

# BACKGROUND AND CODEBOOK

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER

### 2017 SCIENCE AND NEWS SURVEY

## Background

This document provides background information and codebook details for those wishing to analyze the data from a 2017 Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults about science news and information. The survey had a sample size of 4,024 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The survey was conducted by the GfK Group in English and Spanish using the KnowledgePanel, its nationally representative online research panel. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods and include those with internet access and those who did not have internet access at the time of their recruitment (KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it, and if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel).

The findings from this survey are detailed in the following report:

September 20, 2017 “Science News and Information Today”

<http://www.journalism.org/2017/09/20/science-news-and-information-today/>

## Margin of Sampling Error

The margins of error table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

The survey's *margin of error* is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample – the one around 50%. For example, the margin of error for the entire sample is  $\pm 1.6$  percentage points. This means that in 95 out of every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 1.6 percentage points away from their true values in the population. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance used in this report take into account the effect of weighting. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
U.S. adults	4,024	+/- 1.6 percentage points
Men	1993	+/- 2.3 percentage points
Women	2031	+/- 2.3 percentage points
White	2862	+/- 1.9 percentage points
Black	392	+/- 5.3 percentage points
Hispanic	447	+/- 4.9 percentage points
Ages 18-29	610	+/- 4.2 percentage points
30-49	1207	+/- 3.0 percentage points
50-64	1313	+/- 2.9 percentage points
65+	894	+/- 3.5 percentage points
<i>Science news consumer</i>		
Active	726	+/- 3.9 percentage points
Casual	1286	+/- 2.9 percentage points
Uninterested	1938	+/- 2.4 percentage points
Postgraduate	601	+/- 4.3 percentage points
College graduate	843	+/- 3.6 percentage points
Some college	1147	+/- 3.1 percentage points
High school or less	1433	+/- 2.8 percentage points
<i>Household income</i>		
\$100,000 +	1381	+/- 2.8 percentage points
\$50,000-\$99,999	1303	+/- 2.9 percentage points
\$30,000-\$49,999	604	+/- 4.2 percentage points
<\$30,000	736	+/- 3.8 percentage points
<i>Party affiliation by ideology</i>		
Republican/lean Rep	1760	+/- 2.5 percentage points
Conservative Republican	1133	+/- 3.1 percentage points
Mod/lib Republican	616	+/- 4.2 percentage points
Democrat/lean Dem	2055	+/- 2.3 percentage points
Conserv/mod Democrat	1230	+/- 3.0 percentage points
Liberal Democrat	807	+/- 3.7 percentage points

## Weighting

The final sample of 4,024 adults was weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, race, Hispanic origin, education, region, household income, home ownership status and metropolitan area to the parameters of the Census Bureau's March 2016 Current Population Survey (CPS). This weight is multiplied by an initial sampling or base weight that corrects for differences in the probability of selection of various segments of GfK's sample and by a panel weight that adjusts for any biases due to nonresponse and noncoverage at the panel recruitment stage (using all of the parameters described above).

Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting at each of these stages.

## Protection of Respondent Confidentiality

As a matter of policy to maintain confidentiality, the Pew Research Center does not release respondent names, contact numbers, or any other uniquely identifying information. In order to maintain confidentiality, some variables may have been collapsed into categories before being released. These changes include deleting all open-end responses, deleting some geographic data, such as state, and collapsing those ages 90 and older into the same age.

## CODEBOOK

This section describes the variables included in the dataset. It first includes information on variables not included in the questionnaire, which includes paradata and profile variables from respondents. It then also includes a copy of the questionnaire, which provides information on variables from the questionnaire, including variable names, values and value-labels.

### VARIABLES

CaseID	Unique respondent identification number
HOBBY2_1	Open-end codes for HOBBY2 (first mention)
HOBBY2_2	Open-end codes for HOBBY2 (second mention)
HOBBY2_3	Open-end codes for HOBBY2 (third mention)
-1	Refused/Blank
10	Air and space (general/other)
11	Astronomy
12	Aviation
13	Rocket
20	Animal-related (general)
21	Birdwatching/Ornithology
30	Technology (general/other)
33	Computers and computer programming
34	Robotics
35	Cars
36	Electronics and building
41	Food science
42	Food and home improvement (other)
50	Environment & Nature (general/other)
51	Botany/Plants
52	Gardening and farming
53	Geology/Archaeology
54	Outside activities and sports
55	Weather
56	Conservation
60	Research/experiments with kids
61	Interest in specific science topics
69	General research/experiments

- 80 Health (general/other)
- 81 Exercise and nutrition
- 91 Reading
- 94 Museums
- 95 Educational science programs
- 96 Model building
- 98 Arts and music (other)
- 900 Other
- 901 Answer should have been no
- 902 Nonsensical
- 903 Don't know

GREATPAST\_OE1 Open-end codes for GREATPAST\_OE (first mention)

GREATPAST\_OE2 Open-end codes for GREATPAST\_OE (second mention)

GREATPAST\_OE3 Open-end codes for GREATPAST\_OE (third mention)

- 1 Refused/Blank
- 10 Science general
- 11 pollution/waste/environment/rivers
- 12 climate (climate change, global warming)
- 20 Technology general
- 21 Internet/computer
- 22 Mobile devices
- 23 Connection/communication
- 24 Availability of tech/info
- 25 Energy
- 27 Transportation
- 29 Technology other
- 30 Medicine and health general
- 32 Life expectancy/longevity
- 33 Health care/health care programs
- 34 Medical tech/treatments/cures
- 35 Food and nutrition/wellness
- 40 Civil and Equal Rights general
- 41 Women's rights
- 42 Racial/ethnic/minority rights
- 43 Discrimination/diversity/tolerance
- 44 SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity)
- 46 Equality
- 49 other civil and equal rights

50	Politics general
51	Change in party/leadership/government
52	President/Trump negative
54	President/Trump positive/neutral
55	Immigration views (positive and negative)
60	Economy – general
62	Housing/development
63	Jobs
64	Better wages/benefits/income
65	Return to capitalism/free market economy
67	Social programs
68	Taxes
69	Economy other
70	Peace/end of wars – general
72	Kindness/better people
74	End of terrorism/increased security
80	Quality of life general
82	Products
83	Education
85	Opportunity
89	Quality of life (other)
201	Automation/robots (not electricity, electronics, etc)
800	Other
801	Everything Good/Better
802	Freedom
803	Return to religious principles
804	Views promoting intolerance
805	Entertainment
901	Nothing/No improvement/Worse
902	Unclear
903	Don't know

GREATFUTURE\_OE1 Open-end codes for GREATFUTURE\_OE (first mention)

GREATFUTURE\_OE2 Open-end codes for GREATFUTURE\_OE (second mention)

GREATFUTURE\_OE3 Open-end codes for GREATFUTURE\_OE (third mention)

-1	Refused/Blank
10	Science general
11	pollution/waste/environment/rivers
12	climate (climate change, global warming)

20	Technology general
21	Internet/computer
22	Mobile devices
23	Connection/communication
24	Availability of tech/info
25	Energy
27	Transportation
29	Technology other
30	Medicine and health general
32	Life expectancy/longevity
33	Health care/health care programs
34	Medical tech/treatments/cures
35	Food and nutrition/wellness
40	Civil and Equal Rights general
41	Womens rights
42	Racial/ethnic/minority rights
43	Discrimination/diversity/tolerance
44	SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity)
46	Equality
49	other civil and equal rights
50	Politics general
51	Change in party/leadership/government
52	President/Trump negative
54	President/Trump positive/neutral
55	Immigration views (pos and neg)
60	Economy – general
62	Housing/development
63	Jobs
64	Better wages/benefits/income
65	Return to capitalism/free market economy
67	Social programs
68	Taxes
69	Economy other
70	Peace/end of wars – general
72	Kindness/better people
74	End of terrorism/increased security
80	Quality of life general
82	Products
83	Education
85	Opportunity
89	Quality of life (other)
201	Automation/robots (not electricity, electronics, etc)

800	Other
801	Everything Good/Better
802	Freedom
803	Return to religious principles
804	Views promoting intolerance
805	Entertainment
901	Nothing/No improvement/Worse
902	Unclear
903	Don't know
FAKE_OE1	Open-end codes for FAKE_OE (first mention)
FAKE_OE2	Open-end codes for FAKE_OE (second mention)
FAKE_OE3	Open-end codes for FAKE_OE (third mention)
-1	Refused/blank/nothing (add nothing from before to this category)
1	Climate change and global warming
2	Weather
3	Energy
9	Environment (other)
11	Evolution/creation
13	Animals
14	Dinosaurs
19	Life sciences other
21	Mythical creatures
40	Gender
41	Diseases and treatments
45	Vaccinations
49	Medicine and health other
51	Military technology
52	Technology other
61	Food
62	Remedy (vitamins, supplements DIY health)
71	Theories
72	Conspiracies
73	Flat Earth
81	New planets/universes
82	Extraterrestrials/UFOs
89	Aerial/space other (excluding new bodies/aliens, etc)
90	Other
92	Unclear



93	Don't know/Don't remember
95	Shouldn't have answered
101	News (specific mentions of outlets that are not social media)
102	Social media (name social network)
103	General political
DISAG_OE1	Open-end codes for DISAG_OE (first mention)
DISAG_OE2	Open-end codes for DISAG_OE (second mention)
DISAG_OE3	Open-end codes for DISAG_OE (third mention)
-1	Refused/blank/nothing
10	Environment general
11	Climate change
12	Flat earth
13	Energy
19	Environ/energy other
21	Evolution/creation/human origins
22	Dinosaur/prehistoric animals
29	Life sciences general/other
30	Supernatural general/other
41	Vaccinations
42	Marijuana
43	Diseases and illness (including X causes Y, and X can be treated by Y)
44	Medical drug
45	Mammograms
46	Vitamins and supplements
49	Medical other
60	Food, general
61	Gluten
62	GMOs
63	what food to eat/avoid, including "X good/bad for you"
69	food other
71	planet (new planet/pluto, other planet things)
72	Extraterrestrials/UFOs
79	Aerial/space general/other
91	Shouldn't have answered
92	Nonsensical
93	Don't know/Don't remember
100	Other
110	General political

120	Historical events in human history (not origins)
130	Bill Nye
DECIS_OE1	Open-end codes for DECIS_OE (first mention)
DECIS_OE2	Open-end codes for DECIS_OE (second mention)
DECIS_OE3	Open-end codes for DECIS_OE (third mention)
-1	Refused/Blank
10	Medicine and Health (general/other)
11	Effects of medication
12	Vaccinations
13	Effects of vitamins and supplements
14	Diseases and treatments
15	Stem cell/stem cell research
18	Exercise/fitness
21	Bug-borne diseases (Zika, ticks)
30	Effects of food on health
31	Nutrition/diet
32	GMOs
34	Food (other)
35	Chemicals/additives in food
40	Climate change and global warming
41	Weather
42	Air and water quality/conservation
43	Energy
44	Recycling
45	Plants and animals
49	Environment (other)
50	Technology (general/other)
52	Advances in technology (nanotech, AI, etc)
61	Parenting and pregnancy
69	Social (other)
71	Space (general/other)
91	Media sources
101	Sleep
900	Other
901	Shouldn't have answered it
902	Nonsensical
903	Don't know/Can't remember

weight	Post-Stratification weight – Gen Pop 18+
tm_start	Interview start time (GMT)
tm_finish	Interview finish time (GMT)
duration	Interview duration in minutes
DOV_FORM	Assignment of GREATPAST or GREATFUTURE questions
1	Saw GREATPAST_OE
2	Saw GREATFUTURE_OE
XSPANISH	Survey language
1	English version
2	Spanish version
xparent	Parent of 0-17 year olds
1	parent of 0-17 year old
2	not a parent of 0-17 year old
ppcm0160	Occupation
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	Management
2	Business and Financial Operations
3	Computer and Mathematical
4	Architecture and Engineering
5	Life, Physical and Social Services
6	Community and Social Sciences
7	Lawyer, judge
8	Teacher, except college and university
9	Teacher, college and university
10	Other professional
11	Medical Doctor (such as physician, surgeon, dentist, veterinarian)
12	Other Health Care Practitioner (such as nurse, pharmacist, chiropractor, dietician)
13	Health Technologist or Technician (such as paramedic, lab technician)
14	Health Care Support (such as nursing aide, orderly, dental assistant)
15	Protective Service

16	Food Preparation and Serving
17	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance
18	Personal Care and Service
19	Sales Representative
20	Retail Sales
21	Other Sales
22	Office and Administrative Support
23	Farming, Forestry and Fishing
24	Construction and Extraction
25	Installation, Maintenance and Repair
26	Precision Production (such as machinist, welder, baker, printer, tailor)
27	Transportation and Material Moving
28	Armed Services
29	Other
IND1	Industry (current or main job)
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
2	Mining, Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction
3	Utilities
4	Construction
5	Manufacturing
6	Wholesale Trade
7	Retail Trade
8	Transportation and Warehousing
9	Information
10	Finance and Insurance
11	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
12	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
13	Management of Companies and Enterprises
14	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
15	Educational Services
16	Health Care and Social Assistance
17	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
18	Accommodation and Food Services
19	Other Services and Community/Non-Profit Organizations (except Public Administration)
20	Public Administration
21	Armed Forces

DOV\_ACSLANG Primary Language

- 1 English Proficient
- 2 Bilingual
- 3 Spanish Proficient
- 4 Hispanics who have missing data; re-ask in field
- 5 Non-Hispanics, not asked

DOV\_PPP20072 Frequency of attendance at religious services

- 1 Refused
- 1 More than once a week
- 2 Once a week
- 3 Once or twice a month
- 4 A few times a year
- 5 Once a year or less
- 6 Never

DOV\_PPC10017 Smartphone owner

- 1 Refused
- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know/not sure
- 4 Not asked, don't use a cell phone

DOV\_PPC20217 Device type for internet use

- 1 Refused
- 1 Cell phone/smartphone
- 2 Desktop computer
- 3 Laptop computer
- 4 Netbook
- 5 Tablet
- 6 Other device
- 7 Not asked, doesn't use internet

DOV\_PPC21501 Desktop/laptop computer owner

- 1 Refused
- 1 Yes, a desktop
- 2 Yes, a laptop/notebook
- 3 Yes, both a desktop and a laptop/notebook

- 4 No
- 5 Don't know/not sure
- 6 Not asked, doesn't have a desktop/laptop in HH

DOV\_PPC11518 Tablet computer owner

- 1 Refused
- 1 Yes, an Apple iPad
- 2 Yes, another type of tablet
- 3 No
- 4 Don't know/not sure
- 6 Yes, an Android tablet
- 7 Yes, a Microsoft Surface
- 9 Not asked, doesn't have a tablet computer in HH

ppagecat Age – 7 categories

- 1 18-24
- 2 25-34
- 3 35-44
- 4 45-54
- 5 55-64
- 6 65-74
- 7 75+
- 99 Under 18

ppagect4 Age – 4 categories

- 1 18-29
- 2 30-44
- 3 45-59
- 4 60+
- 99 Under 18

PPEDUCAT Education (Categorical)

- 2 Not asked
- 1 Refused
- 1 Less than high school
- 2 High school
- 3 Some college
- 4 Bachelors degree or higher

PPETHM	Race/Ethnicity
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	White, non-Hispanic
2	Black, non-Hispanic
3	Other, non-Hispanic
4	Hispanic
5	2+ Races, Non-Hispanic
PPGENDER	Gender
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	Male
2	Female
PPHHHEAD	Household head
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
0	No
1	Yes
PPHHSIZE	Household size
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
PPHOUSE	Housing Type
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	A one-family house detached from any other houses
2	A one-family house attached to one or more houses
3	A building with 2 or more apartments
4	A mobile home
5	Boat, RV, Van, etc
PPINCIMP	Household income

-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	Less than \$5,000
2	\$5,000 to \$7,499
3	\$7,500 to \$9,999
4	\$10,000 to \$12,499
5	\$12,500 to \$14,999
6	\$15,000 to \$19,999
7	\$20,000 to \$24,999
8	\$25,000 to \$29,999
9	\$30,000 to \$34,999
10	\$35,000 to \$39,999
11	\$40,000 to \$49,999
12	\$50,000 to \$59,999
13	\$60,000 to \$74,999
14	\$75,000 to \$84,999
15	\$85,000 to \$99,999
16	\$100,000 to \$124,999
17	\$125,000 to \$149,999
18	\$150,000 to \$174,999
19	\$175,000 to \$199,999
20	\$200,000 to \$249,999
21	\$250,000 or more
PPMARIT Marital status	
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
1	Married
2	Widowed
3	Divorced
4	Separated
5	Never married
6	Living with partner
PPMSACAT MSA Status	
-2	Not asked
-1	Refused
0	Non-Metro
1	Metro



## PPREG4      Region 4 – Based on State of Residence

- 2      Not asked
- 1      Refused
- 1      Northeast
- 2      Midwest
- 3      South
- 4      West

## PPREG9      Region 9 – Based on State of Residence

- 1      New England
- 2      Mid-Atlantic
- 3      East-North Central
- 4      West-North Central
- 5      South Atlantic
- 6      East-South Central
- 7      West-South Central
- 8      Mountain
- 9      Pacific

## PPRENT      Ownership Status of Living Quarters

- 2      Not asked
- 1      Refused
- 1      Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household
- 2      Rented for cash
- 3      Occupied without payment of cash rent

## PPWORK      Current employment status

- 2      Not asked
- 1      Refused
- 1      Working – as a paid employee
- 2      Working – self-employed
- 3      Not working – on temporary layoff from a job
- 4      Not working – looking for work
- 5      Not working – retired
- 6      Not working – disabled
- 7      Not working – other

## AGE      Age

90	90 or older
PPT01_COL	Presence of household members – Children 0-1
3	3 or more
PPT25_COL	Presence of household members – Children 2-5
3	3 or more
PPT612_COL	Presence of household members – Children 6-12
3	3 or more
PPT1317_COL	Presence of household members – Children 13-17
3	3 or more
PPT180V_COL	Presence of household members – Adults 18+
5	5 or more

## QUESTIONNAIRE

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
2017 SCIENCE NEWS & INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE  
MAY 30 – JUNE 12, 2017**

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**ASK ALL:  
LIFE**

In general, would you say life in America today is better, worse or about the same as it was 50 years ago for people like you?

- 1 Better today
  - 2 Worse today
  - 3 About the same as it was 50 years ago
- 

**ASK FORM1:  
GREATPAST\_OE**

What would you say was the biggest improvement to life in America over the past 50 years or so?

[OPEN-END]

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**ASK FORM2:  
GREATFUTURE\_OE**

Now thinking ahead, what do you expect will be the biggest improvement to life in America over the next 50 years or so?

[OPEN-END]

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**ASK ALL:  
MUSEUM**

Which, if any, of the following have you done within the PAST 12 months? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; J always last]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. Visited a zoo or aquarium
  - b. Visited an art museum or gallery
  - c. Visited a natural history museum
  - d. Visited a science and technology center or museum
  - e. Visited a national, state or county park
  - f. Visited a public library
  - g. Attended an event with live music
  - h. Attended a sporting event
  - i. Attended a lecture or talk about science
  - [SPACE]**
  - j. None of these **[ANCHOR]**
-

**ASK ALL:  
TOPICINT**

How interested are you in news about each of the following topics? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- a. Government and politics news
  - 1 Very interested
  - 2 Somewhat interested
  - 3 Not too interested
  - 4 Not at all interested
- b. News about your local community
  - 1 Very interested
  - 2 Somewhat interested
  - 3 Not too interested
  - 4 Not at all interested
- c. Sports news
  - 1 Very interested
  - 2 Somewhat interested
  - 3 Not too interested
  - 4 Not at all interested
- d. Business and finance news
  - 1 Very interested
  - 2 Somewhat interested
  - 3 Not too interested
  - 4 Not at all interested
- e. Science news
  - 1 Very interested
  - 2 Somewhat interested
  - 3 Not too interested
  - 4 Not at all interested
- f. Entertainment news
  - 1 Very interested
  - 2 Somewhat interested
  - 3 Not too interested
  - 4 Not at all interested

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**ASK ALL:  
SCIOFTEN**

Thinking just about science news...

How often do you read, watch or listen to news about science? {new}

- 1 Nearly every day
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 A few times a month
- 4 Less often

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**ASK ALL:**

**TOPICS1**

Which statement best describes how you get science news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I get science news on just a couple of topics
- 2 I get science news on a lot of different topics

**ASK ALL:**  
**TOPICS2**

Which, if any, of these science-related topics are you interested in? **[RANDOMIZE items A to G; with H and I always last]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. Health and medicine
  - b. Technology
  - c. Energy and environment
  - d. Food and nutrition
  - e. Space and astronomy
  - f. Evolution of humans and animals
  - g. The mind and brain
  - h. Other **[ANCHOR]**
- [SPACE]**
- i. None of these **[ANCHOR]**

**ASK IF SELECTED TWO OR MORE TOPICS (TOPICS2a-h=1):**  
**TOPICMOST**

And, among those, which are you MOST interested in? **[SHOW ONLY THOSE SELECTED IN TOPICS2; KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS TOPICS2]**

- 1 Health and medicine
- 2 Technology
- 3 Energy and environment
- 4 Food and nutrition
- 5 Space and astronomy
- 6 Evolution of humans and animals
- 7 The mind and brain
- 8 Other

**ASK ALL:**  
**SOURCE1**

Which statement best describes how you get science news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I get most of my science news from a couple of specific sources
- 2 I get science news from many different sources

**ASK ALL:**  
**SOURCE2**

Which statement best describes how you get science news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I get most of my science news from sources that specialize in science topics
- 2 I get most of my science news from sources that cover all sorts of general news topics

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**ASK ALL:  
ENJOY**

How much would you say you enjoy following news about science compared with other kinds of news?

- 1 A lot more than other news
  - 2 More than other news
  - 3 Less than other news
  - 4 A lot less than other news
- 

**ASK ALL:  
KNOWLEDGE**

How much would you say you know about science?

- 1 A lot
  - 2 Some
  - 3 Not much
  - 4 Nothing at all
- 

**ASK ALL:  
SEEK**

Which statement best describes how you get science news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I mostly get science news because I'm looking for it
  - 2 I mostly get science news because I happen to come across it
- 

**ASK ALL:  
SOURCE3**

Which of the following, if any, do you regularly get your science news from? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, WITH J AND K ALWAYS LAST]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. News outlets that cover a range of topics
- b. Documentaries or other science video programs
- c. Science magazines in print or online
- d. Online discussion forums about science
- e. Science podcasts or radio programs
- f. Family, friends and acquaintances
- g. Government agencies
- h. Advocacy organizations
- i. Science and technology centers or museums
- j. Other websites and blogs focused on science

**[SPACE]**

- k. None of these
- 

**ASK ALL:  
SOURCEALT**

Do you regularly get science news from sources that provide alternative perspectives to conventional science or medical research, or don't you do this?

- 1 Yes [please specify which source(s)]
- 2 No

**ASK ALL:  
SCIWHY**

Here are some reasons people follow news about science. Is each a reason you follow news about science, or not? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. I enjoy talking with others about what's happening in science
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- b. It is related to the things I need to know or do for my job
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- c. It helps me make decisions about everyday life for me and my family
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- d. I feel I have a social or civic obligation to stay informed about science
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- e. I am curious about what's happening in science
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- f. It is related to my children's activities, interests, or education **[ASK IF PARENT OF CHILD UNDER 18]**
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- g. It is related to my activities, hobbies or interests outside of work
  - 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason

**ASK ALL:  
WHYNOT**

Here are some reasons people DO NOT follow news about science more often. Is each a reason that you don't follow science news more often, or not? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Science news is boring

- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- b. Science news is hard to understand
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- c. I often disagree with the news I see about science
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- d. Science news is less important to keep up with than other topics
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- e. I'm too busy to keep up with science news more often
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- f. I already get enough science news
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- g. The sources I regularly get news from do not cover a lot of science news
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason
- h. The science topics I am most interested in are not covered often
- 1 Yes, a major reason
  - 2 Yes, a minor reason
  - 3 No, not a reason

**ASK ALL:  
NEWSJOB**

Overall, how would you rate the job news media do in covering science? {mod W17}

- 1 Very good job
- 2 Somewhat good job
- 3 Somewhat bad job
- 4 Very bad job

**ASK ALL:  
NEWSFACTS**

How often, if ever, do each of the following sources GET THE FACTS RIGHT when it comes to science?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS SOURCE3]**



- a. News outlets that cover a range of topics
- 1 Almost all of the time
  - 2 More than half of the time
  - 3 About half of the time
  - 4 Less than half of the time
  - 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- b. Documentaries or other science video programs
- 1 Almost all of the time
  - 2 More than half of the time
  - 3 About half of the time
  - 4 Less than half of the time
  - 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- c. Science magazines in print or online
- 1 Almost all of the time
  - 2 More than half of the time
  - 3 About half of the time
  - 4 Less than half of the time
  - 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- d. Online discussion forums about science
- 1 Almost all of the time
  - 2 More than half of the time
  - 3 About half of the time
  - 4 Less than half of the time
  - 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- e. Science podcasts or radio programs
- 1 Almost all of the time
  - 2 More than half of the time
  - 3 About half of the time
  - 4 Less than half of the time
  - 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- f. Family, friends and acquaintances
- 1 Almost all of the time
  - 2 More than half of the time
  - 3 About half of the time
  - 4 Less than half of the time
  - 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- g. Government agencies

- 1 Almost all of the time
- 2 More than half of the time
- 3 About half of the time
- 4 Less than half of the time
- 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate

h. Advocacy organizations

- 1 Almost all of the time
- 2 More than half of the time
- 3 About half of the time
- 4 Less than half of the time
- 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate

i. Science and technology centers or museums

- 1 Almost all of the time
- 2 More than half of the time
- 3 About half of the time
- 4 Less than half of the time
- 5 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate

**ASK ALL:  
STORIES**

Do you ever read, watch or listen to news stories that report... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ITEM H always last]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. A new scientific discovery
- b. Scientific information that helps you make decisions about everyday life for you and your family
- c. Disagreement among scientific experts
- d. Scientific research findings that conflict with earlier research findings on the same topic
- e. Strange or weird scientific research findings
- f. Scientific research findings that seem completely made up
- g. Stories about a science researcher's misconduct

**[SPACE]**

- h. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF GETS NEWS THAT HELPS MAKE DECISION (STORIES\_B=1):  
DECIS\_OE**

What was the most recent science news story you read, watched or listened to that helped you make a decision about everyday life for you or your family?

[OPEN-END]

**ASK IF GETS NEWS ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS (STORIES\_C=1)  
DISAG\_OE**

What was the most recent news story you read, watched or listened to about a disagreement among scientific experts?

[OPEN-END]

---

**ASK IF GETS NEWS ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS (STORIES\_C=1)**

**FAKE\_OE**

What was the most recent scientific research finding you saw that seemed completely made up?

[OPEN-END]

---

**ASK ALL:**

**SNSUSE**

Do you ever use social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)?

- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
- 

**ASK ALL:**

**SNSFREQ**

And do you use social media...

- 1 Several times a day
  - 2 About once a day
  - 3 A few times a week
  - 4 Every few weeks
  - 5 Less often
- 

**ASK IF USES SNS (SNSUSE=1):**

**FOLLOW**

On social media, do you follow any organizations, people or pages that are focused on science?

- 1 Yes, at least one
  - 2 No, none
- 

**ASK IF USES SNS (SNSUSE=1):**

**FOLLOWANTI**

On social media, do you follow any organizations, people or pages that provide alternative perspectives to conventional science or medical research?

- 1 Yes, at least one
  - 2 No, none
- 

**ASK IF USES SNS (SNSUSE=1):**

**SNSSCI**

Of the posts you see on social media, how many are about science?

- 1 A lot

- 2 Some
- 3 Not many
- 4 None

**ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3):  
SNSCLICK**

When you see science news posts on social media, how often do you click on a link to a news story?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

**ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3):  
SNSSCIIMP**

Which of the following statements best describes you?

- 1 Social media are the most important way I get science news
- 2 Social media are an important way I get science news, but not the most important
- 3 Social media are not a very important way I get science news

**ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3):  
SNSPOST**

Thinking about social media posts you see about science, do you ever see posts about ... **[RANDOMIZE, WITH ITEM J NONE OF THESE ALWAYS AT THE BOTTOM]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. A new scientific discovery
- b. Scientific information that helps you make decisions about everyday life for you and your family
- c. Disagreement among scientific experts
- d. Scientific research findings that conflict with earlier research findings on the same topic
- e. Strange or weird scientific research findings
- f. Scientific research findings that seem completely made up
- g. Stories about a science researcher's misconduct
- h. Stories that you disagree with
- i. Celebrities providing health or medical advice
- [SPACE]**
- j. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF SNSPOST\_f=1 "SEE SCIENCE NEWS ON SNS THAT SEEM COMPLETELY MADE UP":  
SNSCHECK1 [M]**

Have you ever done any of the following in response to a social media post about scientific research findings that seemed completely made up? **[RANDOMIZE, WITH NONE OF THESE ALWAYS AT THE BOTTOM]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. Commented on the story
- b. Searched for more information
- c. Shared the story in order to show it's wrong

- d. Ignored or hid the story
- e. Unfollowed or blocked the person or organization the story came from  
[SPACE]
- f. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

**ASK IF ASK IF SNSPOST\_h=1 SEE SCIENCE NEWS ON SNS YOU DISAGREE WITH:  
SNSCHECK2**

Have you ever done any of the following in response to a social media post about science news that you disagreed with?

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. Commented on the story
- b. Searched for more information
- c. Shared the story in order to show it's wrong
- d. Ignored or hid the story
- e. Unfollowed or blocked the person or organization the story came from  
[SPACE]
- f. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

**ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3):  
SNSNEW**

How often would you say the science news you see on social media are stories that you wouldn't have seen elsewhere? {

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

**ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3):  
SNSTRUST**

Thinking about all of the posts you see on social media about science, would you say you...

- 1 Mostly trust them
- 2 Mostly distrust them

**ASK ALL:  
PROBSET**

Thinking in general about science news today...

Do you think each of the following is a big problem, a small problem or not a problem when it comes to news about scientific research findings? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

- a. The news media are too quick to report research findings that may not hold up
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem
- b. The news media cover too many research findings that are not really important
  - 1 A big problem

- 2 A small problem
- 3 Not a problem
- c. There are so many research studies out there it's hard to distinguish between high and low quality studies
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem
- d. The public jumps to conclusions about how to apply new research findings to their lives
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem
- e. The public doesn't know enough about science to really understand research findings covered in the news
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem
- f. The news media oversimplify scientific research findings {mod of AAAS svy}
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem
- g. Science researchers overstate the implications of their research findings
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem
- h. The news media are too quick to report on disagreement about science research findings
  - 1 A big problem
  - 2 A small problem
  - 3 Not a problem

**ASK ALL:  
BLAME**

Which of these do you think is the BIGGER problem when it comes to news about scientific research findings? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

- 1 The way news reporters cover scientific research findings
- 2 The way science researchers publish or share their new research findings

**ASK ALL:  
DISCUSS**

Thinking about the people you talk with, whether in person, over the phone, or online...

How often do you discuss science news with others?

- 1 Nearly every day
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 A few times a month
- 4 Less often

---

**ASK IF DISCUSSES SCIENCE NEWS AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A MONTH (DISCUSS=1-3):  
LEAD**

When you talk to people about science news, do you tend to... **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 Listen to the conversation more than lead
  - 2 Lead the conversation more than listen
- 

**ASK IF DISCUSSES SCIENCE NEWS AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A MONTH (DISCUSS=1-3):  
TURN**

Do you typically turn to others for science news, or do people typically turn to you? (

- 1 I turn to others
  - 2 People turn to me
- 

**[RANDOMIZE BLOCKS ENTCRIM1 to ENTCRIM4; ENTHOSP1 to ENTHOSP4; ENTSCIFI1 to ENTSCIFI4 note minor differences in question stem]**

**ASK ALL:  
ENTCRIM1**

How often do you watch entertainment programs or movies that are focused on CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

**ASK ALL:  
ENTCRIM2**

Which comes closer to your view about CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION shows or movies, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 They generally portray science, technology and medicine in a realistic way
  - 2 They focus on entertainment more than getting the science, technology and medicine in the story right
- 

**ASK ALL:  
ENTCRIM3**

Overall, do you think watching CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION shows or movies...

- 1 Helps your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 2 Hurts your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 3 Makes no difference in your understanding of science, technology and medicine

**ASK ALL:  
ENTCRIM4**

Overall, do you think CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION shows or movies...

- 1 Give a favorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
  - 2 Give an UNfavorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
  - 3 Give a neutral impression of working in science, technology and medicine
- 

**ASK ALL:**  
**ENTHOSP1**

How often do you watch entertainment programs or movies that are focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

**ASK ALL:**  
**ENTHOSP2**

Which comes closer to your view about shows or movies focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS ENTSCIF1]**

- 1 They generally portray science, technology and medicine in a realistic way
  - 2 They focus on entertainment more than getting the science, technology and medicine in the story right
- 

**ASK ALL:**  
**ENTHOSP3**

Overall, do you think watching shows or movies focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS...

- 1 Helps your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 2 Hurts your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 3 Makes no difference in your understanding of science, technology and medicine

**ASK ALL:**  
**ENTHOSP4**

Overall, do you think shows or movies focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS... {new}

- 1 Give a favorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
  - 2 Give an UNfavorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
  - 3 Give a neutral impression of working in science, technology and medicine
- 

**ASK ALL:**  
**ENTSCIF1**

How often do you watch entertainment programs or movies that are SCIENCE FICTION?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

**ASK ALL:**  
**ENTSCIF2**



Which comes closer to your view about SCIENCE FICTION shows or movies, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS ENTCRIM2]**

- 1 They generally portray science, technology and medicine in a realistic way
- 2 They focus on entertainment more than getting the science, technology and medicine in the story right

**ASK ALL:  
ENTSCIF13**

Overall, do you think watching SCIENCE FICTION shows or movies... {new}

- 1 Helps your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 2 Hurts your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 3 Makes no difference in your understanding of science, technology and medicine

**ASK ALL:  
ENTSCIF14**

Overall, do you think SCIENCE FICTION shows or movies... {new}

- 1 Give a favorable impression of the future for science, technology and medicine
- 2 Give an UNfavorable impression of the future for science, technology and medicine
- 3 Give a neutral impression of the future for science, technology and medicine

**ASK ALL:  
HOBBY**

Do you have any science-related hobbies, interests or activities outside of work?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**IF YES, HAS HOBBIES (SCIHOB=1):  
HOBBY2**

What kind of hobby, interest or activity is that?

[OPEN-END]

**ASK ALL:  
LIST1**

Which, if any, of the following have you ever done? (Do not count any activities that you did for your job) **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; none of these always last]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- a. Participated in a medical or clinical research study
- b. Made observations or collected data samples as part of a science research project (such as observations about bird, animal and plant life, or weather, air and water quality)
- c. Contributed to a science-related online crowdsourcing activity (such as classifying stars and galaxies or identifying animals)
- d. Helped a child with a science project whether for school or for an outside-school activity

- e. Participated in a maker movement or hack-a-thon event to develop new technologies, devices or software
  - f. Donated blood
  - g. Donated money to support medical or science research
  - [SPACE]**
  - h. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**
- 

**ASK ALL:****POLSOURCE1**

**[IF POLSOURCE1 is shown first, show this text:** You will now be asked a couple of final questions on a completely different topic.

Which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS? This includes any way that you get the source.]

**[IF POLSOURCE1 is shown second, show this text:** Again, which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS? This includes any way that you get the source.]

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; none of the above always last]**

*Select all answers that apply*

- 1 ABC News
  - 2 CBS News
  - 3 NBC News
  - 4 Business Insider
  - 5 Vox
  - 6 Independent Journal Review (IJR)
  - [SPACE]**
  - 99 None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**
- 

**ASK ALL:****POLSOURCE2**

**[IF POLSOURCE2 is shown first, show this text:** You will now be asked a couple of final questions on a completely different topic.

Which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS? This includes any way that you get the source.]

**[IF POLSOURCE2 is shown second, show this text:** Again, which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS? This includes any way that you get the source.]

- 1 PBS
  - 2 Politico
  - 3 International Business Times
  - 4 Slate
  - 5 Los Angeles Times
  - [SPACE]**
  - 99 None of the above **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**
- 

**ASK ALL:****PARTY**

In politics today, do you consider yourself a...?

- 1 Republican
  - 2 Democrat
  - 3 Independent
  - 4 Something else, please specify
- 

**ASK IF NOT REP OR DEM (PARTY=3,4,-1):**  
**PARTYLN**

As of today do you lean more to...

- 1 The Republican Party
  - 2 The Democratic Party
- 

**ASK ALL:**  
**IDEO**

In general, would you describe your political views as...

- 1 Very conservative
  - 2 Conservative
  - 3 Moderate
  - 4 Liberal
  - 5 Very liberal
-