Survey Questions

PIAL1 Now I have a few questions about the future. Some books and movies portray a future where technology provides products and services that make life better for people. Others portray a future where technology causes environmental and social problems that make life worse for people. How about you? Over the long term, you think that technological changes will lead to a future where people's lives are mostly better or to a future where people's lives are mostly worse?

Mostly better	59%
Mostly worse	30
Don't know	10
Refused	1

PIAL2 Now I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 50 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]...

a. Computers will be as effective as people at creating important works of art such as music, novels, movies, or paintings

Definitely happen	16%
Probably happen	35
Probably NOT happen	25
Definitely NOT happen	20
Already happened (VOL.)	1
Don't know (VOL.)	2
Refused (VOL.)	*

b. People in need of an organ transplant will have new organs custom made for them in a lab

Definitely happen	22%
Probably happen	60
Probably NOT happen	10
Definitely NOT happen	5
Already happened (VOL.)	2
Don't know (VOL.)	2
Refused (VOL.)	0

c. Humans will build colonies on another planet that can be lived in for long periods

Definitely happen	5%
Probably happen	28
Probably NOT happen	39
Definitely NOT happen	25
Already happened (VOL.)	*
Don't know (VOL.)	3
Refused (VOL.)	*

d. Humans will be able to control the weather

Definitely happen	6%
Probably happen	13
Probably NOT happen	33
Definitely NOT happen	44
Already happened (VOL.)	2
Don't know (VOL.)	2
Refused (VOL.)	*

e. Scientists will have developed a way to teleport objects – that is, moving objects from one location to another without physically touching them

Definitely happen	7%
Probably happen	32
Probably NOT happen	34
Definitely NOT happen	22
Already happened (VOL.)	1
Don't know (VOL.)	4
Refused (VOL.)	*

PIAL3 Next, here are some other things that might happen in the next 50 years. For each, tell me if you think it would be a change for the better or a change for the worse if this happens. How about [INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]?

a. If lifelike robots become the primary caregivers for the elderly and people in poor health

Change for the better	28%
Change for the worse	65

Both good and bad (VOL.)	4
Don't know (VOL.)	3
Refused (VOL.)	*

b. If personal and commercial drones are given permission to fly through most U.S. airspace

Change for the better	22%
Change for the worse	63
Both good and bad (VOL.)	7
Don't know (VOL.)	7
Refused (VOL.)	1

c. If most people wear implants or other devices that constantly show them information about the world around them

Change for the better	37%
Change for the worse	53
Both good and bad (VOL.)	6
Don't know (VOL.)	5
Refused (VOL.)	*

d. If prospective parents can alter the DNA of their children to produce smarter, healthier, or more athletic offspring

Change for the better	26%
Change for the worse	66
Both good and bad (VOL.)	5
Don't know (VOL.)	3
Refused (VOL.)	*

PIAL4 Next, here are some things that people might be able to do in the next 50 years. For each, tell me if this were possible, would YOU PERSONALLY do this… (First,) Would you [INSERT ITEMS; RANDOMIZE]?

a. Eat meat that was grown in a lab

Yes, would do this	20%
No, would not do this	78
Don't know (VOL.)	2

Refused (VOL.)	*

b. Ride in a driverless car

Yes, would do this	48%
No, would not do this	50
Don't know (VOL.)	2
Refused (VOL.)	*

c. Get a brain implant to improve your memory or mental capacity

Yes, would do this	26%
No, would not do this	72
Don't know (VOL.)	2
Refused (VOL.)	0

PIAL5 Science fiction writers have always imagined new inventions that change the world of the future. How about you? If there was one futuristic invention that you could own, what would it be? [DO NOT READ; PRECODED OPEN-END; ACCEPT FIRST RESPONSE ONLY]

Improved health and longevity/Cure for diseases	9%
Time machine/Time travel	9
Flying car/Flying bike	6
Personal robot/Robot servants	4
Personal space craft	4
Self-driving car	3
Teleporter/Teleportation/Transporter	3
World peace/Stop wars/Improved understanding/Better planet	2
New energy source/efficient cars/other environment	2
Invention to make household tasks easier	1
Ability to live forever/Immortality	1
Jetpack	1
Money/Scheme to get rich/Ability to read future	1
Brain implant/Improve memory	1
Hovercar/Hoverboard	1
Hologram/Holodeck	*
Remote communications (via device or ESP)	*
Other	9
None/Nothing/Not interested in futuristic inventions	11

(VOL.) Don't know	28
(VOL.) Refused	*

Methods

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 13-18, 2014 among a national sample of 1,001 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 263 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. 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, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2013 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following 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:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total Sample	1,001	3.6 percentage points
Men	522	4.9 ppt
Women	479	5.2 ppt
18-29	144	9.4 ppt
30-49	231	7.4 ppt
50-64	295	6.6 ppt
65+	297	6.6 ppt

HS grad or less	347	6.1 ppt
Some college	297	6.6 ppt
College graduate	347	6.1 ppt
Less than $30,000	310	6.4 ppt
$30,000-$49,999	160	8.9 ppt
$50,000-$74,999	128	10.0 ppt
$75,000 or more	238	7.3 ppt
Urban	327	6.3 ppt
Suburban	457	5.3 ppt
Rural	217	7.7 ppt

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. 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.