



May 2023 American Perspectives Survey Topline Questionnaire

Total N = [5,050] US adults. | Interview dates: May 16–24, 2023.

Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk (*) replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total 100 percent due to rounding.

ASK ALL:

Q.1 How often, if at all, do you follow news and current events?

- 49 Often
- 29 Once in while
- 15 Seldom
- 6 Never
- 0 Refused

Q.2 When it comes to the news, what topic would you say you are MOST interested in?
[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS OF ITEMS]

- 29 Politics and government
- 5 International affairs
- 11 Sports
- 10 Science and technology
- 8 Arts, entertainment and fashion
- 10 Business and economics
- 3 Religion and spirituality
- 7 Climate change and the environment
- 1 Other [SPECIFY]
- 13 Not interested in news
- 4 Local news/weather
- 1 Refused

Q.3 And when you have read or listened to news about **[INSERT Q2 RESPONSE]**, overall would you say the news is...

- 4 Very positive
- 20 Somewhat positive
- 27 Neither positive nor negative
- 30 Somewhat negative
- 19 Very negative
- 0 Refused

Q.4 How concerned are you, if at all, about any of the following? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS OF ITEMS]**

A. The possibility of nuclear war

10	Extremely concerned
19	Very concerned
39	Somewhat concerned
23	Not very concerned
8	Not at all concerned
1	Refused

B. Another global pandemic

9	Extremely concerned
17	Very concerned
37	Somewhat concerned
25	Not very concerned
11	Not at all concerned
1	Refused

C. Climate change

19	Extremely concerned
24	Very concerned
27	Somewhat concerned
15	Not very concerned
15	Not at all concerned
1	Refused

D. Artificial Intelligence turning against humanity

11	Extremely concerned
15	Very concerned
34	Somewhat concerned
26	Not very concerned
13	Not at all concerned
1	Refused

E. The traditional American way of life is disappearing

19	Extremely concerned
22	Very concerned
26	Somewhat concerned
18	Not very concerned
14	Not at all concerned
1	Refused

Q.5 Thinking about some issues that are important to people, how important are the following issues to you personally? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

A. Abortion

35	Critical issue
41	One among many important issues
23	Not that important an issue
1	Refused

B. Crime

46 Critical issue
46 One among many important issues
7 Not that important an issue
1 Refused

C. Climate change

33 Critical issue
37 One among many important issues
29 Not that important an issue
1 Refused

D. Immigration

38 Critical issue
44 One among many important issues
17 Not that important an issue
1 Refused

E. Gun policy

48 Critical issue
36 One among many important issues
16 Not that important an issue
1 Refused

F. What students are being taught in public schools

37 Critical issue
45 One among many important issues
17 Not that important an issue
1 Refused

Q.6 From what you've heard or read, would you say that... **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

49 Scientists generally believe that the universe was created in a single, violent event, often called 'the Big Bang'
48 Scientists are divided in their views about how the universe was created
3 Refused

Q.7 Which of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to your view?

49 The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels
24 The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment
7 There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer
19 Not sure
1 Refused

Q.8 Which comes closer to your view?

31 Humans and other living things have evolved over time due to processes such as natural selection; God or a higher power had no role in this process
38 Humans and other living things have evolved over time due to processes that were guided or allowed by God or a higher power
12 Humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time
17 Not sure
1 Refused

Q.9 Based on what you have heard or read, how well, if at all, do you think scientists and researchers understand the following? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

A. The factors causing climate change

21 Very well
40 Fairly well
26 Not too well
12 Not at all well
2 Refused

B. The origin of the universe

7 Very well
37 Fairly well
37 Not too well
17 Not at all well
2 Refused

C. How the human species came to be

14 Very well
39 Fairly well
31 Not too well
14 Not at all well
2 Refused

D. What causes an economic recession

16 Very well
48 Fairly well
25 Not too well
9 Not at all well
2 Refused

E. The cause of the COVID-19 pandemic

17 Very well
39 Fairly well
30 Not too well
12 Not at all well
2 Refused

Q.10 Based on what you have heard or read, do you believe the following statements are accurate or are they NOT accurate? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

A. Corporations are promoting genetically modified foods (also known as GMOs) that have been shown to be harmful to human health

14 Completely accurate
28 Mostly accurate
23 Mostly NOT accurate
9 Completely NOT accurate
25 Not sure
1 Refused

B. There is near universal agreement among scientists that the earth is warming due to human activity

23	Completely accurate
36	Mostly accurate
14	Mostly NOT accurate
8	Completely NOT accurate
18	Not sure
1	Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,526]:

C. Childhood vaccines have been shown to cause autism

3	Completely accurate
7	Mostly accurate
22	Mostly NOT accurate
43	Completely NOT accurate
23	Not sure
1	Refused

D. There was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election

13	Completely accurate
15	Mostly accurate
13	Mostly NOT accurate
41	Completely NOT accurate
17	Not sure
1	Refused

E. Covid-19 was intentionally planned by China as part of a biological weapons program

10	Completely accurate
16	Mostly accurate
21	Mostly NOT accurate
25	Completely NOT accurate
27	Not sure
1	Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,524]:

F. Effective vaccines will prevent people from ever getting a specific illness or disease

12	Completely accurate
44	Mostly accurate
18	Mostly NOT accurate
14	Completely NOT accurate
12	Not sure
1	Refused

G. In the US, thousands of illegal immigrants cast votes in recent national elections

10	Completely accurate
15	Mostly accurate
16	Mostly NOT accurate
34	Completely NOT accurate
24	Not sure
1	Refused

H. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is deliberately preventing the public from getting natural cures for cancer and other diseases because of the pressure from drug companies

14 Completely accurate
21 Mostly accurate
21 Mostly NOT accurate
23 Completely NOT accurate
20 Not sure
1 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Have you received a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 (coronavirus)?

73 Yes, have had all the shots needed to be fully vaccinated
5 Yes, have had one shot but still need one more
21 No, have not received a vaccine
1 Refused

IF NOT VACCINATED (Q11=3), ASK:

Q.12 What is the most important reason you would not take a vaccine to prevent coronavirus? Is it because you...
[LIST IN ORDER]

39 Have concerns about safety
10 Have concerns about effectiveness
38 Do not believe vaccine is necessary
11 Some other reason [SPECIFY]
1 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.13 How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

A. Scientific research has become less trustworthy in recent years

15 Completely agree
32 Somewhat agree
31 Somewhat disagree
20 Completely disagree
2 Refused

B. All of the religions in the world have flaws and wrong teachings. There is no perfectly true, or right religion

41 Completely agree
27 Somewhat agree
12 Somewhat disagree
18 Completely disagree
2 Refused

C. The only way to live a good life is to follow God's teachings

30 Completely agree
27 Somewhat agree
16 Somewhat disagree
25 Completely disagree
2 Refused

D. The government interferes too much with our everyday lives

33	Completely agree
36	Somewhat agree
23	Somewhat disagree
6	Completely disagree
2	Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,526]:

E. The world is becoming a more and more dangerous place

41	Completely agree
42	Somewhat agree
12	Somewhat disagree
4	Completely disagree
2	Refused

F. Childhood vaccines are important for the health of all children

60	Completely agree
29	Somewhat agree
6	Somewhat disagree
4	Completely disagree
2	Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,524]:

G. I am concerned about serious adverse effects of vaccines

16	Completely agree
31	Somewhat agree
27	Somewhat disagree
24	Completely disagree
2	Refused

H. Evolution is the best explanation for the origins of human life on earth

29	Completely agree
32	Somewhat agree
15	Somewhat disagree
22	Completely disagree
2	Refused

RELIG What is your present religion, if any?

30	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
19	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
0	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
1	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
1	Hindu
6	Atheist (do not believe in God)
7	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
15	Nothing in particular
13	Just Christian
3	Something else [SPECIFY]
2	Refused

IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN OR SOMETHING ELSE (RELIG=1, 12, OR 13):

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

51 Yes
48 No
1 Refused

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

8 More than once a week
17 Once a week
7 Once or twice a month
12 A few times a year
23 Seldom
32 Never
1 Refused

IF JEWISH, INSERT "TORAH" (RELIG=5)

IF MUSLIM, INSERT "QURAN" (RELIG=6)

IF BUDDHIST, HUNDU, OR SOMETHING ELSE, INSERT "HOLY SCRIPTURE" (RELIG=7, 8, OR 13)

ALL OTHERS, INSERT "BIBLE" (RELIG=1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, OR 12)

Q.14 Which comes closest to your view?

22 The [Bible/Torah/Quran/holy scripture] is the word of God, to be taken literally, word for word
42 The [Bible/Torah/Quran/holy scripture] is the word of God, but not everything in [Bible/Torah/Quran/holy scripture] should be taken literally, word for word
32 The [Bible/Torah/Quran/holy scripture] is a book written by men and is not the word of God
3 Refused

Q.15 In your opinion, do you think there is generally a conflict between science and religion, or not?

70 Yes, there is generally a conflict between science and religion
27 No, there is not a conflict between science and religion
3 Refused

Q.16 Would you say the following are a major problem, minor problem or not a problem when it comes to scientific research? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,526]:

A. Too many scientists have a political agenda

41 A big problem
39 A small problem
18 Not a problem
2 Refused

B. Scientific studies are increasingly shown to be wrong

25 A big problem
50 A small problem
23 Not a problem
2 Refused

C. Too many Americans distrust science and scientific evidence

43 A big problem
43 A small problem
12 Not a problem
2 Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,524]:

D. News coverage of scientific research often exaggerates or oversimplifies findings

- 47 A big problem
- 41 A small problem
- 10 Not a problem
- 2 Refused

E. There are so many research studies out there it's hard to distinguish between high and low quality studies

- 42 A big problem
- 46 A small problem
- 11 Not a problem
- 2 Refused

F. The public doesn't know enough about science to really understand research findings covered in the news

- 44 A big problem
- 44 A small problem
- 10 Not a problem
- 2 Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,526]:

Q.17 How often, if ever, do you think research findings from medical scientists about the health risks and benefits of childhood vaccines are influenced by their own personal political leanings?

- 13 Most of the time
- 42 Some of the time
- 33 Not too often
- 10 Never
- 2 Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,524]:

Q.18 How often, if ever, do you think research findings from climate scientists about global climate change are influenced by their own personal political leanings?

- 24 Most of the time
- 38 Some of the time
- 27 Not too often
- 9 Never
- 2 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.19 How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public?
[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]

A. The federal government

- 5 A great deal
- 35 Some
- 32 Only a little
- 26 Not at all
- 2 Refused

B. National news media

4	A great deal
28	Some
33	Only a little
33	Not at all
2	Refused

C. College and university professors

11	A great deal
45	Some
25	Only a little
17	Not at all
2	Refused

D. Religious leaders

9	A great deal
40	Some
28	Only a little
21	Not at all
2	Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,526]:

E. Scientists

23	A great deal
46	Some
21	Only a little
8	Not at all
2	Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,524]:

F. Medical scientists

29	A great deal
46	Some
17	Only a little
7	Not at all
1	Refused

Q.20 Which comes closer to your own view even if neither is exactly right?

57	In some cases, it's important to require people to receive certain vaccines in order to protect public health
41	Getting a vaccine is a personal decision that should always be left up to the individual
2	Refused

Q.21 Thinking about research in the following areas, how much oversight should the federal government provide on the following? Would you say there should be ... **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

ASK ALL:

A. Development of new vaccines

31 A great deal
37 A fair amount
21 Very limited
7 None at all
2 Research should not be done on this
2 Refused

B. Editing human DNA to cure diseases

24 A great deal
31 A fair amount
24 Very limited
11 None at all
8 Research should not be done on this
2 Refused

C. Artificial intelligence (AI)

27 A great deal
32 A fair amount
23 Very limited
10 None at all
6 Research should not be done on this
2 Refused

D. Infectious diseases

37 A great deal
36 A fair amount
17 Very limited
6 None at all
2 Research should not be done on this
2 Refused

E. Medical research using human stem cells

22 A great deal
36 A fair amount
26 Very limited
9 None at all
4 Research should not be done on this
3 Refused

Q.22 How much would you trust the research findings produced by the following types of groups and organizations? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,526]:

A. Drug companies

6	A great deal
46	Some
31	Very little
15	None at all
2	Refused

B. Companies that produce coal, oil, and natural gas

5	A great deal
38	Some
37	Very little
18	None at all
2	Refused

C. Technology companies

6	A great deal
56	Some
27	Very little
8	None at all
2	Refused

D. Colleges and universities

20	A great deal
51	Some
18	Very little
10	None at all
2	Refused

E. The federal government

9	A great deal
43	Some
27	Very little
18	None at all
2	Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,524]:

F. Industry scientists, who work for private businesses or corporations

6	A great deal
50	Some
30	Very little
11	None at all
2	Refused

G. Government scientists, who work for the federal government

15	A great deal
44	Some
24	Very little
15	None at all
2	Refused

H. Academic researchers, who work at a college or university

27	A great deal
50	Some
15	Very little
6	None at all
2	Refused

Q.23 On the topic of government regulation in this country, is the federal government engaged in too much, too little or the right amount of regulation for the following? **[RANDOMIZE LIST OF ITEMS]**

A. Banks and other financial institutions

22	Too much
31	Too little
30	About right
16	Not sure
2	Refused

B. Oil and gas companies

30	Too much
34	Too little
19	About right
15	Not sure
2	Refused

C. Manufacturing companies

23	Too much
20	Too little
34	About right
20	Not sure
2	Refused

D. Technology companies

21	Too much
29	Too little
30	About right
19	Not sure
2	Refused

E. Drug companies

22	Too much
38	Too little
23	About right
15	Not sure
2	Refused

Q.24 Is your overall opinion of Donald Trump...

13	Very favorable
20	Mostly favorable
16	Mostly unfavorable
48	Very unfavorable
3	Refused

Q.25 In general, how often, if at all, do you participate in a non-religious group or organization in your community, such as a sports team, book club, PTA (Parent/Teacher Association), neighborhood association, or political organization?

4	More than once a week
4	Once a week
9	Once or twice a month
14	A few times a year
24	Seldom
44	Never
1	Refused

Q.26 Which of the following news sources do you trust the most to provide accurate information about politics and current events?

18	ABC/CBS/NBC news
4	Social media
9	Fox news
13	Public television or radio (NPR or PBS)
6	New York Times, Washington Post, or Wall Street Journal
6	CNN
4	MSNBC
7	Conservative news media (e.g., Breitbart, Newsmax, OANN, conservative talk radio)
3	Your local newspaper
2	Other [SPECIFY]
26	None of these
2	Refused

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by the Survey Center on American Life. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 5,055 adults (age 18 and up) living in the United States, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted among participants of the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English between May 16 and May 24, 2023.

Initially, participants were chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households were then invited by telephone or mail to participate in the Ipsos KnowledgePanel. For those who agreed to participate but did not already have internet access, Ipsos provided a laptop and internet service provider connection for free. People who already had computers and internet service were permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then received unique log-in information for accessing surveys online and then were sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

The data were weighted to adjust for gender, race/ethnicity, education, census region, household income, race by gender, race by age, and race by education. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables.

The use of survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population. The margin of sampling error for the qualified survey sample is ± 1.5 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.11.