

**2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
W158 – SCIENCE TOPLINE
OCT 21-27, 2024
N=9,593**

CORRECTION (Dec. 18, 2024): The topline previously included the wrong N (number of respondents who received a survey question) for the following questions: CONF_f, CONF_g, POLICY1, POLICY1B and SCM5. These figures have been updated, and the change does not alter the findings of any published analyses by the Center.

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "Not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	9,593	+/- 1.3

CONF**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS.]**

How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public?

	<u>A great deal of confidence</u>	<u>A fair amount of confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Elected officials					
Oct 21-27, 2024	2	31	51	15	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	2	23	52	23	<1
Sep 13-18, 2022	2	26	50	21	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	2	22	52	23	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	4	32	47	15	1
Apr 20-26, 2020	3	33	49	14	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	4	32	50	14	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	33	48	15	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	3	22	52	23	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	3	24	54	19	1
b. Journalists					
Oct 21-27, 2024	7	38	37	19	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	6	36	37	21	<1
Sep 13-18, 2022	6	38	36	19	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	6	34	36	24	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	9	37	31	23	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	9	39	33	19	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	15	41	28	16	<1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>The news media</i>					
Jan 7-21, 2019	9	38	34	19	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	10	38	33	19	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	8	32	35	25	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	5	33	40	21	1
c. The military					
Oct 21-27, 2024	30	48	16	5	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	26	48	19	6	<1
Sep 13-18, 2022	29	48	17	6	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	25	49	18	7	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	39	44	13	4	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	38	45	13	4	<1
Jan 7-21, 2019	36	46	14	4	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	41	41	12	4	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	39	41	15	4	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	33	46	15	5	1

CONF CONTINUED ...

	<u>A great deal of confidence</u>	<u>A fair amount of confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
d. Religious leaders					
Oct 21-27, 2024	11	44	30	14	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	11	43	31	15	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	12	41	31	16	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	12	43	30	15	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	45	29	12	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	17	46	26	11	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	13	44	30	12	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	15	47	27	11	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	9	40	34	16	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	13	39	32	14	1
e. Business leaders					
Oct 21-27, 2024	4	36	46	13	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	3	32	48	16	<1
Sep 13-18, 2022	4	35	46	14	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	4	36	45	15	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	5	41	41	12	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	5	43	41	11	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	6	40	43	11	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	39	43	14	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	5	40	42	13	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	4	37	44	14	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY**[N=4,785]:**

f. Medical scientists					
Oct 21-27, 2024	30	48	18	4	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	25	53	17	5	<1
Sep 13-18, 2022	30	50	16	4	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	29	49	17	5	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	40	45	12	2	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	43	46	9	2	<1
Jan 7-21, 2019	35	52	11	2	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	24	60	12	3	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY**[N=4,808]:**

g. Scientists					
Oct 21-27, 2024	26	51	19	4	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	23	50	22	5	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	28	49	18	5	1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	29	49	17	5	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	39	45	13	3	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	39	48	10	2	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	35	51	11	2	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	33	49	14	3	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	27	52	17	5	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	21	55	18	4	1

CONF CONTINUED ...

	A great deal of <u>confidence</u>	A fair amount of <u>confidence</u>	Not too much <u>confidence</u>	No confidence <u>at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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NO ITEM Hi. Public school principals for
grades K-12

Oct 21-27, 2024	17	55	22	7	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	14	52	26	8	<1
Sep 13-18, 2022	15	53	23	8	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	14	51	26	9	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	21	54	19	6	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	28	55	14	3	<1
Jan 7-21, 2019	21	56	18	4	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	25	55	16	4	<1

TREND FOR**COMPARISON:**

*Public school principals
and superintendents for
grades K-12*

<i>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</i>	22	55	17	5	1
<i>May 10-Jun 6, 2016</i>	13	53	27	7	1

j. Police officers

Oct 21-27, 2024	21	52	21	7	<1
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	19	50	22	8	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	21	49	22	8	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	20	49	22	9	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	26	48	19	7	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	24	54	17	4	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	30	48	16	5	<1

POLICY1**ASK FORM 1 [N=4,785]:**

**[PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2. ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS
1-2/2-1.]**

Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?

	Scientists should take an active role in public policy debates about <u>scientific issues</u>	Scientists should focus on establishing sound scientific facts and stay out of public policy <u>debates</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Oct 21-27, 2024	51	48	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	48	51	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	60	39	2
Jan 7-21, 2019	60	39	1

POLICY1B**ASK FORM 2 [N=4,808]:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2. ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST.]

Do you think scientists have...

	Too much influence in public <u>policy debates</u>	Not enough influence in public <u>policy debates</u>	About the right amount of influence in public <u>policy debates</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Oct 21-27, 2024	20	41	37	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	19	45	35	1

POLICY2**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2. DO NOT RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS.]

Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?

	Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about <u>scientific issues</u>	Public opinion should <u>not</u> play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues because these issues are too complex for the average person to <u>understand</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Oct 21-27, 2024	48	51	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	49	49	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	43	55	2
Jan 7-21, 2019	54	44	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Which of these statements best describes your views, even if neither is exactly right?

*Aug 15-25,
2014*

<i>60</i>	<i>(One) Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues, [OR]</i>
<i>35</i>	<i>(Two) Public opinion should NOT play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues because these issues are too complex for the average person to understand</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Neither/Both (VOL.)</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</i>

POLICY3**ASK ALL:****[PN: DO NOT RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS.]**

In general, would you say scientific experts are...

	Usually <u>better</u> at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other <u>people</u>	Usually <u>worse</u> at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other <u>people</u>	Neither better nor worse at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other <u>people</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Oct 21-27, 2024	43	10	46	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	41	10	47	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	47	7	45	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	45	7	48	1

SCM5**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS.]**

In general, how would you say each of the following statements describes most research scientists?

		<u>Describes research scientists well</u>	<u>Does not describe research scientists well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 [N=4,785]:				
a.	Intelligent			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	89	9	2
	Jan 7-21, 2019	89	9	2
ASK FORM 1 [N=4,785]:				
b.	Good communicators			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	45	52	3
	Jan 7-21, 2019	54	43	3
ASK FORM 2 [N=4,808]:				
c.	Focused on solving real-world problems			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	65	33	2
	Jan 7-21, 2019	75	23	2
ASK FORM 1 [N=4,785]:				
d.	Closed-minded			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	28	70	2
	Jan 7-21, 2019	26	71	3
ASK FORM 1 [N=4,785]:				
e.	Don't pay attention to the moral values of society			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	36	61	3
	Jan 7-21, 2019	32	65	4

SCM5 CONTINUED...

		<u>Describes research scientists well</u>	<u>Does not describe research scientists well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 2 [N=4,808]:				
f.	Honest			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	65	32	3
	Jan 7-21, 2019	71	26	3
ASK FORM 2 [N=4,808]:				
g.	Skilled at working in teams			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	71	26	3
	Jan 7-21, 2019	72	25	3
ASK FORM 1 [N=4,785]:				
h.	Cold			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	34	63	3
	Jan 7-21, 2019	29	67	5
ASK FORM 2 [N=4,808]:				
i.	Socially awkward			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	49	48	3
	Jan 7-21, 2019	43	53	4
ASK FORM 2 [N=4,808]:				
j.	Feel superior to others			
	Oct 21-27, 2024	47	51	2
	Jan 7-21, 2019	43	53	4

SCM3**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1.]**

Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?

	<u>Scientists make judgments based solely on the facts</u>	<u>Scientists' judgments are just as likely to be biased as other people's</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Oct 21-27, 2024	50	49	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	55	44	1

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...¹

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
29	28	29	13	1	19	19

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE¹ Party and Partyln asked in a prior survey.