

Topline questionnaire

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 67 TOPLINE
APRIL 29-MAY 5, 2020
TOTAL N=10,957**

ASK ALL:

YRAHEAD Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that a year from now, that is May 2021, will be better or worse than May 2020?

Apr. 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>	82	Better
	17	Worse
	1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that 2020 will be better or worse than 2019?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>(VOL.) Worse</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	55	34	11
Jan 9-14, 2019	47	43	10
Jan 10-15, 2018	61	29	11
Jan 4-9, 2017	49	42	9
Jan 7-14, 2016	56	30	14
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	49	42	9
Jan 15-19, 2014	56	35	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	36	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	57	29	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	55	31	14
Jan 6-10, 2010	67	26	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	52	37	11
December, 2007	50	34	16
December, 2006	57	28	15
December, 1999	66	19	15
December, 1998	59	25	16
December, 1994	59	28	13
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1993	64	20	16
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1992	61	11	28
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1991	61	31	8
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1990	48	42	10
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1986	53	25	22
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1985	64	20	17
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1984	61	20	19
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1982	50	32	18
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1981	41	44	15

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**RANDOMIZE POLICY1 AND POLICY2****ASK ALL:**

POLICY1 Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

April 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
60	Scientists should take an active role in public policy debates about scientific issues	60
39	Scientists should focus on establishing sound scientific facts and stay out of public policy debates	39
2	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

POLICY2 Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? **[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**

April 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
43	Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues	54
55	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	44
2	No answer	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 <u>2014</u>
<i>(One) Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues, [OR]</i>	60
<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>	35
<i>Neither/Both (VOL.)</i>	2
<i>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</i>	2

ASK ALL:

POLICY3

In general, would you say scientific experts are... **[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**

April 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
47	Usually BETTER at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people	45
7	Usually WORSE at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people	7
45	NEITHER BETTER NOR WORSE at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people	48
1	No answer	1

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK FORM 1 [N=5,475]:**

RQ1_F1A

Medical research scientists conduct research to investigate human diseases, and test methods to prevent and treat them.In general, would you say your view of medical research scientists is...

Apr 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
66	Mostly positive	68
6	Mostly negative	7
27	Neither positive nor negative	24
1	No answer	1

ASK FORM 2 [N=5,482]:

PQ1_F2A

Medical doctors provide patients with diagnoses of disease and/or treatment recommendations to promote, maintain or restore a patient's health.In general, would you say your view of medical doctors is...

Apr 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
72	Mostly positive	74
7	Mostly negative	8
21	Neither positive nor negative	18
<1	No answer	<1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CLIN_TRIAL1 AND CLIN_TRIAL2; DISPLAY INTRO TEXT ONLY FOR FIRST ITEM**ASK ALL:**

Some medical research studies are called clinical trials in which volunteers participate in a study to help test the safety and effectiveness of new treatments, drugs or devices.

CLIN_TRIAL1 How important do you think it is to go through the process of conducting clinical trials, even if it will lengthen the time it takes to develop new treatments?

Apr 29-	
May 5	
<u>2020</u>	
64	Very important
31	Somewhat important
4	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

CLIN_TRIAL2 Which of these comes closer to your views about allowing more people access to experimental drugs for treatment of a serious illness or disease BEFORE clinical trials have shown the drugs to be safe and effective? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Apr 29-	
May 5	
<u>2020</u>	
59	The benefits outweigh the risks
40	The risks outweigh the benefits
2	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK FORM 1: [N=5,475]**

COVID_SCI1F1 As far as you know, how much are the federal government's policies to control the spread of coronavirus influenced by evidence from public health experts?

Apr 29-	
May 5	
<u>2020</u>	
26	A great deal
49	A fair amount
20	Not too much
4	Not at all
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2: [N=5,482]

COVID_SCI2F2 As far as you know, how much are your state government's policies to control the spread of coronavirus influenced by evidence from public health experts?

Apr 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>	
43	A great deal
40	A fair amount
13	Not too much
4	Not at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_SCI3 Thinking about what you have heard or read, how well do... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Public health experts understand how to slow the spread of coronavirus Apr 29-May 5, 2020	23	50	21	5	<1
b. Medical science experts understand who is most at risk of serious illness from coronavirus Apr 29-May 5, 2020	33	52	12	3	<1

ASK ALL:

COVID_SCI4 How much do you think social distancing measures are helping to slow the spread of coronavirus in the U.S.?

Apr 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>	
59	Helping a lot
29	Helping a little
8	Not helping too much
3	Not helping at all
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_SCI5 Do you think each of the following is or is not a reason why there are new cases of coronavirus in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Yes, this is a major reason</u>	<u>Yes, this is a minor reason</u>	<u>No, this is NOT a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. There is not enough testing for coronavirus Apr 29-May 5, 2020	58	25	17	<1
b. Not enough people are following social distancing measures Apr 29-May 5, 2020	57	30	12	<1
c. Coronavirus spreads more easily than other infectious diseases Apr 29-May 5, 2020	68	21	11	1

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

COVID_USRATE Taking into account the size of the U.S. population, do you think the share of people with coronavirus disease is... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Apr 29- May 5 <u>2020</u>	
49	Higher in the U.S. than most other nations
18	Lower in the U.S. than most other nations
31	About the same as most other nations
1	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

COVID_SCI6 Thinking about the year ahead, that is in the NEXT 12 MONTHS, do you think the following will or will not happen? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Definitely will <u>happen</u>	Probably will <u>happen</u>	Probably will NOT <u>happen</u>	Definitely will NOT <u>happen</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. There will be a vaccine to prevent the coronavirus disease Apr 29-May 5, 2020	16	57	23	3	1
b. There will be a medication or drug that is shown to be an effective treatment or cure for coronavirus disease Apr 29-May 5, 2020	20	63	15	2	1
c. There will be another outbreak of coronavirus disease after the first outbreak dies down Apr 29-May 5, 2020	24	59	15	2	1
d. The focus on coronavirus will delay progress on medical treatments for other serious diseases and conditions Apr 29-May 5, 2020	17	52	27	3	1

ASK ALL:

COVID_SCI6E If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, would you...

Apr 29-
May 5
2020

42	Definitely get the vaccine
30	Probably get the vaccine
16	Probably NOT get the vaccine
11	Definitely NOT get the vaccine
1	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

COVID_SCI9 Thinking about the coronavirus outbreak, does this make you see developments in science as...

Apr 29-
May 5
2020

76	MORE important for society
4	LESS important for society
19	Makes NO DIFFERENCE either way
1	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 66 FINAL TOPLINE
APRIL 20-26, 2020
N=10,139**

See "[Americans' Views of the News Media During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)" for more questions from this survey.

ASK ALL:

ETHICS1

Generally speaking, how would you rate the ethical standards of each of the following groups?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS; RANDOMLY DISPLAY ANSWER CHOICES 1-4 OR 4-1]

	<u>Very high ethical standards</u>	<u>High ethical standards</u>	<u>Low ethical standards</u>	<u>Very low ethical standards</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Elected officials					
Apr 20-26, 2020	3	24	54	17	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	3	23	54	20	1
NO ITEM b					
c. Journalists					
Apr 20-26, 2020	6	37	38	19	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	6	38	38	16	1
d. Medical doctors					
Apr 20-26, 2020	35	57	6	1	*
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	23	64	11	2	1
e. Religious leaders					
Apr 20-26, 2020	13	53	24	8	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	10	54	27	7	1
f. Lawyers					
Apr 20-26, 2020	5	39	43	11	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	5	38	43	12	1
g. Police officers					
Apr 20-26, 2020	12	60	22	5	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	11	59	24	5	1

ASK ALL:

CONF How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<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					
Apr 20-26, 2020	3	33	49	14	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	4	32	50	14	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	33	48	15	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	3	22	52	23	*
May 10-June 6, 2016	3	24	54	19	1
b. Journalists					
Apr 20-26, 2020	9	39	33	19	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	15	41	28	16	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>The news media</i>					
Jan 7-21, 2019	9	38	34	19	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	10	38	33	19	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	8	32	35	25	*
May 10-June 6, 2016	5	33	40	21	1
c. The military					
Apr 20-26, 2020	38	45	13	4	*
Jan 7-21, 2019	36	46	14	4	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	41	41	12	4	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	39	41	15	4	*
May 10-June 6, 2016	33	46	15	5	1
d. Religious leaders					
Apr 20-26, 2020	17	46	26	11	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	13	44	30	12	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	15	47	27	11	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	9	40	34	16	1
May 10-June 6, 2016	13	39	32	14	1
e. Business leaders					
Apr 20-26, 2020	5	43	41	11	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	6	40	43	11	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	39	43	14	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	5	40	42	13	*
May 10-June 6, 2016	4	37	44	14	1
ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=5,047]					
f. Medical scientists					
Apr 20-26, 2020	43	46	9	2	*
Jan 7-21, 2019	35	52	11	2	*
May 10-June 6, 2016	24	60	12	3	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=5,092]					
g. Scientists					
Apr 20-26, 2020	39	48	10	2	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	35	51	11	2	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	33	49	14	3	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	27	52	17	5	*
May 10-June 6, 2016	21	55	18	4	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>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=5,047]					
h. College and university professors					
Apr 20-26, 2020	16	52	22	9	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	18	50	22	10	*
ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=5,092]					
i. Public school principals for grades K-12					
Apr 20-26, 2020	28	55	14	3	*
Jan 7-21, 2019	21	56	18	4	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	25	55	16	4	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Public school principals and superintendents for grades K-12</i>					
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	22	55	17	5	1
May 10-June 6, 2016	13	53	27	7	1
j. Police officers					
Apr 20-26, 2020	24	54	17	4	*
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	30	48	16	5	*