Medical research for children has advanced rapidly over the last 50 years. As a result, fewer kids die from infectious diseases, and tremendous strides have been made in the treatment of certain childhood cancers. However, as threats of some diseases have faded, concerns have increased related to patients' safety and to links between the environment and children’s health.

Parents continue to look to research to provide more benefits for children. In August 2010, the CS Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll on Children’s Health asked parents to rate the importance of different types of medical research for children’s health.

Parent Priorities for Children’s Medical Research

Parents were asked about the importance of different areas of research for children’s health. Nearly 9 in 10 parents rate research on the safety of vaccine and effectiveness and safety of medicines as very important for children’s health (Table 1).

Research on the environment and on cancer and other childhood diseases are viewed as comparatively less important. Less than half of parents rate medical research on the leading causes of childhood injuries as very important.

Ratings of research importance do not differ by parents’ race/ethnicity.

### Data Source

This report presents findings from a nationally representative household survey conducted exclusively by Knowledge Networks, Inc, for C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital via a method used in many published studies. The survey was administered on August 13 - September 7, 2010 to a randomly selected, stratified group of parents aged 18 and older (n=1,621) from the Knowledge Networks standing panel that closely resembles the U.S. population. The sample was subsequently weighted to reflect population figures from the Census Bureau. The survey completion rate was 57% among panel members contacted to participate. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2 to 3 percentage points, depending on the question.