

Value of science in everyday life

How useful is knowledge of science when it comes to people's everyday life and health?

The overwhelming majority of the public think it is useful for people to have an understanding of science in their daily lives.

People also acknowledge the impact medical research has on their lives. Other findings from the survey shows that almost all adults believe medical research will lead to an improvement in the quality of life in the UK in the next 20 years.

Nevertheless, people do not always find it easy to decipher what they see and hear about science and medical research, suggesting that this information could sometimes be made more accessible. Questions in the Monitor show that only two in five people say they usually understand the science stories they come across in the news, and not all of this group feel confident discussing such stories with their friends.

The Wellcome Trust Monitor is a unique survey of the UK public that is conducted every three years to look at changing knowledge and attitudes to medicine, science and health. For more findings on this topic, you can look in Chapter 3 of the Wellcome Trust Monitor Wave 3 Report (wellcome.ac.uk/monitor). This chapter gives more detail on the findings displayed here and also covers: why people choose to work in a scientific or medical field; and whether people have friends or family that work in scientific or medical fields.

Bases: 1,524 UK adults aged 18+ interviewed face-to-face by Ipsos MORI; 339 with university or college level science qualifications; 650 without any science qualifications. Fieldwork dates: 2 June to 1 November 2015. We suggest that you cite this infographic as follows: Ipsos MORI (2016) Wellcome Trust Monitor, Wave 3. London: Wellcome Trust (<http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3145744>).

Usefulness of science

How useful is understanding science to everyday life?

87% think it is useful for people in general

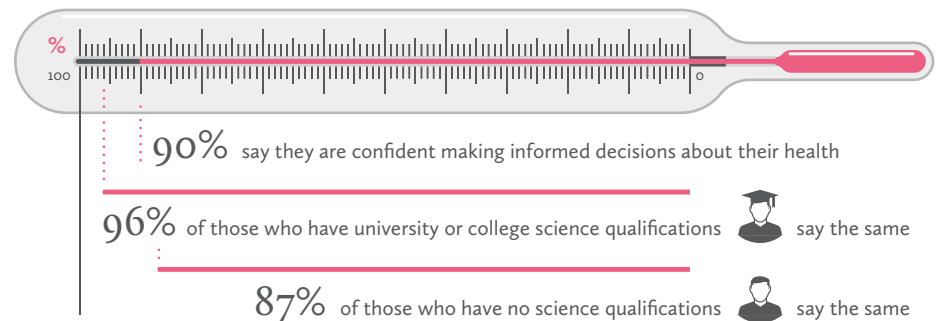


66% say it is useful for them personally



Making health-related decisions

How confident are people in making health-related decisions?



Talking to health professionals

Do people query medical professionals' conclusions?

