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SURVEY RESULTS SHOW AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT BIOSECURITY THREATS AND BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVEST MORE IN PREPAREDNESS

The Alliance for Biosecurity, along with the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense and Trust for America's Health, released the results of a survey of the American public on their perceptions of biosecurity preparedness in the United States. According to the results, the American people are clear: biosecurity threats to the United States are of concern.

"The American people spoke loud and clear: biosecurity is a top priority, and it is important for the U.S. to invest in preparedness for pandemics and intentional threats," said Brent MacGregor, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Biosecurity and Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations at Seqirus. "We understand that biosecurity preparedness is a high priority national security issue, and now, through this survey we better understand the perspective of the American people. We intend to share the results of this survey with policymakers who can help address the public's concerns."

Specific findings from the survey include the following:

- 79 percent of Americans are concerned that naturally-occurring diseases like Ebola and Zika pose a threat to the United States and countries Americans travel to.
- 88 percent of Americans are concerned that terrorists might use biological weapons against the U.S. or our allies.
- 50 percent of Americans are confident that the U.S. government is prepared to address the next biosecurity threat.
- 88 percent of Americans support increasing the budget for preventive measures for biological threats.
- 61 percent of Americans are surprised to learn that preparedness funds are experiencing a shortfall.

"By its very nature, preparing for the next biosecurity threat is a moving target—be it a bioweapon or an emerging infectious disease like pandemic influenza or Ebola. We can't know the threat well in advance, but if we prepare appropriately, we can develop critical infrastructure and a set of products, platforms and trained people that will enable us to respond more rapidly to a threat when one arises," MacGregor said.

The President's 2017 budget request short changes essential programs that support public-private partnerships to develop and stockpile the vaccines and therapies we may need for tomorrow's threats. The survey shows that the public supports continued investment in preparedness and we remain hopeful Congress will address the significant deficit in the President's budget request as they start the appropriations process.

“This survey should be the last in a long line of wakeup calls for policymakers when it comes to public health funding,” said Richard Hamburg, interim president and CEO of TFAH. “Americans rightly think we may not be prepared for the next public health emergency—imagine what their perception would be if public health had been consistently and adequately funded over the last decade.”

The Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense released its assessment of biodefense policy, *A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize Efforts*, in October 2015. Like other Americans, Members of the Panel were concerned that we are not doing enough to meet the biosecurity threat. “We have reached a critical mass of biological crises. Myriad biological threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences have collectively and dramatically increased the risk to the Nation. They have also, we believe, garnered the attention of enough people who understand the threat is real, want to mobilize and take action, and can provide for effective national biodefense.”

Responses were from an omnibus survey of 1,000 U.S. adults, representative of the general U.S. population. The survey was fielded from March 28-30, 2016 with a margin of error of ± 3.1 .

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The Alliance for Biosecurity is a coalition of biopharmaceutical companies and laboratory/academic partners that promotes a strong public-private partnership to ensure medical countermeasures are available to protect public health and enhance national health security. The Alliance advocates for public policies and funding to support the rapid development, production, stockpiling, and distribution of critically needed medical countermeasures.

For more information, visit the Alliance for Biosecurity website at www.allianceforbiosecurity.org.

Trust for America’s Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.
www.healthyamericans.org.

*The [Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense](#) released its report, *A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize Efforts*, in October 2015. The report identifies capability gaps and recommends changes to U.S. policy and law to strengthen national biodefense while optimizing resource investments. The panel is co-chaired by former Sen. Joe Lieberman and former Gov. Tom Ridge, who are joined by former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, former Sen. Tom Daschle, former Rep. Jim Greenwood, and the Hon. Kenneth Wainstein. [Hudson Institute](#) is the institutional sponsor of the Panel, along with the [Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies](#).*