

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
1999 MILLENNIUM SURVEY
--FINAL TOPLINE--
April 6 - May 6, 1999
TOTAL N=1,546
Form 1 (N=789); Form 2 (N=757)

First, I'm going to ask you a few questions about the past...

Q.1 Compared to members of your family in the 1950s, would you say your life today is generally better, worse, or about the same?

63 Better
 12 Worse
 21 About the same — **GO TO Q.3**
 4 Don't know/Refused — **GO TO Q.3**
 100

Q.2 In what ways is your life (**INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.1: better/worse**) compared to members of your family in the 1950s? (**OPEN-END; PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**)

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID "BETTER" [N=984]

40 Economy/Jobs (NET)
 21 Better off financially/Prosperous/Two Incomes
 6 Better pay/Higher earnings/Better job
 5 Better standard of living/Quality of life
 4 Better economy
 4 More career/job opportunities
 2 Financially secure
 1 Own our own home
 14 Modern conveniences (NET)
 6 Appliances/Conveniences
 4 More material goods
 3 Better housing/Better living conditions
 1 Color TV/Air conditioning/Cell phone
 * Better transportation
 * More opportunities for travel
 13 Technology (NET)
 11 Technology
 1 Computer
 1 The Internet
 * Communication
 7 More opportunities
 6 Education (NET)
 4 Better/more education
 1 More educational opportunities
 6 Personal comment (Miscellaneous)
 5 Freedom/Equal rights (NET)
 2 More opportunities for women/minorities
 2 Have more freedom
 1 Equal rights
 1 Less racism/prejudice

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “BETTER” [N=984]

- 4 Medical advances (NET)
 - 2 Better health
 - 2 Better medical/health care
 - * Longer life span
- 4 Easier
- 3 Everything is better/just better
- 2 Retired
- 2 More leisure time
- 2 Happier/Peace of mind
- 1 Better communication (general)
- * No war
- 9 Other
- 7 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “WORSE” [N=176]

- 30 Economy/Jobs (NET)
 - 14 Cost of living/Inflation/Everything is expensive
 - 12 Worse off financially
 - 2 Both spouses need to work
 - 2 Taxes
 - 2 Job/Lack of job security
- 29 Moral breakdown (NET)
 - 19 More crime/violence/vandalism
 - 8 Society lacks values/morals/ethics
 - 3 Drugs
 - 1 People who don't work for what they get
 - 1 Less discipline
 - 1 Single parent families
- 16 Pace of life (NET)
 - 14 More hectic/complicated/rushed/stressful
 - 2 Lack of private/leisure time
- 8 Just worse/harder
- 7 Personal issues (NET)
 - 4 Loved ones are dead
 - 3 Family is not as close
- 7 Health problems
- 2 Less peace
- 2 Liked it better then/The way things were
- 6 Other
- 8 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Now, thinking about life in the U.S... Since the 1950s, would you say life in the U.S. has gotten better, gotten worse or stayed about the same?

- 44 Gotten better
- 30 Gotten worse
- 20 Stayed the same — **GO TO Q.5**
- 6 Don't know/Refused — **GO TO Q.5**
- 100

Q.4 In what ways has life in the U.S. gotten (INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.3: better/worse)? (OPEN-END; PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “BETTER” [N=702]

35 Economy/Jobs (NET)
 13 More jobs/Better paying jobs
 11 Better/stable economy
 10 Financially/More money
 6 Higher/better standard of living
 16 Technology (NET)
 15 Technology
 2 Computers
 15 Modern Conveniences (NET)
 9 More conveniences/Live more comfortably/easier
 3 Materialistically
 3 Better transportation/Travel is easier
 13 Freedom/Civil Rights (NET)
 4 People are more open-minded/tolerant/Less prejudice
 4 More freedom/rights
 4 Civil rights/Race relations/Integration
 2 Equal rights
 1 Women’s rights
 9 More opportunities/choices
 7 Better education/More educational opportunities
 6 Better health/medical/health care
 5 Life in general/Quality of life
 2 Better communication
 1 More social programs/help for the poor
 1 More politically aware
 1 Personal comment (Miscellaneous)
 1 Television
 1 More/healthier food
 * Now retired
 * More leisure time/time with family/friends/children
 * More religious
 9 Other
 6 No answer/Not sure/Don’t know/Refused

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “WORSE” [N=446]

69 Moral breakdown (NET)
 44 More crime/violence
 19 Lack/decline of morals/respect
 10 Drugs
 4 Breakdown of family structure/Both parents work
 3 Lack of family values
 3 Misbehavior of young people
 2 God is left out of everything
 2 Television/See too much violence/sex
 1 “Kids killing kids”
 9 Government/Politics (NET)
 5 Government has too much control/too many complex regulations
 2 Political controversy/Politics
 1 Corruption in government

Q.4 CONTINUED ...

BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID “WORSE” [N=446]

- 8 Economy (NET)
 - 4 Cost of living/Hard to make a living
 - 2 Economy
 - 2 Unemployment
- 7 Pace of life (NET)
 - 4 More complicated/faster paced/More stressed
 - 2 More people/cars/congestion
- 3 People less caring
- 3 Conflicts/War/Terrorism
- 3 Everything/Quality of life
- 2 Education system/Lack of discipline/control in schools
- 2 More taxes
- 1 More prejudice/racism
- 1 Too much “third world” immigration/foreigners/refugees
- 1 Too much technology
- 1 Not like it used to be
- 1 “Me” generation
- * Mother Nature has caused turmoil
- * Indigents/Homeless
- * Pollution
- 8 Other
- 2 No answer/Not sure/Don’t know/Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Now I’m going to read a list of some groups of Americans. For each one, please tell me whether life has gotten better or worse since around 1950. (First, **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)**, has life gotten better or worse for this group of Americans over the past 50 years? How about...

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>Same</u>	Don’t know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.F1	Men	51	18	25	6=100
b.F2	White males	53	17	23	7=100
c.F1	Women	83	9	5	3=100
d.F2	African Americans	81	6	8	5=100
e.F1	Gays and lesbians	61	13	4	22=100
f.F2	Children	46	44	6	4=100
g.F1	Senior citizens	61	25	9	5=100
h.F2	Disabled people	82	8	6	4=100
i.F1	Middle class Americans	51	22	22	5=100
j.F2	Working class Americans	60	25	12	3=100
k.F1	Hispanics	65	5	8	22=100

Q.5 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Same</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
l.F2	Religious people	46	20	23	11=100
m.F1	Farmers	20	65	5	10=100
n.F2	Union members	35	29	12	24=100
o.F1	Teenagers	33	56	6	5=100

On a different subject...

ASK Q.6 AND Q.7 OF FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.6F1 What would you say has been America's greatest achievement during the 20th century? (**OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF "DON'T KNOW," BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**)

- 41 Science/Technology (NET)
 - 18 Space exploration/Man on the moon
 - 12 Technology
 - 7 Computers
 - 3 Transportation
 - 1 Science
 - 1 The Internet
 - 1 Telecommunications
- 7 Medical Advances (NET)
 - 7 Medical care/Breakthroughs
 - * Polio vaccine
- 7 War and Peace (NET)
 - 3 Winning World War II
 - 2 Peace
 - 1 Dominant World Power
 - 1 Ending the Cold War
 - * Disarmament/End of Nuclear Race
 - * Nuclear bomb
- 5 Economy (NET)
 - 2 Economic well being/stability
 - 2 Jobs
 - 1 The standard of living
 - * People own their own homes
- 5 Civil Rights (NET)
 - 4 Civil rights
 - 1 Women's rights
 - * Gay and lesbian rights
- 2 Continuation/spread of democracy/freedom
- 2 Education
- 2 Helping other countries/peoples
- 1 Industrial revolution
- 1 Social support system
- 1 Nothing
- * Heightened awareness of social issues/environmental issues
- 7 Other
- 23 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

Q.7F1 And what would you say has been America's greatest failure during the 20th Century? (**OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF "DON'T KNOW," BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**)

- 17 War/Use of Force (NET)
 - 8 Vietnam
 - 7 Wars/World policing efforts
 - 2 Use of power/influence on the rest of the world
 - 1 Foreign policy
 - * Gulf War
- 15 Moral breakdown (NET)
 - 6 Moral decline/Lack of values/ethics
 - 4 Breakdown of the family/family unit
 - 4 Our children/kids
 - 2 Lack of religious value/Removal of God
- 10 Politics/Government (NET)
 - 7 Our president/leaders
 - 2 Government corruption/Trust in government
 - 2 Politics/Politicians
- 7 Treatment of minorities/Intolerance
- 6 Specific Policy Issue (NET)
 - 2 Education
 - 1 Environmental issues/pollution
 - 1 Health care
 - 1 Legalized abortion
 - 1 Welfare
 - * Social security
 - * Immigration
- 6 Rich and poor (NET)
 - 3 Not helping/taking care of our own
 - 2 Care for the poor/homeless
 - 1 Not closing the gap between rich and poor/Poverty
- 6 Crime/Justice system (NET)
 - 2 Crime/violence
 - 2 War on drugs/Gangs
 - 1 Justice system
- 1 Too much consumerism
- 1 Challenger
- * Unemployment
- * Elderly/Aged
- * Health Problems
- * Treatment of our farmers
- 10 Other
- 20 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

ASK Q.8 AND Q.9 OF FORM 2 ONLY:

On a different subject...

Q.8F2 What would you say has been the U.S. government's greatest achievement during the 20th Century?
(OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF "DON'T KNOW," BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES)

- 19 Science/Technology (NET)
 - 14 Space program
 - 3 Technology
 - 2 Computers
 - * Science
- 12 World Peace (NET)
 - 5 Peace
 - 3 Winning World War II
 - 2 End of the Cold War
 - 1 World Power
 - 1 Diplomacy
- 9 Freedom/Civil Rights (NET)
 - 3 Civil Rights/Ending segregation
 - 2 Equal rights
 - 2 Freedom/Liberty
 - 1 Women's Rights
 - * A more equal society
- 6 Social Safety Net (NET)
 - 3 Social Security
 - 3 Public assistance/welfare/work first
 - 1 Help for needy individuals
 - * Help for the aged/senior citizens
- 5 Economy/Jobs (NET)
 - 3 Maintaining a stable economy
 - 2 More/better jobs/Lower unemployment
 - * Higher pay/Minimum wage
- 4 Medical/Health care advances
- 2 Nothing
- 2 Balancing the budget/Lowering the debt
- 1 Everything has improved/Quality of life
- 1 Education/Educational opportunities
- 9 Other
- 33 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

Q.9F2 And what would you say has been the U.S. government's greatest failure during the 20th Century? (**OPEN-END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF "DON'T KNOW," BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**)

- 18 War/Foreign Policy (NET)
 - 8 Vietnam
 - 6 Wars/World policing efforts
 - 4 Foreign policy
 - 1 Persian Gulf War
 - * Cold War
 - * Korean War
- 14 Politics/Government (NET)
 - 8 Our President/ Clinton's lack of morals/ethics/scandal
 - 4 Trust in government/Failure to keep their word/Dishonesty in politics
 - 2 Government has gotten too big
 - * Watergate/Nixon
- 10 Specific Policy Issue (NET)
 - 4 Welfare/Creating dependency on government
 - 2 Health care/insurance
 - 2 Education
 - 1 Domestic policy issues (non-specific)
 - 1 Social Security
 - * Legalized abortion
 - * Immigration
- 7 Budget/fiscal Policy (NET)
 - 4 U.S. deficit/budget/money management
 - 3 Taxes
 - * Reaganomics
- 4 Civil Rights (NET)
 - 3 Civil rights/Race relations
 - 2 Equal rights
 - * Women's rights
- 3 Care for those in need (NET)
 - 2 Care for the poor/homeless
 - 1 Care for the elderly/aged
 - * Care of veterans
- 3 Meeting the needs of the people
- 3 Crime/Justice system (NET)
 - 1 War on drugs
 - 1 Crime/violence
 - 1 Justice system
- 2 Moral breakdown (NET)
 - 2 Moral decay
 - * Taking prayer/religion out of schools/life
- 1 Economy/Jobs (NET)
 - 1 Economy
 - * Cost of living
 - * Unemployment
- 1 Lack of support for families/parents/children
- 1 Nothing
- 1 Environment/Natural resources (NET)
 - * Environmental issues/Pollution
 - * Ability to preserve natural resources
- * Everything/Many things
- 8 Other
- 23 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

NO QUESTION 10

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Now I'm going to ask you about some things that have happened in the U.S. and around the world over the last 50 years or so. For each event, please tell me if you happen to remember EXACTLY where you were or what you were doing the MOMENT you heard the news. Just tell me "yes" if you do remember this and "no" if you do not. If you were not old enough at the time to remember, just say so and we'll move on. First, do you happen to remember exactly where you were or what you were doing the moment you heard about... **(READ IN ORDER; IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT HE OR SHE WASN'T BORN OR WASN'T OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER AN EVENT, END THE SERIES AND GO TO THE NEXT QUESTION — Q.12. IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW" GO TO THE NEXT ITEM IN THE SERIES — Q.11.)** How about...

		<i>Based on total respondents</i>	<i>Based on those old enough to remember</i>
		<u>Yes, remember where/what doing</u>	<u>Yes, remember where/what doing¹</u>
a.	The death of Princess Diana	87	87
b.	The Oklahoma City bombing	86	86
c.	The beginning of the bombing in the Persian Gulf War	75	76
d.	The fall of the Berlin Wall	59	60
e.	The Tiananmen Square massacre	41	42
f.	The Challenger explosion	78	82
g.	John Hinckley shooting President Reagan	67	72
h.	Richard Nixon's resignation	53	67
i.	Neil Armstrong walking on the moon	54	80
j.	Martin Luther King's assassination	43	67
k.	John F. Kennedy's assassination	53	90
l.	North Korea's invasion of South Korea which began the Korean War	15	43
m.	The end of World War II	21	79
n.	Franklin Roosevelt's death	17	71
o.	The attack on Pearl Harbor	18	85
p.	Paris falling to the Nazis	7	38
q.	The stock market crash of 1929	4	38

¹ Based on those who were alive when the event occurred and say they were old enough to remember.

Q.12 I'm going to read a list of some changes that have taken place over the last 100 years. Please tell me if you think each one has been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't made much difference. (First,) Has **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't this made much difference? How about...

		<u>Change for the better</u>	<u>Change for the worse</u>	<u>Hasn't made much difference</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a.F1	The invention of the computer	87	8	2	3=100
b.F2	The development of nuclear weapons	19	63	11	7=100
c.F1	Space exploration	72	6	17	5=100
d.F2	Women in the workplace	83	10	6	1=100
e.F1	Birth control pills	72	10	13	5=100
f.F2	The legalization of abortion	34	42	17	7=100
g.F1	The invention of television	73	21	4	2=100
h.F2	The invention of radio	96	1	2	1=100
i.F1	The civil rights movement 84	5	8	3=100	
j.F2	The automobile	91	6	3	*=100
k.F1	Airline travel	77	8	10	5=100
l.F2	Wide use of credit cards	22	68	7	3=100
m.F1	The development of nuclear energy	48	30	14	8=100
n.F2	The growth of the suburbs 52	21	21	6=100	
o.F1	More acceptance of divorce	30	53	13	4=100
p.F2	The interstate highway system	84	8	6	2=100
q.F1	Rock and roll	45	23	27	5=100

Q.13 Now thinking just about the last 10 years or so. I'm going to read another list of changes that have taken place. Please tell me if you think each one has been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't made much difference. (First,) Has **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't this made much difference? How about...

		<u>Change for the better</u>	<u>Change for the worse</u>	<u>Hasn't made much difference</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a.F1	HMOs and managed health care plans	31	49	12	8=100
b.F2	Mutual funds	69	3	16	12=100
c.F1	Telemarketing	21	51	20	8=100
d.F2	Email	71	9	12	8=100
e.F1	The Internet	69	18	7	6=100
f.F2	Viagra	36	15	28	21=100
g.F1	Lotteries	35	34	26	5=100
h.F2	Rap music	14	53	26	7=100
i.F1	Gay rights movement	39	29	22	10=100
j.F2	Home schooling	43	19	28	10=100
k.F1	Prozac	40	18	21	21=100
l.F2	Cellular phones	66	22	10	2=100
m.F1	Cable TV	62	21	15	2=100
n.F2	Fertility drugs	43	32	17	8=100
o.F1	The cloning of sheep	15	49	23	13=100

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.14 What word or phrase best describes your impression of... (**INSERT ITEM; DO NOT ROTATE**) (**OPEN-END**) How about the... (**INSERT NEXT ITEM**) (**ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE IF "DON'T KNOW," BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES**)

ASK ITEMS a THRU d OF FORM 1 ONLY:

- a.F1 The 1920s
- 30 Cultural (NET)
- 9 Roaring
 - 8 Swinging/Gay/Happy/Carefree
 - 3 Flappers
 - 3 Wild/Wide open
 - 3 Prohibition
 - 2 Excessive/out of control/fast living
 - 1 Gangsters
 - 1 Charleston/Dance
 - 1 Music/Jazz/Swing
 - * Reference to clothes/hairstyles
 - * Speakeasy/Bathtub gin
 - * Bootlegging
 - * Silly/Frivolous
- 16 Economic (NET)
- 5 Hard times
 - 5 Depression
 - 2 Affluence/booming
 - 2 The crash/Stock market crash
 - 1 Poverty/Unemployment
 - 1 Boom to bust/Calm before storm
 - 1 Sad/Depressing
 - * Stock Market/Investments
- 3 Good/Better
- 2 Long time ago/Nostalgia
- 2 Exciting/Interesting
- 2 Bad
- 2 Change
- 1 Personal milestone (Miscellaneous)
- 1 Awakening/Beginning
- * Inventions
 - * Slow/boring
 - * Industrial movement
 - * Revolution
 - * War
- 8 Other
- 34 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

Q.14 CONTINUED ...

<u>b.F1</u>	<u>The 1930s</u>
34	Economy/Depression (NET)
	20 Depression
	10 Hard times/Struggle/Bad
	3 Recovery/Rebuilding
	2 Poverty
	* Work
4	Better/Good
3	Depressing/Sad
2	World War/Trouble in Europe
2	Personal milestone (Miscellaneous)
1	Corruption/Crime (NET)
	1 Gangsters
	* Corrupt "Dirty Thieves"
	* Crime/Violence
1	Simple/Calm/Safe
1	Advances/Change/Progress
1	Franklin Delano Roosevelt (NET)
	* Roosevelt
	* WPA Put People To Work
	* New Deal
1	Hope
*	Continuation of Industrial Revolution
*	Music/Dancing
*	Best and Worst
7	Other
42	No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused
<u>c.F1</u>	<u>The 1940s</u>
35	World War II (NET)
	27 World War II
	3 Frightening/Unsettled/Turmoil
	3 End of the war/Winning the war
	2 Patriotism/Air of unity
	1 Hitler/Defeat of Hitler/Holocaust
	* Pearl Harbor
	* Army
	* Atomic bomb/Hiroshima
	* Japan
10	Economic (NET)
	5 Good times
	3 Rebuilding/New beginning/Optimism
	2 Depression over/Economy getting better/growing
5	Sad/Terrible/Bad/Hard
4	Better/Getting better
2	Cultural (NET)
	1 Big band music
	1 Family life/Baby boom
2	Personal milestone (Miscellaneous)
1	Change
*	History
10	Other
35	No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

Q.14 CONTINUED ...

<u>d.F1</u>	<u>The 1950s</u>
24	The Good Life (NET)
12	Happy/Peaceful/Good life/Good
6	Great/Fun/Life is better than ever
3	Rebuilding/Hopeful/Optimism
2	Progress/Growing/Modernization
1	Inventive/Innovations
1	More freedom
22	Cultural (NET)
9	Rock and roll music
3	Raising a family/Family values/Baby boom
3	Elvis
2	Good cars
1	Baby boomers
1	Other cultural
1	Television
1	Leave it to Beaver/Apple Pie/Ozzie & Harriet
1	Conservative
1	Suburbs
4	Economy (NET)
4	Economically/Financially better off/Prosperous
1	Better jobs/pay
4	Better/Getting Better
4	War and Peace (NET)
1	Korean War
1	Cold War
1	Peace
*	War
*	Nuclear
*	Berlin Wall
3	Personal Milestone (Miscellaneous)
2	Change/Transition
2	Bad/hard times
*	Industry
*	Eisenhower
*	History
10	Other
26	No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

Q.14 CONTINUED ...

ASK ITEMS e THRU h OF FORM 2 ONLY:

<u>e.F2</u>	<u>The 1960s</u>
26	Cultural (NET)
6	Hippies/Flower children/Woodstock
6	Wild/Chaotic
3	Drugs/LSD/Psychedelic
3	Cool/Hip/Groovy/Radical
3	Rock and roll/Music
2	Free love/Open marriage
2	"Laid back"
1	Experimenting
*	Best Automobiles
16	Civil/Political unrest (NET)
6	Turbulent/Troubled/Confused
4	Civil unrest/Rebellion/Protests/Revolution
3	Peace movement/Peace
1	Vietnam War/Protests
1	Civil rights movement
1	Political Change
*	Violence
*	Martin Luther King
12	Good/Fun
5	Change
4	Freedom/Liberal
3	Bad/Hard
3	Progress/Growth
2	Personal Milestone
2	Better
1	Space/Technology (NET)
*	Technology
*	Space exploration
*	Kennedy
*	Education better/Better schools
10	Other
18	No answer/Not sure/Don't Know/Refused

Q.14 CONTINUED ...

<u>f.F2</u>	<u>The 1970s</u>
25	Cultural (NET)
	6 Disco/Dancing
	4 Drugs
	4 Other Cultural
	4 Wild/Crazy
	3 Hippies/Peace & Love
	2 Music
	1 Reference to clothes/Hairstyles
	1 Experimenting/Redefining
	1 Free love/Sexual Revolution
	1 John Travolta/Saturday Night Fever
	* Elvis
10	Fun/Good/Carefree
4	Better/Getting better
3	Unsettled/Confused/Stressful/Turmoil
3	OK/Pretty good/Not too bad
3	Change
3	Sad/Bad/Dull/Hard
3	Stability/Calm/Peaceful
3	Politics/Government (NET)
	2 Vietnam/War/Peace talks
	* Politics
	* Watergate/Nixon
3	Awakening/(America) growing up/Leaning/Coming into their own
2	Personal Milestone
2	Growth/Moving ahead
1	Economy (NET)
	1 Economy good
	* Inflation/High interest rates
1	Free/Liberal
1	Beginning of the "Me" generation/Greedy
1	Family/Raising children
1	Technology/Space (NET)
	1 More technology/improvements
	* Space Program
1	Inventions/Innovations
*	Simpler than now
8	Other
22	No answer/Not sure/Don't Know/Refused

Q.14 CONTINUED ...

<u>g.F2</u>	<u>The 1980s</u>
11	Good/Fun
9	Cultural (NET)
	4 Music
	3 Other Cultural
	1 Big/Bad hair
	1 Drugs
	* Health Kick
7	Materialism/Greed (NET)
	4 Greed/Selfish/"Me" generation
	1 Begin excessive spending/Consumption
	1 Consumer Ethic/Materialism
	1 Yuppies
7	Economics (NET)
	3 Prosperity/Good Economy
	1 Other Economic
	1 Better jobs/pay
	1 Economy slowing down
	1 Unemployment
5	Better/Getting better
4	Hard Times/Bad
4	Personal Milestone
4	Change/Transition
3	Science/Technology (NET)
	2 Technology
	1 Computers
	* Space Program
	* Science
3	Busy/Hectic/Confused/Stressful
3	Politics/Government (NET)
	2 Reagan/Reaganomics
	1 Government
	* Politics/Political change
2	Growing
2	Easy/Peaceful/Slow
2	OK
1	Interesting/Exciting
1	Free/Liberal/Progressive
1	Getting worse
1	Conservative
1	Pride in America/Unity
*	World Wide News/Global
10	Other
20	No answer/Not sure/Don't Know/Refused

<u>h.F2</u>	<u>The 1990s</u>
12	Technology (NET)
	6 Technology/"High Tech"
	3 Computers/Computerization/Computer age
	1 Internet/E-mail/Communication explosion
	1 Information age
10	Good
8	Getting worse
6	Continuous improvement/Momentum
6	Stress/Fast paced/Complicated/Scary
5	Economy/Prosperity (NET)
	3 Prosperous time/Economic boom
	1 Jobs/Work
	1 More/Better jobs
	* Stocks and bonds/Stock market
	* Difficult to make a living
4	Moral breakdown (NET)
	3 Decline in morality/responsibility
	1 Crime/Violence
	* No discipline for kids/permissive
	* Lack of ethics
	* Drugs
4	Tremendous change
4	Conflicts/Confusion
3	Coming of Year 2000 (NET)
	2 Transition to the future/Looking ahead
	1 Year 2000/Millennium
3	Crazy/Unpredictable/Wild
2	Politics/Government (NET)
	1 Clinton Scandal(s)
	* Government control/Trying to take over
	* Clinton
2	Growth
2	Materialism/Greed (NET)
	1 Selfish
	1 Excessive Materialism
2	OK
2	Sad/Despair
1	Stable/Calm/Steady/Content
1	Personal milestone
1	Liberal/Free
1	Music/Rap/Hip hop/New wave
1	War/Military (NET)
	1 War
	* Terrorism
*	Becoming global
*	Retirement
*	Global Warming
*	Gay Rights
*	Space Travel
13	Other
13	No answer/Not sure/Don't Know/Refused

NO QUESTION 15

ASK ALL:

Q.16 We're interested in finding out why you think America has been successful during this past century. As I read a list, tell me whether you think each thing is a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason that America has been so successful in this century. (First,) **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** do you think this is a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason for America's success? How about...

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Abundant natural resources	78	15	4	3=100
b. The free enterprise system 81	11	4	4=100	
c. The cultural diversity of our people	71	20	6	3=100
d. Judeo-Christian beliefs	41	28	20	11=100
e. Good luck	25	30	43	2=100
f. God's will	65	15	16	4=100
g. The two-party system	49	32	13	6=100
h. Free elections	84	11	3	2=100
i. Our Constitution	85	10	4	1=100
j. Separation of church and state	41	33	23	3=100
k. Freedom of the press	69	22	7	2=100
l. Our geographic isolation —that is being protected by oceans on both coasts	53	26	17	4=100
m. The character of the American people	69	21	8	2=100

Q.17 I'm going to read you some pairs of events, for each pair tell me if you happen to know which one came FIRST. The first pair is (**INSERT PAIR; ROTATE, ALWAYS STARTING WITH ITEM "a"**), do you happen to know which came first or can't you recall? How about...

- a. 14 The Korean War
OR
78 World War II (*correct*)
8 Don't know/Refused
100

NO ITEM b

- c. 70 The building of the Panama Canal (*correct*)
OR
17 The building of the Interstate Highway System
13 Don't know/Refused
100

- d. 52 The building of the Berlin Wall in East Germany
OR
24 The creation of the NATO alliance in Europe (*correct*)
24 Don't know/Refused
100

- e. 10 The Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* legalizing abortion
OR
The Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* declaring separate but equal facilities for blacks and whites unconstitutional (*correct*)
72
18 Don't know/Refused
100

- f. 63 The Cuban missile crisis (*correct*)
OR
17 Nixon's historic visit to China
20 Don't know/Refused
100

- g. 13 Iran-contra
OR
74 Watergate (*correct*)
13 Don't know/Refused
100

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about the coming of the year 2000...

Q.18 How do you feel about the coming of the year 2000? Do you think this has any special significance or do you think it will be just another year on the calendar?

Sept <u>1999</u> ²	April <u>1999</u>	
29	33	Special significance
68	64	Just another year on the calendar
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Don't know
100	100	

Q.19 Now I'm going to read a list. Please tell me if each item describes how you feel about the coming of the year 2000. (First,) (**READ; ROTATE**), does this describe how you feel about the coming of the year 2000, or not? What about...

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Hopeful			
	September, 1999	81	18	1=100
	April, 1999	79	20	1=100
b.	Curious			
	September, 1999	64	35	1=100
	April, 1999	68	31	1=100
c.	Excited			
	September, 1999	42	57	1=100
	April, 1999	43	56	1=100
d.	Worried			
	September, 1999	16	83	1=100
	April, 1999	25	74	1=100

²

To provide updated figures, questions 18 and 19 were included in a national survey conducted September 1-12, 1999 (N=1,205).

IF YES IN Q.19d (“WORRIED”), ASK [N=394]:

Q.20 You mentioned that you feel worried about the coming of the year 2000. Why are you worried? (**OPEN-END; PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES**)

- 43 Y2K Computer Bug (NET)
 - 19 Computer crash will cause chaos
 - 19 Y2K Problem/Millennium bug
 - 5 People will overreact/False panic
 - 2 Bank records getting messed up/Money not available/ATMs down
 - 2 Electricity/Utilities might go off
 - 1 Lack of organized backup plans/Not prepared
 - * Things being locked up
- 17 War/Armageddon (NET)
 - 7 Wars/Nuclear threat/Our defense systems
 - 7 End of the world
 - 2 International events/Unrest/Political situation in the world
 - 2 European theater can become World War III
- 9 Public Safety (NET)
 - 5 Could be a real mess/No one knows what will happen/Unpredictability
 - 3 Panic/People being safe
 - 2 Food shortages
- 8 What it will bring/What the future holds
- 8 Stories/Rumors/Speculation (Miscellaneous)
- 4 Always worry about everything/Worried it will get worse
- 4 Religious significance/Reference to the Bible
- 4 Economy (NET)
 - 3 Economic concerns/Another depression
 - 1 People losing jobs
- 3 Personal worries/Health/Getting older
- 3 Change/All the changes in our way of life
- 3 Technology growing too fast/Running our lives
- 2 Crime/Violence
- 1 Moral/Spiritual values declining
- 1 Not worried/Ready for what comes
- 1 Major weather changes/Natural disasters
- 6 Other
- 1 No answer/Not sure/Don't Know/Refused

ASK ALL:

Now, thinking about the long term future, that is the next 50 years or so...

Q.21 First, thinking about you and your family... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about life for you and your family over the next 50 years?

- 40 Very optimistic
 - 41 Somewhat optimistic
 - 10 Somewhat pessimistic
 - 5 Very pessimistic
 - 4 Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q.22 Now, thinking about the United States... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about the future of the U.S., over the next 50 years?

- 23 Very optimistic
- 47 Somewhat optimistic
- 20 Somewhat pessimistic
- 7 Very pessimistic
- 3 Don't know/Refused
- 100

On another subject...

Q.23 Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 years of age?

- 39 Yes — **GO TO Q.24**
- 61 No — **GO TO Q.25**
- * Don't know/Refused — **GO TO Q.25**
- 100

BASED ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 [N=598]

Q.24 Looking to the future, when your children grow up do you think they will be better off or worse off than you are now?

		<u>December 1996</u>	<i>Newsweek</i> <u>August 1994</u>
67	Better off	51	47
22	Worse off	41	39
7	Same (VOL.)	4	5
<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100

ASK ALL [N=1515]:³

Q.25 Looking to the future, do you think MOST children in this country will grow up to be better off or worse off than their parents?

		<u>December 1996</u>	<i>Newsweek</i> <u>August 1994⁴</u>
55	Better off	38	33
36	Worse off	55	50
4	Same (VOL.)	3	6
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100

³ For the first two nights of the survey, parents were excluded from this question.

⁴ Based on non-parents only.

ROTATE Q.26 AND Q.27/27a

Q.26 If life is going to be better in this country in the future, how big a role do you think each of the following will play: (First) will (INSERT -- READ AND ROTATE) play a major role, a minor role, or no role at all in making things better? How about...

		Major <u>Role</u>	Minor <u>Role</u>	No Role <u>At All</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	Science and technology December, 1996	89 77	8 17	2 4	1=100 2=100
b.	Multinational Corporations December, 1996 ⁵	52 59	34 32	9 7	5=100 2=100
c.	Small businesses December, 1996	44 51	46 41	8 6	2=100 2=100
d.	Organized Religion December, 1996 ⁶	45 52	41 38	11 8	3=100 2=100
e.	Schools and universities December, 1996	79 77	17 18	3 4	1=100 1=100
f.F1	The government in Washington December, 1996	64 71	29 23	5 5	2=100 1=100
g.F2	Government December, 1996	65 70	28 24	6 4	1=100 2=100
h.	The news media December, 1996	48 50	41 38	10 10	1=100 2=100
i	The military	54	37	7	2=100
j.	Medical advances	85	13	1	1=100

⁵ In December 1996, this category was listed as "Large corporations."

⁶ In December 1996, this category was listed as "Religion."

Q.27 In your opinion, how much of a threat to our country's future well-being are each of the following: (First) is **(INSERT --READ AND ROTATE ITEMS a-i; SUBSTITUTE "ARE" FOR "IS" FOR ITEM g)** a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat at all? How about...

		Major <u>threat</u>	Minor <u>threat</u>	Not a <u>threat at all</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	The news media	32	40	26	2=100
	December, 1996	39	39	19	3=100
b.	Immigration into this country	42	38	18	2=100
c.F1	The government in Washington	45	34	18	3=100
	December, 1996	43	37	18	2=100
d.F2	Government	46	31	21	2=100
	December, 1996	43	39	14	4=100
e.	The pace of technological change	35	33	28	4=100
	December, 1996	29	37	29	5=100
f.	Economic competition from other nations	45	37	16	2=100
	December, 1996	47	39	12	2=100
g.	Multinational corporations	35	38	21	6=100
h.	Population growth	52	34	12	2=100
i.	Commercial and residential development	31	41	25	3=100

Q.27a And now a few more items... (First,) is/are **(INSERT ITEM ROTATE a-e)** a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat at all? How about...

		Major <u>threat</u>	Minor <u>threat</u>	Not a <u>threat at all</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	International terrorists	64	30	4	2=100
	December, 1996	54	38	6	2=100
b.	Anti-government groups	39	47	10	4=100
	December, 1996	38	47	12	3=100
c.	Racial conflict	46	43	10	1=100
	December, 1996	49	40	9	2=100
d.	Special interest groups in politics	38	45	13	4=100
	December, 1996 ⁷	53	37	7	3=100
e.	Environmental problems	66	28	4	2=100

7

In December 1996, this category was listed as "The power of special interest groups in politics."

Q.28 Thinking ahead over the next 50 years, as I read the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen here in the U.S. (First/Next), do you think... **(INSERT ITEM PAIRS -- READ AND ROTATE)**

		<u>December 1996</u>	
a.F1	59	The crime rate will be higher	68
		OR	
	36	The crime rate will be lower	28
	2	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2
	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
	100		100
b.F2	36	Health care will be MORE affordable	36
		OR	
	60	Health care will be LESS affordable	61
	1	Neither/No change (VOL.)	1
	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
	100		100
c.F1	64	The U.S. economy will be stronger	53
		OR	
	31	The U.S. economy will be weaker	42
	2	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2
	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
	100		100
d.F2	68	Race relations will improve	54
		OR	
	28	Race relations will get worse	40
	3	Neither/No change (VOL.)	3
	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
	100		100
e.F1	66	The public education system will improve	59
		OR	
	30	The public education system will get worse	37
	2	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2
	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
	100		100
f.F2	58	People will live much longer	
		OR	
	40	People will live about as long as they do now	
	2	Neither/No change (VOL.)	
	*	Don't know/Refused	
	100		
g.F1	41	Honesty and ethics among our elected leaders will improve	
		OR	
	52	Honesty and ethics among our elected leaders will get worse	
	4	Neither/No change (VOL.)	
	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	
	100		

Q.28 CONTINUED ...

h.F2	69	The gap between rich and poor will grow
		OR
	27	The gap between rich and poor will get smaller
	2	Neither/No change (VOL.)
	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
	100	
i.F1	67	More babies will be born out of wedlock
		OR
	29	Fewer babies will be born out of wedlock
	1	Neither/No change (VOL.)
	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
	100	

Q.29 Now I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 50 years. Please tell me how likely you think it is that each will happen. (First,) How likely do you think it is that (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**)... do you think this will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen? How about...

		<u>Will definitely happen</u>	<u>Will probably happen</u>	<u>Will probably not happen</u>	<u>Will definitely not happen</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a.	Jesus Christ will return to earth	22	22	27	17	12=100
b.F1	There will be a nuclear war involving the U.S.	7	30	47	11	5=100
c.F2	There will be a nuclear war	9	32	46	11	2=100
d.	There will be a major terrorist attack on the U.S. involving biological or chemical weapons	13	51	28	4	4=100
e.	The world will face a major energy crisis	15	48	30	4	3=100
f.F1	The earth will get warmer	28	48	16	3	5=100
g.F2	We will make progress in improving our environment	19	59	18	2	2=100
h.F1	An asteroid will hit the earth	6	25	48	14	7=100
i.F2	We will make contact with alien life	4	23	42	27	4=100
j.F1	Ordinary people will travel in space	12	45	32	9	2=100
k.F2	A manned spacecraft will land on Mars	18	58	17	5	2=100

Q.29 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Will definitely happen</u>	<u>Will probably happen</u>	<u>Will probably not happen</u>	<u>Will definitely not happen</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
l.	The Republican and Democratic parties will continue to be our only two major political parties	14	38	37	8	3=100
m.F1	There will be an epidemic worse than AIDS	14	42	35	6	3=100
n.F2	There will be a cure for AIDS	19	60	16	4	1=100
o.	There will be a major earthquake in California	35	56	5	1	3=100
p.	There will be a cure for cancer	23	58	16	2	1=100
q.F1	The Catholic Church will allow priests to marry	7	36	36	14	7=100
r.F2	The Catholic Church will ordain women as priests	7	36	35	15	7=100
s.F1	China will become a rival superpower to the U.S.	18	49	24	5	4=100
t.F2	The U.S. will remain the world's only superpower	13	31	43	10	3=100
u.F1	A woman will be elected U.S. president	27	53	16	3	1=100
v.F2	An African American will be elected U.S. president	17	59	17	5	2=100
w.F1	Democracy will continue to spread around the world	20	59	14	2	5=100
x.F2	More countries will be ruled by dictators	8	33	47	8	4=100
y.	We will clone human beings	12	39	32	13	4=100

On another subject...

Q.30 If it were possible, would you like to live to the 22nd century — that is another 100 years — or do you think you would prefer not to?

36 Yes, would want to live another 100 years

62 No, would not

2 Don't know/Refused

100

- Q.31F1/Q.32F2 Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements and ask you to choose which one comes closest to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right. (First,) **(INSERT PAIR; ROTATE)**, which comes closest to your point of view?⁸
- a. Our growing reliance on technology is generally GOOD
55 because it makes life more convenient and easier
OR...
Our growing reliance on technology is generally BAD because
39 we will become too dependent on it and life will get too complicated
3 Neither/Both equally (**VOL.**)
3 Don't know/Refused
100
- b. The global economy will HELP average Americans because
43 it will strengthen our economy and keep prices affordable for consumers
OR...
The global economy will HURT average Americans because businesses will rely more
52 on cheap labor from other countries and U.S. jobs will be lost
1 Neither/Both equally (**VOL.**)
4 Don't know/Refused
100
- c. The growing world population will NOT be a major problem because we will find a way to
42 stretch our natural resources
OR...
The growing population WILL be a major problem because there
56 won't be enough food and resources to go around
1 Neither/Both equally (**VOL.**)
1 Don't know/Refused
100
- d. Medical advances that prolong life are generally GOOD because they allow people to live longer
OR...
29 These advances are BAD because they interfere with the natural cycle of life
3 Neither/Both equally (**VOL.**)
2 Don't know/Refused
100
- e. Interracial marriages are GOOD because they help break down racial barriers
OR...
Interracial marriages are BAD because mixing races reduces the special talents or
26 gifts of each individual race
6 Neither/Both equally (**VOL.**)
5 Don't know/Refused
100

8

This series was asked in two forms: Form 1 respondents were asked the series as it appears above; for Form 2 respondents, the pairs of statements were read in reverse order.

Q.31F1/Q.32F2 CONTINUED ...

- f. If the number of legal immigrants to the U.S. continues to grow this will HELP America because they will contribute to our society
- 43 OR...
- If the number of legal immigrants to the U.S. continues to grow this will HURT America because they are changing American society too much
- 51
- 3 Neither/Both equally (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know/Refused
- 100

NO QUESTION 33

ASK ALL:

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.34 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

		Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Sept	Aug	April	Jan	Nov	June	Sept	July	April	March	Feb	Jan
		1999	1999	1999	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1997	1997	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996
71	Yes	68	68	69	64	64	66	61	65	66	60	56	56	58	61	60	59
29	No	32	32	31	36	36	34	39	35	34	40	44	44	42	39	40	41
*	DK/Ref	*	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0	0
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.34, ASK:

Q.35 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

		Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Sept	Aug	Nov	July	June
		1999	1999	1999	1998	1998	1998	1998	1997	1996	1995 ⁹
51	Goes online	49	49	47	42	37	42	43	36	23	14
49	Does not go online	51	51	53	58	63	58	57	63	77	86
*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	1	0	*
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

9

The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?