

Public Overwhelmingly Supportive of Genetic Science and its Use for a Wide Variety of Medical, Law Enforcement and Personal Purposes

Most U.S. adults are opposed to its use by employers and insurers

According to a new Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Healthcare Poll, the public is almost unanimous in its opinions on the science of genetics and the use of DNA. While only five percent of all adults have ever had a genetic test to study their DNA, the vast majority of U.S. adults (93%) feel that genetic science is a good thing, and few (only 1%) feel it is a bad thing. Furthermore, most adults are supportive of using genetic information for purposes such as to identify criminals (93%) and to treat disease (87%).

These are some of the results of a Harris Interactive online survey of 3,091 U.S. adults, conducted between August 10 and 14, 2006 for The Wall Street Journal Online's Health Industry Edition (www.wsj.com/health).

The vast majority of adults strongly or somewhat support the use of genetic information for:

- Identifying criminals in rape, murder and other crimes (93%)
- Establishing paternity (whether a man is or is not the father of a child) (92%)
- Research by scientists to find new ways to prevent or treat diseases (91%)
- Genetic testing by doctors to identify diseases for which people are at risk (88%)
- Genetic therapy to treat people who have, or are likely to get, a particular disease (87%)
- Tracing one's family tree and ancestors (85%)
- Screening potential parents for inherited diseases or genetic weaknesses at fertility clinics (72%)

On the other hand, when it comes to issues that could affect their jobs or insurance coverage and costs, adults do not want DNA science to play a role. Approximately four out of five adults strongly or somewhat oppose the use of genetic information by:

- Employers to help decide whether to employ somebody (81%)
- Life insurance companies to determine who to insure or how much to charge (80%)
- Health insurance companies to determine who to insure and how much to charge (80%)

Health-Care Poll

TABLE 1

Support and Opportunity for Ten Uses of Genetic Information

“The following is a list of different ways in which people use genetics and individuals’ genetic codes (DNA). Please indicate how much you support or oppose each of these uses of genetic information.”

Base: All Adults

	Strongly/ Some- what Support (NET)	Strongly Support	Some- what Support	Strongly/ Some- what Oppose (NET)	Some- what Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
To identify criminals in rape, murder and other crimes	93	86	8	2	1	2	4
To establish paternity (whether a man is or is not the father of a child)	92	77	15	3	2	1	5
Research by scientists to find new ways to prevent or treat diseases	91	75	17	4	2	1	5
Genetic testing by doctors to identify diseases for which people are at risk	88	61	27	7	5	2	5
Genetic therapy to treat people who have, or are likely to get, a particular disease	87	58	29	6	4	2	7
To trace one’s family tree and ancestors	85	50	35	7	5	2	8
By fertility clinics to screen potential parents for inherited diseases or genetic weaknesses	72	40	33	18	11	7	10
By life insurance companies to determine who to insure or how much to charge	14	4	10	80	19	60	7
By health insurance companies to determine who to insure and how much to charge	14	4	10	80	19	61	6
By employers to help decide whether to employ somebody	12	4	9	81	15	67	6

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

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TABLE 2

Is the Science of Genetics and DNA a Good or Bad Thing?

“Do you feel that the science of genetics and DNA is...?”

Base: All Adults

	Total
	%
A Very Good/Good Thing (Net)	93
A very good thing	53
A good thing	40
A Very Bad/Bad Thing (Net)	1
A bad thing	*
A very bad thing	*
Not sure	7

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

*Less than 0.5 percent

TABLE 3

Have Ever Had a DNA Test

“Have you ever had a genetic test to study your DNA?”

Base: All Adults

	Total
	%
Yes, have had a DNA test	5
No, have not	95

Health-Care Poll

Downloadable PDFs of Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Polls are posted at http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/newsletters_wsj.asp.

Methodology

Harris Interactive conducted this online survey within the United States between August 10 and 14, 2006 among a national cross section of 3,091 adults, ages 18 years and over. Figures for age, gender, 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.

All surveys are subject to several sources of error. These include: sampling error (because only a sample of a population is interviewed); measurement error due to question wording and/or question order, deliberately or unintentionally inaccurate responses, nonresponse (including refusals), interviewer effects (when live interviewers are used) and weighting.

With one exception (sampling error) the magnitude of the errors that result cannot be estimated. There is, therefore, no way to calculate a finite "margin of error" for any survey and the use of these words should be avoided.

With pure probability samples of 3,091, one could say with a ninety-five percent probability that the results have a sampling error of +/- 2 percentage points. However that does not take other sources of error into account. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

About the Survey

The Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Poll is an exclusive poll that is published in the award-winning Health Industry Edition of The Wall Street Journal Online at www.wsj.com/health.

About The Wall Street Journal Online

The Wall Street Journal Online at WSJ.com, published by Dow Jones & Company (NYSE: DJ; www.dowjones.com), is the largest paid subscription news site on the Web. Launched in 1996, the Online Journal continues to attract quality subscribers that are at the top of their industries, with 761,000 subscribers world-wide as of Q1, 2006.

The Online Journal provides in-depth business news and financial information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with insight and analysis, including breaking business and technology news and analysis from around the world. It draws on the Dow Jones network of nearly 1,900 business and financial news staff-the largest network of business and financial journalists in the world. The Online Journal also features exclusive content, including interactive graphics on business and world news, and online-only columns about the automotive industry, technology, personal finance and more.



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The Online Journal offers three industry-specific verticals: the award-winning Health, Media & Marketing and now Law. Health offers authoritative analysis, breaking news and commentary from top industry journalists. Media & Marketing is designed for professionals in the advertising, marketing, entertainment and media industries. Law is designed to provide law firms and attorneys timely information on events and trends important to the legal market. Subscribers to all also get access to the full content of the Online Journal.

In 2005, the Online Journal was awarded a Codie Award for Best Online News Service for the second consecutive year, and its Health Industry Edition was awarded Best Online Science or Technology Service for the third consecutive year. In 2004, the Online Journal received an Eppy Award for Best Internet Business Service over 1 million monthly visitors. The Wall Street Journal Online network includes CareerJournal.com, OpinionJournal.com, StartupJournal.com, RealEstateJournal.com and CollegeJournal.com.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is the 12th largest and fastest-growing market research firm in the world. The company provides research-driven insights and strategic advice to help its clients make more confident decisions which lead to measurable and enduring improvements in performance. Harris Interactive is widely known for *The Harris Poll*, one of the longest running, independent opinion polls and for pioneering online market research methods. The company has built what could conceivably be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its United States, Europe and Asia offices, its wholly-owned subsidiary Novatris in France and through a global network of independent market research firms. The service bureau, HISB, provides its market research industry clients with mixed-mode data collection, panel development services as well as syndicated and tracking research consultation. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at www.harrisinteractive.com.

To become a member of the Harris Poll Online, visit <http://go.hpolsurveys.com/Health>.

For more information, please contact us at:

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www.harrisinteractive.com/healthcare

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