

June 7, 2005

WSJ ONLINE/HARRIS INTERACTIVE HEALTH-CARE POLL

Most Americans Back Research Using Stem Cells, Poll Shows

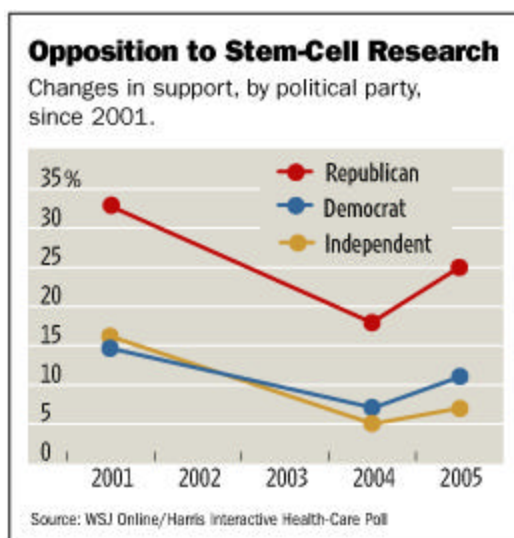
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ONLINE
June 7, 2005

Most Americans, regardless of party identification or religious affiliation, believe stem-cell research should be allowed, according to a Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive health-care poll.

However, while support has generally stabilized since 2004, the poll indicates a growing division of opinion among some groups regarding stem-cell research, with people who were once unsure of their stance on the issue now taking sides.

Stem cells come from embryos left over from in vitro fertilization that aren't used, and are normally destroyed. Many medical researchers want to use them to develop treatments, or to prevent diseases, such as diabetes, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease.

A large majority of Democrats (83%) say they support stem-cell research, up from 80% in 2004. But support from Independents decreased to 79% from 83%, while Republican support was unchanged from a year ago at 60%.



However, one-in-four Republicans, compared with one-in-five one a year ago, now believe that stem-cell research shouldn't be allowed, while the proportion of Republicans who are unsure has likewise declined.

Among those with a religious affiliation, born-again Christians saw the biggest increase in opposition to the research, rising to 29% from 21% a year ago.

"This suggests that political and religious conservatives are gaining support as they continue to campaign against stem-cell research," says Katherine Binns, senior vice president of Harris Interactive.

See full results of the poll:

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"Stem cells come from embryos left over from in vitro fertilization, which are not used and normally destroyed. Many medical researchers want to use them to develop treatments, or to prevent diseases, such as diabetes, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease. On balance, do you think this research should or should not be allowed?"

Base: All Adults

	All Adults			Party Identification		
	2001	2004	2005	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Should be allowed	61%	73%	74%	60%	83%	79%
Should not be allowed	21	11	14	25	7	11
Not sure/Refused	18	16	12	15	10	10

NOTE: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.

* * *

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH? (By Party)

Base: All Adults

	Republican			Democrat			Independent		
	2004	2005	Change	2004	2005	Change	2004	2005	Change
Should be allowed	60%	60%	--	80%	83%	+3%	83%	79%	-4%
Should not	18	25	+7	5	7	+2	7	11	+4
Not Sure/Refused	21	15	-6	15	10	-5	10	10	-

* * *

SHOULD STEM CELL RESEARCH BE ALLOWED? (By Religious Affiliation)

Base: All Adults

	All Adults	Catholic	Protestant	Other Christian	Born-Again Christian	All Other (Not Born-Again Christians)
Should be allowed	74%	70%	79%	67%	53%	78%
Should not be allowed	14	15	13	18	29	11

Not sure/Refused	12	14	9	15	18	11
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NOTE: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.

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CHANGES IN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH? (By Religious Affiliation)

Base: All Adults

	All Adults	Catholic	Protestant	Other Christian	Born-Again Christian	All Other
Should be allowed:						
2005	74%	70%	79%	67%	53%	78%
2004	73	67	77	66	58	75
Change	+1	+3	+2	+1	-5	+3
Should not be allowed:						
2005	14	15	13	18	29	11
2004	11	15	10	13	21	9
Change	+4	-	+3	+5	+8	+2
Not Sure/Refused:						
2005	12	14	9	15	18	11
2004	16	18	12	20	21	16
Change	-4	-4	-3	-5	-3	-5

* * *

"Please indicate whether you tend to agree or disagree with the following statements about stem-cell research."

Base: All Adults

	Year	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Not Sure/Refused
As long as the parents of the embryo give their permission, and the embryo would otherwise be destroyed, stem-cell research should be allowed	2001	72	21	7
	2004	72	13	15
	2005	72	15	13
If most scientists believe that stem-cell research will	2001	63	29	7

greatly increase our ability to prevent or treat serious diseases we should trust them and let them do it	2004	67	16	18
	2005	65	17	18
Using cells from human embryos for research comes too close to allowing scientists to play God	2001	40	53	7
	2004	19	57	24
	2005	23	58	20
Allowing any medical research using stem cells from human embryos should be forbidden because it is unethical and immoral	2001	32	60	8
	2004	15	63	22
	2005	17	66	17
If the federal government does not fund stem-cell research from human embryos the U.S. will fall behind other countries in terms of leadership in the development of new drugs and preventing diseases	2005	54	25	21
I don't believe that we should put the interest of medical science ahead of the preservation of human life, which includes human embryos	2005	27	48	24

NOTE: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.

* * *

"Please indicate whether you tend to agree or disagree with the following statements about stem-cell research"*

Base: All Adults

	Total	Party Identification		
		Republican	Democrat	Independent
As long as the parents of the embryo give their permission, and the embryo would otherwise be destroyed, stem-cell research should be allowed	72%	62%	79%	79%
If most scientists believe that stem-cell research will greatly increase our ability to prevent or treat serious diseases we should trust them and let them do it	65	54	74	70
If the federal government does not fund stem cell research from human embryos the U.S. will fall behind other countries in terms of leadership in the development of new drugs and preventing diseases	54	41	65	60

I don't believe that we should put the interest of medical science ahead of the preservation of human life, which includes human embryos	27	39	20	27
Using cells from human embryos for research comes too close to allowing scientists to play God	23	34	17	20
Allowing any medical research using stem cells from human embryos should be forbidden because it is unethical and immoral	17	30	9	14

NOTE: Percent Saying "Tend to Agree"

Methodology:

This poll was conducted online in the U.S., May 25-27, 2005, among a nationwide cross section of 2,012 adults aged 18 and over. Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, income and region were weighted where necessary to align with population proportions. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online. In theory, with probability samples of this size, one could say with 95% certainty that the results have a sampling error of ± 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire U.S. adult population had been polled with complete accuracy. This online sample was not a probability sample.

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