



CBS NEWS POLL
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WHERE AMERICA STANDS: DEALING WITH ALZHEIMER'S
December 17 - 22, 2009

The public gives the country lukewarm grades on finding a cure for Alzheimer's, a brain disease that mainly affects older Americans. Just under half of Americans are worried about getting it someday -- and about the same percentage doesn't expect a cure to be found during their lifetimes.

Just a quarter of Americans give the country a grade of A or B when it comes to finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. 39% give the country a C, and another 27% give it a D or F. There are no differences by age.

GRADE ON FINDING A CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S

A	4%
B	21
C	39
D	20
F	7

54% expect a cure for Alzheimer's to be found in their lifetime, but 44% don't expect to see that happen.

CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S IN YOUR LIFETIME?

Very likely	9%
Somewhat likely	45
Not very likely	32
Not at all likely	12

Those age 65 and over are most pessimistic about a cure being found in their lifetime; 19% say that is not at all likely.

23% have had to care for a parent or relative with Alzheimer's.

HAVE YOU HAD TO CARE FOR RELATIVE WITH ALZHEIMER'S?

Yes	23%
No	77

Among Americans overall, 45% are very or somewhat worried about getting Alzheimer's themselves someday, and 54% are not worried. Those who have had to take care of a relative with Alzheimer's are more likely to be worried; 58% of them are.

WORRIED ABOUT GETTING ALZHEIMER'S?

	All	Cared for relative w/Alzheimer's
Very worried	6%	10%
Somewhat worried	39	48
Not worried	54	42

People under 30 are least likely to worry about getting this disease someday.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,048 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone December 17-22, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q20 Using a grading scale of A, B, C, D, and F, where A is excellent and F is very poor and using any of the grades in between, how would you grade the U.S. on its progress in finding a cure for Alzheimer's?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **		
	*** GENDER ***		
	Total	Men	Women
	%	%	%
A	4	4	4
B	21	20	22
C	39	41	37
D	20	19	22
F	7	6	8
DK/NA	9	10	7

q80 How likely do you think it is that scientists will find a cure for Alzheimer's in your lifetime -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?

Very likely	9	10	9
Somewhat likely	45	45	44
Not very likely	32	30	34
Not at all likely	12	13	11
DK/NA	2	2	2

q82 Have you had to care for a parent or relative with Alzheimer's?

Yes	23	23	23
No	77	76	77
DK/NA	0	1	0

q83 How worried are you about getting Alzheimer's someday -- very worried, somewhat worried, or not worried?

Very worried	6	6	7
Somewhat worried	39	37	41
Not worried	54	56	52
DK/NA	1	1	0

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>	<u>Margin of error</u>
Total Respondents	1048		3 pts.
Total Men	442	493	5 pts.
Total Women	606	555	4 pts.