

AUG 2020 TRUST IN SCIENCE POLL

July 23-29, 2020

N=1500 Likely 2020 GE voters (800 online + 700 phone) + 100 OVS AfAm + 100 OVS Latino

Q14. How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public - a great deal of confidence, a fair amount, not too much, or no confidence at all?

Q14A. Scientists	A great deal	45%
	A fair amount	40%
	Not too much	10%
	No confidence at all	4%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q14B. Public health experts	A great deal	34%
	A fair amount	44%
	Not too much	15%
	No confidence at all	6%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%
Q14C. Climate scientists	A great deal	35%
	A fair amount	33%
	Not too much	17%
	No confidence at all	13%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q14D. Your Representative in Congress	A great deal	14%
	A fair amount	34%
	Not too much	31%
	No confidence at all	17%
	[VOL] Don't know	3%
Q14E. The Food and Drug Administration, or FDA [SPLIT A]	A great deal	19%
	A fair amount	52%
	Not too much	22%
	No confidence at all	6%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q14F. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC [SPLIT B]	A great deal	35%
	A fair amount	40%
	Not too much	17%
	No confidence at all	7%
	[VOL] Don't know	0%

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Q15. How has the level of confidence you have in each of these groups changed since the start of the coronavirus pandemic - do you have much more confidence in that group, somewhat more, the same amount of confidence, somewhat less, or much less confidence?

Q15A. Scientists	Much more confidence	13%
	Somewhat more confidence	18%
	Total more confidence	31%
	The same amount of confidence	45%
	Somewhat less confidence	14%
	Much less confidence	9%
	Total less confidence	22%
	[VOL] Don't Know	1%
Q15B. Public health experts	Much more confidence	13%
	Somewhat more confidence	18%
	Total more confidence	31%
	The same amount of confidence	40%
	Somewhat less confidence	16%
	Much less confidence	11%
	Total less confidence	27%
	[VOL] Don't Know	1%
Q15C. Climate scientists	Much more confidence	11%
	Somewhat more confidence	12%
	Total more confidence	23%
	The same amount of confidence	57%
	Somewhat less confidence	8%
	Much less confidence	10%
	Total less confidence	18%
	[VOL] Don't Know	1%
Q15D. Your Representative in Congress	Much more confidence	8%
	Somewhat more confidence	11%
	Total more confidence	19%
	The same amount of confidence	39%
	Somewhat less confidence	21%
	Much less confidence	19%
	Total less confidence	40%
	[VOL] Don't Know	2%

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Q15E. The Food and Drug Administration, or FDA [SPLIT A]	Much more confidence	8%
	Somewhat more confidence	13%
	Total more confidence	21%
	The same amount of confidence	52%
	Somewhat less confidence	17%
	Much less confidence	9%
	Total less confidence	26%
	[VOL] Don't Know	2%
Q15F. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC [SPLIT B]	Much more confidence	13%
	Somewhat more confidence	15%
	Total more confidence	28%
	The same amount of confidence	40%
	Somewhat less confidence	18%
	Much less confidence	13%
	Total less confidence	31%
	[VOL] Don't Know	1%
Q16. Would you say that overall, elected officials in America should:	Listen to scientists more and do what they say	62%
	Listen to scientists about as much as they do now	24%
	Listen to scientists less and do less of what they say	12%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q17. Sometimes science and someone's intuition don't always agree. When scientists are saying one thing and an elected leader's gut is saying another, do you think elected leaders should	Always do what the scientists say	25%
	Usually do what the scientists say	40%
	Total Scientists	66%
	Usually follow their gut or common sense	23%
	Always follow their gut or common sense	9%
	Total Gut or Common Sense	32%
	[VOL] Don't know	3%

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Q18. Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?	Scientists should take an active role in public policy debates about scientific issues	49%
	Scientists should focus on establishing accurate scientific facts and stay out of public policy debates	49%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q19. Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?	Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy recommendations about scientific issues because the public's opinion matters	45%
	Public opinion should NOT play an important role to guide policy recommendations about scientific issues because these issues are too complex for the average person to understand	52%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q20. In general, would you say scientific experts are:	Usually better at making good policy decisions about the topics they study than other people	52%
	Neither better nor worse at making good policy recommendations about the topics they study than other people	35%
	Usually worse at making good policy recommendations about the topics they study than other people	10%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%

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Q21. Next are some statements. For each, do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree? If you're not sure, just indicate that.

Q21A. Climate change is occurring primarily due to human activity	Strongly agree	41%
	Somewhat agree	30%
	Total agree	72%
	Somewhat disagree	12%
	Strongly disagree	14%
	Total disagree	26%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q21B. We need to act now to prevent climate change by reducing carbon pollution	Strongly agree	49%
	Somewhat agree	26%
	Total agree	75%
	Somewhat disagree	11%
	Strongly disagree	12%
	Total disagree	23%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q21C. Vaccines against measles and other diseases are safe and effective	Strongly agree	65%
	Somewhat agree	25%
	Total agree	90%
	Somewhat disagree	5%
	Strongly disagree	3%
	Total disagree	8%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q21D. Wearing a mask helps prevent the spread of coronavirus	Strongly agree	67%
	Somewhat agree	19%
	Total agree	86%
	Somewhat disagree	6%
	Strongly disagree	7%
	Total disagree	13%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q21E. It is safe to eat genetically modified foods	Strongly agree	16%
	Somewhat agree	36%
	Total agree	52%
	Somewhat disagree	21%
	Strongly disagree	21%
	Total disagree	43%
	[VOL] Don't know	5%

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Q22. Next are some more statements. From what you know, how much scientists agree with each statement - virtually all scientists agree, a majority agree, or many scientists disagree? If you're not sure, just indicate that.

Q22A. Climate change is occurring primarily due to human activity.	Virtually all scientists agree	31%
	A majority of scientists agree	46%
	Many scientists disagree	20%
	[VOL] Don't know	4%
Q22B. We need to act now to prevent climate change by reducing carbon pollution	Virtually all scientists agree	36%
	A majority of scientists agree	45%
	Many scientists disagree	15%
	[VOL] Don't know	4%
Q22C. Vaccines against measles and other diseases are safe and effective	Virtually all scientists agree	54%
	A majority of scientists agree	37%
	Many scientists disagree	5%
	[VOL] Don't know	3%
Q22D. Wearing a mask helps prevent the spread of coronavirus	Virtually all scientists agree	55%
	A majority of scientists agree	33%
	Many scientists disagree	9%
	[VOL] Don't know	3%
Q22E. It is safe to eat genetically modified foods	Virtually all scientists agree	14%
	A majority of scientists agree	48%
	Many scientists disagree	28%
	[VOL] Don't know	9%

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Q23. If in the next year a coronavirus vaccine is widely available and offered to you for cheap or free, would you take it? [ONLINE ONLY]	Definitely would take it	46%
	Probably would take it	26%
	Total take it	72%
	Probably would not take it	8%
	Definitely would not take it	9%
	Total not take it	17%
	Don't know	10%

Q24. In a few words, what concerns do you have about getting a coronavirus vaccine when one becomes available? **[OPEN-ENDED] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED] [ONLINE ONLY]**

Cost / affordability / covered by insurance	5%
Accessibility / being able to get one / availability	8%
Safe / side-effects / long-term effects / become sick because of it	41%
It was rushed / developed too quickly / don't want to be first / has it been tested enough	22%
Is it effective / will it work / how long to work	20%
Other	10%
Nothing / No concerns	15%
Don't know	3%

Q25. Which of the following do you think are likely to be true, if the coronavirus becomes widely available in the next few months? [ONLINE ONLY] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]	It will have gone too quickly through the vaccine approval process in a rush to get it to people	40%
	Greedy drug companies will have cut corners to get a vaccine on the market and make billions	34%
	President Trump will have pushed a vaccine through too fast to try and win re-election	37%
	Everyone will have tried to do a good job ensuring it's safe, but we won't really know how if the vaccine works until a lot of people are the guinea pigs for it	57%
	None of these	13%

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Q26. Imagine that a vaccine came out and you heard the following pieces of information. If the vaccine was available and offered to you for free, after hearing each piece of information please indicate if you would definitely get the vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get the vaccine if it were available and offered to you for free? **[ONLINE ONLY]**

Q26A. Your doctor told you it is safe and effective.	Definitely get	37%
	Probably get	38%
	Total get	75%
	Probably not get	10%
	Definitely not get	7%
	Total get	16%
Q26B. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, says it is safe and effective. [SPLIT A]	Definitely get	37%
	Probably get	36%
	Total get	72%
	Probably not get	11%
	Definitely not get	8%
	Total get	20%
Q26C. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, who is legally responsible for testing vaccines, says they have conducted the same rigorous vaccine trials as always and shown it to be safe and effective. [SPLIT B]	Definitely get	41%
	Probably get	34%
	Total get	75%
	Probably not get	10%
	Definitely not get	7%
	Total get	17%
Q26D. The American Medical Association says it is safe and effective.	Definitely get	35%
	Probably get	40%
	Total get	75%
	Probably not get	9%
	Definitely not get	7%
	Total get	16%
	Don't know	8%

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Q26E. Both Joe Biden and Donald Trump recommend people take it. [SPLIT A]	Definitely get	18%
	Probably get	33%
	Total get	51%
	Probably not get	14%
	Definitely not get	13%
	Total get	27%
Q26F. Presidents Obama, Trump, and Bush recommend people take it, along with Joe Biden. [SPLIT B]	Definitely get	27%
	Probably get	33%
	Total get	59%
	Probably not get	14%
	Definitely not get	9%
	Total get	23%
Q26G. Dr. Anthony Fauci gives his personal guarantee that it is safe and effective. [SPLIT A]	Definitely get	38%
	Probably get	32%
	Total get	71%
	Probably not get	11%
	Definitely not get	10%
	Total get	21%
Q26H. Dr. Anthony Fauci gives his personal guarantee that the Trump Administration did not rush the vaccine to market too quickly. [SPLIT B]	Definitely get	30%
	Probably get	39%
	Total get	69%
	Probably not get	8%
	Definitely not get	12%
	Total get	20%
Q27. Which of the following is the best reason to take the vaccine when it's available? [ONLINE ONLY]	Any vaccine that comes to market by law has to go through an approval process that makes sure it's safe and effective, and this one will be no different	24%
	The more people who get vaccinated, the quicker we can open up the economy and get things moving again	28%
	If I take it, I'm less likely to unknowingly pass the virus to a loved one who could get sick and die	18%
	If I take it, it will be safe to have the human contact and normal life that we've all missed	17%
	None of these	12%

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Here is some more information about the climate:

The leading cause of climate change today is humans burning fossil fuels. Reducing the amount of oil, gas, and other fossil fuels we burn is the most surefire way to avoid the effects of climate change like sea level rise, hotter temperatures, and extreme weather like hurricanes. **[SPLIT A]**

According to the American Meteorological Society and the consensus among climate scientists, scientific evidence indicates the leading cause of climate change today is humans burning fossil fuels. Reducing the amount of oil, gas, and other fossil fuels we burn is the most surefire way to avoid the effects of climate change like sea level rise, hotter temperatures, and extreme weather like hurricanes. **[SPLIT B]**

		<u>SPLIT A</u>	<u>SPLIT B</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Q28. After reading this information, do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?	Strongly agree	47%	46%	47%
	Somewhat agree	28%	31%	30%
	Total agree	75%	77%	76%
	Somewhat disagree	11%	11%	11%
	Strongly disagree	12%	12%	12%
Climate change is occurring primarily due to human activity.	Total disagree	23%	22%	23%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%	1%	1%

And again, from what you know, how much do scientists agree with the following statement?

Q29. Climate change is occurring primarily due to human activity.	Virtually all scientists agree	36%
	A majority of scientists agree	47%
	Many scientists disagree	15%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%

After hearing this information, do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?

Q30. We need to act now to prevent climate change by reducing carbon pollution	Strongly agree	52%
	Somewhat agree	28%
	Total agree	80%
	Somewhat disagree	8%
	Strongly disagree	10%
	Total disagree	19%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%

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Q31. Next are some more statements. For each, do you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing? If you're not sure, just indicate that.

Q31A. [SLOW MOTION] Experts have described climate change as coronavirus in slow motion—scientists warned us about it early on, but we waited too long to act and paid the price. If we listen to scientists now about climate change rather than letting their predictions come true, we could avoid some of the worst effects of climate change.	Very convincing	37%
	Somewhat convincing	31%
	Not too convincing	15%
	Not at all convincing	16%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q31B. [POLITICIANS] The same politicians who are skeptical of coronavirus are also skeptical of climate change, vaccines, and other areas where they think they are smarter than experts.	Very convincing	34%
	Somewhat convincing	28%
	Not too convincing	18%
	Not at all convincing	17%
	[VOL] Don't know	4%
Q31C. [EXPERTISE MATTERS] The coronavirus crisis has proven that expertise matters. Whether it's economic experts, virus experts, or experts in other fields, we should listen more often to people who study one thing their whole lives.	Very convincing	47%
	Somewhat convincing	31%
	Not too convincing	12%
	Not at all convincing	8%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q31D. [HUMBLE] The best leaders during coronavirus have been humble and spent their time learning and acting on solid advice. We could use more politicians who admit they don't know everything and are willing to listen to experts in all fields.	Very convincing	52%
	Somewhat convincing	29%
	Not too convincing	10%
	Not at all convincing	7%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q31E. [AGENDAS] The people who fight science often have their own agenda to make a quick buck or help their political careers. We should listen to scientists who are just seeking the truth – not to the corporate lobbyists who looked for short-term profit in reopening that we're all now paying for.	Very convincing	49%
	Somewhat convincing	28%
	Not too convincing	10%
	Not at all convincing	10%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q31F. [BETTER OFF] While listening to scientists about coronavirus means economic pain to avoid loss of life and further economic pain later from more shutdowns, listening to climate scientists can make us better off. By getting a jump on climate change, we can grow our economy by improving our infrastructure and leading the world in things like clean energy and energy efficiency.	Very convincing	36%
	Somewhat convincing	34%
	Not too convincing	14%
	Not at all convincing	13%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%

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Q32. After hearing that information, how much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public - a great deal of confidence, a fair amount, not too much, or no confidence at all?

Q32A. Scientists	A great deal	42%
	A fair amount	39%
	Not too much	13%
	No confidence at all	5%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%
Q32B. Public health experts	A great deal	36%
	A fair amount	44%
	Not too much	14%
	No confidence at all	5%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%
Q32C. Climate scientists	A great deal	39%
	A fair amount	36%
	Not too much	13%
	No confidence at all	11%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%
Q33. Would you say that overall, elected officials in America should:	Listen to scientists more and do what they say	60%
	Listen to scientists about as much as they do now	28%
	Listen to scientists less and do less of what they say	10%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%

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Q34. Sometimes science and someone's intuition don't always agree. When scientists are saying one thing and an elected leader's gut is saying another, do you think elected leaders should	Always do what the scientists say	27%
	Usually do what the scientists say	39%
	Total Scientists	65%
	Usually follow their gut or common sense	19%
	Always follow their gut or common sense	7%
	Total Gut or Common Sense	27%
Don't know	8%	
Q35. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement? We need to act now to prevent climate change by reducing carbon pollution.	Strongly agree	51%
	Somewhat agree	26%
	Total agree	78%
	Somewhat disagree	7%
	Strongly disagree	11%
	Total disagree	18%
Don't know	4%	
<p>Critics say that our environment is constantly changing, but it's the cleanest it's been in decades, and lately we've seen some of the coldest winters in history. Humans don't control the weather, and we shouldn't cripple our economy just because environmentalists want us to fly less and eat less meat.</p>		
Q36. After hearing this information, do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement?	Strongly agree	45%
	Somewhat agree	27%
	Total agree	72%
	Somewhat disagree	10%
	Strongly disagree	13%
We need to act now to prevent climate change by reducing carbon pollution.	Total disagree	23%
	Don't know	5%

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Q37. For each of the following people or groups, how much does their opinion matter to you personally on the issue of climate change - does it matter to you a great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

Q37A. Scientists	A great deal	51%
	Somewhat	32%
	Not very much	10%
	Not at all	6%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%
Q37B. The Environmental Protection Agency	A great deal	31%
	Somewhat	41%
	Not very much	14%
	Not at all	11%
	[VOL] Don't know	2%
Q37C. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA	A great deal	42%
	Somewhat	37%
	Not very much	12%
	Not at all	5%
	[VOL] Don't know	4%
Q37D. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA	A great deal	34%
	Somewhat	42%
	Not very much	14%
	Not at all	7%
	[VOL] Don't know	3%
Q37E. The American Meteorological Society	A great deal	33%
	Somewhat	43%
	Not very much	13%
	Not at all	7%
	[VOL] Don't know	3%
Q37F. Local environmental groups	A great deal	25%
	Somewhat	43%
	Not very much	17%
	Not at all	14%
	[VOL] Don't know	1%

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QUESTIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES

Q2/3. Race	White	76%
	Black or African American	14%
	Hispanic or Latino	7%
	Asian American	1%
	Other	2%
Q7. What is your gender?	Male	46%
	Female	54%
	[VOL] Other	0%
Q8. Age	18-34	17%
	35-49	23%
	50-64	30%
	65+	30%
	[VOL] Refused	0%
Q9. What was the last year of education you completed?	1st-11th grade	3%
	High school graduate	20%
	Vocational or technical school	5%
	Some college but no degree	20%
	Associate degree	11%
	Four-year college graduate or bachelors degree	25%
	Graduate school or advanced degree	15%
[VOL] Don't know / Refuse to say	1%	
Q10-13. Party Self-ID	Strong Democrat	27%
	Not so strong Democrat	10%
	Indep / lean Democrat	7%
	Strong Republican	23%
	Not so strong Republican	10%
	Indep / lean Republican	6%
	Independent	12%
	Other	4%
	Don't Know	1%

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Q38. Politically speaking, do you consider yourself:	Very liberal	11%
	Somewhat liberal	16%
	Moderate	35%
	Somewhat conservative	19%
	Very conservative	17%
	[VOL] Don't Know	2%
Q39. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?	Employed full-time	47%
	Employed part-time	10%
	Unemployed	6%
	Student	2%
	Retired	31%
	Homemaker or stay-at-home parent	4%
	[VOL] Don't Know	1%
Q40. Which of the following best describes the type of job you are doing or last did?	White collar, like at a desk in an	55%
	Blue collar, like physical labor or working in a factory	19%
	Service industry, like working at a retail store or a hospital	22%
	Have never had a job	4%
Q45. State	Colorado	7%
	Florida	27%
	Georgia	14%
	Maine	3%
	Michigan	14%
	North Carolina	13%
	Pennsylvania	16%
	Wisconsin	6%

****Due to rounding, "totals" of the individual components may differ by +/-1.**

*****Q2/3 and Q7-13 have been moved to the demos section.**