

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2009 GENERAL PUBLIC SCIENCE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 April 28-May 12, 2009
 N=2001

ASK ALL:

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 2009	34	58	8	May, 2002	44	44	12
April, 2009	23	70	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
January, 2009	20	73	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
December, 2008	13	83	4	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	June, 2001	43	52	5
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
August, 2008	21	74	5	February, 2001	46	43	11
July, 2008	19	74	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
June, 2008	19	76	5	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	September, 2000	51	41	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
October, 2007	28	66	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
February, 2007	30	61	9	November, 1998	46	44	10
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
July, 2006	30	65	5	September, 1997	45	49	6
May, 2006	29	65	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
March, 2006	32	63	5	January, 1997	38	58	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	July, 1996	29	67	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
Late May, 2005	39	57	4	April, 1995	23	74	3
February, 2005	38	56	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
January, 2005	40	54	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
December, 2004	39	54	7	October, 1993	22	73	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
July, 2004	38	55	7	May, 1993	22	71	7
May, 2004	33	61	6	January, 1993	39	50	11
Late February, 2004	39	55	6	January, 1992	28	68	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	November, 1991	34	61	5
December, 2003	44	47	9	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	May, 1990	41	54	5
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>	January, 1989	45	50	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	May, 1988	41	54	5
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1988	39	55	6
Late August, 2002	47	44	9				

ASK ALL:

Q.2 How much do you ENJOY keeping up with the news – a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

		-----Trend for comparison-----									
		May 2008	April 2006	April 2004	May 2002	April 2002	April 2000	April 1998	April 1995	June 1994	Feb 1994
54	A lot	52	52	52	52	48	45	50	54	53	
28	Some	32	34	37	37	36	40	37	34	35	
10	Not Much	10	9	7	7	11	12	11	8	9	
7	Not at all	5	4	3	3	4	3	2	3	2	
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	1	*	*	1	1	

NO QUESTIONS 3 AND 4

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Thinking about some different professions, how much do you think the following contribute to the well being of our society? Do [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] contribute a lot, some, not very much, or nothing at all to the well being of our society? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do [ITEM] contribute a lot, some, not very much, or nothing at all to the well being of our society?

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not very much</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Scientists	70	23	3	2	3
b.	Engineers	64	25	4	2	5

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1005]:

c.F1	Journalists	38	41	13	4	4
d.F1	Artists	31	43	15	7	4
e.F1	Lawyers	23	46	18	9	5
f.F1	Members of the military	84	11	3	1	1

NO ITEM g

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=996]:

h.F2	Clergy	40	37	10	5	9
i.F2	Medical doctors	69	24	4	1	2
j.F2	Business executives	21	43	22	9	5
k.F2	Teachers	77	17	3	1	2

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1005]:

Q.6F1 What would you say has been America’s greatest achievement over the past 50 years or so? [**OPEN END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF “DON’T KNOW,” BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**]

	<i>Trend for Comparison May 1999³</i>
27 Science/Medicine/Technology (NET)	47
12 Space exploration/Man on the moon	18
5 Medical care/breakthroughs	7
5 Technology	12
2 Computers	7
2 Science	1
2 The internet	1
17 Civil/Equal Rights (NET)	5
10 Electing a black president/Barack Obama	--
4 Civil rights	4
1 Equality/equal rights	--
1 Women’s rights	1
1 Better race relations/Less prejudice	--
7 War and Peace (NET)	7
2 Ending the Cold War/communism	1
1 Peace	2
1 Dominant world power	1
1 Recovering from/coming together post-9/11	--
1 Keeping safe/Fighting terrorism	--
1 Winning World War II	3
3 Economy (NET)	5
2 Economic well being/stability	2
1 Free enterprise/Capitalism	--
3 Continuation/spread of democracy/freedom	2
1 Education	2
1 Helping other countries/peoples	2
12 Other	7
33 Nothing/Don’t know/Refused	24

³ Question wording for May, 1999 asked: “What would you say has been America’s greatest achievement during the 20th century?”

ASK ALL:

Q.7 We'd like you to compare the United States to other industrialized countries in a few different areas. (First,) what about... **[INSERT ITEM; READ AND RANDOMIZE]? [READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY: Do you think the U.S. is the BEST IN THE WORLD, above average, average or below average in [ITEM]?]**

		Best in the world	Above average	Average	Below average	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Its scientific achievements	17	47	26	5	4
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>Scientists survey, May 2009⁴</i>	49	45	5	1	*
b.	Its military	42	39	13	3	3
c.	Its economy	12	22	33	31	3
d.	Its standard of living	22	41	26	9	2

NO ITEM e.

f.	Its health care	15	23	32	27	2
g.	Its political system	19	31	29	16	5

NO QUESTIONS 8 THROUGH 16

ASK ALL:

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about science.

ASK ALL:

Q.17 How much do you ENJOY keeping up with news about science – a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

35	A lot
41	Some
16	Not much
8	Not at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.18 Do you regularly watch television programs or channels about science such as such as Nova or Discovery Channel, or not?

67	Yes, regularly
33	No, not regularly
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.19 Do you regularly visit science web sites and blogs, such as Discover.com, NOAA.gov or ScienceDaily.com, or not?

13	Yes, regularly
86	No, not regularly
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

⁴ Scientists were asked only about scientific achievements. The question wording was: "Compared to other industrialized countries, how would you rate the United States with regard to its overall scientific achievements?"

ASK ALL:

Q.20 And do you regularly read science magazines, such as Popular Science or Scientific American, or not?

20	Yes, regularly
80	No, not regularly
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.21 Overall, would you say science has had a mostly positive effect on our society or a mostly negative effect on our society?

84	Mostly positive
6	Mostly negative
5	Both/Neither (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF Q.21 IS “POSITIVE” OR “NEGATIVE” (Q.21=1,2) AND FORM 2, ASK:

Q.22F2 Can you tell me some ways science has had a [positive/negative] effect on our society? [OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF “DON’T KNOW,” AND PROBE FOR CLARITY, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES]

BASED ON POSITIVE RESPONSE IN Q.21 (Q.21=1) AND FORM 2 [N=836]:

52 MEDICINE (NET)

- 32 Medical/Health care (general)
- 24 Vaccines/Drugs/Cures/Disease research
- 4 Stem cells

- 8 Space exploration
- 7 Environment/Global warming/Green initiatives

7 COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (NET)

- 3 Computers
- 2 Communications technology (general)
- 2 Cell phones
- 1 Internet
- * TVs

- 6 Technology (general)
- 4 Standard of living/Makes life easier/Quality of life
- 4 Energy/Alternative energy
- 4 Inventions/Discoveries

3 KNOWLEDGE (NET)

- 2 Education/Learning/Knowledge
- 1 Understanding of universe

- 3 Engineering/Machinery/Buildings/Industry
- 3 Research (general)
- 3 Cars/Fuel efficient cars
- 2 Food and water quality, abundance
- 2 Everything
- 2 Longevity
- 1 Transportation/Travel
- 1 Economy
- 1 New materials, products
- 1 Military/Defense
- 1 Agriculture
- 1 Human genome/DNA
- 1 Weather/Earthquake and volcano monitoring
- 1 Electricity
- 7 Other
- 17 Don’t know/Refused

Percentages add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

**NEGATIVE RESPONSES FOR Q.22F2 NOT SHOWN BECAUSE OF SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.
NEGATIVE RESPONSES WERE USED FOR QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS ONLY.**

ASK ALL:

Q.23 Overall, has science made life easier or more difficult for most people?

- 83 Easier
- 10 More difficult
- 1 Not had much of an effect (VOL.)
- 6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q. 24 Has science had a mostly positive or mostly negative effect on the quality of [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? What about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Has science had a mostly positive or mostly negative effect on the quality of [ITEM]?

		Mostly <u>positive</u>	Mostly <u>negative</u>	(VOL.) Not had much <u>of an effect</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Food	66	24	2	8
b.	Health care	85	10	1	4
c.	The environment	66	23	2	8

ASK ALL:

Q. 25 In your opinion, generally do you think...? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

- 55 Science and religion are often in conflict [OR]
- 38 Science and religion are mostly compatible
- 7 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Now thinking about your own religious beliefs, does science sometimes conflict with your own religious beliefs, or doesn't it?

- 36 Yes, science conflicts with own beliefs
- 61 No, science does not conflict with own beliefs
- 3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF Q.26=1 AND FORM 1, ASK [N=964]:

Q.27F1 Can you tell me some ways in which science conflicts with your own religious beliefs? [OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF "DON'T KNOW," AND PROBE FOR CLARITY, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES]

41 Evolution/Creationism/Darwinism

15 Beginning of life (NET)

- 12 Abortion
- 4 Cloning
- 2 Birth control

- 9 Stem cells
- 4 Denial of God/Belief in God
- 3 Medical/Medication/Blood transfusion
- 2 Conflict with Bible
- 9 Other
- 25 Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.28 How much, if at all, do you worry about whether the newest medicines and medical treatments have been carefully tested before being made available to the public? Do you worry... **[READ IN ORDER]**

- 27 A lot
- 36 Some
- 22 Not very much **[OR]**
- 15 Not at all
- 1 Don't know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**

RANDOMIZE Q.29 AND Q.30

ASK ALL:

Q.29 In your opinion, do government investments in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** usually pay off in the long run, or are they not worth it?

		Yes, pay off <u>in the long run</u>	No, aren't <u>worth it</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Basic scientific research	73	18	9
b.	Engineering and technology	74	17	9

RANDOMIZE Q.29 AND Q.30

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Which of these comes closer to your view? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 60 Government investment in research is ESSENTIAL for scientific progress **[OR]**
Private investment will ensure that enough scientific progress is made,
- 29 even without government investment
- 11 Don't know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**

ASK ALL:

Q.31 For each of the following areas of scientific research, please tell me if you think it has done **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE CATEGORIES]**? (First,) what about... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? **[READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN AS NECESSARY]**: Has this done **[READ OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER]**: (more HARM than good OR more GOOD than harm) / (more GOOD than harm OR more HARM than good) for society)?

		More HARM <u>than good</u>	More GOOD <u>than harm</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Research into human genetics	19	72	9
b.	Research into nuclear energy	27	65	8

NO ITEM c

d.	Space exploration	17	74	9
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NO ITEM e

f.	The development of the internet	22	70	8
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NO QUESTIONS 32 THROUGH 35

Now a few questions about some issues...

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 36-38 IN BLOCKS WITH QUESTIONS 45-47 IN BLOCKS.

ASK ALL:

Q.36 Which comes closer to your view? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		<i>Trend for Comparison</i>		
		Scientists survey	July	July
		<u>May 2009</u>	<u>2006⁵</u>	<u>2005</u>
61	Humans and other living things have evolved over time [OR] Humans and other living things have existed in their present	97	51	48
31	form since the beginning of time	2	42	42
8	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	7	10

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 36-38 IN BLOCKS WITH QUESTIONS 45-47 IN BLOCKS.

IF EVOLVED (1 in Q.36), ASK:

Q.37 And do you think that...**[READ OPTIONS AND RANDOMIZE]**?

		<i>Trend for Comparison</i>		
BASED ON TOTAL		Scientists survey	July	July
		<u>May 2009</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
32	Humans and other living things have evolved due to natural processes such as natural selection, [OR] A supreme being guided the evolution of living things for the purpose	87	26	26
22	of creating humans and other life in the form it exists today	8	21	18
7	Don't know/Refused/No answer [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2	4	4
(39)	<i>Humans existed in present form/Don't know in Q.36</i>	(3)	(49)	(52)

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 36-38 IN BLOCKS WITH QUESTIONS 44-47 IN BLOCKS.

ASK ALL:

Q.38 From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that humans evolved over time, or do they not generally agree about this?

		<i>Trend for Comparison</i>	
		July	July
		<u>2006⁶</u>	<u>2005</u>
60	Yes, scientists generally agree that humans evolved over time	62	54
28	No, scientists do not generally agree that humans evolved over time	28	33
11	Don't know/Refused/No answer (VOL.)	10	13

NO QUESTIONS 39 THROUGH 43

⁵ Question wording for July 2006 and earlier began with "Some people think humans and other living things..." with response options "have evolved over time" and "have existed in their present form since the beginning of time" rotated, followed by "which of these comes closer to your view?"

⁶ Question wording for July 2006 and earlier asked "From what you've heard or read, is there general agreement among scientists that humans evolved over time, or not?"

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 36-38 IN BLOCKS WITH QUESTIONS 44-47 IN BLOCKS.

ASK ALL:

Q.44F1/Q45F2 Which of these three statements about the earth’s temperature comes closest to your view?

[FORM 1: READ AND RANDOMIZE FIRST TWO OPTIONS; KEEP THIRD OPTION LAST; FORM 2: READ THIRD OPTION FIRST; READ AND RANDOMIZE FIRST TWO OPTIONS]:

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		Scientists survey
		<u>May 2009</u>
36	The earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural changes in the atmosphere	10
49	The earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	84
11	The earth is not getting warmer	4
4	Don’t know/Refused/No answer [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 36-38 IN BLOCKS WITH QUESTIONS 44-47 IN BLOCKS.

ASK ALL:

Q.46 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>				
		Scientists survey	April	Jan	July	June
		<u>May 2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
47	Very serious	70	44	45	43	41
26	Somewhat serious	22	29	32	36	33
11	Not too serious	4	13	12	11	13
13	Not a problem	2	11	8	9	11
2	Don’t know/Refused/No answer *		3	3	1	2

RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 36-38 IN BLOCKS WITH QUESTIONS 44-47 IN BLOCKS.

ASK ALL:

Q.47 From what you’ve heard or read, do scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or do they not generally agree about this?

		<i>Trend for Comparison</i>	
		July	
		<u>2006⁷</u>	
56	Yes, scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity	59	
35	No, scientists do not generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity	29	
9	Don’t know/Refused/No answer (VOL.)	12	

NO QUESTIONS 48 AND 49

⁷ Question wording for July 2006 and earlier asked “From what you’ve heard or read, is there general agreement among scientists that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or not.”

RANDOMIZE Q.50 AND Q.51

ASK ALL:

Q.50 All in all, do you favor or oppose [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? Do you favor or oppose [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research?	58	35	7
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>Scientists survey, May 2009</i>	93	6	1
b.	Building more nuclear power plants to generate electricity?	51	42	7
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>Scientists survey, May 2009</i>	70	27	3
c.	The use of animals in scientific research?	52	43	6
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>Scientists survey, May 2009</i>	93	5	2

RANDOMIZE Q.50 AND Q.51

ASK ALL:

Q.51 Thinking about childhood diseases, such as measles, mumps, rubella and polio ...? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<i>Trend for comparison Scientists survey May 2009</i>
28	Should parents be able to decide NOT to vaccinate their children [OR]	17
69	Should all children be required to be vaccinated	82
3	Don't know/Refused/No answer (VOL.)	1

NO QUESTION 52

ASK ALL:

Q.53 Do you think it is [READ IN ORDER] for scientists to become actively involved in political debates about issues such as nuclear power or stem cell research?

		<i>Trend for comparison Scientists survey May 2009</i>
76	Appropriate [OR]	97
18	Not appropriate	3
5	Don't know/Refused/No answer [VOL. DO NOT READ]	*

ASK ALL:

Q.54 Just your impression: Do you think of scientists as...[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF:] a politically liberal group, a politically conservative group [THEN] or as neither in particular?

		<i>Trend for comparison Scientists Survey May 2009</i>
20	Politically liberal group	56
9	Politically conservative group	2
64	Neither in particular	42
8	Don't know/Refused/No answer (VOL.)	1

ASK ALL:

Q.55 How much, if anything, have you heard about claims that government scientists were not allowed to report research findings that conflicted with the Bush administration’s point of view? Have you heard...**[READ]**?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		Scientists survey
		<u>May 2009</u>
10	A lot	55
34	A little	30
54	Nothing at all	14
2	Don’t know/Refused/No answer (VOL.)	*

ASK IF Q.55=1,2 (Heard “a lot” or “a little”):

Q.56 Do you think these claims about the Bush administration are true or false? **[CLARIFY IF NECESSARY:** “claims that government scientists were not allowed to report research findings that conflicted with the Bush administration’s point of view”]

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		Scientists survey
		<u>May 2009</u>
28	True	77
9	False	6
7	Don’t know/Refused/No answer (VOL.)	3
(56)	<i>Heard nothing/Don’t know in Q.55</i>	(14)

BASED ON TOTAL:

ASK IF Q.56=1

Q.57 All in all, do you think this occurred **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF:]** more often, less often, **[THEN]** or about as often in the Bush administration as in previous administrations? **[CLARIFY IF NECESSARY:** “claims that government scientists were not allowed to report research findings that conflicted with the Bush administration’s point of view”]

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		Scientists survey
		<u>May 2009</u>
17	More often	71
2	Less Often	1
8	About as often	5
1	No answer/Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	*
(16)	<i>False/Don’t know in Q.56</i>	(9)
(56)	<i>Heard nothing/Don’t know in Q.55</i>	(14)

BASED ON TOTAL:

NO QUESTIONS 58 THROUGH 62

Now I have just a few short questions such as you might see on a television game show. First, **RANDOMIZE Q.63 THROUGH Q.66**

ASK ALL:

Q.63 What gas do most scientists believe causes temperatures in the atmosphere to rise? **[RANDOMIZE AND READ]**

66	Carbon dioxide (<i>Correct</i>)
7	Hydrogen
4	Helium
6	Radon
17	Don’t know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

RANDOMIZE Q.63 THROUGH Q.66

ASK ALL:

Q.64 What have scientists recently discovered on Mars...? Is it...[**RANDOMIZE AND READ**]

- 60 Water (*Correct*)
- 5 Platinum
- 9 Mold
- 5 Plants
- 21 Don't know/Refused [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]

RANDOMIZE Q.63 THROUGH Q.66

ASK ALL:

Q.65 Which over-the-counter drug do doctors recommend that people take to help prevent heart attacks ...? Is it... [**RANDOMIZE AND READ**]

- 89 Aspirin (*Correct*)
- 4 Cortisone
- 1 Antacids
- 5 Don't know/Refused [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]

RANDOMIZE Q.63 THROUGH Q.66

ASK ALL:

Q.66 How are stem cells different from other cells? [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]

- 4 They are found **ONLY** in plants
- 55 They can develop into many different types of cells (*Correct*) [OR]
- 24 They are found **ONLY** in bone marrow
- 18 Don't know/Refused [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]

IF ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES AS LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND=1,2,3), ASK [N=1051]:

Q.67 Does the clergy at your place of worship ever speak about science or scientific findings?

- 42 Yes
- 56 No
- 2 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

IF CLERGY EVER SPEAK ABOUT SCIENCE/SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS (Q.67=1), ASK [N=461]:

Q.68 Were your clergy usually [**RANDOMIZE: critical of science, supportive of science**] or neither in particular?

- 11 Critical of science
- 30 Supportive of science
- 52 Neither in particular
- 7 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				Preference	Party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34					
1987	26	35	39					

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MID-JUNE 2009 OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
June 18-21, 2009
N=1,005

ASK ALL:

Q.2 If you were making up the budget for the federal government this year, would you increase spending for [INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE, OBSERVE FORM SPLITS], decrease spending for [INSERT FIRST ITEM] or keep spending the same for this? What about for [NEXT ITEM]?

ASK ALL:		<u>Increase</u> <u>spending</u>	<u>Decrease</u> <u>spending</u>	<u>Keep spending</u> <u>the same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Scientific research				
	Mid-June, 2009	39	14	40	7
	April, 2001	41	10	46	3
	May, 1997	45	14	38	3
	December, 1994	37	15	44	4
	May, 1990	51	9	37	3
	May, 1987	45	9	42	4

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=505]:

b.F1	Health care				
	Mid-June, 2009	61	10	24	6
	February, 2002	69	4	24	3
	April, 2001	71	4	23	2
	May, 1997	57	7	34	2
	December, 1994	52	11	33	4
	August, 1990	74	6	18	2
	May, 1990	80	3	16	1
	May, 1987	72	3	23	2
c.F1	Energy				
	Mid-June, 2009	41	15	35	9
	February, 2002	34	9	49	8
	April, 2001	52	9	35	4
d.F1	Anti-terrorism defenses in the U.S.				
	Mid-June, 2009	35	17	41	7
	February, 2002	63	4	29	4
e.F1	Education				
	Mid-June, 2009	67	6	23	4
	February, 2002	73	3	22	2
	April, 2001	76	5	18	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON					
The public school systems					
	May, 1997	67	7	23	3
	December, 1994	64	6	28	2
	May, 1990	76	3	20	1
	May, 1987	69	4	25	2
f.F1	Veterans benefits and services				
	Mid-June, 2009	63	2	29	6
	April, 2001	58	3	34	5

Q.2 CONTINUED...		<u>Increase spending</u>	<u>Decrease spending</u>	<u>Keep spending the same</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
g.F1	Economic assistance to needy people around the world				
	Mid-June, 2009	26	34	33	7
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=500]:					
h.F2	Military defense				
	Mid-June, 2009	40	18	37	5
	February, 2002	60	5	31	4
	April, 2001	47	11	40	2
	May, 1997	21	30	46	3
	December, 1994	31	23	44	2
	August, 1990	23	43	31	3
	May, 1990	18	40	39	3
	May, 1987	24	29	44	3
i.F2	The State Department and American Embassies				
	Mid-June, 2009	9	28	50	12
	April, 2001	11	26	55	8
j.F2	Government assistance for the unemployed				
	Mid-June, 2009	44	15	36	6
	February, 2002	40	14	41	5
	May, 1997	20	33	44	3
	December, 1994	25	23	49	3
	February, 1989	26	14	57	3
	May, 1987	41	15	41	3
k.f2	Agriculture				
	Mid-June, 2009	35	12	41	13
	April, 2001	46	8	42	4
l.F2	Medicare				
	Mid-June, 2009	53	6	37	4
	February, 2002	63	3	31	3
	April, 2001	70	2	26	2
	May, 1997	44	8	44	4
m.F2	Combating crime				
	Mid-June, 2009	45	10	39	6
	April, 2001	55	5	37	3
	May, 1997	62	7	29	2
	December, 1994	71	4	23	2
n.F2	Environmental protection				
	Mid-June, 2009	43	16	34	6
	February, 2002	43	9	45	3
	April, 2001	48	9	40	3
	May, 1997	46	14	38	2
	December, 1994	40	17	40	3
	May, 1990	71	3	24	2
	May, 1987	59	4	34	3

Now I have just a few short questions such as you might see on a television game show. First,
RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19 BLOCK WITH Q20a-e
RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.11 According to most astronomers, which of the following is no longer considered a planet
[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 60 Pluto (*Correct*)
- 4 Mercury
- 5 Neptune [OR]
- 3 Saturn
- 27 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.12 Which of the following may cause a Tsunami [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 77 An earthquake under the ocean (*Correct*)
- 9 A very warm ocean current
- 4 A melting glacier [OR]
- 1 A large school of fish
- 9 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.13 The global positioning system, or GPS, relies on which of these to work: [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 82 Satellites (*Correct*)
- 2 Stars
- 2 Magnets
- 3 Lasers
- 11 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.14 What gas do most scientists believe causes temperatures in the atmosphere to rise?
[READ AND RANDOMIZE]

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 65 | Carbon dioxide (<i>Correct</i>) | May
<u>2009</u>
66 |
| 7 | Hydrogen | 7 |
| 4 | Helium | 4 |
| 5 | Radon | 6 |
| 20 | Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ] | 17 |

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.15 What have scientists recently discovered on Mars...? Is it...**[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		May
		<u>2009</u>
61	Water (<i>Correct</i>)	60
3	Platinum	5
9	Mold	9
5	Plants	5
21	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	21

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.16 Which over-the-counter drug do doctors recommend that people take to help prevent heart attacks ... is it **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		May
		<u>2009</u>
91	Aspirin (<i>Correct</i>)	89
3	Cortisone	4
1	Antacids	1
5	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	5

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.17 How are stem cells different from other cells? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		May
		<u>2009</u>
4	They are found ONLY in plants	4
52	They can develop into many different types of cells (<i>Correct</i>) [OR]	55
22	They are found ONLY in bone marrow	24
21	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	18

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.18 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?
[READ AND RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mid-June, 2009	76	12	12
March 26-29, 2009	86	12	2
December 4-7, 2008	82	11	7
February 28-March 2, 2008	70	26	4
August 16-19, 2007	78	19	3
February, 2007	76	10	14
TREND FOR COMPARISON:⁸			
May, 2008	53	15	32
Late October, 2006	4	58	38
April, 2006	6	64	30
April, 2004	8	56	36
June, 2001	34	31	35
August, 1999	8	55	37
December, 1998	11	56	33
June, 1997	6	50	44
April, 1996	8	70	22
June, 1995	5	73	22
July, 1994	60	18	22
February, 1994	58	42	n/a
September, 1992	46	9	45
June, 1992	44	12	44
May, 1992	49	12	39
May, 1989 <i>Political Knowledge Survey</i>	68	16	16

***Correct answers for each trend in bold**

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19

ASK ALL:

Q.19 What is the name of the woman who surprised audiences with her singing talent in the TV show "Britain's Got Talent"? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]:**

- 66 Susan Boyle (*Correct*)
- 4 Oprah Winfrey
- 4 Susan Sarandon
- 3 Venus Williams
- 24 Don't know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**

⁸ In May 2008, and from May 1992 through Late October 2006 this was asked as an open-ended question, without offering response options for Democrats and Republicans. In May 1989 the question was worded "As a result of the election last year which party now has the most members in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington?"

RANDOMIZE Q11 THROUGH Q19 BLOCK WITH Q.20a-e

ASK ALL:

Q.20 Now, for each statement that I read, please tell me if it is true or false. If you don't know or aren't sure, just tell me so, and we will skip to the next question. Remember: true, false or don't know.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; READ EACH ITEM, FOLLOWED BY...is that true or false?]

		<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	All radioactivity is man-made. Mid-June, 2009	21	63	16
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	18	70	12
b.	Electrons are smaller than atoms Mid-June, 2009	46	24	30
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	53	23	25
c.	Lasers work by focusing sound waves. Mid-June, 2009	22	47	31
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	23	49	28
d.	Antibiotics will kill viruses as well as bacteria. Mid-June, 2009	36	54	10
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	39	54	8
e.	The continents on which we live have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move in the future. Mid-June, 2009	76	10	13
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: <i>General Social Survey, 2008</i>	77	10	13

Correct answers for each trend in bold

Now, on another topic...

ASK ALL:

Q.21 If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE]** or a higher priority on **[ITEM]**?

- 48 Spending more to help the economy recover
- 46 Reducing the budget deficit
- 6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

D3 In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
				No	Other	DK/
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Preference</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Mid-June, 2009	25	36	34	3	1	2
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2
Yearly Totals						
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2009 WEB SURVEY OF SCIENTISTS
TOPLINE
May 1– June 14, 2009
N= 2,533

In this survey we will be asking you both about issues pertaining to science in general and to your scientific field or specialty. Most questions will be about science in general, and we will specify when we are particularly interested in your views about your specialty.

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Would you say that this is generally a good time or a bad time for science?

76	Good time
23	Bad time
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.2 Would you say this is generally a good time or a bad time for **your scientific specialty**?

73	Good time
25	Bad time
2	No answer

ROTATE ORDER OF Q.3/Q.4

ASK ALL:

Q.3 What would you say has been the United States' greatest scientific discovery or achievement during the past twenty years?

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

55	Biomedical/Health (NET)
39	Human genome project/Genetics
9	Medicine/ Public health
4	Stem cell research
3	Molecular biology/Molecular sciences (general)
3	RNA interference/RNAi
2	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
1	Genetic engineering in animals and plants/agriculture
1	Biotechnology
10	Computer and other technology (NET)
8	Computers/Internet/Communications/Infotech
2	Nanotechnology/Nanoscience
10	Space (NET)
4	Space/astrophysics/planets (general)
3	Hubble Space Telescope/Space telescopes
1	Accelerating expansion of universe
1	Dark energy/Dark matter
1	Mars discoveries/Mars rover
3	Global climate change/Warming/Climate research/Environment
15	Other
17	No answer/Don't know/Refused/None

ROTATE ORDER OF Q.3/Q.4

ASK ALL:

Q.4 What would you say has been the United States' greatest scientific failure during the past twenty years?

- 37 Insufficient action/progress on issues (NET)**
 - 12 Energy/Sustainability/Alternative energy
 - 7 Climate change/Global warming/Environmental issues
 - 7 Stem cells
 - 3 Cancellation of superconducting supercollider
 - 2 Cancer
 - 2 Fusion/Cold fusion/Nuclear fusion
 - 2 HIV/AIDS
 - 1 Health care/Medical issues
 - 1 Translating findings into products/Applications
 - 2 Other issues

- 21 Scientific knowledge/Communication (NET)**
 - 9 Education of young people/Schools/Training
 - 6 Education/Engagement of the general public
 - 3 Communicating scientific findings to the public
 - 3 Convincing the public of evolution theory/Countering creationism/intelligent design
 - 3 Convincing the public of climate change/global warming

- 14 Funding and support of research (NET)**
 - 10 Funding and support of research (general)
 - 2 Lack of funding for young scientists/Recruitment
 - 1 Poor distribution/allocation of funding
 - 1 Unstable/inconsistent government funding

- 13 Politicization/Commercialization of Science**
 - 6 Political pressure/influence/suppression
 - 4 Bush administration
 - 2 Failure of good science to penetrate public policy
 - 1 Religion interfering with science
 - 1 Commercialization/Corporatization

- 3 Space exploration/Space program/Shuttle/NASA
- 1 Ethics/Integrity in science

- 10 Other
- 15 No answer/Don't know/Refused/None

NO QUESTIONS 5-6

ASK ALL:

Q.7 Compared to other industrialized countries, how would you rate the United States with regard to its overall scientific achievements?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
49	Best in the world	17
45	Above average	47
5	Average	26
1	Below average	5
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused	4

ASK ALL:

Q.8 And how would you rate the United States with regard to scientific achievements in **your scientific specialty**?

- 45 Best in the world
- 43 Above average
- 9 Average
- 2 Below average
- 1 No answer

NO QUESTIONS 9-13

ASK ALL:

Q.14 How much of a problem, if at all, do you think each of the following are for science in general?

RANDOMIZE LIST

		Major <u>problem</u>	Minor <u>problem</u>	Not a <u>problem</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	The public expects solutions to problems too quickly	49	45	6	*
b.	The news media oversimplify scientific findings	48	45	6	*
c.	News reports don't distinguish between well founded and not well founded findings	76	22	2	*
d.	The public does not know very much about science	85	14	1	*

NO QUESTIONS 15-21

RANDOMIZE Q.22/Q.23

ASK ALL:

Q.22 All things considered, how would you rate television news coverage of science?

- 1 Excellent
- 14 Good
- 48 Only fair
- 35 Poor
- 2 No answer

RANDOMIZE Q.22/Q.23

ASK ALL:

Q.23 All things considered, how would you rate newspaper coverage of science?

- 2 Excellent
- 34 Good
- 48 Only fair
- 15 Poor
- 1 No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.24 How much have you heard or read about town-hall or other public meetings where scientists and the general public discuss controversial issues related to research?

- 2 A lot
- 22 Some
- 44 Not too much
- 32 Nothing at all
- * No answer

ASK IF “A LOT” OR “SOME” IN Q.24 [N=620]:

Q.25 How useful are these types of public meetings for each of the following groups?:

RANDOMIZE ITEMS

		<u>Very useful</u>	<u>Fairly useful</u>	<u>Not useful</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	The public	43	45	9	3
b.	Policymakers	40	47	10	3
c.	Scientists	32	51	14	2
d.	News media	35	53	9	3

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Please indicate how much of an impediment, if at all, you think each of the following is to conducting high quality scientific research in the United States today. **RANDOMIZE LIST**

		<u>Very serious</u>	<u>Serious</u>	<u>Not too serious</u>	<u>Not serious at all</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	The way Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) implement human subjects rules	4	15	37	13	30	1
b.	Lack of funding for basic research	46	41	11	1	1	*
c.	Visa and immigration problems facing foreign scientists or students who want to work or study in the U.S.	17	39	29	7	7	*
d.	Regulations to prevent American technology from being put to inappropriate use overseas (ITAR)	4	17	36	12	30	1
e.	Regulations on animal research	6	21	44	15	13	1

NO ITEM f

g.	Conflict of interest rules used by scientific publications	2	10	40	33	13	1
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NO QUESTIONS 27-29

ASK ALL:

Q.30 What are the most important sources of funding within your scientific specialty? **Please list up to four.**

84 Government (NET)

- 49 *Health and Human Services (SUB-NET)*
- 49 National Institutes of Health
- 1 Other HHS
- 47 National Science Foundation
- 14 Department of Defense
- 13 Department of Energy
- 10 Federal government, general
- 7 United States Department of Agriculture
- 6 State/local governments
- 5 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 4 Department of Commerce (includes National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- 3 Environmental Protection Agency
- 3 Other specific federal agency (e.g. Departments of Justice, Education, Homeland Security)
- 1 Department of Interior
- 1 Veteran's Administration

50 Private funding (NET)

- 30 *Foundations/non-profits/research societies/donations (SUB-NET)*
- 14 Foundations, general
- 5 Other medical/health groups
- 4 Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- 3 American Heart Association
- 3 Cancer societies (e.g., American Cancer Society, Komen Foundation)
- 3 Other non-medical groups
- 1 The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- 20 *Industry/business (SUB-NET)*
- 14 Industry/business, general
- 5 Pharmaceutical industry
- 2 Venture capital
- 1 Biotechnology industry
- 1 Energy/oil/gas industries
- 4 Private funding, general mention
- 3 *Professional societies/industrial organizations (SUB-NET)*
- 2 Other professional organizations
- 1 American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund
- 1 Personal funding

- 6 Universities
- Supra-governmental organizations (e.g. World Health Organization, World Bank)
- 1 and foreign governments
- 1 Other, non-specific

- 11 No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.31 When it comes to funding for research in your scientific specialty, which do most funders place greater emphasis on: **RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2**

- 59 Projects expected to make incremental scientific progress that have lower risk of failure
- 5 Projects with the potential for scientific breakthroughs, but with higher risk of failure
- 28 Both types of projects about equally
- 7 No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.32 Please indicate whether you think each of the following has too much influence, or not, on the direction of research in your scientific specialty. **RANDOMIZE ITEMS**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	The emphasis on developing marketable products	40	56	4
b.	A focus on projects that will yield results quickly	66	31	3
c.	The incentive to do research in areas where funding is readily available	76	20	3
d.	Political groups or officials	50	47	3

ASK ALL:

Q.33 Does the possibility of making a lot of money lead many scientists in your specialty to...? **RANDOMIZE ITEMS**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Cut corners on research quality	26	68	5
b.	Pursue research that violates ethical principles	11	84	5
c.	Pursue creative research ideas	32	63	5
d.	Pursue projects that yield marketable products, but do not advance science very much	47	49	4

NO QUESTIONS 34 THROUGH 38

Next we have a few questions about issues being debated by the public.

RANDOMIZE Q.39-Q.40 BLOCK WITH Q.41-Q.42 BLOCK

ASK ALL:

Q.39 Which comes closer to your view: **[RANDOMIZE]**

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
97	Human beings and other living things have evolved over time	GP <u>May 2009</u> 61
2	Human beings and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time	31
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	8

RANDOMIZE Q.39-Q.40 BLOCK WITH Q.41-Q.42 BLOCK

IF EVOLVED (1 in Q.39), ASK:

Q.40 Do you think that...[**RANDOMIZE**]?

BASED ON TOTAL:

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
87	Humans and other living things have evolved due to natural processes such as natural selection,	32
	[OR]	
8	A supreme being guided the evolution of living things for the purpose of creating humans and other life in the form it exists today	22
2	No answer/Don't know/Refused	7
(3)	<i>Humans existed in present form/Don't know in Q.39</i>	(39)

RANDOMIZE Q.39-Q.40 BLOCK WITH Q.41-Q.42 BLOCK

ASK ALL:

Q.41 From what you've read and heard, do you think [**RANDOMIZE 1 & 2**]:

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
10	The earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural changes in the atmosphere	36
84	The earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels	49
	[OR]	
4	There is no solid evidence that the earth is getting warmer	11
2	No answer/Don't know/Refused	4

RANDOMIZE Q.39-Q.40 BLOCK WITH Q.41-Q.42 BLOCK

ASK ALL:

Q.42 In your view, how serious a problem is global warming?
Is it...

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
70	Very serious	47
22	Somewhat serious	26
4	Not too serious a problem	11
2	Not a problem	13
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused	2

NO QUESTIONS 43-46

RANDOMIZE Q.47a-c BLOCK AND Q.48

RANDOMIZE Q47a THROUGH q47c

ASK ALL:

Q. 47a Do you favor or oppose the use of animals in scientific research?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
93	Favor	52
5	Oppose	43
2	No answer/Don't know/Refused	6

RANDOMIZE Q.47a-c BLOCK AND Q.48

RANDOMIZE Q47a THROUGH q47c

ASK ALL:

Q. 47b Do you favor or oppose building more nuclear power plants to generate electricity?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
70	Favor	51
27	Oppose	42
3	No answer/Don't know/Refused	7

RANDOMIZE Q.47a-c BLOCK AND Q.48

RANDOMIZE Q47a THROUGH q47c

ASK ALL:

Q. 47c Do you favor or oppose federal funding for embryonic stem cell research?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
93	Favor	58
6	Oppose	35
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	7

RANDOMIZE Q.47 a-c BLOCK AND Q.48

ASK ALL:

Q.48 Thinking about childhood diseases, such as measles, mumps, rubella and polio, [RANDOMIZE]

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
17	Parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate their children	28
82	All children should be required to be vaccinated	69
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	3

Now a few questions about science as a career...

ASK ALL:

Q.49 Overall, how would you characterize this as a time to begin a career in your scientific specialty area?
Would you say it is a...

17	Very good time
50	Good time
27	Bad time
5	Very bad time
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.50 What would you say are the main hurdles for people entering a career as a research scientist in your specialty area these days?

56 Economic issues (NET)

46	Funding/Support
9	Low salaries and benefits/Money
6	Economic downturn/Budget cuts

36 Job market (NET)

28	Job opportunities, general
11	Academic jobs/Tenured positions

12 Education (NET)

5	Graduate and post-doctoral education and training
4	Pre-graduate (K-12 and undergraduate) education
2	Education costs, unspecified
2	Education, unspecified

9 Personal sacrifices (NET)

6	Time commitment/desire required
3	Personal life/Family considerations

7 Lack of creativity/vision for science and/or field (NET)

4	Lack of vision/No long term planning
3	Lack of support for interdisciplinary/creative/collaborative research

7	Institutional/commercial pressures
5	Public attitudes and expectations about science
3	Lure of higher paying careers outside of science
1	Competition, unspecified
10	Other
*	None
12	No answer/Don't know

Q.51 How important for career advancement is it for scientists in your specialty area to get their research covered by the news media?

8	Very important
29	Important
48	Not too important
14	Not at all important
1	No answer

NO QUESTION 52

ASK ALL:

Q.53 Thinking about any scientific research that you have been involved with during the past five years, do you think of your work as **primarily** addressing ...? **RANDOMIZE**

- 49 Basic knowledge questions
- 46 Applied research questions
- 5 No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.54 Looking back, how important was each of the following to your decision to become a scientist?

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not very <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	A desire to work for the public good	41	40	15	4	1
b.	A desire to make an important discovery	30	44	21	4	1
c.	An interest in solving intellectually challenging problems	86	13	1	*	*
d.	A desire for a financially rewarding career	4	29	45	21	1

ASK ALL:

Q.55 Which of the following is a more important motivation for you in doing scientific research [**RANDOMIZE RESPONSE CATEGORIES**]:

- 36 To benefit society, even if that research may not address important scientific questions
- 62 To address important scientific questions, even if that research may have no immediate benefit to society
- 2 No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.56 What is your primary **field or scientific discipline**?

ASK ALL:

Q.57 Within that field or discipline, what is your primary **scientific specialty area**?

Summary:

- 51 Biological and Medical
- 14 Chemistry
- 8 Physics and Astronomy
- 7 Social Sciences and Policy
- 6 Engineering
- 6 Geosciences
- 3 Computer science/Math
- 3 Other field
- 2 No answer/Don't know

ASK ALL:

Q.58 Would you describe your own work in your primary specialty area as **clinical research**, or not?

- 11 Yes
- 88 No
- 1 No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.59 Would you describe your own work in your primary scientific specialty area as **interdisciplinary**, or not?

81 Yes
18 No
1 No answer

NO QUESTIONS 60-63

ASK ALL:

Q.64 How much attention, if any, do you pay to research findings outside of your primary field or scientific discipline?

47 A lot
48 Some
5 Not too much
1 None at all
* No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.65 How often, if ever, do you do any of the following? **RANDOMIZE**

	<u>Often</u>	<u>Occasionally</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Write for a blog about science	2	5	11	82	1
b. Read a blog about science	14	28	26	32	*
c. Talk with reporters about new research findings	3	20	31	45	*
d. Talk with non-scientists about science or research findings	39	48	11	2	*

ASK ALL:

Q.66 Thinking about the last five years of your career, how much of your time has been devoted to...
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Most or all</u>	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Little or none</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Research	32	34	22	11	1
b. Teaching	8	23	41	27	2
c. Management and administration	10	25	35	28	2
d. Clinical practice	2	4	5	84	4

ASK ALL:

Q.67 In the last five years have you worked on a research project that...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Was funded by the Department of Defense	13	85	2
b. Was funded by an agency of the federal government (excluding the Department of Defense)	65	34	2
c. Was funded by an industry or private sector sponsor	47	52	2
d. Used animals	35	64	1
e. Used human subjects	24	74	2

ASK ALL

Q.68 Do you think it is appropriate or not appropriate for scientists to become actively involved in political debates about issues such as nuclear power or stem cell research?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
97	Appropriate	76
3	Not appropriate	18
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused	5

ASK ALL:

Q.69 Just your impression, do you think of scientists as a...[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF LIBERAL/CONSERVATIVE]:

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
56	Politically liberal group	20
2	Politically conservative group	9
42	Neither in particular	64
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	8

ASK ALL:

Q.70 How much, if anything, have you heard about claims that government scientists were not allowed to report research findings that conflicted with the Bush administration's point of view?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
55	A lot	10
30	A little	34
14	Nothing at all	54
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused	2

ASK IF Q.70=1 or 2 (Heard “a lot” or “a little”)

Q.71 Do you think these claims about the Bush administration are true or false?

BASED ON TOTAL:		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
77	True	28
6	False	9
3	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7
(14)	<i>Heard nothing/Don't know in Q.70</i>	(56)

ASK IF Q.71=1:

Q.72 All in all, how often do you think this occurred during the Bush administration compared with previous administrations? **RANDOMIZE ORDER OF MORE OFTEN/LESS OFTEN**

BASED ON TOTAL:		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
71	More often	17
1	Less Often	2
5	About as often	8
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1
(9)	<i>False/Don't know in Q.71</i>	(16)
(14)	<i>Heard nothing/Don't know in Q.70</i>	(56)

ASK ALL:

Q.73 Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements [**RANDOMIZE**]

		-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			No answer
		Net	Completely	Mostly	Net	Completely	Mostly	
a.	When something is run by the government, it is usually inefficient and wasteful	40	7	33	58	10	47	2
	<i>Trend for comparison, April 2009 (GP)</i>	57	25	32	39	7	32	4
b.	Business corporations generally strike a fair balance between making profits and serving the public interest	20	1	19	77	25	52	2
	<i>Trend for comparison, April 2009 (GP)</i>	37	6	31	58	19	39	5
c.	It is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves	78	21	58	19	4	15	2
	<i>Trend for comparison, April 2009 (GP)</i>	63	24	39	33	11	22	4
d.	We have gone too far in pushing equal rights in this country	14	3	11	83	47	36	3
	<i>Trend for comparison, April 2009 (GP)</i>	41	16	25	56	25	31	3
e.	The best way to ensure peace is through military strength	33	5	28	65	21	44	2
	<i>Trend for comparison, April 2009 (GP)</i>	53	22	31	42	15	27	5

ASK ALL:

EMPLOY Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
71	Full-time	46
10	Part-time	12
17	Not employed	40
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	1

ASK ALL:

RETIRE Are you currently retired?

19	Yes
79	No
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

STUDENT Are you currently enrolled in school?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>May 2009</u>
14	Yes, full time	8
2	Yes, part time	6
83	No	85
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	*

IF EMPLOYED FULL OR PART-TIME[N=1,990]:

EMPORG Which of these best describes your current employer?

9	Government
63	University or college
15	Business or industry
8	Non-profit organization
5	Other
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

EDUC For each of the following, indicate if you currently hold this degree. Please check all that apply.

34	Master's Degree
68	Doctor of Philosophy
8	Doctor of Medicine
*	Other advanced degree(s), please specify
11	No advanced degree/No answer

Figures add to more than 100% because some respondents reported having more than one advanced degree.

ASK ALL:

YRSRES

Including time spent on research in graduate school, how many years have you been involved in conducting scientific research? (If less than one year, enter 0. Please enter years in whole numbers.)

26	Fewer than 10 years
25	10 to 24 years
46	25 or more years
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

AGE

What is your age?

Trend for comparison

GP

Jan-June 2009⁹

20	18 to 34	30
19	35 to 49	27
33	50 to 64	25
26	65 or older	16
3	No answer/Don't know/Refused	1

ASK ALL:

RSEX

What is your gender?

Trend for comparison

GP

Jan-June 2009

72	Male	49
26	Female	51
2	No answer/Don't know/Refused	0

ASK ALL:

HISP1

Are you yourself of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

RACE1

Which of the following describes your race? You can select as many as apply.

Trend for comparison

GP

Jan-June 2009

81	White, non-Hispanic	69
1	Black, non-Hispanic	11
3	Hispanic	12
7	Asian, non-Hispanic	2
3	Other/Mixed race, non-Hispanic	4
4	No answer/Don't know/Refused	1

⁹ This comparison and others labeled "Jan-June 2009" draw on data from four surveys of the general public completed between January and June, 2009.

ASK ALL:

USBORN Were you born in the United States?

Trend for comparison
Current Population Survey
March 2009

81	Yes	85
18	No	15
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	--

IF USBORN IS NOT 1:

CITIZEN Are you a citizen of the United States?

Trend for comparison
Current Population Survey
March 2009

BASED ON TOTAL:

90	Yes (Born in U.S. or yes to CITIZEN)	92
9	No	8
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused	--

ASK ALL:

RELIG What is your present religion, if any?

CHR **IF SOMETHING ELSE (RELIG=11) ASK:** Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

Trend for comparison
GP
Jan-June 2009

20	Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopal, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.)	41
10	Roman Catholic	24
1	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS)	2
1	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)	1
8	Jewish	1
1	Muslim	1
1	Buddhist	1
1	Hindu	*
17	Atheist	2
11	Agnostic	2
2	Unitarian (VOL.)	*
*	Christian (VOL.)	10
3	Something else	2
20	Nothing in particular	12
4	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, OR CHR=1) ASK:

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Trend for comparison
GP
Jan-June 2009

5	Yes, would	33
28	No, would not	42
*	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4
67	Not a Christian in RELIG/CHR	(22)

ASK ALL:

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services:

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>Jan-June 2009</u>
3	More than once a week	13
14	Once a week	25
8	Once or twice a month	14
14	A few times a year	19
24	Seldom	16
33	Never	11
3	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1
17	NET Weekly or more	38

ASK ALL:

BELIEF Which of the following statements comes closest to your belief about God?

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>July 2006</u>
33	I believe in God	83
18	I don't believe in God, but I do believe in a universal spirit or higher power	12
41	I don't believe in either	4
7	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

ASK ALL:

FINSIT How would you describe your household's financial situation? Would you say...

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>March 2008</u>
60	Live comfortably	39
28	Meet your basic expenses with a little left over for extras	31
8	Just meet your basic expenses	21
1	Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses	7
2	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

ASK IF CITIZEN (CITIZEN=1) OR BORN IN THE US (USBORN=1):

R/R These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you now absolutely certain you are registered to vote in your precinct or election district, is there a chance your registration has lapsed, or are you not registered to vote?

BASED ON TOTAL:

		<i>Trend for comparison</i>
		GP
		<u>Jan-June 2009</u>
86	Yes, I am certain that I am registered in my precinct or election district	78
1	Chance registration has lapsed	2
12	No, I am not registered*	19
1	No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

* Includes non-citizens and those whose citizenship status is unknown, who make up 9% of the sample.

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4 OR GAVE NO ANSWER TO PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No Preference</u>	<u>Other Party</u>	No Answer/ <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
May 2009	6	55	32	--	4	3	6	25
<i>Trend for comparison</i>								
Jan-June 2009 (GP)	23	35	34	3	*	3	12	17

ASK ALL:

IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as...

	<i>Trend for comparison</i>
	GP
	<u>Jan-June 2009</u>
1 Very conservative	7
8 Conservative	30
35 Moderate	38
38 Liberal	14
14 Very liberal	5
3 No answer/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5