

# Most Americans believe a cure for Alzheimer's will come in their lifetime

September 21 2018, by Laura Wright

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A new survey released today finds that most U.S. adults (54 percent) are worried that they may develop Alzheimer's disease, and a majority

believe it is likely a cure will be developed in their lifetime (55 percent).

However, the [survey](#), conducted online by Harris Poll among more than 1,000 U.S. adults, also revealed a disconnect between their belief and the role they could play in the solution. Eighty-nine percent of respondents were confident that the answer to tackling disease lies in medical research and 77 percent were willing to participate. However, 67 percent had no idea how to get involved in medical research.

The survey was co-sponsored by Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) in Phoenix, AZ, and pharmaceutical companies Novartis and Amgen, in association with Alzheimer's Disease International.

"The results from this survey demonstrate the need to raise awareness about [clinical studies](#)," said Dr. Pierre N. Tariot, director of BAI and co-director of the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative (API). "Aside from funding, the greatest challenge in finding a way to treat, slow, or prevent Alzheimer's is the recruitment and retention of study participants. Scientists are making great progress in our efforts to find a way to end Alzheimer's, but an estimated 80% of studies fail to meet recruitment goals on time, which delays critically important research."

Donna Wilcock, Ph.D., associate director of the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, said that recruitment from Kentucky and surrounding areas faces similar challenges.

"Sanders-Brown is currently participating in more than a dozen clinical studies related to Alzheimer's disease," she said. "Slow enrollment is a costly and common obstacle that undermines medical research both nationally and here in Kentucky. Given the tremendous economic and [social burden](#) Alzheimer's places on patients and their caregivers, it's critical that we find ways to encourage more people to volunteer to advance scientific discovery."

BAI, Novartis, and Amgen are sponsors of the API's [Generation Program](#), which is evaluating investigational treatments to help prevent or delay the onset of Alzheimer's. Sanders-Brown is one of about 75 study sites nationwide. The API Generation Program is the first to incorporate both genetic testing (through [GeneMatch](#)) and counseling into the study screening process.

The program is enrolling volunteers aged 60-75 who are at higher risk of developing Alzheimer's but do not currently have or show signs of the disease.

Information about clinical trials is widely available online and from local patient advocacy groups. Details of Alzheimer's clinical studies can be found on the [Alzheimer's Prevention Registry](#)

Alzheimer's is the leading cause of dementia and affects 5.7 million Americans. This number is projected to increase to nearly 14 million by 2050. September 2018 marks the 7th World Alzheimer's Month and aims to raise awareness for the need of increased funding for and participation in [medical research](#).

The survey was conducted online by The Harris Poll on behalf of Banner Alzheimer's Institute, Novartis and Amgen, among 1,010 adults 18+ living in the U.S. The survey was conducted between July 25 and Aug. 21, 2018. Figures for age by gender, income, education, race/ethnicity, region, size of household, marital status, and employment status were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. The U.S. survey was a part of the larger global survey about Alzheimer's disease, including 10,000 people across 10 countries. The U.S. findings were consistent with global results.

Provided by University of Kentucky

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