

Engagement with medical research

Exploring people's interest, knowledge and involvement with medical research

The vast majority of the public are interested in medical research. Lots of attention goes towards new drugs, vaccines and treatments, but the survey finds that many people go beyond this, wanting to know about how things work and what kind of research is underway. Mental health stands out as an area of increased interest since 2012.

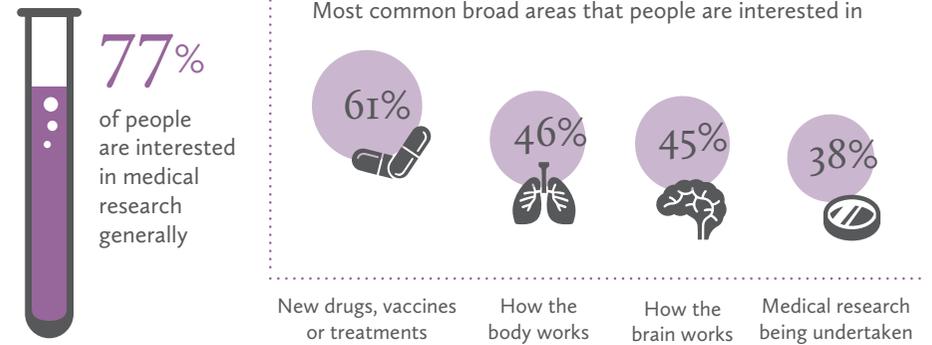
The public's knowledge about the drug development process is not complete, although most appreciate the time and funding that goes into this. Questions from the Monitor show that half correctly estimate that it takes around 10 to 20 years to develop a treatment on average, and two-thirds know that pharmaceutical companies are the ones that spend the most on the development of new drugs in the UK.

While most of the public have not directly participated in medical research, the majority are willing to share anonymised medical records and genetic information for research purposes – although the concerns of those who are unwilling still need to be taken on board.

The Wellcome Trust Monitor is a unique survey of the UK public that is conducted every three years to look at changing knowledge and attitudes to medicine, science and health. For more findings on this topic, you can look in Chapters 2, 6 and 7 of the Wellcome Trust Monitor Wave 3 Report (wellcome.ac.uk/monitor). These chapters give more detail on the findings displayed here.

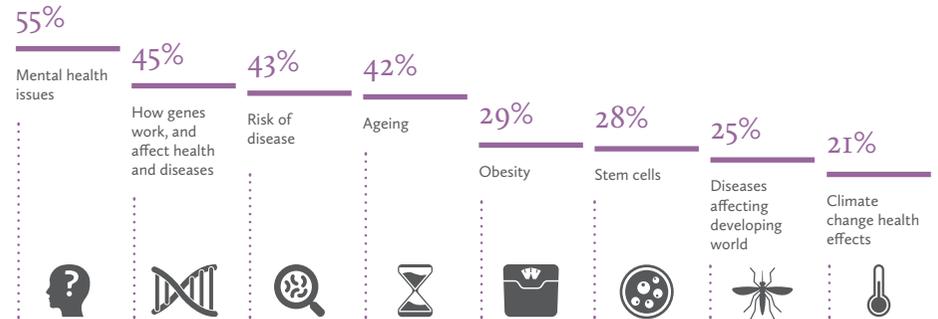
Bases: 1,524 UK adults aged 18+ interviewed face-to-face by Ipsos MORI; 318 unwilling to share anonymised genetic information for research. Fieldwork dates: 2 June to 1 November 2015. We suggest that you cite this infographic as follows: Ipsos MORI (2016) Wellcome Trust Monitor, Wave 3. London: Wellcome Trust (<http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3145744>).

Interest in medical research



Specific topics of interest

Which of these specific medical research topics are people interested in?



Sharing medical information

Willingness to share this information for research, and spontaneous concerns around this

