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Life in 2050: Amazing Science, Familiar Threats
PUBLIC SEES A FUTURE FULL OF PROMISE AND PERIL

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## Life in 2050: Amazing Science, Familiar Threats PUBLIC SEES A FUTURE FULL OF PROMISE AND PERIL

Imagine a future in which cancer becomes a memory, ordinary people travel in space, and computers carry on conversations like humans. Now imagine a darker future - a world beset by war, rising temperatures and energy shortages, one where the United States faces a terrorist attack with nuclear weapons.

Most Americans think that these developments and many others are likely to unfold over the next 40 years. In the public's view, this promises to be an era of technological progress. Large majorities expect that computers will be able to carry on conversations ( $81 \%$ say this definitely or probably will happen) and that there will be a cure for cancer (71\%). About two-thirds (66\%) say that artificial arms and legs will outperform real limbs while 53\% envision ordinary people traveling in space.

At the same time, most say that war, terrorism and environmental catastrophes are at least probable by the year 2050. Nearly six-

| Imagining Life in 2050 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Probably/Definitely |  |  |
| In next 40 years... | Will | Will not |  |
| Science/technology | happen | happen | DK |
| Computers will be able | \% | \% | \% |
| to converse like humans | 81 | 18 | 1=100 |
| Cancer will be cured | 71 | 27 | 2=100 |
| Artificial limbs will perform better than natural ones | 66 | 31 | $3=100$ |
| Ordinary people will travel in space | 53 | 45 | 2=100 |
| Energy/environment |  |  |  |
| Most of our energy will not come from coal/oil/gas | 74 | 24 | $6=100$ |
| World will face major energy crisis | 72 | 25 | 3=100 |
| Earth will get warmer | 66 | 30 | $4=100$ |
| War/terrorism |  |  |  |
| Another world war | 58 | 37 | 4=100 |
| Major terrorist attack on U.S involving nuclear weapons | 53 | 43 | 4=100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine |  |  |  |
| April 21-26, 2010. Figures may not add to 100\% because of rounding. |  |  |  | in-ten (58\%) see another world war as definite or probable; $53 \%$ say the same about the prospect for a major terrorist attack on the United States involving nuclear weapons. An even higher percentage (72\%) anticipates that the world will face a major energy crisis in the next 40 years.

The public is evenly divided over whether the quality of the earth's environment will improve over the next 40 years; as many say the environment is not likely to improve (50\%) as say it is (47\%). There continues to be a widespread belief that the earth will get warmer in the future, though the percentage expressing this view has declined by 10 points, from $76 \%$ to $66 \%$, since 1999.

Moreover, $60 \%$ say the world's oceans will be less healthy 40 years from now than they are today; just $32 \%$ say the oceans will be more healthy. The survey was conducted just after the

April 20 explosion and fire on the Deepwater Horizon well in the Gulf of Mexico but before the full extent of the massive environmental damage caused by the oil leak became evident.

These are among the findings of a new survey of attitudes and expectations about the future, conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press and Smithsonian magazine in conjunction with the magazine's $40^{\text {th }}$ anniversary (see "40 Things You Need to Know about the Next 40 Years"). The survey, conducted by landline and cell phones April 21-26 among 1,546 adults, was informed by a 1999 survey on the future that explored many of the same topics (see "Optimism Reigns, Technology Plays Key Role," October 24, 1999).

Despite the current economic slump and the widespread anticipation of crises to come, most Americans remain upbeat about the future, both for themselves and the nation. Today, $64 \%$ say they are very or somewhat optimistic about life for themselves and their family over the next 40 years, while $61 \%$ are optimistic about the future of the United States. Moreover, $56 \%$ say the U.S. economy will be stronger than it is today.

| Most Americans Still Optimistic about the Long-Term Future |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Over next 40 years, | May | April |
| view of... | 1999 | $\underline{2010}$ |
| Life for you/your family | \% | \% |
| Optimistic | 81 | 64 |
| Pessimistic | 15 | 31 |
| Don't know | 4 | 4 |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| Future of U.S. |  |  |
| Optimistic | 70 | 61 |
| Pessimistic | 27 | 36 |
| Don't know | $\frac{3}{100}$ | $1{ }^{\frac{3}{0}}$ |
| U.S. economy will be... |  |  |
| Stronger | 64 | 56 |
| Weaker | 31 | 39 |
| Neither/DK | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{5}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine |  |  |
| April 21-26, 2010. Figures may not add to |  |  |
| 100\% because of rounding. |  |  |

Today's recession-weary public is less sanguine about the long-term future than it was in May 1999, a time of very strong economic growth. Still, majorities across most demographic and political groups see things getting better - both for themselves and the nation - over the next four decades.

## Race Relations and Health Care Expected to Improve

Thinking ahead 40 years, $68 \%$ say race relations in the United States will better, which is unchanged from the 1999 survey. And in the wake of the election of the nation's first African American president, large majorities say that the election of a woman (89\%) and Hispanic (69\%) will definitely or probably occur.

Notably, far more Americans think that health care will be more affordable in the future than did so in May 1999. Currently, $50 \%$ say health care will be more affordable in 2050, while $46 \%$ say it will be less affordable. In 1999, just $36 \%$ said health care would be more affordable compared with $60 \%$ who said it would be less affordable.

While a clear majority (58\%) expects the gap between rich and poor in the United States to grow by 2050, fewer people say this than did so in 1999 (69\%). About a third (34\%) now says the rich-poor gap will get smaller, up from 27\% 11 years ago.

However, Americans are less optimistic about long-term prospects for public education than they were 11 years ago. About half (49\%) say the public education system will improve by 2050, down from $66 \%$ who expressed that view in 1999.

The public expresses mixed views about America's role in the world in 2050. On the one hand, people are divided over whether China will overtake the U.S. as the world's main superpower $-46 \%$ say this will

| The U.S. in 2050 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| More likely to happen | May | April |
| in the U.S... | 1999 | $\underline{2010}$ |
| Race relations... | \% | \% |
| Will improve | 68 | 68 |
| Will get worse | 28 | 23 |
| Rich/poor gap... |  |  |
| Will grow | 69 | 58 |
| Will get smaller | 27 | 34 |
| Health care... |  |  |
| Will be more affordable | 36 | 50 |
| Will be less affordable | 60 | 46 |
| Public education... |  |  |
| Will improve | 66 | 49 |
| Will get worse | 30 | 46 |
| Role in the world... |  |  |
| Will be more important | -- | 40 |
| Will be less important | -- | 53 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. |  |  | definitely or probably happen, while $49 \%$ say it will not. However, most Americans (53\%) say that the United States will be less important in the world 40 years from now than it is today; $40 \%$ say it will be more important.

## SECTION 1: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Many Americans see dramatic scientific and technological advancements on the horizon, with big developments in medicine, engineering, space travel and computers. However, despite the widely anticipated scientific breakthroughs - including the elimination of fossil fuels and gas-powered cars - the public foresees a grim environmental future. Rising world temperatures, more polluted oceans and severe water shortages in the U.S. are seen as definite or probable over the next 40 years.

Fully $81 \%$ think computer science will have progressed to the point where a computer will probably or definitely be able to carry on a conversation indistinguishable from that of a human being - passing the socalled "Turing test" - by mid-century. And two-thirds of the public (66\%) say that technological advancements will likely result in the development of "bionic" limbs - artificial arms and legs that perform better than natural ones.

There also is considerable

| Most Expect Manned Missions to Mars by 2050 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Probably/Definitely |  |  |  |
|  | Will happen | Will not happen |  |
| In next 40 years... | \% | \% | \% |
| Computers will be able to converse like human beings | 81 | 18 | 1=100 |
| There will be a cure for cancer | 71 | 27 | $2=100$ |
| There will be artificial limbs that perform better than natural ones | 66 | 31 | $3=100$ |
| Astronauts will land on Mars | 63 | 34 | $2=100$ |
| Ordinary people will travel in space | 53 | 45 | $2=100$ |
| An extinct animal will be brought back through cloning | 51 | 47 | $2=100$ |
| We will find evidence of life elsewhere in the universe | 50 | 45 | $4=100$ |
| Human beings will be cloned | 48 | 49 | $3=100$ |
| Computer chips will be embedded in Americans for identification | 48 | 50 | $2=100$ |
| Scientists will be able to tell thoughts from brain scans | 42 | 55 | 4=100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. |  |  |  | optimism about the future of cancer research; about seven-in-ten people (71\%) say that a cure for cancer will probably or definitely have been found by 2050. Nevertheless, optimism about this has declined since 1999, when $81 \%$ of the public thought a cure would be found by this date.

In the wake of recent shifts in NASA's plans for manned missions to the moon and the imminent end of the space shuttle program, Americans by and large remain optimistic that astronauts will land on Mars in the next 40 years.

However, fewer now say this is likely than did so 11 years ago ( $63 \%$ today, $76 \%$ in 1999). While there are few demographic differences in predictions about space exploration, college graduates are more doubtful than others; $57 \%$ of college graduates say astronauts will definitely or probably land on the red planet within 40 years, while $67 \%$ of those without college degrees expect this to happen.

The public is more divided when it comes to other space-related scientific advancements. Half (50\%) say that by 2050 there definitely or probably will be evidence that humans are not alone in the universe, while $45 \%$ say that this evidence probably or definitely won't exist by then. And about as many people anticipate that within 40 years ordinary people will be able to travel in space (53\%) as think it unlikely this will happen (45\%).

Americans are also split in their expectations about the future of cloning. Roughly half of Americans foresee scientists bringing an animal species back from extinction through cloning (51\%), while nearly as many (47\%) say this will definitely or probably not take place by 2050. Views about whether human cloning is a probable part of the next 40 years are also mixed ( $48 \%$ say it is and $49 \%$ say it is not), little changed since 1999.

The embedding of computer chips in order to identify Americans - familiar to many through science fiction - also gets mixed predictions. While half (50\%) say this probably or definitely will not occur by 2050, almost as many (48\%) say that it probably or definitely will.

About four-in-ten (42\%) say it is likely that scientists will be able to tell what people are thinking by scanning their brains, another prediction that may seem like something straight out of science fiction; yet researchers are currently exploring this through the use of functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). However, a majority (55\%) says this will definitely or probably not happen.

Only about three-in-ten college graduates (31\%) and 37\% of those with some college experience say brain scans will allow scientists to read minds, while $50 \%$ of those who did not attend college anticipate that this will definitely or probably happen within 40 years.

## Paper Will Be Passé?

If the public's predictions are to be believed, those working and living 40 years from now should be prepared for a paperless future. Nearly two-thirds (64\%) say paper editions of newspapers will no longer exist, while $34 \%$ think they will still be around. Majorities of most demographic groups expect the demise of print newspapers, and those with at least some college experience are especially likely to do so.

| Paperless Future Predicted |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Probably/Definitely |  |  |  |
|  | Will | Will not |  |
| In next 40 years... | happen | happen | DK |
| Paper newspapers | \% | \% | \% |
| will no longer exist | 64 | 34 | $1=100$ |
| Paper money won't exist, all electronic transactions | 63 | 35 | 2=100 |
| Almost no one will send personal letters in mail | 61 | 37 | 2=100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010 |  |  |  |
| Figures may not add to 100\% | ecause of | rounding. |  |

A similar number (63\%) thinks that paper money will definitely or probably cease to exist, with all financial transactions being electronic; some $35 \%$ do not think this will happen in the next 40 years. And with no newspaper clippings or cash-filled birthday cards to send, most predict that almost no one will send personal letters in the mail: $61 \%$ say this will definitely or probably happen; $37 \%$ of the public disagrees.

## Energy and the Environment

Public opinion about the condition of the planet and the energy situation over the next 40 years includes several dire predictions as well as some optimistic ones. Across many of these measures, those who hold more pessimistic views about the future of the environment are also more likely to be pessimistic about the future of the country.

Nearly three-quarters (74\%) say that it is likely that "most of our energy will come from sources other than coal, oil, and gas" while just $24 \%$ say that this is unlikely. A smaller majority (54\%) thinks that production of automobiles powered by gasoline will have stopped by $2050 ; 41 \%$ say this is unlikely to happen. At the same time, $72 \%$ of

| More Alternative Energy, <br> But Global Energy Crisis Nonetheless |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Probably/Definitely |  |  |  |
|  | Will | Will not happen | DK |
| In next 40 years.... | \% | \% | \% |
| Most energy from alternative sources | 74 | 24 | 2=100 |
| Major world energy crisis | 72 | 25 | 3=100 |
| The earth will get warmer | 66 | 30 | 4=100 |
| No more gas-powered cars | 54 | 41 | 4=100 |
| Severe fresh water shortages in most of U.S. | 53 | 43 | 3=100 |
| Improved environmental quality | 47 | 50 | $3=100$ |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010 Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. |  |  |  | Americans say that the world is likely to experience a major worldwide energy crisis by the end of the next four decades.

In terms of the overall quality of the environment, about as many expect it will not improve over the next 40 years (50\%) as say it will get better (47\%). Moreover, two-thirds (66\%) say the earth will definitely or probably get warmer over this period; just $30 \%$ say this definitely or probably won't happen. Six-in-ten (60\%) say the world's oceans will be less healthy in 40 years than they are today. And more Americans say the country is likely to experience severe fresh water shortages (53\%) than say this is unlikely to happen (43\%).

## Young Are More Pessimistic about Environment

People younger than 30 are considerably more pessimistic than older Americans about the environment over the next four decades. About three-quarters (74\%) of those under 30 say the oceans will be less healthy in 2050 than they are today, a view shared by $60 \%$ of 30 to 49 year olds, but smaller majorities of older Americans.

Similarly, a $62 \%$ majority of those under 30 expect that the quality of the earth's environment will not improve by 2050, the

| Young People Anticipate a Grim Environmental Future |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 18-29 | 30-49 | 50-64 | $\underline{65+}$ | Young-old diff |
| In next 40 years... | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| World's oceans will be less healthy than today | 74 | 60 | 55 | 51 | +23 |
| Environmental quality will not improve* | 62 | 51 | 43 | 42 | +20 |
| Earth will get warmer* | 77 | 63 | 65 | 61 | +16 |
| * Definitely/probably. <br> Pew Research Center/Smithson | an magaz | zine Ap | ril 21-26, | $2010 .$ |  | highest percentage in any age group. There is also an age gap in predictions of a rise in earth's temperature: 77\% of younger Americans say the earth will definitely or probably get warmer, compared with $64 \%$ of those older than 30.

In general, Republicans are substantially less negative than Democrats and independents in their long-term environmental outlook. Fewer than half of Republicans (48\%) say the earth will definitely or probably get warmer over the next 40 years, while large majorities of Democrats (83\%) and independents (68\%) expect the earth to get warmer over this period.

Moreover, just 37\% of Republicans say the United States is likely to face severe water shortages in coming decades; 63\% of independents and $56 \%$ of Democrats say severe water shortages in the U.S. are either definite or probable. And Republicans (52\%) are less likely than Democrats (65\%) to say that the world's oceans will be less healthy over the next 40

Republicans Less Pessimistic about Environment

|  | Total |  | Rep | $\frac{\text { Dem }}{}$ | $\frac{\text { Ind }}{}$ | $R$-D <br> diff |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| In next 40 years... | 66 | 48 | 83 | 68 | -35 |  |
| Earth will get warmer* | 60 | 52 | 65 | 61 | -13 |  |
| U.S. will face water shortages* | 53 | 37 | 56 | 63 | -19 |  |
| World's oceans will be less <br> healthy than today |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Definitely/probably. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. |  |  |  |  |  |  | years.

Since 1999, there has been a sharp decline in the percentage of Republicans and older Americans who say the earth is likely to get warmer by 2050. Eleven years ago, $68 \%$ of Republicans said it was at least probable that the earth would get warmer. That figure has fallen to $48 \%$ currently. Independents also are somewhat less likely to expect the earth to get warmer than in 1999 ( $76 \%$ then, $68 \%$ today). By contrast, there has been virtually no change among Democrats (81\% in 1999, 83\% today).

| Fewer Republicans Expect Earth to Get Warmer by 2050 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Probable/definite that | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ 1999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } \\ & 2010 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Change |
| earth will get warmer... | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 76 | 66 | -10 |
| 18-29 | 78 | 77 | -1 |
| 30-49 | 76 | 63 | -13 |
| 50-64 | 71 | 65 | -6 |
| 65+ | 78 | 61 | -17 |
| Republican | 68 | 48 | -20 |
| Democrat | 81 | 83 | +2 |
| Independent | 76 | 68 | -8 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. |  |  |  |

In addition, fewer people 65 and older anticipate the earth will get warmer than did so 11 years ago ( $78 \%$ then, $61 \%$ today); the percentage of those ages 30 to 49 who predict that the earth will get warmer also has declined ( $76 \%$ then, $63 \%$ today).

The sizable partisan and age differences in opinions about future global warming correspond to views about whether earth's temperatures have been rising in recent decades. Pew Research Center surveys over the past few years have found a substantial decline in the proportion of Republicans saying there is solid evidence the earth's temperatures have been rising (see Fewer Americans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming, October 22, 2009).

## SECTION 2: THE NATION, THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL TRENDS

Most Americans are optimistic about their own lives and the future of the United States over the next 40 years. But there are clouds on the horizon. Most expect the average family's standard of living will not improve by 2050 and there is a widespread belief that economic inequality will increase.

More than six-in-ten (64\%) say they are either very (26\%) or somewhat (38\%) optimistic about life for them and their families over the next 40 years. Personal optimism has slipped somewhat from the 1999 survey when fully $81 \%$ said they were either very $(40 \%)$ or somewhat (41\%) optimistic about life in the future.

Most Americans (61\%) also are optimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 40 years. However, fewer today are optimistic than in 1999, when $70 \%$ expressed optimism.

Democrats (72\%) stand out as being more optimistic about the nation's future than Republicans and independents ( $55 \%$ each). Optimism about the future of the country also is associated with expectations for the U.S. economy. Fully $78 \%$ of those who say the U.S. economy will be stronger by 2050 are optimistic about the nation's future, compared

| Public Upbeat about Nation's Future |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\frac{\text { Optimistic }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Pessimistic }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{DK}}{\%}$ |
| Total | 61 | 36 | 3=100 |
| 18-29 | 59 | 40 | 2=100 |
| 30-49 | 61 | 36 | 3=100 |
| 50-64 | 61 | 36 | 4=100 |
| 65+ | 62 | 32 | 6=100 |
| Republican | 55 | 43 | 2=100 |
| Democrat | 72 | 26 | 2=100 |
| Independent | 55 | 41 | 3=100 |
| U.S. economy will be... |  |  |  |
| Stronger | 78 | 20 | 2=100 |
| Weaker | 34 | 61 | 5=100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. |  |  |  | with just $34 \%$ among those who say the economy will be weaker 40 years from today.

## Mixed Economic Expectations

As might be expected, fewer Americans (56\%) expect the U.S. economy will be stronger in 2050 than said that during economic boom of the late 1990s (64\%). Somewhat more also say the gap between rich and poor will get smaller than did so 11 years ago ( $34 \%$ today, $27 \%$ in 1999). Still, a majority (58\%) continues to say that it is likely that the rich-poor gap will grow.

Despite the public's fairly upbeat assessment of the nation's economic future, only about a third (34\%) says that the average American family will see its standard of living get better over the next 40 years. More than six-in-ten (63\%) see the average family' standard of living getting worse ( $36 \%$ ) or staying the same ( $27 \%$ ) over the next four decades.

Opinions about the future of the economy and standard of living for average families are divided along partisan lines. Fully 71\% of Democrats say the U.S. economy will be stronger 40 years from now than it is today. That compares with $50 \%$ of independents and $47 \%$ of Republicans.

Democrats also are more likely than independents or Republicans to see the average family's standard of living improve by 2050. Still, fewer than half of Democrats (44\%) expect that the average family will be better off economically. Only about three-in-ten independents (29\%) and Republicans (27\%) see average families doing better in the future.

There is little optimism across most demographic and income groups that the standard of living for average families will improve. However, 61\% of African Americans say that the standard of living for families will improve; just $27 \%$ of whites agree.

Among those who see the U.S. economy getting stronger over the next 40 years, $53 \%$ see average families doing better economically. Among those who say the economy will be weaker in the future, $67 \%$ say the standard of living will get worse by 2050 .

## Health Care and Education

Public expectations are divided about progress on two major domestic issues - health care and education. Compared with 1999, many more people expect health care to be more affordable 40 years from now than it is today. By contrast, far fewer people say the public education system will improve than did so 11 years ago.

The changing expectations on both issues are strongly linked to partisanship. In the wake of passage of major health care legislation, twice as many Democrats say health care will be more affordable in the future than did so in 1999 (70\% today, $35 \%$ then). Independents also are more likely to say that health care will be more

## Democrats Optimistic Health Care in the U.S. Will Be More Affordable

## April 2010

| In 40 years, health | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| care more likely to be. | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| More affordable | 50 | 30 | 70 | 47 |
| Less affordable | 46 | 65 | 25 | 51 |
| Other/DK | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{2}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

May 1999
In 50 years, health care more likely to be..

| More affordable | 36 | 41 | 35 | 35 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Less affordable $60 \quad 57 \quad 61 \quad 63$

Other/DK

| $\frac{4}{0}$ | $\frac{3}{10}$ | $\frac{4}{10}$ | $\frac{2}{10}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 100 |  |  |  |

99-10 change
in "more affordable" $+14 \quad-11 \quad+35+12$
Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 2126, 2010.
Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. affordable ( $47 \%$ today, $35 \%$ in 1999). But fewer
Republicans say health care is likely to become more affordable than did so in 1999 ( $30 \%$ today, 41\% in 1999).

Republicans take a much more negative view of the future of the public education system than they did 11 years ago. Currently, a majority of Republicans (55\%) say the public education system is more likely to get worse over the next 40 years. In 1999, most Republicans (63\%) thought that public education would improve by 2050.

Independents also have turned more negative about the future of public education. Fewer than half (44\%) see public education improving by 2050, down from 63\% in 1999. Democrats remain much more positive about the education system: Currently, $66 \%$ say it is more likely to improve by 2050, little changed from 11 years ago (72\%).

Republicans See U.S. Public Education System Getting Worse

April 2010

| In 40 years, public | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| education more likely to... | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Improve | 49 | 38 | 66 | 44 |
| Get worse | 46 | 55 | 30 | 53 |
| Other/DK | $\underline{5}$ | 7 | 3 | $\underline{3}$ |

## May 1999

In 50 years, public
education more likely to...

| Improve | 66 | 63 | 72 | 63 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Get worse | 30 | 33 | 26 | 33 |
| Other/DK | $\underline{4}$ | $\frac{4}{0}$ | $\frac{3}{3}$ | $\frac{4}{0}$ |
|  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 99-10 change <br> in "improve" | -17 | -25 | -6 | -19 |

Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010.

Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding

## Most Expect Female, Hispanic Presidents

There is much greater agreement among the public that political gender and ethnic barriers will fall in the next 40 years. Fully $89 \%$ say that a woman will definitely (28\%) or probably (61\%) be elected, up from $80 \%$ in 1999. Men ( $90 \%$ ) are as likely as women (88\%) to say they think a woman will become president; large majorities of all political and demographic groups expect this to happen.

Somewhat fewer (69\%) - but still a clear majority - expect a Hispanic to be elected U.S. president in the next 40 years. Just $26 \%$ say this will definitely or probably not happen.

The public also anticipates that race relations

| White House's Glass Ceiling to Shatter by 2050 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | May | April |
| In 40 years, probable/ | $\underline{1999}$ | $\underline{2010}$ |
| definite that... | \% | \% |
| Woman will be elected |  |  |
| U.S. president | 80 | 89 |
| Hispanic will be elected U.S. president | -- | 69 |
| More likely that U.S. race relations will... |  |  |
| Improve | 68 | 68 |
| Get worse | 28 | 23 |
| Other/DK | 4 | 9 |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. |  |  |
| Figures may not add to 100\% because of rounding. |  |  | in the United States will improve, rather than get worse, over the next 40 years. Nearly seven-inten (68\%) now say that race relations are likely to improve, which is unchanged from 1999. Those under the age of 50 are somewhat more optimistic about the future of race relations in this country than are older Americans: 75\% of those under 50 think race relations will improve, compared with $61 \%$ of those 50 and older.

## Aging Workforce Envisioned

An overwhelming majority (86\%) says that it is at least probable that in the next 40 years most Americans will have to work into their 70s before retiring. Just $11 \%$ say this is definitely or probably not going to happen.

There are only modest demographic differences on this issue. But young people today - who would actually experience extended time in the workforce - are less likely than older people to see this as probable. While 78\% of those under 30 say most Americans will have to work into their 70s before retiring, fully $89 \%$ of those 30 and older expect this to happen.

| What Golden Years? |  |
| :--- | :---: |
|  |  |
| In 40 years, probable/ <br> definite that... | $\frac{2010}{\%}$ |
| Most Americans will have to |  |
| work into 70s before retiring | 86 |
| More likely that... |  |
| Many more will live to 100 <br> About as many will live to 100 | 42 |
| Other/DK | 50 |
|  | 100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian <br> magazine April $21-26$, 2010. <br> Figures may not add to 100\% because of <br> rounding. |  |

A sizable minority (42\%) say it is likely that the nation's population of those 100 and older - already the largest in its history - will grow substantially by 2050. Half (50\%) say that about as many people will live to 100 as do so today. College graduates (55\%) are much more
likely than those with no college experience (34\%) to predict many more people living to age 100 in the future.

## Demographic Trends

Most experts agree that the U.S. population will continue to grow in the decades to come. Asked about estimates that the nation's population will grow by 100 million by 2050, far Americans more say the burgeoning population will harm the country (42\%) than benefit the country (16\%); $37 \%$ say it will neither benefit nor harm the country.

On a related subject, the public is divided over whether legal immigration will need to be increased, kept at current levels, or reduced in order to maintain the strength of the U.S. economy over the next 40 years. Slightly more than a third (36\%) say legal immigration will need to maintained at current levels, $34 \%$ say it will need to be decreased, while $26 \%$ say it will need to be increased.

Notably, far more of those who do not have a college degree (39\%) than college graduates (21\%) say legal immigration will need to be decreased keep the

| Public Wary of Population Growth, Increased Immigration |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | April |
| U.S. population growth of about 100 million will | $\frac{2010}{\%}$ |
| Benefit the country | 16 |
| Harm the country | 42 |
| Neither benefit nor harm | 37 |
| Don't know | $\underline{5}$ |
|  | 100 |
| To keep U.S. economy strong, legal immigration |  |
| will need to be... |  |
| Increased | 26 |
| Kept at current levels | 36 |
| Decreased | 34 |
| Don't know | $\underline{5}$ |
|  | 100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine |  |
| April 21-26, 2010. Figures may not add to |  | U.S. economy strong. There also are partisan differences; 43\% of Republicans say immigration will need to be decreased compared with $31 \%$ of independents and $28 \%$ of Democrats.

## SECTION 3: WAR, TERRORISM AND GLOBAL TRENDS

The public sees the next 40 years as a time of violent conflict, both globally and in the United States. Fully 58\% see another world war as definite or probable over the next 40 years. Nearly as many (53\%) expect the United States to face a terrorist attack with nuclear weapons.

Opinions about America’s future role in the world are mixed: $53 \%$ say the United States will be less important in the world than it is today while $40 \%$ say it will be more important. At the same time, 49\% say China will definitely or probably not overtake the

| War and Terrorism Expected, Not Falling Asteroids |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Probably/definitely |  |  |  |
|  | Will happen | Will no happen |  |
|  | \% | \% | \% |
| Another world war | 58 | 37 | 4=100 |
| A major terrorist attack on U.S. with a nuclear weapon | 53 | 43 | 4=100 |
| China will overtake U.S. as world's main superpower | 46 | 49 | 5=100 |
| Jesus Christ will return | 41 | 46 | $13=100$ |
| Single global currency | 41 | 55 | 4=100 |
| An asteroid will hit earth | 31 | 62 | 7=100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April 21-26, 2010. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. |  |  |  | United States as the world's main superpower, while $46 \%$ say it will.

Notably, opinions about the U.S. role in the world - and whether China will overtake the United States as the main superpower - are associated with optimism about the nation's future. An overwhelming majority (81\%) among those who predict the U.S. will be more important in the future are optimistic about the future of the United States. But among those who say the nation will be less important in the future, just $46 \%$ express optimism.

On a very different subject, the public is divided over whether Jesus Christ will return to earth by 2050. About four-in-ten (41\%) expect Jesus Christ to return while slightly more (46\%) say this will definitely or probably not happen. Opinions about the return of Jesus Christ are little changed from 1999 when $44 \%$ said it would definitely or probably happen.

Most Americans do not expect the adoption of a single global currency in the next 40 years. And while the survey finds that the public sees many potential dangers looming in the decades ahead, there is not widespread concern about the possibility that an asteroid will collide with earth. Fewer than one-third (31\%) say an asteroid will definitely or probably hit earth, which is unchanged from 1999.

## Apocalypse Soon?

The expectation that there will be another world war by 2050 is more common among younger and less educated Americans than among those in other groups. Fully 68\% of those younger than 30 predict another world war; that compares with $56 \%$ of those ages 30 and older.
And while $69 \%$ of those with no more than a high school education say another world war is at least probable, that view is shared by just $48 \%$ of those with a college education.

At the same time, young people are a bit less likely than older Americans to predict that the United States will face a terrorist attack with nuclear weapons. Those under 30 are the only age

| Young and Less Educated <br> More Likely to Foresee World War |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | World | Nuclear terrorism |
| Definite/probable | $\frac{\text { War }}{2}$ | against U.S. |
| in next 40 years... | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| Total | 58 | 53 |
| $18-29$ | 68 | 46 |
| $30-49$ | 54 | 54 |
| $50-64$ | 59 | 56 |
| $65+$ | 55 | 57 |
| College grad + | 48 | 46 |
| Some college | 54 | 54 |
| HS or less | 69 | 57 |
| Republican | 61 | 57 |
| Democrat | 53 | 46 |
| Independent | 62 | 58 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April |  |  |
| 21-26, 2010. |  |  | group in which fewer than half (46\%) say such an attack is at least probable. As with expectations about another world war, those with a high school education or less are more likely than college graduates to predict a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States ( $57 \%$ vs. $46 \%$ ).

## Jesus Christ's Return

As expected, predictions about whether Jesus Christ will return to earth in the next 40 years divide along religious lines. Fully $58 \%$ of white evangelical Christians say Jesus Christ will definitely or probably return to earth in this period, by far the highest percentage in any religious group. Only about a third of Catholics (32\%), and even fewer white mainline Protestants (27\%) and the religiously unaffiliated (20\%) predict Jesus Christ's return to earth.

In addition, those with no college experience (59\%) are much more likely than those with some college experience (35\%) and college graduates (19\%) to expect Jesus Christ's return. By region, those in the South (52\%) are the most likely to predict a Second Coming by 2050.

| Most White Evangelicals Expect Jesus Christ's Return to Earth |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Probably/Definitely |  |  |  |
|  | Will | Will not |  |
|  | Happen | Happen | DK |
|  | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 41 | 46 | $13=100$ |
| Protestant | 54 | 32 | 15=100 |
| White evangelical | al 58 | 25 | 16=100 |
| White mainline | 27 | 58 | 15=100 |
| Catholic | 32 | 57 | 12=100 |
| Unaffiliated | 20 | 72 | $8=100$ |
| College grad+ | 19 | 64 | 17=100 |
| Some college | 35 | 51 | 14=100 |
| HS or less | 59 | 31 | $10=100$ |
| East | 29 | 64 | $7=100$ |
| Midwest | 39 | 47 | 14=100 |
| South | 52 | 33 | 15=100 |
| West | 35 | 51 | 14=100 |
| Pew Research Center/Smithsonian magazine April |  |  |  |

On a related subject, 65\% of Americans say that religion in the United States will be about as important as it is now in 40 years; $30 \%$ say religion will become less important. Majorities across all religious groups, including the unaffiliated, see religion continuing to be about as important as it is now in the coming decades.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,546 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from April 21-26, 2010 (1,006 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 540 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 203 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://people-press.org/methodology/.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Sample Size | Plus or minus... |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total sample | 1,546 | 3.0 percentage points |
| Form 1 | ... 779.... | 4.5 percentage points |
| Form 2 | 767.... | 4.5 percentage points |

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.

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian, Jocelyn Kiley and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS APRIL 2010 POLITICAL AND FUTURE SURVEY <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> April 21-26, 2010 <br> $\mathrm{N}=1546$ 

## QUESTIONS 1-39 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## NO QUESTIONS 40-44

## ASK ALL:

Now, I'd like you to think about what things will be like in 2050 [PRONOUNCED: "twenty-fifty"], that is, 40 years from now...
Q. 45 First, thinking about you and your family... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about life for you and your family over the next 40 years?

| Apr 21-26 |  | May |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| $\frac{2010}{26}$ |  | $\frac{1999^{1}}{}$ |
| 38 | Very optimistic | 40 |
| 19 | Somewhat optimistic | 41 |
| 12 | Very pessimistic | 10 |
| 4 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 4 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 46 And, thinking about the United States... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about the future of the U.S., over the next 40 years?

| Apr 21-26 <br> $\frac{2010}{23}$ | May <br> 38 | Very optimistic |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |$\frac{1999^{2}}{23}$| 23 | Somewhat optimistic | 47 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 | Very pessimistic | 20 |
| 3 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 3 |

## NO QUESTIONS 47-49

## ASK ALL:

Q. 50 Over the next 40 years, do you think that the average American family will see its standard of living...
[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS $1 \& 3$, WITH OPTION 2 ALWAYS IN THE
MIDDLE]

Apr 21-26
$\underline{2010}$
34 Get better
27 Stay about the same [OR]
36 Get worse
3 Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)
NO QUESTIONS 51-52

[^0]
## ASK ALL:

Q. 53 Still thinking ahead 40 years, as I read the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen here in the U.S... First, do you think . . .[INSERT ITEM PAIRS; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] Next, do you think [NEXT ITEM] [IF NECESSARY: 40 years from now, which is more likely to happen here in the U.S. (REPEAT ITEM)] [DO NOT READ NUMBERS "1" OR "2"] ${ }^{3}$

| Apr 21-26 |  |  | May$1999^{4}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { D } \\ 1996 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 010 |  |  |  |
| a. | 56 | The U.S. economy will be stronger than today OR | 64 | 53 |
|  | 39 | The U.S. economy will be weaker than today | 31 | 42 |
|  | 1 | Neither/No change (VOL.) | 2 | 2 |
|  | 4 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 3 | 3 |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=767$ ]:

| Apr 21-26 |  | May | Dec |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{2010}$ |  | $1999{ }^{5}$ | 1996 |
| b.F2 50 | Health care will be MORE affordable than today OR |  | 36 |
| 46 | Health care will be LESS affordable than today | 60 | 61 |
| 1 | Neither/No change (VOL.) | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 3 | 2 |
| Apr 21-26 |  | May | Dec |
| $\underline{2010}$ |  | 1999 | 1996 |
| c.F2 68 | Race relations will improve | 68 | 54 |
|  | OR |  |  |
| 23 | Race relations will get worse | 28 | 40 |
| 4 | Neither/No change (VOL.) | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 1 | 3 |

Apr 21-26
$\underline{2010}$
d.F2 $\frac{40}{}$ The United States will be more important in the world than it is now OR
53 The United States will be less important in the world than it is now
5 Neither/No change (VOL.)
3 Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

## NO ITEM e.F2

| ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N = 7 7 9 ] :}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Apr 21-26 |  |  | May |
|  | 2010 |  | 1999 |
| f.F1 | 58 | The gap between rich and poor will grow OR | 69 |
|  | 34 | The gap between rich and poor will get smaller | 27 |
|  | 3 | Neither/No change (VOL.) | 2 |
|  | 5 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 2 |

[^1]
## Q. 53 CONTINUED...

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr 21-26 } \\ \underline{2010} \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ \underline{1999}{ }^{6} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| g.F1 | Many more people than now |  |  |
| 42 | will live to be 100 years of age | 58 |  |
|  | OR |  |  |
|  | About as many people |  |  |
| 50 | will live to 100 as do now | 40 |  |
| 5 | Neither/No change (VOL.) | 2 |  |
| 3 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | * |  |
| Apr 21-26 |  | May | Dec |
| $\underline{2010}$ |  | 1999 | 1996 |
| h.F1 49 | The public education system will improve | 66 | 59 |
| 46 | The public education system will get worse | 30 | 37 |
| 1 | Neither/No change (VOL.) | 2 | 2 |
| 4 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 2 | 2 |

Apr 21-26
$\underline{2010}$
i.F1 $30 \quad$ Religion will become less important in the U.S.

OR
65 Religion will be about as important in the U.S. as it is now
3 Neither/No change (VOL.)
3 Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:

Q.54F2 And 40 years from now, do you think [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

Apr 21-26
$\underline{2010}$
32 The world's oceans will be MORE healthy than they are now [OR]
60 The world's oceans will be LESS healthy than they are now
3 Neither/No change (VOL.)
5 Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=779$ ]:
Q.55AF1 It's estimated that by 2050 the population of the United States will grow by about 100 million. Do you think this population growth will [READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 \& 2, KEEP ITEM 3 LAST]?

Apr 21-26
$\underline{2010}$
16 Benefit the country
42 Harm the country [OR]
37 Neither benefit nor harm the country
5 Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:

Q.55BF2 In order to maintain the strength of the U.S. economy over the next 40 years, do you think, that LEGAL immigration will...[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 \& 3, WITH OPTION 2 ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE]

## Apr 21-26

$\underline{2010}$
26 Need to be increased
36 Need to be maintained at current levels [OR]
34 Need to be decreased
5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

## ASK ALL:

Q. 56 Now I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 40 years. Please tell me how likely you think it is that each will happen. First, How likely do you think it is that [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]... do you think this will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen? How about [NEXT ITEM] [IF NECESSARY: do you think this will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen, in the next 40 years?]... ${ }^{7}$

FORM 1 ITEMS BASED ON N=779
FORM 2 ITEMS BASED ON N=767

|  |  | Will definitely happen | Will probably happen | Will probably not happen | Will definitely not happen | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a.F1 | Jesus Christ will return to earth |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 23 | 18 | 29 | 17 | 13 |
|  | May, 1999 | 22 | 22 | 27 | 17 | 12 |
| b.F1 | There will be another world war Apr 21-26, 2010 | 16 | 42 | 31 | 6 | 4 |
|  | TREND FOR COMPARISON: <br> There will be a nuclear war |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 9 | 32 | 46 | 11 | 2 |
| c.F2 | There will be a major terrorist attack on the U.S. involving a nuclear weapon Apr 21-26, 2010 | 10 | 43 | 36 | 7 | 4 |
|  | TREND FOR COMPARISON: <br> There will be a major terrorist attack on the U.S. involving biological or chemical weapons |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 13 | 51 | 28 | 4 | 4 |
| d.F2 | The world will face a major energy crisis |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 21 | 51 | 21 | 4 | 3 |
|  | May, 1999 | 15 | 48 | 30 | 4 | 3 |
| e.F1 | The earth will get warmer |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 27 | 39 | 21 | 9 | 4 |
|  | May, 1999 | 28 | 48 | 16 | 3 | 5 |

[^2]
## Q. 56 CONTINUED...

|  |  | Will definitely happen | Will probably happen | Will probably not happen | Will definitely not happen | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| f.F2 | The quality of the earth's environment will improve |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 9 | 38 | 41 | 9 | 3 |
|  | TREND FOR COMPARISON: |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | We will make progress in improving our environment |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 19 | 59 | 18 | 2 | 2 |
| g.F1 | An asteroid will hit the earth |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 5 | 26 | 46 | 16 | 7 |
|  | May, 1999 | 6 | 25 | 48 | 14 | 7 |
| h.F2 | We will find evidence of life elsewhere in the universe |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 12 | 38 | 33 | 12 | 4 |
|  | TREND FOR COMPARISON: |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | We will make contact with alien life |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 4 | 23 | 42 | 27 | 4 |
| i.F1 | Ordinary people will travel in space |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 14 | 39 | 35 | 10 | 2 |
|  | May, 1999 | 12 | 45 | 32 | 9 | 2 |
| j.F2 | Astronauts will land on Mars |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 14 | 49 | 27 | 7 | 2 |
|  | May, 1999 ${ }^{8}$ | 18 | 58 | 17 | 5 | 2 |
| k.F2 | There will be a cure for cancer |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 18 | 53 | 23 | 4 | 2 |
|  | May, 1999 | 23 | 58 | 16 | 2 | 1 |
|  | TREND FOR COMPARISON: |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | There will be a cure for AIDS |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 19 | 60 | 16 | 4 | 1 |
| l.F2 | Most Americans will have computer chips embedded in their bodies for identification |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 9 | 39 | 36 | 14 | 2 |
| m.F1 | China will overtake the U.S. as the world's main superpower Apr 21-26, 2010 | 12 | 34 | 33 | 16 | 5 |
|  | TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: <br> China will become a rival superpower to the U.S. |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 18 | 49 | 24 | 5 | 4 |
|  | The U.S. will remain the world's only superpower |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | May, 1999 | 13 | 31 | 43 | 10 | 3 |

[^3]

|  |  | Will definitely happen | Will probably happen | Will probably not happen | Will definitely not happen | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| z.F1 | Paper editions of newspapers will no longer exist |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 19 | 45 | 27 | 7 | 1 |
| aa.F2 | Paper money will no longer exist, all financial transactions will be electronic |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 15 | 48 | 27 | 8 | 2 |
| bb.F2 | Scientists will bring back an extinct animal species by cloning it |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Apr 21-26, 2010 | 9 | 42 | 36 | 11 | 2 |

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?
ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent | $\begin{gathered} \text { (VOL.) } \\ \text { No } \\ \text { preference } \end{gathered}$ | (VOL.) Other party | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | $\begin{gathered} \text { Lean } \\ \text { Rep } \end{gathered}$ | Lean <br> Dem |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 13 |
| Apr 8-11, 2010 | 23 | 32 | 38 | 5 | * | 2 | 17 | 13 |
| Apr 1-5, 2010 | 24 | 29 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 15 |
| Mar 18-21, 2010 | 24 | 30 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 13 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 28 | 34 | 32 | 3 | * | 3 | 13 | 12 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 37 | 6 | * | 3 | 14 | 13 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 26 | 31 | 37 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 42 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 16 |
| Dec 9-13, 2009 | 25 | 32 | 38 | 2 | * | 2 | 14 | 15 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 27 | 35 | 32 | 3 | * | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 23 | 34 | 37 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 |
| Sep 10-15, 2009 | 23 | 34 | 34 | 4 | * | 5 | 13 | 17 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 16 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 23 | 33 | 38 | 3 | * | 3 | 16 | 15 |
| Jul 22-26, 2009 | 22 | 34 | 37 | 5 | * | 2 | 15 | 14 |
| Jun 10-14, 2009 | 25 | 34 | 34 | 3 | * | 3 | 11 | 16 |
| Apr 28-May 12, 2009 | 23 | 39 | 29 | 4 | * | 4 | 9 | 14 |
| Yearly Totals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2009 | 23.9 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 3.4 | . 4 | 2.8 | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 25.3 | 35.8 | 31.7 | 3.8 | . 3 | 3.1 | 10.5 | 15.4 |
| 2007 | 25.4 | 32.9 | 33.7 | 4.6 | . 4 | 3.1 | 10.7 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 27.6 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 5.0 | . 4 | 3.9 | 10.2 | 14.5 |
| 2005 | 29.2 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 4.5 | . 3 | 2.8 | 10.2 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 29.8 | 3.9 | . 4 | 2.9 | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003 | 29.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 4.7 | . 5 | 2.5 | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| 2002 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 30.1 | 5.1 | . 7 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 11.6 |
| 2001 | 29.2 | 33.6 | 28.9 | 5.1 | . 5 | 2.7 | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | . 6 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 28.2 | 34.6 | 29.5 | 5.0 | . 5 | 2.1 | 11.7 | 12.5 |
| 2000 | 27.5 | 32.5 | 29.5 | 5.9 | . 5 | 4.0 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | . 5 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.5 | 33.2 | 31.9 | 4.6 | . 4 | 2.4 | 11.8 | 13.5 |

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

| (VOL.) | (VOL.) |  | Lean | Lean |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No | Other | (VOL.) |  |  |
| preference | party | DK/Ref | Rep | Dem |
| 4.0 | . 4 | 2.3 | 12.3 | 13.8 |
| 5.2 | -- | -- | 12.7 | 15.6 |
| 5.4 | -- | -- | 14.4 | 12.9 |
| 4.6 | -- | -- | 14.3 | 12.6 |
| 4.8 | -- | -- | 11.8 | 14.7 |
| 3.9 | -- | -- | 13.8 | 15.8 |
| 4.5 | -- | -- | 14.6 | 10.8 |
| 6.8 | -- | -- | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |


[^0]:    1 In May, 1999 the question asked about: "life for you and your family over the next 50 years."
    2 In May, 1999 the question asked about: "the future of the U.S., over the next 50 years."

[^1]:    3 In May, 1999 the question began: "Thinking ahead over the next 50 years..."
    In May, 1999 and before the statements read: "The U.S. economy will be stronger [OR] the U.S. economy will be weaker."
    In May, 1999 and before the statements read: "Health care will be MORE affordable [OR] health care will be LESS affordable."

[^2]:    7
    In May, 1999 the question began: "Now I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 50 years. "

[^3]:    8
    In May, 1999 the item read: "A manned spacecraft will land on Mars."

