



**Cogent Syndicated  
Genomics  
Attitudes &  
Trends: 2006**

# Americans' Attitudes Towards Genetic Discrimination

# Genomics Climate Fairly Stable

About one-quarter – **27%** - of Americans still **aware** (heard or read a lot or a fair amount) of using genetic information to understand and optimize health

More than half – **52%** - of Americans still **favorable** toward using individual genetic information to understand and optimize health

Slightly under half – **46%** - of Americans continue to be **interested** in using genetic information to understand and optimize their own health

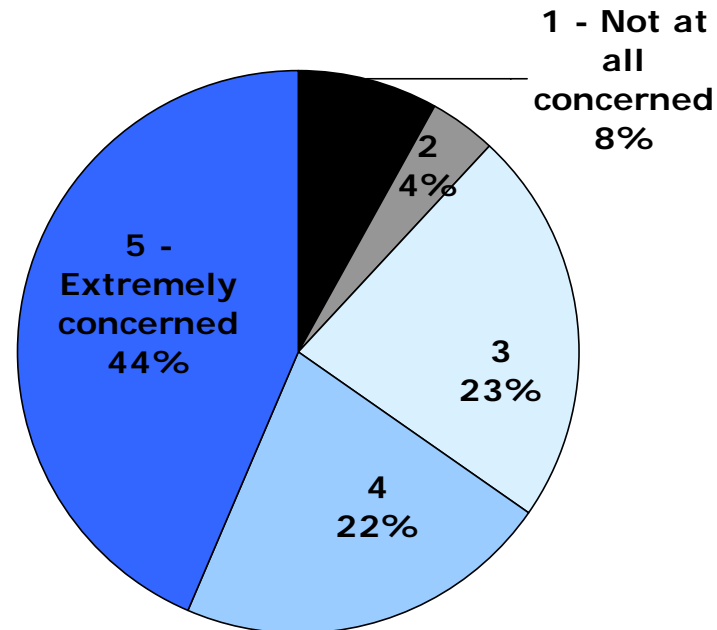


# Concern with Misuse Still High

**17%** mention fear of genetic discrimination as drawback of genomics

**66%** are concerned about how their personal genetic information would be stored and who would have access to it

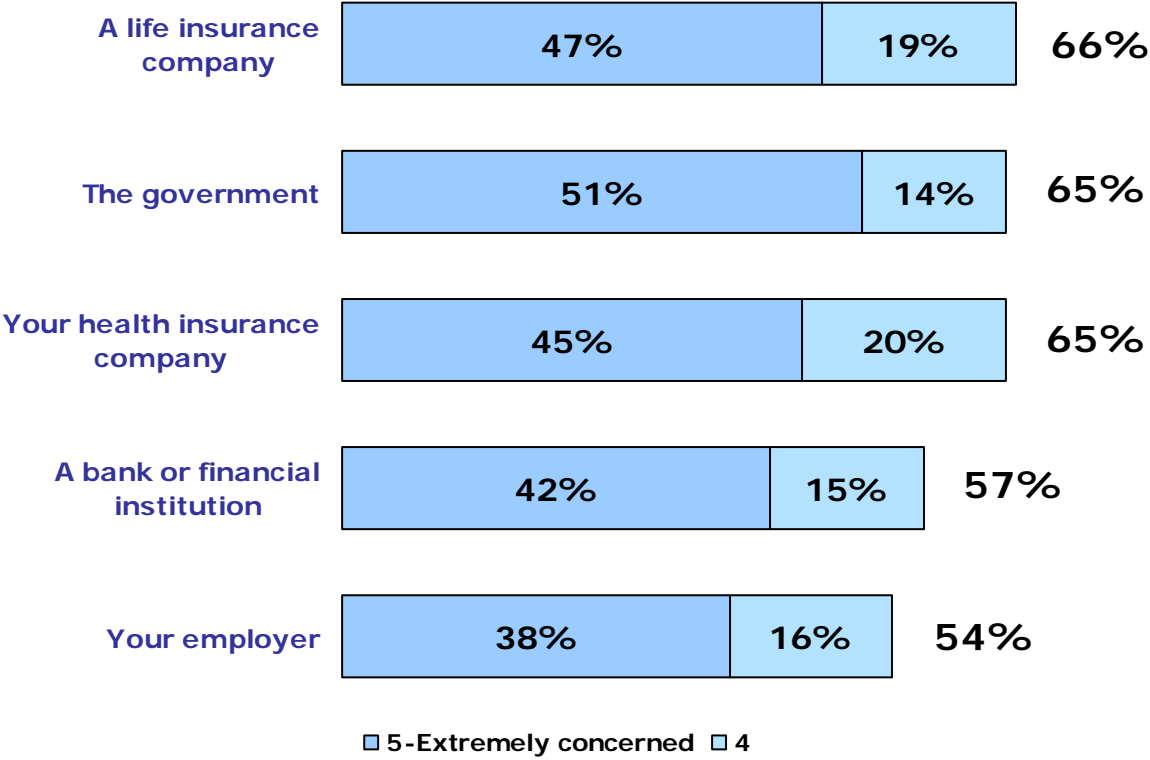
**30%** say their concern would prevent them from having a genetic test (out of *all* Americans)



*To what extent, if at all, are you concerned about how personal genetic information would be stored and who would have access to that information?*

# Numerous Entities Implicated

How concerned are you about each of the following entities gaining unauthorized access to your personal genetic information?



# Extent Of Mistrust Considerable

Insurance companies will do everything possible to use genetic information to deny health coverage.



64% agree

5-Strongly Agree 4

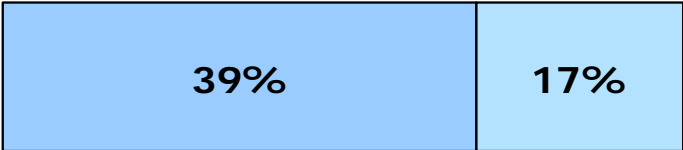
Insurance companies will use information to deny coverage for drugs people need if genetic profile indicates low change of responding.



64% agree

5-Strongly Agree 4

The info would become part of your medical record and obtainable by insurance companies.

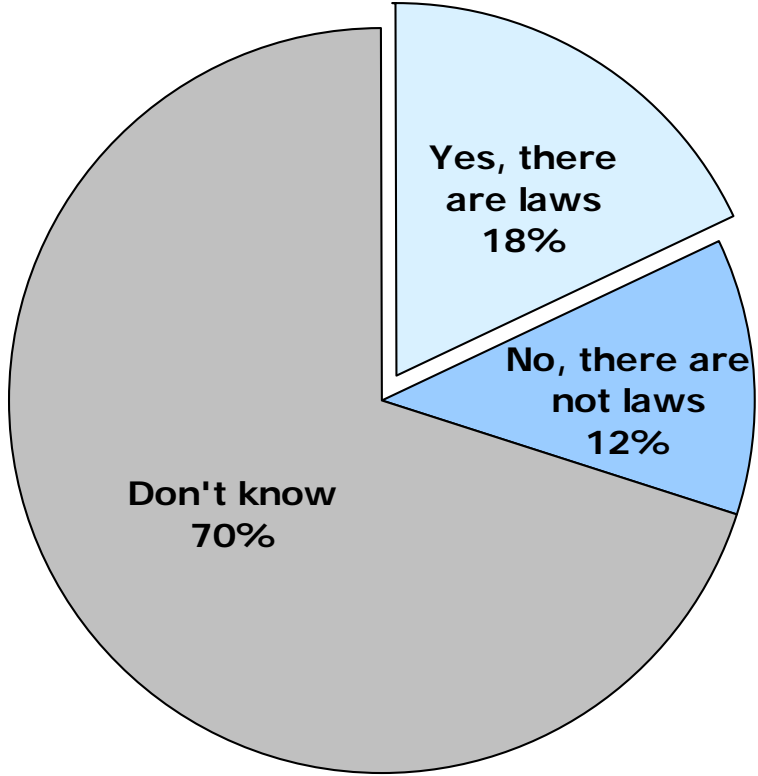


56% decrease in interest

1-Much less interested 2



# Few Americans Aware Of Protections



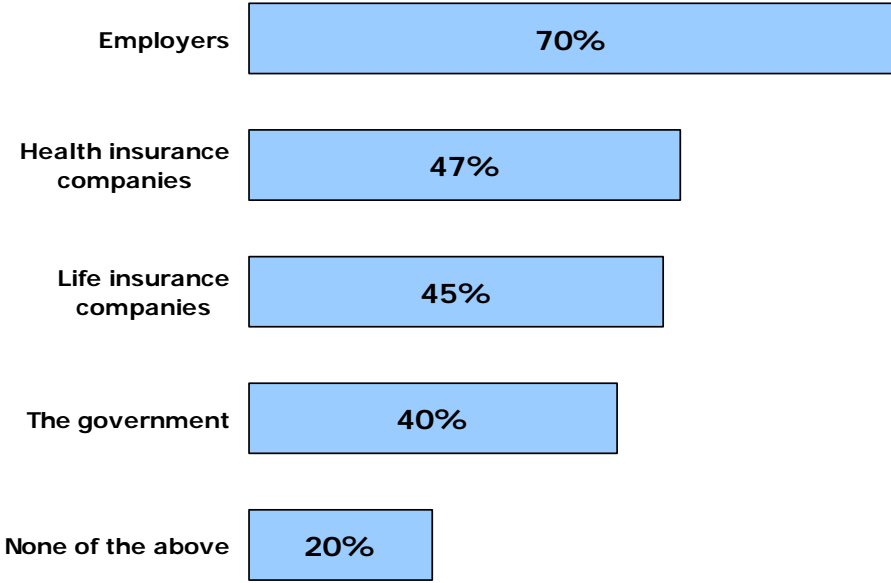
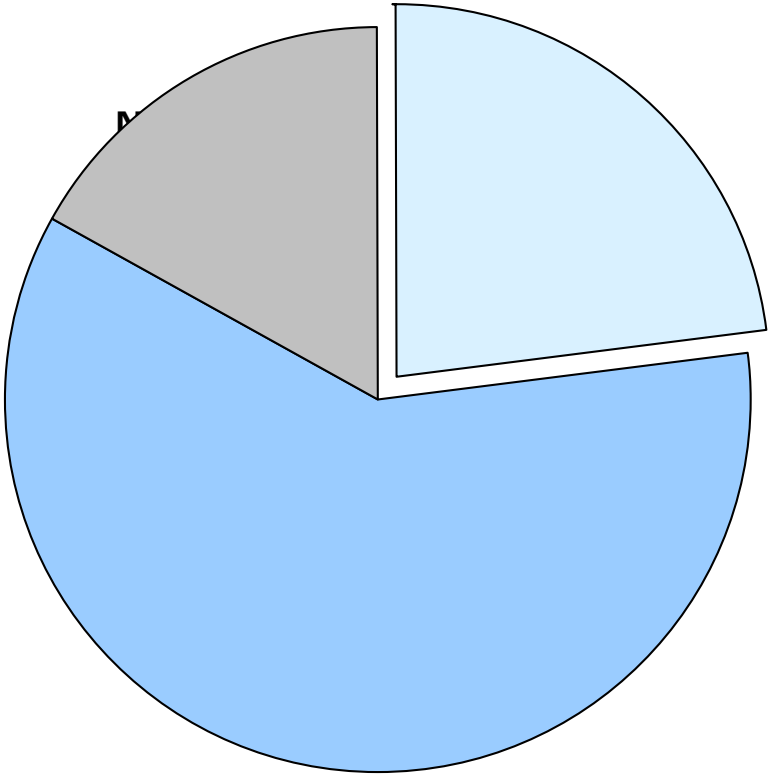
*As far as you know, are there laws that currently protect the privacy of your genetic information?*



# Those Aware Find Protections Inadequate & Limited

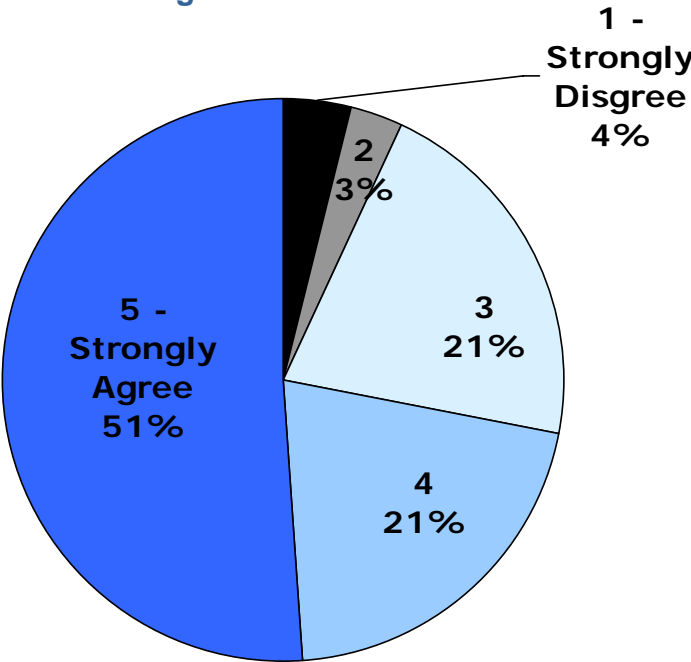
*When it comes to genetic testing issues, would you say current medical and health privacy laws are sufficient, or are more protections needed?*

*Under current laws, which, if any, of the following groups or organizations are prevented from accessing or using your genetic information to discriminate against you?*

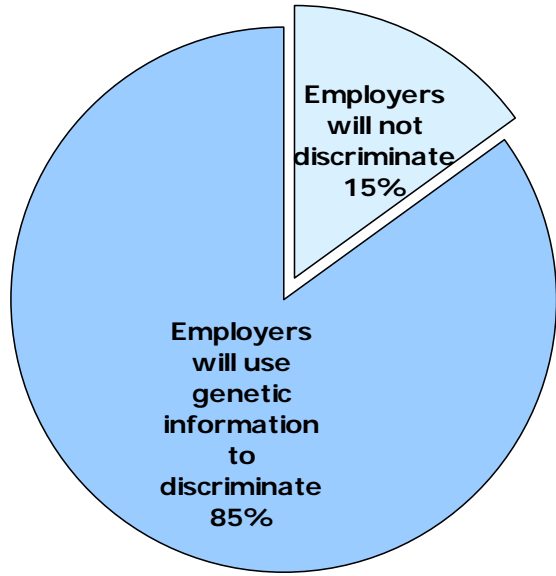


# Desire For Protections High

**72%** agree the government should establish laws and regulations to protect the privacy of individuals' genetic information



**85%** say without amending laws employers will discriminate



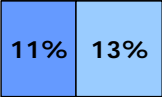
*Right now, Congress is considering new legislation that would amend current federal health information privacy protections to specifically prohibit employers from using employees' personal genetic information to make hiring decisions or to set insurance rates. Some people say...Other people say...?*





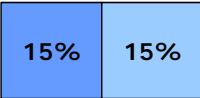
# Interest in National Data Bank Low

The **Government** should create a national database of DNA information for the future health and well-being of all Americans.



24% agree

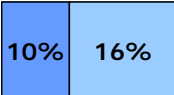
The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** should create a national database of DNA information for the future health and well-being of all Americans.



30% agree

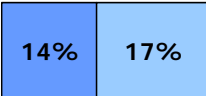
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Agree with idea of **Government** proposed national data bank of DNA to understand link between genes and diseases affecting Americans



26% agree

Agree with idea of **NIH** proposed national data bank of DNA to understand link between genes and diseases affecting Americans



31% agree

■ 5-Strongly Agree ■ 4





**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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