

**2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 158 OCTOBER 2024  
FINAL QUESTIONNAIRE  
OCTOBER 21 – 27, 2024**

**Note: The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel. For all questions, the 98 ("don't know" in phone mode) and 99 (refusal in phone mode and no answer in web mode) codes are combined in the data for analytical purposes.**

**PN = Programming note**

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**\*CODEBOOK FOR ATP SAMPLE VARIABLES TO BE USED IN SURVEY PROGRAMMING LOGIC\***

**X\_FORM**

- 1 Form 1
- 2 Form 2

Note: Flag to randomly assign panelists to one of two forms (Form 1, Form 2) and weight within form  
Source: Randomly assigned for each survey.

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**[ PN: START TIMER ]**

**TXT: WS0**

**ASK IF WEB (XCHANNEL=1):**

Welcome! We are glad to have you as a member of the American Trends Panel. The survey should take about 15 minutes for most people to complete.

Before you begin the survey, here are some things to note.

**NAVIGATING:**

- Do not use the browser's back button or browser menus while taking the survey. To move from page to page, use the navigation buttons at the bottom of each screen as you move through the survey. Use "BACK" to go back to an earlier question. Use "NEXT" to go to the next question.
- Do not have your survey link open in two different browsers and/or devices at the same time.

**ANSWERING QUESTIONS:**

- Your answers will be used for research purposes only. You are not required to answer any question you do not wish to answer.
- Please answer each question by selecting the item or category that best describes your response. If you wish to skip a question, please click or tap the "NEXT" button.
- To select responses in questions with buttons, click on the button beside your response. If a question asks for a text response, click in the box, and begin typing.

**FINISH LATER:**

If you start taking the survey and need to return later to finish it, you may do so. When you wish to resume, just click the link in your email or text message. It will take you to the last question you answered.

Please click or tap the Next button below to begin your survey.

**CATI INTRODUCTION**

Voicemail Message

**[ PN: LEAVE VOICEMAIL TWICE, THE FIRST AND SECOND TIME A CALL GOES TO VOICEMAIL FOR LL OR CELL; SET FOR CALLBACK ]**

Hello, I am calling on behalf of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel. This is NOT a sales call. We will try to reach you again. Or you can give us a call back at 1-800-314-8847 to take your survey at a time that is convenient for you.

**QUE: CS1****ASK IF CATI (XCHANNEL=2):**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ calling on behalf of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel. This is NOT a sales call. This call may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance.

May I please speak to **[ PN: INSERT PANELIST NAME; IF NO PANELIST NAME INSERT "the member of this household who joined the American Trends Panel" ]**?

**(READ IF PERSON ON PHONE ASKS THE PURPOSE OF CALL: [ PN: INSERT PANELIST NAME; IF NO PANELIST NAME INSERT "An adult at this number" ] joined the American Trends Panel. We are reaching out to them for their next survey opportunity.)**

- 1 Respondent already on the phone
- 2 Respondent coming to phone
- 3 Respondent is unavailable
- 99 Refused

**[ PN: IF CS1=1,2, CONTINUE ]**

**[ PN: IF CS1=3, GET NAME AND SET FOR CALLBACK ]**

**[ PN: IF CS1=99, THANK AND TERMINATE – RECORD AS 'CS1-SCREENING REFUSAL' AND SET FOR REFUSAL CONVERSION (CODE 40) (SET AS UNRESOLVED) ]**

**[ PN: CS1 TERMINATION TEXT: "Thank you for your time. Have a good day/evening." ]**

**QUE: CS1T****ASK IF RESPONDENT IS ON PHONE OR COMING TO PHONE (CS1=1,2):****[ PN: IF RESPONDENT CAME TO PHONE (CS1=2), INSERT TEXT AS SHOWN ]**

**[ PN: IF CS1=2 INSERT "Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ calling on behalf of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel. This is NOT a sales call. This call may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance." ]** Thank you for being a valued member of the American Trends Panel.

- 1 Continue
- 99 Refusal

**[ PN: IF CS1T=1, CONTINUE ]**

**[ PN: IF CS1T=99, THANK AND TERMINATE – RECORD AS 'CS1T-SCREENING REFUSAL' AND SET FOR REFUSAL CONVERSION (CODE 42) (SET AS UNRESOLVED) ]**

**[ PN: CS1T TERMINATION TEXT: "Thank you for your time. Have a good day/evening." ]**

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**QUE: CS2**

**ASK IF CATI (XCHANNEL=2):**

Before we continue, are you driving or doing any activity requiring your full attention?

- 1 Yes, driving
- 2 No, not driving
- 98 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Refused

[ **PN: IF CS2=2, CONTINUE** ]

[ **PN: IF CS2=1, GET NAME AND SET FOR CALLBACK** ]

[ **PN: IF CS2=98, 99, THANK AND TERMINATE – RECORD AS 'CS2-SCREENING REFUSAL' (CODE 41)** ]

[ **PN: CS2 TERMINATION TEXT:** "Thank you for your time. Have a good day/evening." ]

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[ **PN: END TIMER** ]

[ **PN: START TIMER** ]

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 -----**MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE BEGINS HERE**-----  
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**BAT: CONF****ASK ALL:**

[ **PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE** ]

[ **PN: SHOW "READ FOR FIRST ITEM" AND "READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS" ON THE FIRST SCREEN; ON THE FIRST SCREEN, BETWEEN THE QUESTION TEXT AND THE GRID, INCLUDE AN INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: "[INTERVIEWER NOTE: QUESTION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]"; ONLY SHOW "READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS" ON THE SECOND SCREEN** ]

[ **PN: IF WEB:** ] How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public?

[ **PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:** ] How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public?

[ **PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:** ] First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. How much confidence do you have in them to act in the best interests of the public? **(READ LIST)**

[ **PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:** ] How about **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ AS NECESSARY:** How much confidence do you have in them to act in the best interests of the public? **(READ LIST))**

**BATTERY ITEMS:**

- a **ASK ALL:** Elected officials
- b **ASK ALL:** Journalists
- c **ASK ALL:** The military
- d **ASK ALL:** Religious leaders
- e **ASK ALL:** Business leaders
- f **ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):** Medical scientists
- g **ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):** Scientists
- [ **PN: NO ITEM h** ]
- i **ASK ALL:** Public school principals for grades K-12
- j **ASK ALL:** Police officers

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

- 1 A great deal of confidence
- 2 A fair amount of confidence
- 3 Not too much confidence
- 4 No confidence at all
- 98 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Refused / [ **PN: IF WEB:** ] Web blank

**TXT:**

**[ PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE ]**

**QUE: POLICY1**

**ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

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

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Scientists should take an active role in public policy debates about scientific issues
- 2 Scientists should focus on establishing sound scientific facts and stay out of public policy debates
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Refused / **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank

**TXT:**

**[ PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE ]**

**QUE: POLICY1B**

**ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3, 98, AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

Do you think scientists have...

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Too much influence in public policy debates
- 2 Not enough influence in public policy debates
- 3 About the right amount of influence in public policy debates
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Refused / **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank

**TXT:**

**[ PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE ]**

**QUE: POLICY2****ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: DO NOT RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS ]**

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

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues
- 2 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
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Refused / **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank

**QUE: POLICY3****ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: DO NOT RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS ]**

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

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Usually better at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people
- 2 Usually worse at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people
- 3 Neither better nor worse at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** (DO NOT READ) Refused / **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank

**BAT: SCM5****ASK ALL:**

[ **PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE** ]

[ **PN: IF WEB:** ] In general, how would you say each of the following statements describes most research scientists?

[ **PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:** ] In general, how would you say each of the following statements describes most research scientists?

[ **PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:** ] First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. In general, how would you say this describes most research scientists? **(READ LIST)**

[ **PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:** ] Next, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ AS NECESSARY:** In general, how would you say this describes most research scientists? **(READ LIST))**

**BATTERY ITEMS:**

- a **ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):** Intelligent
- b **ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):** Good communicators
- c **ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):** Focused on solving real-world problems
- d **ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):** Closed-minded
- e **ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):** Don't pay attention to the moral values of society
- f **ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):** Honest
- g **ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):** Skilled at working in teams
- h **ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):** Cold
- i **ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):** Socially awkward
- j **ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):** Feel superior to others

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

- 1 Describes research scientists well
- 2 Does not describe research scientists well
- 98 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Refused / [ **PN: IF WEB:** ] Web blank

**QUE: SCM3****ASK ALL:**

[ **PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE** ].

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

[ **PN: IF CATI:** ] **(READ LIST)**

- 1 Scientists make judgments based solely on the facts
- 2 Scientists' judgments are just as likely to be biased as other people's
- 98 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ **PN: IF CATI:** ] (DO NOT READ) Refused / [ **PN: IF WEB:** ] Web blank

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**