

PUBLIC OPINION NEWS SERVICE

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Public Optimistic About New Salk Polio Vaccine

9 Out of 10 People Know About New Drug; Opinion is 13-to-1 That Vaccine Will Be Success

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PRINCETON, N. J., May 28—News of the new polio vaccine has reached an overwhelming proportion of the American public.

Nine out of every 10 persons who were questioned by Gallup Poll reporters in the latest nationwide survey said they had heard or read about the new test, developed by Dr. Jonas Salk of the University of Pittsburgh.

Many observers feel that the vaccine may at long last provide immunity against the dreaded disease of infantile paralysis.



Dr. Gallup work. One in three had no opinion.

In measuring public reaction to the tests, Institute reporters first asked a representative cross-section of the adults across the country this question:

"Have you heard or read anything about the new vaccine to keep people from getting polio?"

The results for the country as a whole:

Yes 90%
No 10%

Virtually the same high proportion of persons who have heard or read of the test is found in all segments of the population and in all parts of the country.

Of those persons who were familiar with the polio vaccine, a second question was asked:

"Do you think this vaccine will work?"

The nationwide figures: 53012/154
Yes 53%
No 4%
No Opinion 33%
Not familiar 10%

100%

In sections of the country, more persons in the East than in any other part of the nation see the new test as a polio preventative. Persons in the Far Western states are not quite so sure.

By regions, the breakdown is as follows:

	Mid-		Far	
	East	West	South	West
Yes	56%	53%	53%	45%
No	5	2	3	7
No Opinion	31	37	31	36
Not familiar	8	8	13	12

100% 100% 100% 100%

Young people between the ages of 30 and 49 are the most hopeful about the success of the new vaccine, while older people are more inclined to reserve judgment. The results are as follows:

	21-29	30-49	50 plus
Yes	53%	58%	46%
No	4	3	5
No Opinion ..	31	31	37
Not familiar ..	10	8	12

100% 100% 100%

First reports on the inoculations of the Salk vaccine given some 644,000 children in 44 states, are just now coming in. Dr. Hart E. Van Riper, medical director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, has stated that since the trials started, polio has broken out in Florida, Texas, and Michigan and three polio cases have occurred among the 644,138 children who have so far received only the first of a series of three injections.

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