



February 25, 2025

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Lizette Carpenter & Betsy App, Embold Research  
**RE:** Public Opinion on Compounding Pharmacies: Strong Support Amid Awareness Gap

Embold Research surveyed 1,222 adults nationwide from January 10-15, 2025<sup>1</sup>, to assess public sentiment on compounding pharmacies and their role in the healthcare system. The results show strong public support for compounding pharmacies, particularly in addressing drug shortages and providing essential health services. However, many people remain unaware of the industry's strict regulatory standards and the safety of compounded medications.

## Compounding Pharmacies Play a Vital Role in Healthcare

Public sentiment overwhelmingly supports the ability of compounding pharmacies to provide essential healthcare services. More than two-thirds (64%) believe licensed prescribers should have the authority to prescribe compounded medications when no FDA-approved drug is appropriate. Support remains strong across all demographics, including men (68%), women (67%), and all age groups – with the highest overall support among adults aged 50-64 (75%) – as well as white adults (72%) and people of color (58%). Both non-college (65%) and college-educated adults (73%) express similarly high levels of agreement. Among adults who have used compounding pharmacies, over three-quarters (79%) report having a positive experience, further reinforcing public trust in their role within the healthcare system.

### Ability for Licensed Prescribers to Prescribe Compounded Medication

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● Strongly agree ● Somewhat agree ● Not sure ● Somewhat disagree ● Strongly disagree

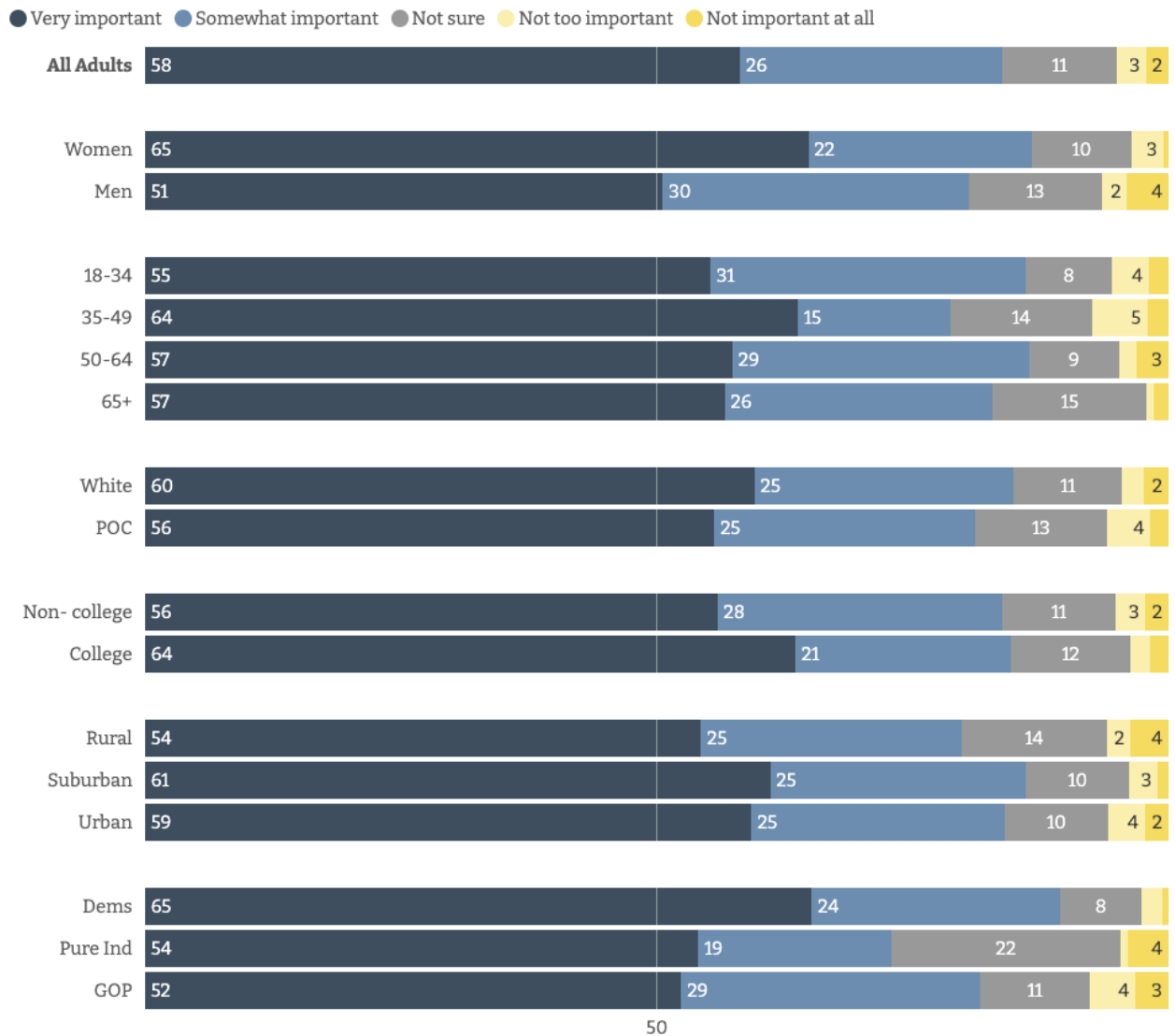


Q: How much do you agree with the statement: "Licensed prescribers should have the ability to prescribe a compounded medication when in the prescriber's judgment no FDA-approved drug is appropriate for a specific patient"?

<sup>1</sup> Polling was conducted online from January 10 - 15, 2025. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Embold polled 1,222 adults Nationwide. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential results. You can see a full methodology statement [here](#), which complies with the requirements of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results.

Americans believe that compounding pharmacies play a critical role in combatting drug shortages. The majority (84%) view this as important, with even stronger support among women (87%), young adults aged 18 to 34 (86%) and 50-64 aged adults (86%), white adults (85%), and college-educated adults (85%). There is also broad bipartisan agreement, with Democrats (89%), pure Independents (73%), and Republicans (81%) recognizing their role in ensuring patients have access to necessary medications when shortages occur.

### Importance for Compounding Pharmacies to Prepare Copies of an FDA-approved drug when that drug is in shortage EMBOLD research



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Q: To assure continuity of patient care, federal law allows compounding pharmacies to prepare copies of an FDA-approved drug when that drug is in shortage. How important do you think it is to patients that compounding pharmacies are allowed to do that?

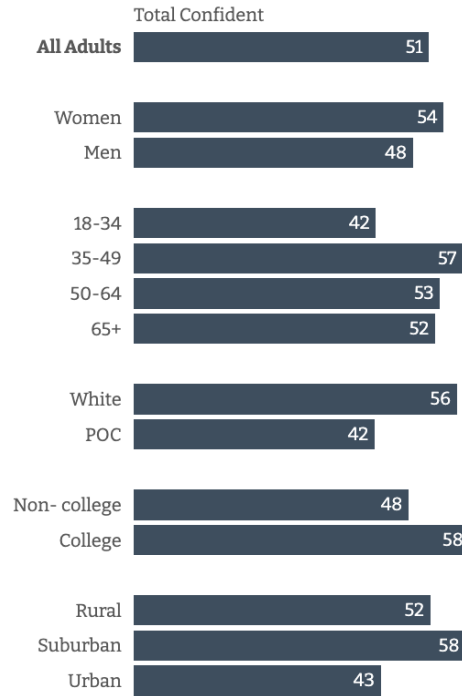
## Trusted Sources Must Bridge Awareness Gaps

While strong support exists for compounding pharmacies, nearly a third (31%) lack awareness of the industry's regulatory safeguards. For further context, 42% of adults are familiar with pharmacy compounding, while 29% are unsure what it entails. However, confidence in compounded medications adhering to regulations remains high, with 51% of adults expressing confidence, including 21% who feel very confident. Confidence is even stronger among women (54%), adults aged 35-49 (57%), and college graduates (58%), highlighting a broad belief in the reliability of compounded medications despite knowledge gaps in regulatory oversight.

People place overwhelming trust in healthcare providers (68%), including pharmacists (62%), specifically when it comes to information about compounded medications. Nearly half (46%) trust state boards of pharmacy. Just two in five (41%) trust the FDA. This trust dynamic underscores the need for clear communication from respected voices in healthcare to reinforce public understanding of the strict safety and quality standards that govern compounding pharmacies.

## Confidence in Compounded Medications

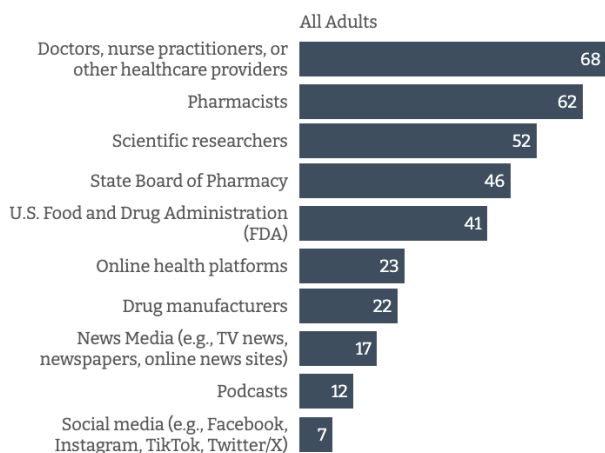
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Q: How confident are you that compounded medications are made in adherence to government regulations?

## Trust in Information About Compounded Medications

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Q: When it comes to information about compounded medications, how much do you trust the following people and groups?

Trust in information sources is even more pronounced when looking closer to home. Local TV news (38%) ranks as the most trusted media source for accurate health information, surpassing national news outlets and online sources. This trust in local and familiar sources underscores the need for clear communication from respected, community-based voices—including doctors, pharmacists, and scientific researchers—to educate the public on the strict safety and quality standards governing compounding

pharmacies. By leveraging these trusted and local messengers, compounding pharmacies can reinforce confidence in their role within the healthcare system.

## Public Education Opportunity around Regulatory Structure & Rigor

Although the majority (87%) of Americans correctly recognized that a doctor, nurse practitioner, or other licensed prescriber must prescribe compounded medications, half (58%) believe incorrectly that all compounded medications are FDA-approved. Additionally, 74% do not realize that compounded medications must adhere to rigorous U.S. Pharmacopeia standards, further reinforcing the need for public education on regulatory oversight. Educating patients about how compounded medications are regulated and why they do not require FDA approval remains essential in addressing these concerns. Public awareness campaigns can clarify the industry's adherence to rigorous quality controls, ensuring continued confidence in the safety and effectiveness of compounded treatments.