

**2019 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 42 JANUARY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 7-21, 2019  
TOTAL N=4,464**

**ALL OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE OR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

See "[Trust and Mistrust in Americans' Views of Scientific Experts](#)"

**ASK FORM 1 [N=2,226]:**

PAST Compared with twenty years ago, do you think developments in science have made people's lives...

Jan 7-21

2019

85	Better
4	Worse
11	About the same
<1	No answer

**ASK FORM 1 [N=2,226]:**

FUTURE Looking ahead to the next twenty years, do you think developments in science will make people's lives...

Jan 7-21

2019

82	Better
6	Worse
11	About the same
<1	No answer

**IF FORM 1, RANDOMLY ASSIGN HALF OF RESPONDENTS TO FUTURE\_BOE AND HALF TO FUTURE\_WOE**

**ASK IF FORM 1 AND RANDOMLY ASSIGNED THIS QUESTION [N=1,113]:**

FUTURE\_BOE Thinking just about developments in science that will make people's lives BETTER, what kinds of developments do you think that would be?

Jan 7-21

2019

60	Medicine NET
<hr/>	
26	<i>Advances in health care and medicine</i>
17	<i>Cures and preventions</i>
14	<i>Treatments and medications</i>
3	<i>Medical technology</i>
3	<i>Medical research</i>
3	<i>Longevity of life</i>
1	<i>Developments from stem cells</i>
1	<i>Surgical techniques</i>
1	<i>Improvements that help people with disabilities</i>
14	Environment and environmental awareness NET
<hr/>	
6	<i>Changes in energy (alternative, etc.)</i>
5	<i>Environmental awareness</i>
2	<i>Global climate change</i>

2	<i>Air/water/ocean quality</i>
13	Technology and computerization NET
8	<i>Technological development</i>
3	<i>Robotics/AI/automation</i>
2	<i>Communication/connectivity</i>
21	Miscellaneous effects on life and society NET
7	Transportation/infrastructure/engineering NET
4	<i>Transportation options</i>
1	<i>Self-driving cars</i>
1	<i>Safer travel</i>
1	<i>Better infrastructure (bridges, buildings, city development, housing)</i>
4	Food NET
4	<i>Agriculture/food advancements</i>
<1	<i>GMOs</i>
4	Genetics NET
3	<i>Genetic engineering/therapy</i>
1	<i>DNA/genetic research</i>
<1	<i>Cloning</i>
2	Space exploration/travel
<1	Safety
<1	Entertainment
7	Miscellaneous effects on life and society-Other NET
2	<i>Making life easier and efficient</i>
2	<i>Quality of life/standard of living</i>
1	<i>Economic improvements</i>
1	<i>Increased knowledge</i>
1	<i>Innovation and research</i>
<1	<i>General better</i>
3	Other/indecipherable NET
1	<i>Mentions opposite response (answered worse)</i>
22	Don't know/no answer NET
3	<i>Don't know</i>
20	<i>No answer</i>

**ASK IF FORM 1 AND RANDOMLY ASSIGNED THIS QUESTION [N=1,113]:**

FUTURE\_WOE Thinking just about developments in science that will make people's lives WORSE, what kinds of developments do you think that would be?

Jan 7-21

2019

29	Technology and computerization NET
12	<i>Technological developments</i>
7	<i>Robotics/AI/automation</i>
5	<i>Advances in weaponry</i>
5	<i>Technology taking jobs</i>
3	<i>Lack of communication/connection</i>
1	<i>Dehumanization</i>
1	<i>Cybersecurity</i>
12	Genetics NET
6	<i>Cloning</i>
6	<i>Genetic engineering/manipulation</i>
11	Medicine NET
6	<i>Treatments and medications</i>

2	<i>Health and medicine related</i>
1	<i>Complications with longevity of life; overpopulation</i>
1	<i>Lack of cures/preventions</i>
1	<i>Medical research</i>
<1	<i>Medical technology</i>
20	Miscellaneous effects on life and society NET
6	Environment and environmental awareness NET
3	<i>Negative effects on environment</i>
1	<i>Global climate change</i>
1	<i>Changes in energy (alternative, etc.)</i>
4	Food NET
2	<i>Negative effects on agriculture/food</i>
2	<i>GMOs</i>
2	Transportation/infrastructure/engineering NET
1	<i>Self-driving cars</i>
<1	<i>Transportation options</i>
1	We don't know future effects
<1	Space exploration/travel
<1	Depends on how it's used
<1	Safety
<1	Entertainment
8	Miscellaneous effects on life and society - Other NET
2	<i>Loss of privacy/freedom</i>
2	<i>Widens gap between rich and poor</i>
1	<i>Innovation and research</i>
1	<i>Easing life/efficiency; making people lazy</i>
1	<i>Economic</i>
1	<i>General worse</i>
<1	<i>Negative effects on knowledge and education</i>
8	Other/indecipherable
2	<i>Mentions opposite response (answered better)</i>
35	Don't know/no answer NET
5	<i>Don't know</i>
30	<i>No answer</i>

**ASK FORM 2 [N=2,238]:**

SC1 Overall, would you say science has had a mostly positive effect on our society or a mostly negative effect on our society?

Jan 7-21  
2019

73	Mostly positive
3	Mostly negative
23	Equal positive and negative effects
<1	No answer

Mar 2-28  
2016

67
4
27
2

**ASK IF SCIENCE HAS HAD A "MOSTLY POSITIVE" EFFECT (SC1=1) [N=1,656]:**

SC1POS What are the main ways you think science has had a positive effect on society?

Jan 7-21	
<u>2019</u>	
56	Medicine NET
31	<i>Better treatments and cures</i>
22	<i>Improvements to health and medicine</i>
6	<i>Life expectancy</i>
2	<i>Medical research</i>
23	Technology and computerization NET
14	<i>Developments in technology</i>
6	<i>Speed of communication and information</i>
3	<i>Convenience and productivity due to technology</i>
1	<i>AI, robotics, etc.</i>
14	Environment and environmental awareness NET
6	<i>Awareness and care for environment</i>
3	<i>Improvements in energy</i>
3	<i>Climate science</i>
1	<i>Global climate change</i>
1	<i>Safety of and access to resources</i>
1	<i>Weather tracking</i>
47	Miscellaneous effect on life and society NET
6	Food NET
5	<i>Improvements to food (safer, better, etc.)</i>
1	<i>Agricultural innovations</i>
<1	<i>GMOS</i>
6	Transportation/infrastructure/engineering NET
4	<i>Transportation</i>
2	<i>Infrastructure improvements</i>
4	Space
1	Safety
1	Genetics NET
1	<i>DNA/genetics</i>
<1	<i>Gene editing of humans</i>
<1	Confirming creationism; linking religion and science
<1	Entertainment
<1	Depends on the way it's used
35	Miscellaneous effects on life and society - other NET
11	<i>Better understanding of the world</i>
8	<i>Quality of life/standard of living</i>
7	<i>Inventions and innovations</i>
5	<i>Increased knowledge</i>
3	<i>General positive</i>
2	<i>General research</i>
1	<i>Education</i>
1	<i>Economic growth</i>
<1	<i>Military defense/strength</i>
1	Other/indecipherable
14	Don't know/no answer NET
<1	<i>Don't know</i>
13	<i>No answer</i>

**ASK IF SCIENCE HAS HAD “MOSTLY NEGATIVE” OR “EQUAL POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS” (SC1=2,3) [N=576]:**

SC1NEG What are the main ways you think science has had a negative effect on society?

Jan 7-21

2019

11	Issues with scientists and scientific theories NET
5	<i>Issues with scientific studies and theories</i>
4	<i>Deception (from scientists, companies); driven by money</i>
1	<i>The science keeps changing</i>
1	<i>Science is politicized</i>
<1	<i>Theory of evolution</i>
10	Environment and environmental awareness NET
4	<i>Negative effects on environment</i>
3	<i>Global climate change</i>
3	<i>Climate science</i>
<1	<i>Weather tracking</i>
8	Technology and computerization NET
5	<i>Developments in technology</i>
2	<i>Inability to communicate</i>
1	<i>AI, robotics, etc.</i>
6	Medicine NET
6	<i>Lack of cures and treatments; negative effects of current treatments</i>
1	<i>Negative effects on health</i>
<1	<i>Complications with longevity of life</i>
6	Science goes against religion
17	Miscellaneous effects on life and society NET
2	Genetics NET
2	<i>Cloning</i>
1	<i>DNA/genetics</i>
<1	<i>Gene editing of humans</i>
2	Unknown consequences NET
1	<i>We don't know what we're doing</i>
<1	<i>Unknown future consequences</i>
1	Gone too far; some things should be left alone
1	Food NET
1	<i>Negative effects on food</i>
<1	<i>GMOs</i>
1	Unethical
1	Depends on the way it's used
<1	Space
9	Miscellaneous effects on life and society other NET
3	<i>Weapons development</i>
3	<i>General negative</i>
2	<i>Economic loss</i>
1	<i>Negative effects on innovation, industrialization</i>
<1	<i>Anti-chemical comments</i>
<1	<i>General research</i>
7	Other/indecipherable NET
1	<i>Mentions a positive</i>
35	Don't know/no answer NET
2	<i>Don't know</i>
33	<i>No answer</i>

