



Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease

**National Survey of Public Attitudes on  
Alzheimer's Disease Policy  
Conducted by  
Lake Research Partners and American Viewpoint**

**Key Findings**

- **Three-quarters of voters say it is personally important to both find a cure for and prevent Alzheimer's disease, with over a third saying it is extremely important.** Intensity and overall importance are similar for finding a cure and prevention and are greatest among those who know someone with Alzheimer's or have had a family member with the disease.
  - Women, especially older women, are more likely than men to think finding a cure is extremely important, but both place personal importance on this issue.
  
- **Even without hearing facts on the disease, over three-quarters of voters think Congress should make speeding up the FDA review process for therapies that will potentially slow, halt or reverse the progress of Alzheimer's disease a national priority.** Further, voters do not need additional facts or statistics to support the government urging the FDA to speed up the FDA's review process for Alzheimer's treatments.
  - Initially and also at the end of the survey, two-thirds say they strongly favor this action.
  
- **In an engaged debate, voters side with speeding up the review process for Alzheimer's treatments and letting patients, their doctors and families make decisions.** This proves true across all subgroups of the electorate.
  - Even the majority of voters who do not have a personal connection to Alzheimer's believe the time has come to speed up the review process for Alzheimer's treatments.

- When asked to assess three different approaches to reviewing Alzheimer’s drugs – fast-tracking their status similar to other life-threatening diseases, making all treatments available and letting patients and doctors decide about risks and benefits or the FDA continuing with its current procedures – only a minority support the FDA’s status quo.
  - Nationwide, a plurality believes all Alzheimer’s treatments should be made available, and another 28 percent say the drugs should be fast-tracked.
- **The cost of caring for Alzheimer’s is significant to the majority of voters.** Most voters are not confident about covering the cost of care if they were diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Voters support a range of policies and proposals related to Alzheimer’s disease.**
  - Over two-thirds strongly favor tax deductions for long term care insurance and allowing parents under 65 who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease to be claimed by their children as dependents to qualify for health insurance.
  - More than half of voters strongly support providing tax incentives to caregivers who provide care to their parents diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.
  - 61 percent of voters strongly favor policies requiring doctors to use electronic medical records to improve care coordination.
  - All subgroups of voters net favored a proposal to expand Medicare coverage to include Alzheimer’s therapies and services in non-traditional settings, such as a patient’s home.

<sup>1</sup> Lake Research Partners and American Viewpoint designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached a total of 2,600 likely voters. The survey was comprised of a base sample of 1,000 likely voters nationwide, oversamples of 600 likely California voters, 500 likely Connecticut voters and 500 likely Michigan voters. In the combined totals, respondents in the California, Connecticut and Michigan oversamples were weighted down to reflect their actual proportion in the population. The survey was conducted from June 3 – 14, 2009. Telephone numbers were drawn from a random digit dialing (RDD) sample. Data were weighted slightly by gender, party identification, age, education, and region to reflect the attributes of this universe. The margin of error for the full sample is +/-1.9%.