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Most Are Confident in Government's Ability to Prevent Major Ebola Outbreak in U.S.

Just 11% Are 'Very Worried' They Will Be Exposed to Virus

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research

Alec Tyson, Senior Researcher

Rachel Weisel, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

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As the Ebola outbreak in Africa continues, and two patients receive treatment in the U.S., most Americans have at least a fair amount of confidence in the government's ability to prevent a major outbreak of Ebola in the U.S. In addition, relatively few are concerned that they or a family member will be exposed to the virus.

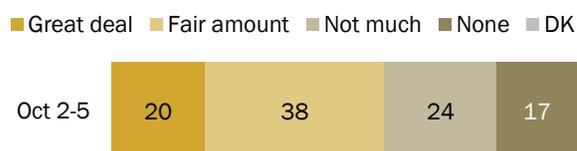
The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 2-5 among 1,007 adults, finds that 20% say they have a "great deal" of confidence in the federal government to prevent a major outbreak of Ebola in the U.S., while another 38% say they have a "fair amount" of confidence. Fewer than half express "not too much confidence" (24%) or "no confidence at all" (17%) in the government to prevent a major Ebola outbreak.

So far, the Ebola virus has not led to widespread concern about personal health: Just 11% are very worried that they or someone in their family will be exposed to the virus, while another 21% are somewhat worried. Two-thirds say they are either not too (37%) or not at all worried (30%) about contracting Ebola.

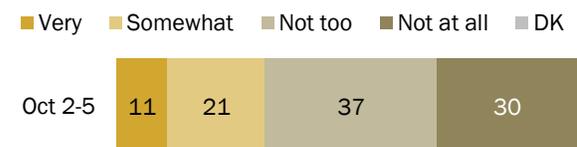
Public concern over the possibility of contracting the Ebola virus is lower than for other recent public health threats. In August 2009, 45% were worried about the possibility of being exposed to swine flu, and in November 2005, 38% worried about contracting bird flu.

So Far, No Evidence of Widespread Alarm over Ebola

How much confidence do you have in federal government to prevent a major outbreak of Ebola virus in U.S.? (%)



How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be exposed to the Ebola virus? (%)



Survey conducted Oct. 2-5, 2014.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Republicans Less Confident in Gov't Ability to Prevent Ebola Outbreak

Republicans are much more skeptical than Democrats and independents about the government's ability to prevent a major Ebola outbreak in the U.S.

By more than two-to-one, more Democrats say they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in the government to deal with Ebola (69%) than not much or no confidence at all (28%).

Independents also are confident in the government's ability to prevent an Ebola outbreak in the U.S. (56% vs. 42%).

Republicans are divided: About as many say they have little or no confidence (51%) in the federal government to prevent a major Ebola outbreak as say they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence (48%).

In November 2005, amid concerns over an outbreak of bird flu, Republicans were far more confident than Democrats in the government's ability to prevent a major outbreak. At that time, shortly after the Bush administration was widely criticized for its response to Hurricane Katrina, 74% of Republicans and just 35% of Democrats expressed confidence in the government's ability to deal with a possible bird flu outbreak.

Shifting Partisan Views of Federal Government's Handling of Health Crises

Confidence in federal government to deal with ...

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Ebola 2014				
Great deal/Fair amount	57	48	69	56
Not much/None	41	51	28	42
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
Bird Flu 2005				
Great deal/Fair amount	48	74	35	43
Not much/None	49	24	63	53
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Oct. 2-5, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Blacks, Hispanics More Concerned about Exposure to Ebola

Nearly half of blacks (47%) and 39% of Hispanics say they are very or somewhat worried about being exposed to the Ebola virus. By contrast, just 27% of whites are worried about getting the virus.

Women (37%) are somewhat more concerned than men (27%) that they or someone in their family will be exposed to Ebola.

Concern over Ebola exposure is higher among those with less education. Only about one-in-five college graduates (22%) say they are worried about being exposed to the Ebola virus. By comparison, 34% of those with some college experience and 38% of those with no more than a high school diploma say they are worried that they may contract Ebola.

Ebola Concern Higher among Non-Whites, Women, Less Educated

How worried are you that you or a family member will be exposed to the Ebola virus?

	Very/ Somewhat %	Not too/ Not at all %	DK %
Total	32	67	1=100
Men	27	72	1=100
Women	37	63	*=100
White	27	73	*=100
Black	47	53	0=100
Hispanic	39	58	3=100
College grad+	22	78	1=100
Some college	34	66	0=100
HS or less	38	61	1=100
Republican	33	67	1=100
Democrat	30	70	0=100
Independent	31	68	1=100

Survey conducted Oct. 2-5, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;

Hispanics are of any race.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 2-5, 2014 among a national sample of 1,007 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 506 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 288 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,007	3.6 percentage points
Republican	248	7.3 percentage points
Democrat	318	6.5 percentage points
Independent	347	6.2 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
October 2-5, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,007

PEW1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2 How much confidence do you have in the federal government to prevent a major outbreak of the Ebola virus in the U.S -- **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Oct 2-5

2014

20	A great deal of confidence
38	A fair amount of confidence
24	Not too much confidence [OR]
17	No confidence at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*How much confidence do you have in the federal government to deal with a possible outbreak of bird flu in America -- **[READ]**?*

November

2005

9	A great deal of confidence
39	A fair amount of confidence
33	Not too much confidence [OR]
16	No confidence at all
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be exposed to the Ebola virus -- **[READ IN ORDER]**?

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON¹:

		(Swine flu) August 2009	(Swine flu) May 2009	(Staph) October 2007	(Bird flu) November 2005	(SARS) May 2003
Oct 2-5 <u>2014</u>						
11	Very worried	10	8	12	11	12
21	Somewhat worried	35	28	32	27	23
37	Not too worried [OR]	34	37	32	38	31
30	Not at all worried	21	27	23	23	32
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	*	1	1	2

QUESTIONS PEW.4-PEW.5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹ In August 2009 and May 2009, the question began, "Now thinking about the swine flu that's been in the news lately." In October 2007, the question began: "Now thinking about the drug-resistant staph infection that's been in the news lately." In May 2003, the question began, "One last question about the new disease known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS."

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.) No preference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
October 2-5, 2014	22	30	37	6	1	4	14	13