

Survey question wording and topline

2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 79 November 2020
SCIENCE TOPLINE
November 18-29, 2020
TOTAL N=12,648

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					
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-June 6, 2016	3	24	54	19	1
b. Journalists					
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-June 6, 2016	5	33	40	21	1
c. The military					
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-June 6, 2016	33	46	15	5	1
d. Religious leaders					
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-June 6, 2016	13	39	32	14	1
e. Business leaders					
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-June 6, 2016	4	37	44	14	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=6,365]					
f. Medical scientists					
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-June 6, 2016	24	60	12	3	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=6,283]					
g. Scientists					
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-June 6, 2016	21	55	18	4	1
NO ITEM H					
i. Public school principals for grades K-12					
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:					
<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					
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

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

COVIDEGFP How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Donald Trump					
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	20	16	49	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	15	21	15	48	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	20	21	17	42	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	23	25	19	32	<1
b. Your state elected officials					
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	38	27	19	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	16	39	26	18	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	21	41	25	13	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	21	49	22	8	1
c. Your local elected officials					
Nov 18-29, 2020	14	44	28	14	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	13	47	27	12	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	17	47	27	9	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	17	52	22	7	1
d. Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)					
Nov 18-29, 2020	22	45	24	9	<1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	16	47	25	11	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	24	48	21	7	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	30	49	17	4	<1

NO ITEMS E-F

g. Hospitals and medical centers in your area					
Nov 18-29, 2020	45	42	9	3	<1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	43	45	9	3	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	47	42	8	3	1

ASK ALL:COVIDTHREAT How much of a threat, if any, is the coronavirus outbreak for... **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A major threat</u>	<u>A minor threat</u>	<u>Not a threat</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The health of the U.S. population as a whole				
Nov 18-29, 2020	65	29	5	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	67	28	5	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	64	31	4	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	66	31	2	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	47	45	8	<1
b. Your personal health				
Nov 18-29, 2020	39	46	14	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	40	46	13	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	38	47	14	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	36	52	11	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	27	51	22	<1
c. The U.S. economy				
Nov 18-29, 2020	84	13	3	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	86	12	2	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	88	10	2	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	88	10	1	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	70	25	4	1
d. Your personal financial situation				
Nov 18-29, 2020	38	42	20	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	38	43	19	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	41	42	17	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	49	40	11	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	34	43	23	<1

ASK ALL:COVID_FUT Thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak, do you think...? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>The worst is behind us</u>	<u>The worst is still to come</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 18-29, 2020	28	71	1
June 16-22, 2020	40	59	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	26	73	1

ASK ALL:COVID_INFECT How concerned, if at all, are you that... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. You might spread the coronavirus to other people without knowing that you have it					
Nov 18-29, 2020	32	32	23	13	<1
June 16-22, 2020	30	32	23	14	<1
Apr 7-12, 2020	33	34	22	11	1
b. You will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization					
Nov 18-29, 2020	23	30	30	17	<1
June 16-22, 2020	24	27	32	17	<1
Apr 7-12, 2020	24	31	32	13	<1

ASK ALL:

COVIDTRT Compared with the early stages of the coronavirus outbreak, do you think the effectiveness of treatments and drugs for people with the coronavirus has...

Nov 18-29
2020

37	Gotten a lot better
41	Gotten a little better
22	Stayed about the same
1	No answer

ASK ALL:COVIDMED Thinking about hospitals and medical centers in YOUR AREA, over the next few months do you think hospitals and medical centers in your area will... **[RANDOMIZE]**Nov 18-29
2020

47	Be able to handle the number of people seeking treatment for the coronavirus
52	Struggle to handle the number of people seeking treatment for the coronavirus
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_COMFORT

Given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable doing each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Comfortable <u>doing this</u>	Uncomfortable <u>doing this</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Going out to the grocery store			
	Nov 18-29, 2020	75	24	<1
	June 16-22, 2020	79	20	<1
	Mar 19-24, 2020	57	42	<1
NO ITEM B				
c.	Eating out in a restaurant			
	Nov 18-29, 2020	44	55	<1
	June 16-22, 2020	44	56	<1
	Mar 19-24, 2020	22	77	<1
d.	Attending an indoor sporting event or concert			
	Nov 18-29, 2020	19	80	<1
	June 16-22, 2020	23	76	<1
e.	Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home ²			
	Nov 18-29, 2020	65	35	<1
	Mar 19-24, 2020	62	38	<1
f.	Attending a crowded party			
	Nov 18-29, 2020	15	84	<1
	June 16-22, 2020	18	81	<1
	Mar 19-24, 2020	9	91	<1
g.	Going to a hair salon or barbershop			
	Nov 18-29, 2020	53	47	<1
	June 16-22, 2020	53	46	1

ASK ALL:

COVIDMASK1

In the past month, how often, if ever, have you worn a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses?

	All or most of <u>the time</u>	Some of <u>the time</u>	Hardly <u>ever</u>	Never	Have not gone to these types of <u>places</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 18-29, 2020	87	7	4	2	1	<1
Aug 3-16, 2020	85	9	3	1	1	<1
June 4-10, 2020	65	15	9	7	4	<1

² In past surveys, this item has been asked as "Visiting with a close friend or family member at their house." In W69 (June 16-22, 2020), we split from this item with "Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home." There were no significant differences between the items and the data from both questions were combined.

ASK ALL:C_MASKBTHR How much, if at all, does it bother you when... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. People around you in public places do not wear masks Nov 18-29, 2020	49	24	13	15	<1
b. Stores and businesses require customers to wear a mask for service Nov 18-29, 2020	18	10	11	61	<1

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Definitely get the vaccine</u>	<u>Probably get the vaccine</u>	<u>Probably NOT get the vaccine</u>	<u>Definitely NOT get the vaccine</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 18-29, 2020	29	31	21	18	1
Sept 8-13, 2020	21	30	25	24	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	42	30	16	11	1

**ASK IF PROBABLY OR DEFINITELY WOULD NOT GET VACCINE (COVID_SCI6E=3,4)
[N=4,972]:**

VACCHNG Once people in the U.S. start getting a vaccine for the coronavirus and there is more information about it, would you say...

Nov 18-29
2020

46	It's possible you would decide to get a vaccine
53	You're pretty certain that you would decide not to get a vaccine
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

VAXFIRST Once a coronavirus vaccine is approved in the U.S., would you be comfortable or uncomfortable being one of the first groups of people to get the vaccine?

Nov 18-29
2020

37	Comfortable doing this
62	Uncomfortable doing this
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

VACCNFDT How much confidence, if any, do you have that the research and development process will produce a vaccine for COVID-19 in the U.S. that is safe and effective?

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>		Sept 8-13 <u>2020</u>
30	A great deal of confidence	19
45	A fair amount of confidence	45
17	Not too much confidence	25
8	No confidence at all	10
<1	No answer	<1

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

SCI_FLU1 Since August of this year, have you gotten a flu shot?

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>	
44	Yes, have gotten a flu shot since August
55	No, have not gotten a flu shot since August
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SCI_FLU2 How often do you typically get a flu shot?

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>	
47	Every year
12	Every few years
41	Rarely or never
1	No answer

ASK IF DID NOT RESPOND YES IN W72 OR W67 OR W65 (XKNOWPAT=1):

COVID_KNOWPATIENTb Do you personally know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having COVID-19?

BASED ON TOTAL:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 18-29, 2020	54	46	<1
Aug 3-16, 2020	39	61	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	20	80	<1
Apr 7-12, 2020	15	85	<1

ASK ALL:

SCM2

Which of the following best describes what you think about the scientific method?
[RANDOMIZE]

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
67	The scientific method generally produces accurate conclusions	63
31	The scientific method can be used to produce any conclusion the research wants	35
3	No answer	2

ASK ALL:

KNOW2

Here's a different kind of question. (If you don't know the answer, select "Not sure.")

A scientist is conducting a study to determine how well a new medication treats ear infections. The scientist tells the participants to put 10 drops in their infected ear each day. After two weeks, all participants' ear infections had healed.

Which of the following changes to the design of this study would most improve the ability to test if the new medication effectively treats ear infections? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4]**

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
60	Create a second group of participants with ear infections who do not use any ear drops (Correct)	60
40	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer	40
5	Create a second group of participants with ear infections who use 15 drops a day	5
8	Have participants use ear drops for only 1 week	13
4	Have participants put ear drops in both their infected ear and healthy ear	5
23	Not sure	16
<1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

KNOW6

The time a computer takes to start has increased dramatically. One possible explanation for this is that the computer is running out of memory.

This explanation is a scientific... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4]**

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
50	Hypothesis (Correct)	52
50	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer	48
7	Conclusion	8
3	Experiment	4
19	Observation	19
21	Not sure	17
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

KNOW14

Based on what you have heard or read, which of the following statements best describes the scientific method? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2]**

Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>		Jan 7-21 <u>2019</u>
66	The scientific method produces findings meant to be continually tested and updated over time	67
34	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer	33
10	The scientific method identifies unchanging core principles and truths	15
23	Not sure	17
1	No answer	1

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE