

**Research!Sweden**  
**– for health and prosperity**

# Opinion poll & Proposed measures

The opinion of the Swedish public  
on the importance of medical research  
& Research!Sweden´s proposed  
measures to strengthen Sweden

*February 2012*

# Sweden is losing something valuable

Sweden has for more than half a century benefited from world-leading medical research, a healthcare system conducting clinical studies, and a growing medical industry. This is no longer the case.

The poll that Novus conducted on behalf of Research!Sweden shows that the Swedish public has a clear understanding of the challenges we have in Sweden and that medical research is an important tool to address these. In addition to financial investments, a number of structural changes are required for research in Sweden to maintain a high quality and to be transferred into processes and treatments in order to ultimately benefit patients.

Sweden needs to turn the negative trends quickly, in order not to lose the unique advantages that we still have. Otherwise the way back will be both difficult, long and costly. Research!Sweden has introduced proposals aimed at meeting the challenges.

# Research!Sweden´s proposed measures

**Challenge 1** Sweden´s position in medical research has declined

Proposal: Strengthen medical research, both financially and structurally

- Change the structure of funding of research to improve the quality of Swedish research
- Introduce tax deduction for donations to research

**Challenge 2** The health care system does no longer give enough room for clinical studies and innovation

Proposal: Increase the possibilities to perform clinical studies within the health care system and increase the incentives for scientists and caregivers to participate.

- Increase the number of combined positions at University Hospitals and introduce a career system where research and innovation are accounted for
- Integrate clinic and research in the training of specialists
- Optimize the use of the national funds for clinical research
- Introduce a system to accredit hospitals that perform research

cont.

**The complete document is found at: [www.forskasverige.se/atgardsprogram](http://www.forskasverige.se/atgardsprogram) (in Swedish)**

# Research!Sweden´s proposed measures

**Challenge 3** Patients in Sweden do not always have access to the most modern and effective methods

Proposal: Make the safest and most effective methods in health care available to Swedish citizens

- Use well-functioning quality registries as tools for performance management
- Use well-functioning quality registries for clinical trials
- Further develop the quality registries and other data bases in areas where these are missing or underdeveloped
- Support the proposal from the Swedish Research Council and Vinnova concerning research on treatments

**Challenge 4** Life science companies are reducing the number of employees in Sweden, which is likely to reduce exports and tax revenues and the overall knowledge base

Proposal: Create better conditions for research-based life science industry in Sweden

- Improve the possibilities for innovation procurement in the medical field
- Introduce internationally competitive tax incentives for research and development

**The complete document is found at: [www.forskasverige.se/atgardsprogram](http://www.forskasverige.se/atgardsprogram) (in Swedish)**

# Summary of opinion poll

More than 90 percent of the Swedish public think that the life science industry is the most important industry for the future of Sweden, along with energy. Other industries are placed behind.

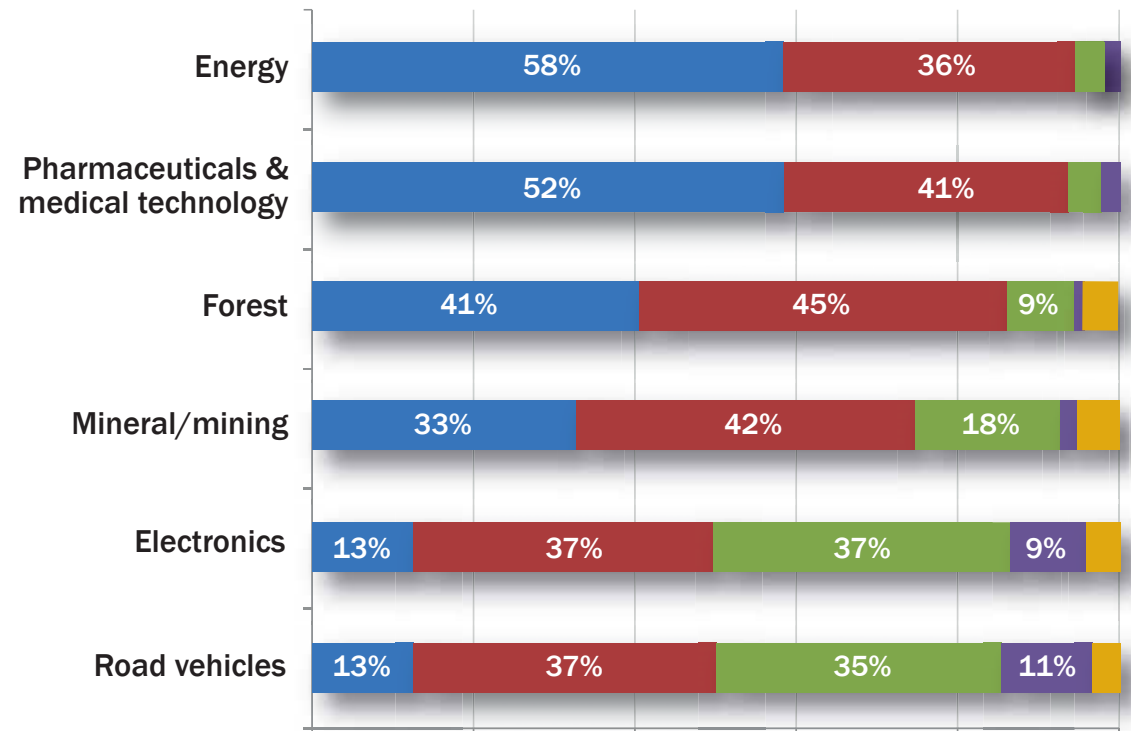
The opinion poll also shows that 85 percent of the Swedes think that the government should spend more public money on medical research, not only as a prerequisite for the country's competitiveness, jobs and export income, but also to ensure good quality care in the future. Over 80% consider it important for Sweden to be a world leader in medical research and to be able to develop new and more effective medical treatments. Eight out of ten Swedes would even be willing to pay more in taxes - as long as it is earmarked for medical research. One explanation for the Swedes' positive attitude towards medical research is that they are convinced that an investment today will pay off in the long run.

The survey also shows that Swedes are very worried about the future of health care. Not even half believe that the health care will take good care of them when they may need it. In addition, a majority does not think they get the best care today. A majority are also worried that they or their family members may get an incurable disease. These results are also an explanation as to why the support to increase investments in medical research and its implementation in health care is so strong. In summary, the survey provides solid and strong arguments for our politicians to make medical research a higher national priority.

# Energy and pharmaceuticals/medical technology are considered the most important industries in the future

## Question:

*How important do you think it is to put an effort into making Sweden a strong actor in the future, within the following industries?*

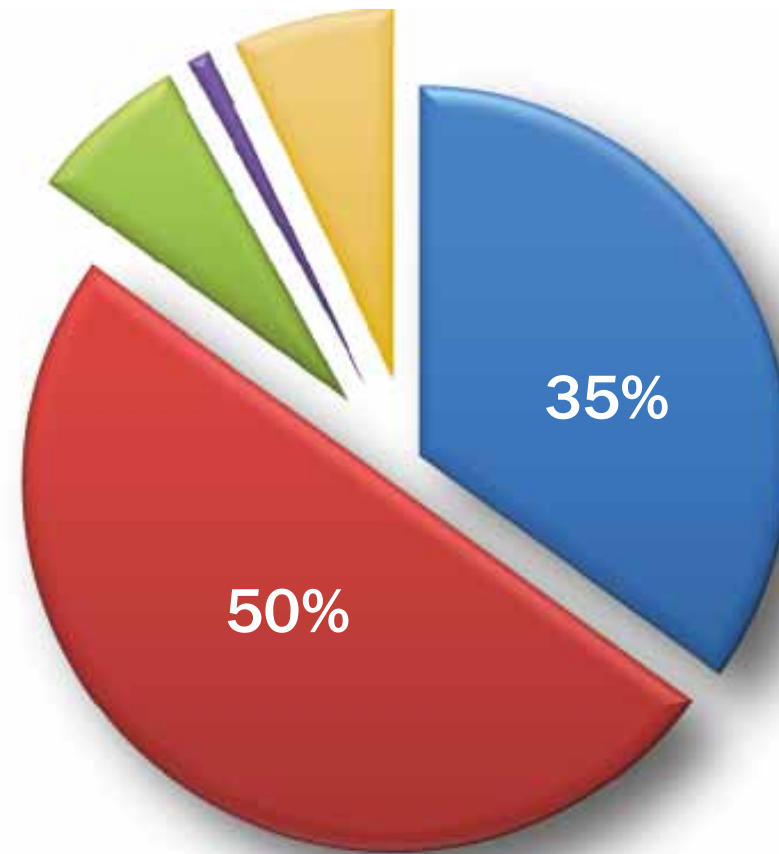


Base: All N = 1050

■ Very important   
 ■ Quite important   
 ■ Not very important   
 ■ Not at all important   
 ■ Don't know

# 85% think it is important that Sweden increases its investments in medical research

Question:  
How important do you think it is that Sweden increases its investments in medical research?



Base: All N = 1050

Very important   Quite important   Not very important   Not at all important   Don't know

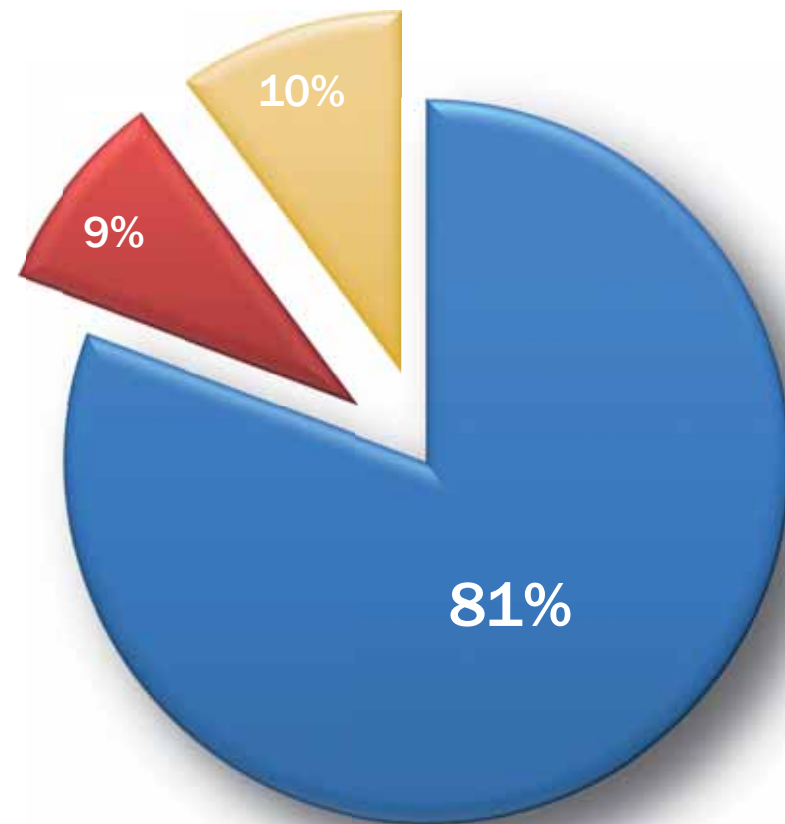


## 8 out of 10 Swedes would be willing to pay more in taxes if they knew that it went to medical research

### Question:

Would you be willing to pay 10 SEK more in taxes (per month) if you knew that it would go to medical research to improve health?

Base: All N = 1050



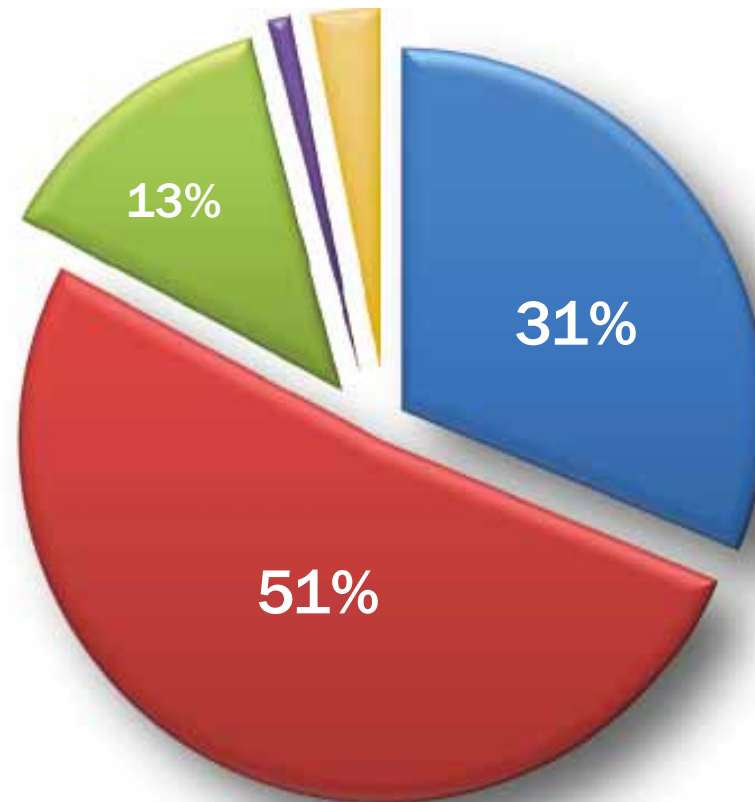
Yes

No

Don't know

## 4 out of 5 consider it important for Sweden to be a world leader within medical research

*Question:  
Do you consider it important for Sweden to be a world leader within medical research?*



Base: All N = 1050

Very important   Quite important   Not very important   Not at all important   Don't know

# Why do you consider it important for Sweden to be a world leader in medical research?

## Open responses from the Swedish public

"Otherwise there is a great risk that we lose companies, such as AstraZeneca"

"It generates employment and tax revenue"

"Research leads to new discoveries which in turn leads to jobs and increased prosperity"

"To be at the forefront of research benefits the country in general"

"It is important to keep researchers in the country"

"Research is important in order to develop health care in a safe and democratic way"

"New methods can be introduced faster in the health care system"

"I think Swedish research is a prerequisite for quality health care"

"Because we have the financial resources, making it almost a duty"

"For us to help other nations in the best way"

"As a developed country and a country that has great potential in medical research, I think it is important to take advantage of these opportunities. Both for the country and the world's best"

"Sweden must be at the forefront"

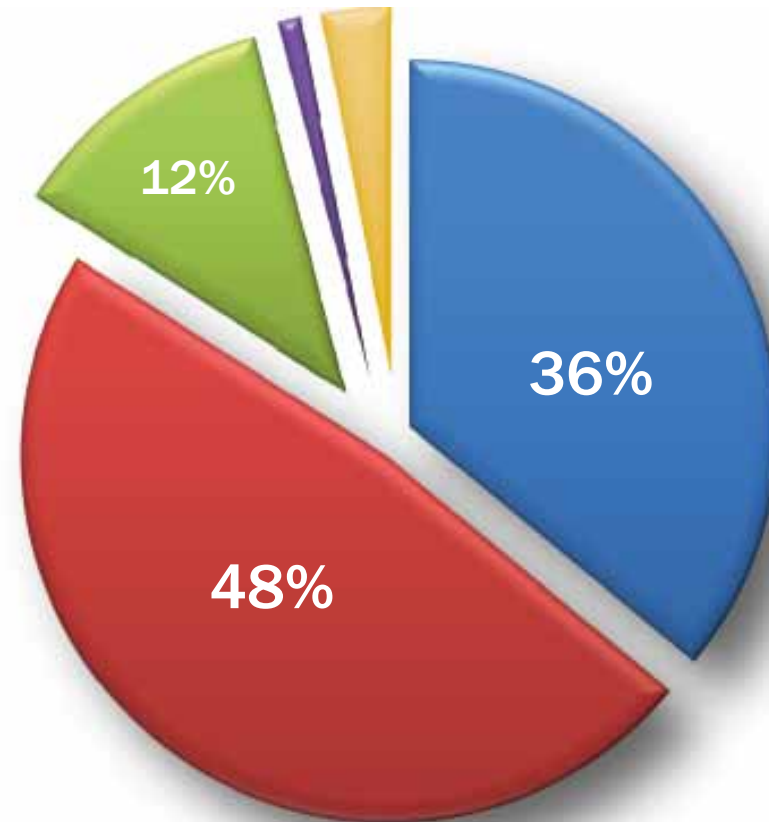
"In order not to fall behind other countries and to keep a good quality"

"Sweden is a welfare state that should have the resources to perform world leading research"

# Over 80% think that it is important for Sweden to be a world leader in developing new medical treatments

Question:

*How important do you think it is that Sweden is a world leader in developing new and more effective medical treatments?*



Base: All N = 1050

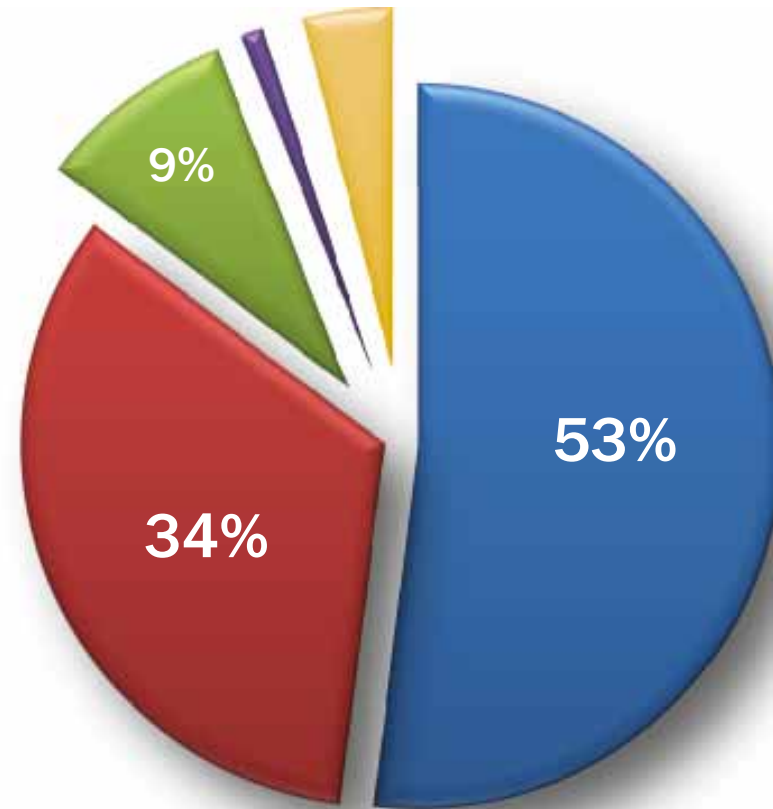
Very important   Quite important   Not very important   Not at all important   Don't know

# The Swedish public strongly believes that an increased investment in medical research is valuable for the future

Question:

How well do you agree with the following statement?

If Sweden spends more on medical research today, there will be a return in the long term



Base: All N = 1050

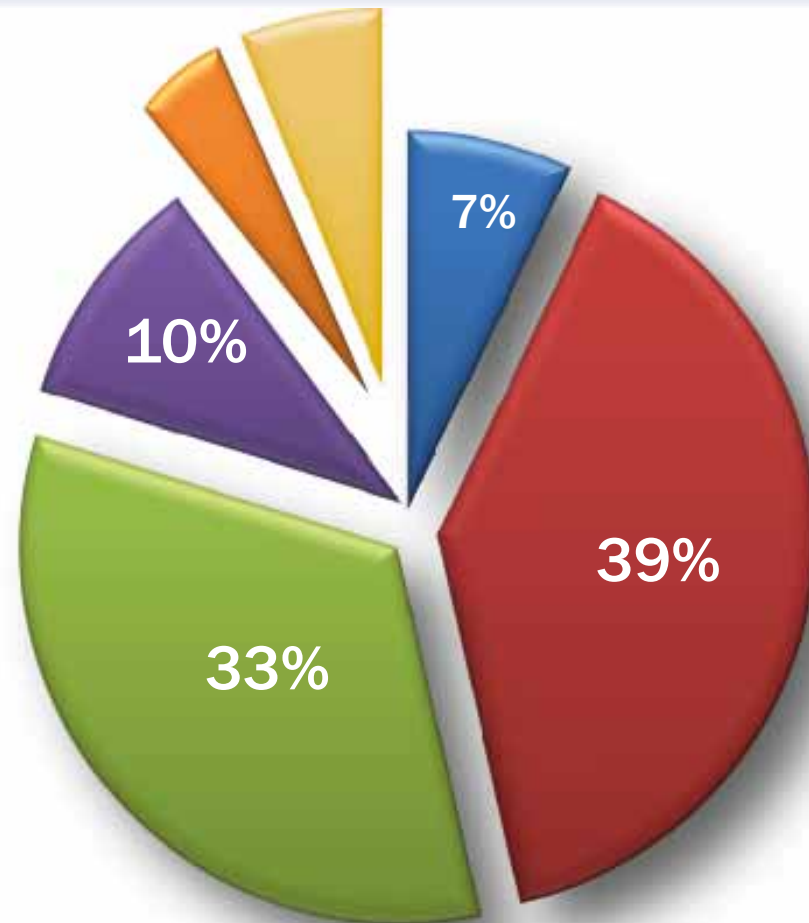
5 Agree completely 4 3 2 1 Do not agree at all Don't know

## Less than half believe that patients in Swedish hospitals have access to the safest and most effective treatments

Question:

How well do you agree with the following statement?

Patients in hospitals in Sweden have access to the safest and most effective treatments available



Base: All N = 1050

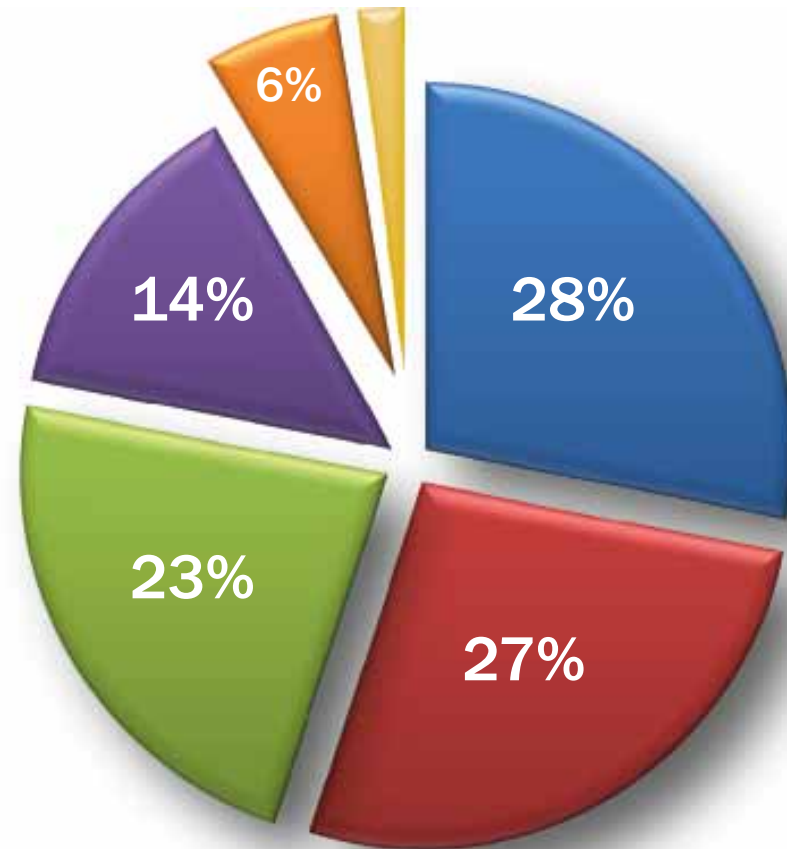


# A majority are worried that they or a family member will get a disease that is not treatable

Question:

How well do you agree with the following statement?

I'm worried that I or a family member will get a disease that is not treatable



Base: All N = 1050

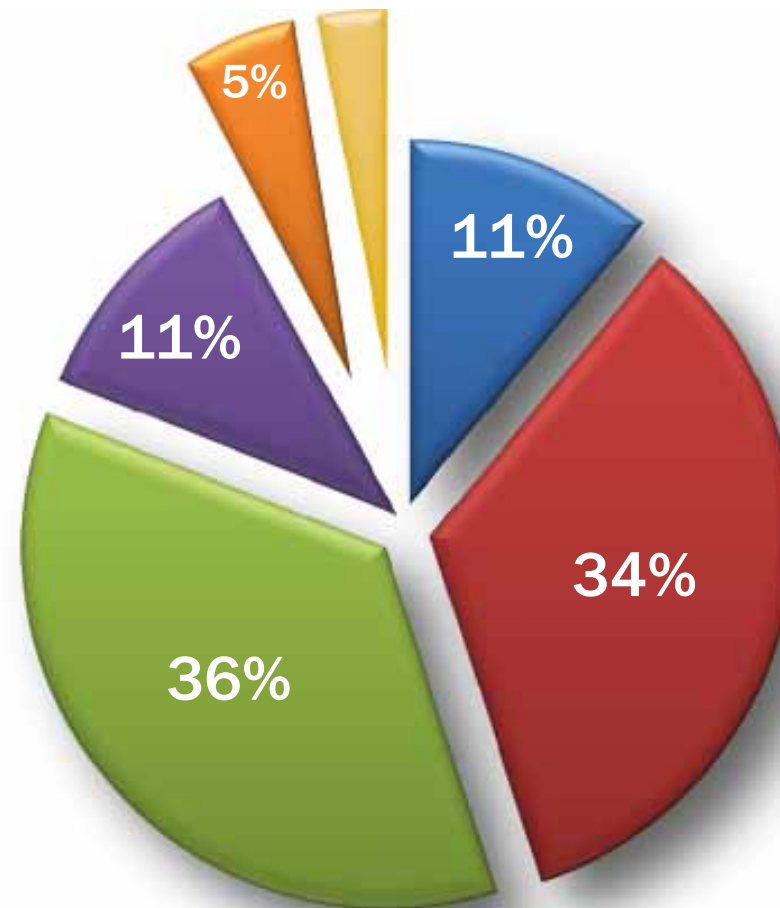
5 Agree completely 4 3 2 1 Do not agree at all Don't know

# Not even half believes that the health care system will take good care of them when they need it

Question:

How well do you agree with the following statement?

The Swedish health care system will take good care of me when I need it



Base: All N = 1050

5 Agree completely 4 3 2 1 Do not agree at all Don't know

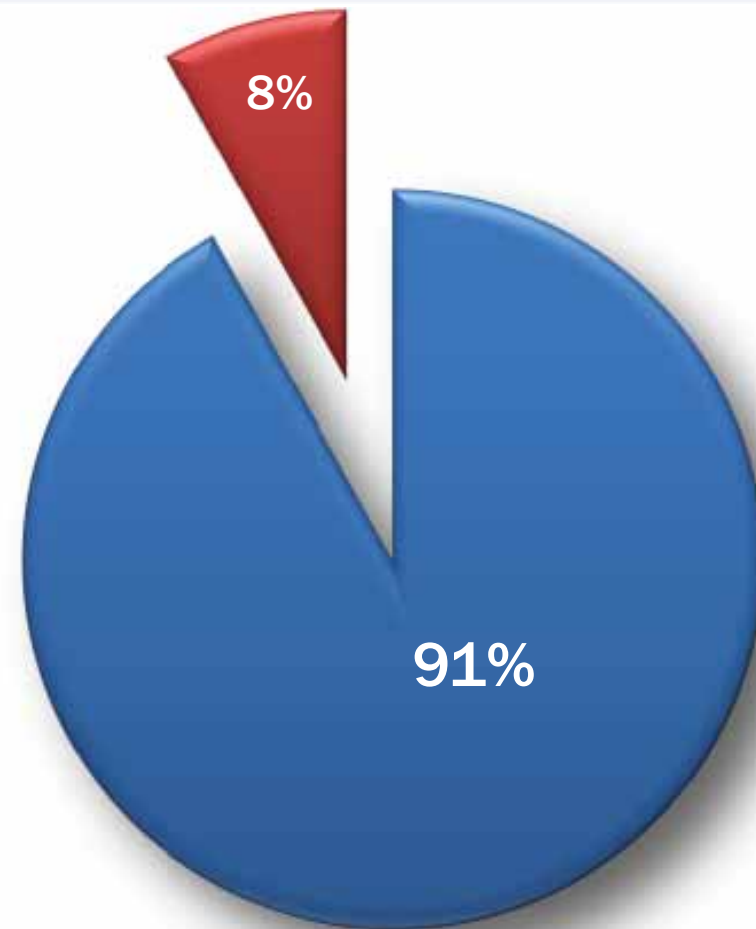


## Access to modern, safe and effective methods are considered key in order for health care to work well

### Question:

How important do you think the following is, in order for Sweden to have a well-functioning health care in the future?

That patients in Sweden have access to modern, safe and effective methods



Base: All N = 1050



Very important



Quite important



Not very important



Not at all important



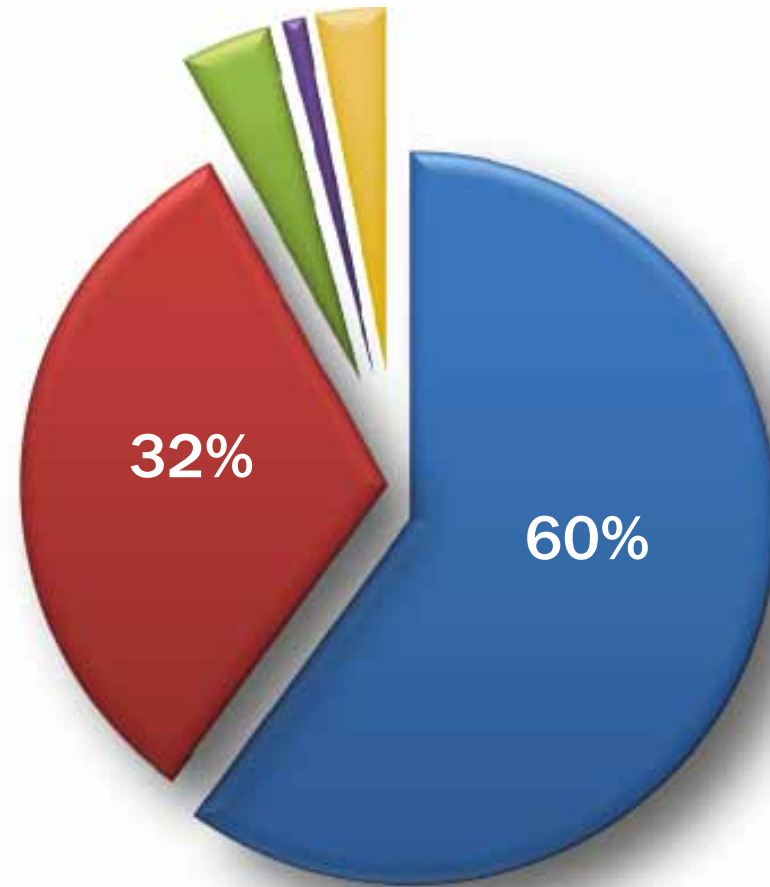
Don't know

# To maintain a well-functioning health care, 92% consider it important for the government to increase the investment in medical research

Question:

*How important do you think the following is, in order for Sweden to have a well-functioning health care in the future?*

That the government increases the investment in medical research



Base: All N = 1050

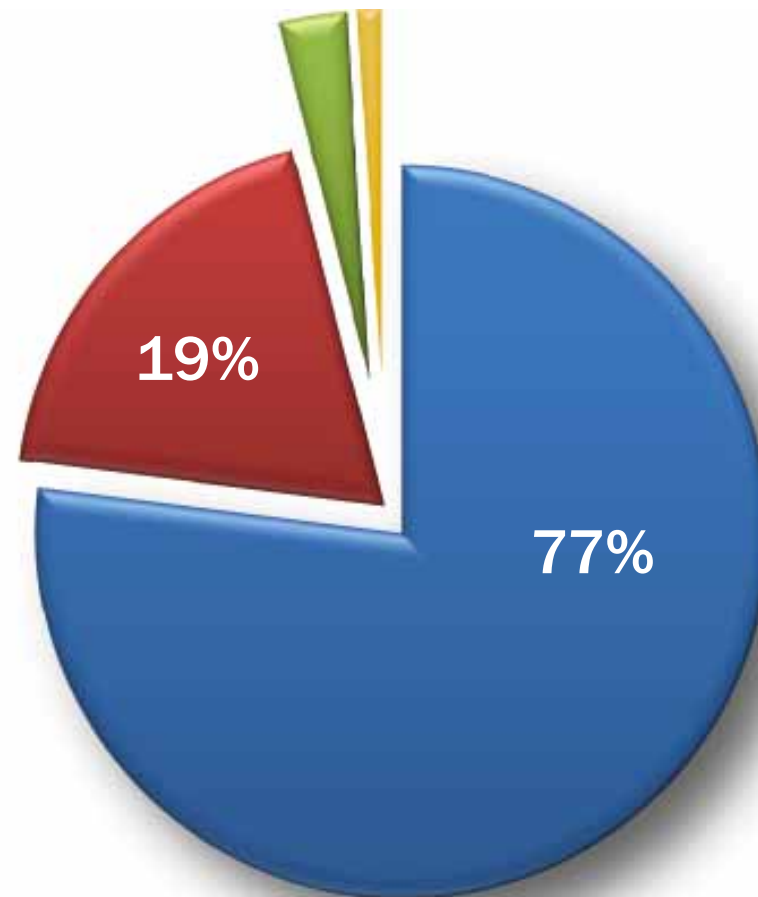
Very important    Quite important    Not very important    Not at all important    Don't know

## Over 90% think that health care will suffer if the quality of medical research falls

### Question:

*How important do you think the following is, in order for Sweden to have a well-functioning health care in the future?*

That the quality of medical research in Sweden does not lag behind in comparison with other countries



Base: All N = 1050

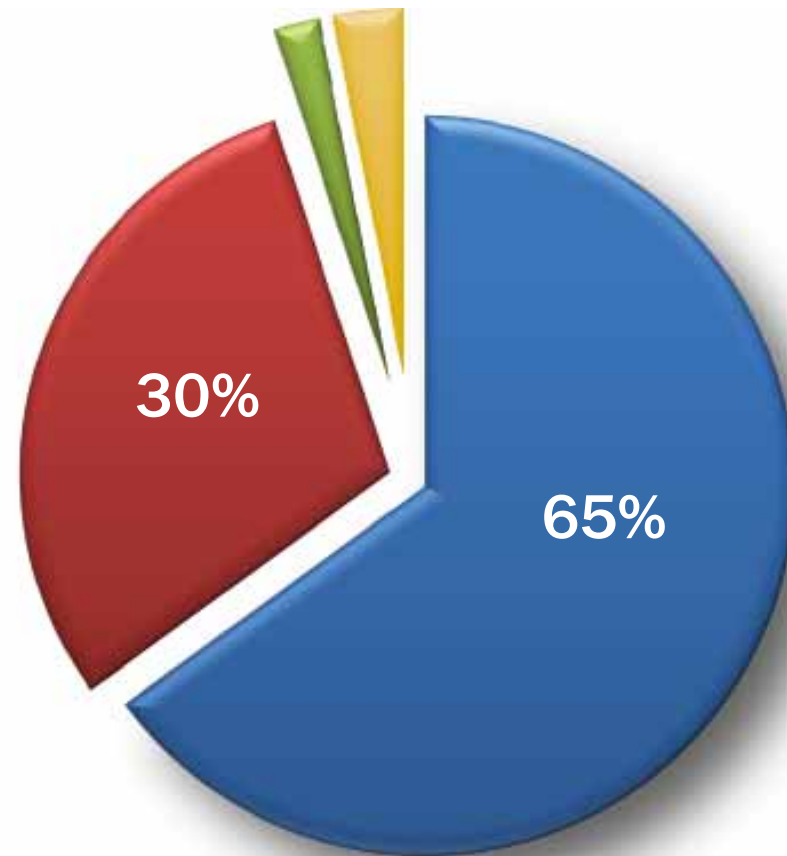
Very important    Quite important    Not very important    Not at all important    Don't know

## Clinical research has very strong support among the Swedish public

### Question:

*How important do you think the following is, in order for Sweden to have a well-functioning health care in the future?*

That there is room within the health care system for medical research and development, in close collaboration with the care provided



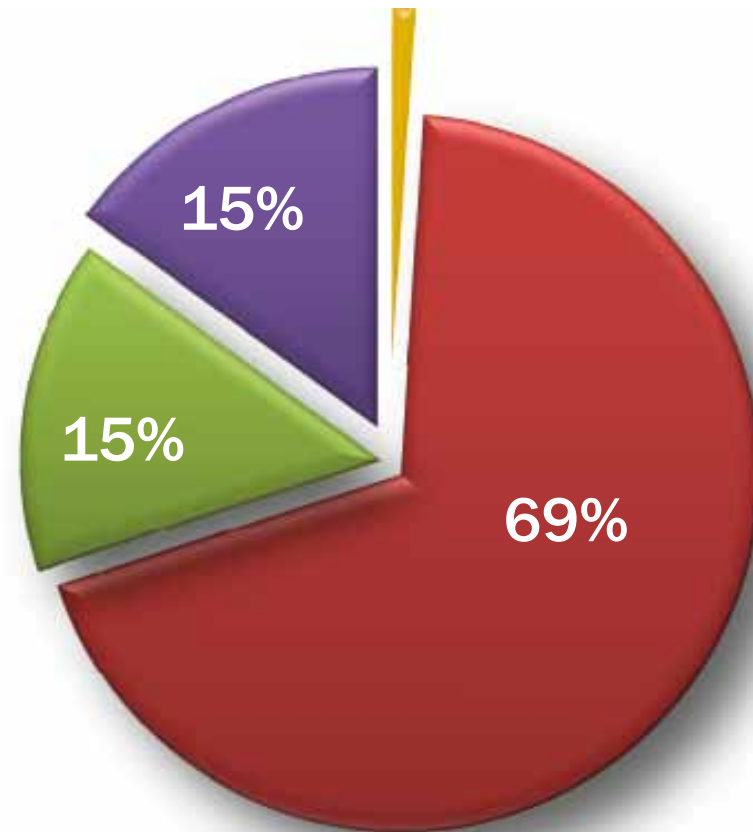
Base: All N = 1050

Very important   Quite important   Not very important   Not at all important   Don't know

## More than 2 out of 3 believe that Sweden is not investing enough on research to develop new treatments

### Question:

*Of every SEK spent on health care, 2 öre goes to research to develop new and better treatments. Do you think that it is too much, the right amount, or not enough?*



Base: All N = 1050



Too much



Too little



Right amount



Not enough

# About the survey

## Method and targetgroup

**Method:**

Web-based interviews in Novus Sweden Panel

**Span:**

1050 interviews were conducted by Novus 15th - 20th December, 2011

**Target group:**

Nationally representative sample of the Swedish public, 18 - 79 years.

Feel free to quote the study, but state Research!Sweden / Forska!Sverige as the source.

# About Research!Sweden

Research!Sweden has been founded by people from all parts of society: politics, business, culture, trade unions, patient associations, health care and academia. All are deeply concerned about the negative development for medical research and innovation in Sweden. We have taken the initiative to create an independent foundation that will work to make medical research a higher national priority - for health and prosperity.

Research!Sweden does not fund research. Our mission is to inform and raise awareness about the value of medical research for health and prosperity. We do this by providing facts to key decision-makers and act as a forum for constructive discussions for change. We are inspired by, and collaborate with, Research!America that has been very successful in advocating the value of medical research for over 20 years.

# Founders of Research!Sweden

Signhild Arnegård Hansen

Göran Arvidsson

Jan Bagge

Marie Beckman Suurkula

Per Belfrage

Hans Bergström

Richard Bergström

Håkan Billig

Olle Björk

Ingalill Björn

Patrik Brundin

Dan Brändström

Anne Carlsson

Arvid Carlsson

Ingvar Carlsson

Lena Carlsson

Helena Edlund

Anders Ekblom

Sven Enerbäck

Sigbrit Franke

Peter Friberg

Ulla-Britt Fräjdin Hellqvist

Henrik Hammar

Göran Hansson

Outi Hovatta

Chris Heister

Carl-Henrik Heldin

Staffan Hildebrand

Bo Ingemarson

Lars Isaksson

Staffan Josephson

Lars Klareskog

Klas Kullander

Ingrid Kössler

Sune Larsson

Carola Lemne

Per Ludvigsson

Göran Magnusson

Björn O Nilsson

Anna Nilsson Vindefjärd

Sture Nordh

Annelie Nordström

Staffan Normark

Björn Odlander

Ingalill Rahm Hallberg

Nina Rehnqvist

Anders Rosén

Daniel Sachs

Bengt Samuelsson

Akbar Seddigh

Michael Sohlman

Olle Stendahl

Carl Johan Sundberg

Ann-Christin Tauberman

Lena Treschow Torell

Mathias Uhlén

Per Unckel

Ursula Tengelin

Mats Ulfendahl

Anders Wall

Marcus Wallenberg

Torsten Wiesel

Hans Wigzell

Karin Öllinger



# The vision of Research!Sweden

- **Sweden should be a country that receives the Nobel Prize, not only hands it out**
- **Research, health care and companies should be developed in, and moved to Sweden, not move out**
- **Sweden should be a country where medical discoveries are developed and come to use faster for the population**

# Contact

The foundation Research!Sweden:

Anna Nilsson Vindefjärd, Secretary General

E-mail: [anna@forskasverige.se](mailto:anna@forskasverige.se)

Telephone: +46 703-88 35 96

[www.forskasverige.se](http://www.forskasverige.se)

Twitter @forskasverige

**Research!Sweden cares about the future  
– the health of the citizens and the prosperity of Sweden**