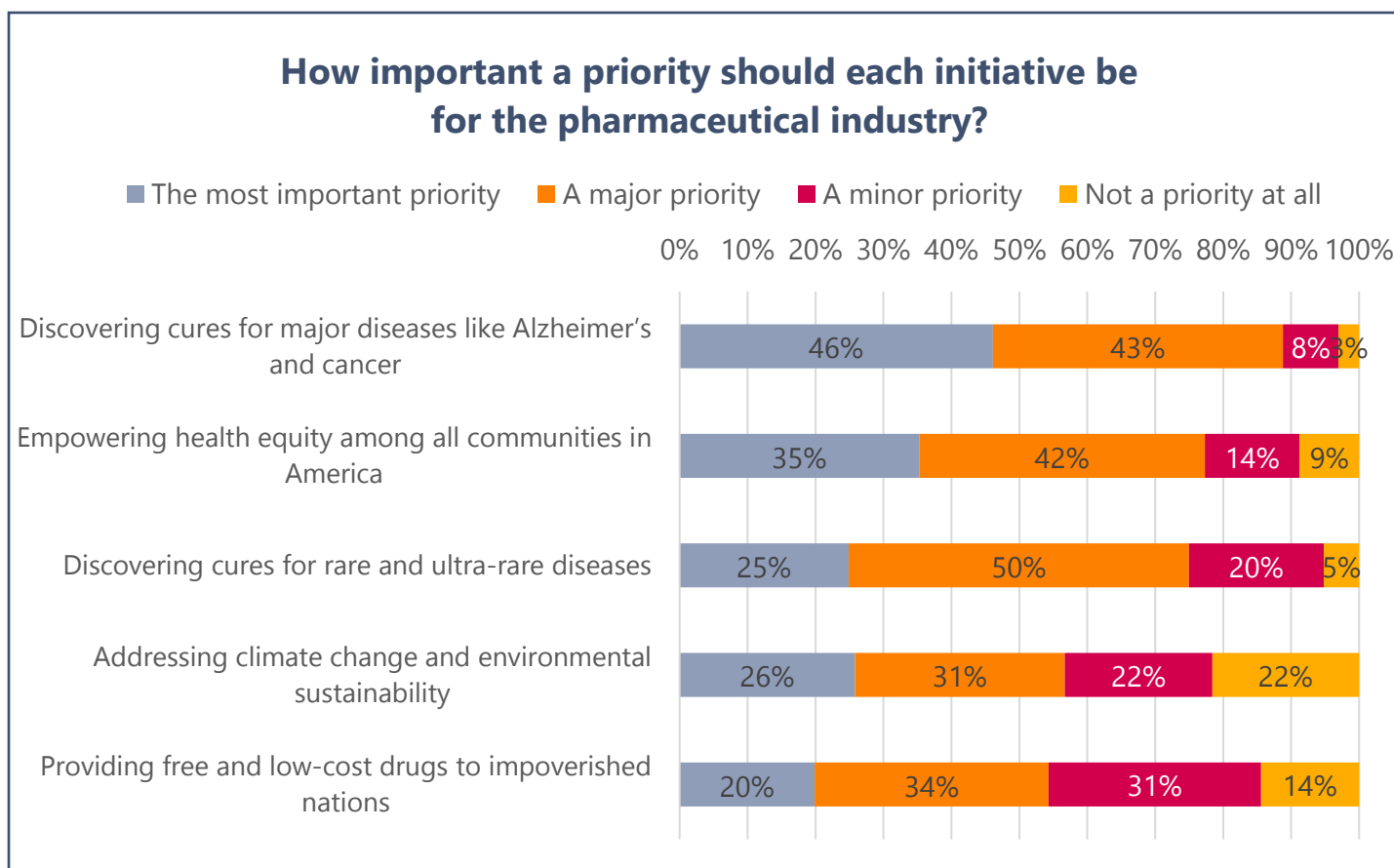
- Medicare and Medicaid are popular; more than 2 out of 3 voters have favorable views of these programs.

- Doctors, scientific researchers, and pharmacists are highly trusted by voters.
- Meanwhile, there is skepticism of insurance companies, health economists, and government health experts.



- The FDA gets positive reviews for handling COVID-19 treatments and voters want a nimble FDA that can approve new treatments and cures quickly.
 - 69% agree the FDA acted quickly to approve COVID treatments and vaccines.
 - 66% agree the FDA should apply lessons from COVID to all disease areas.
 - 62% agree the FDA should be nimbler and act with more urgency to speed up approval of new treatments and cures.
- Views of the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry are mixed, but slightly net positive.
 - Pfizer was the only pharmaceutical company tested that was broadly popular, likely due to its association with its coronavirus vaccine.

- Voters most want the pharmaceutical industry to focus on discovering cures for major diseases like Alzheimer’s and cancer.
 - Empowering health equity is ranked second in importance.
 - Helping other nations and climate change were viewed as lesser priorities for the pharmaceutical industry.



Policy Recommendations

- **Health insurance must improve patient access, not create more barriers.**
 - Preserve the doctor-patient relationship as the central and best decision maker in healthcare.
 - Insurance markets should be competitive and offer patients a variety of health plans.
 - Eliminate disruptive insurance practices that limit patient access, like step therapy and excessive prior authorizations.

- End coding games on preventative diagnostics, medicines, and procedures that lead to unexpected medical bills, as well as lengthy and unnecessary appeals by the patient.
- **Establish a healthcare finance and payment model that rewards improvements in the long-term care of patients.**
 - Incentivize innovative insurance and finance models that are designed to reward and encourage major breakthroughs in therapies and cures, while keeping the cost to patients low.
 - Stop the use of flawed coverage recommendations based on inappropriate measurements – including QALY – from organizations like ICER.
- **Encourage a more patient-centric culture at the FDA.**
 - Conduct a regulatory audit of all barriers to speedy approval of innovative medicines.
 - Empower and encourage FDA to apply best practices from the COVID-19 response to more flexibly allocate resources, rapidly use advances in regulatory science, and increase simultaneous reviews to speed up approvals of important medicines.
 - Require FDA to more readily adopt digital health technologies, digital endpoints, and innovative clinical trial designs.