# BACKGROUND AND CODEBOOK

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# 2017 SPRING SCIENCE SURVEY

### Background

This document provides background information and codebook details for those wishing to analyze the data from a 2017 Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults about the marches about science and environmental and energy issues. The survey was conducted by telephone with a national sample of 1,012 adults (410 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone and 602 were interviewed on a cellphone), 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Interviews were completed in English and Spanish by professionally trained interviewing staff under the direction of Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS) from May 3-7, 2017.

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

May 16, 2017 “Public Divides Over Environmental Regulation and Energy Policy”

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/05/16/public-divides-over-environmental-regulation-and-energy-policy/>

May 11, 2017 “Americans Divided on Whether Recent Science Protests Will Benefit Scientists' Causes”

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/05/11/americans-divided-on-whether-recent-science-protests-will-benefit-scientists-causes/>

### Margin of Sampling Error

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Group | Unweighted sample size | Plus or minus … |
| Total sample | 1,012 | 3.7 percentage points |
|  |  |  |
| 18-29 | 156 | 9.4 percentage points |
| 30-49 | 263 | 7.2 percentage points |
| 50-64 | 289 | 6.9 percentage points |
| 65+ | 304 | 6.7 percentage points |
|  |  |  |
| Republican/Lean Rep. | 377 | 6.0 percentage points |
| Democrat/Lean Dem. | 456 | 5.5 percentage points |
|  |  |  |
| Heard about science protests this April |  |  |
| A lot/A little | 635 | 4.7 percentage points |
| Nothing at all | 359 | 6.2 percentage points |

The survey’s *margin of error* is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample – the one around 50%. For example, the margin of error for the entire sample is ±3.7 percentage points. This means that in 95 out of every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 3.7 percentage points away from their true values in the population. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance used in this report take into account the effect of weighting. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### Weighting

The combined landline and cellphone sample is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity, marital status and region to parameters from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2016 Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the 2010 decennial census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cellphone only, or both landline and cellphone), based on extrapolations from the 2016 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cellphones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey’s design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

### Protection of Respondent Confidentiality

As a matter of policy to maintain confidentiality, the Pew Research Center does not release respondent names, contact numbers, or any other uniquely identifying information. In order to maintain confidentiality, some variables may have been collapsed into categories before being released. These changes are identified in each variable’s codebook description.

## CODEBOOK

This section describes the variables included in the dataset. For complete detail on question wording, filtering, and order, see the full questionnaire.

The Stata version of the dataset was created using StatTransfer. As a result, the names of variables along with variable labels and value labels in the Stata file may be truncated; users should consult this codebook for full details on variable labels and value labels.

**SAMPLE AND CREATED VARIABLES**

CASE\_ID Unique respondent identification number

WEIGHT Weight variable

STATE State

1. Alabama
2. Alaska
3. Arizona
4. Arkansas
5. California
6. Colorado
7. Connecticut
8. Delaware
9. District of Columbia
10. Florida
11. Georgia
12. Hawaii
13. Idaho
14. Illinois
15. Indiana
16. Iowa
17. Kansas
18. Kentucky
19. Louisiana
20. Maine
21. Maryland
22. Massachusetts
23. Michigan
24. Minnesota
25. Mississippi
26. Missouri
27. Montana
28. Nebraska
29. Nevada
30. New Hampshire
31. New Jersey
32. New Mexico
33. New York
34. North Carolina
35. North Dakota
36. Ohio
37. Oklahoma
38. Oregon
39. Pennsylvania
40. Rhode Island
41. South Carolina
42. South Dakota
43. Tennessee
44. Texas
45. Utah
46. Vermont
47. Virginia
48. Washington
49. West Virginia
50. Wisconsin
51. Wyoming

METRO

1. No metro status
2. City Center (Metro)
3. Center City County (Metro)
4. Suburban (Metro)
5. Non-Center City (Metro)
6. Non-Metro

REGION U.S. Census Bureau region

1. North East
2. North Central
3. South
4. West

DIVISION U.S. Census Bureau division

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

OWNHOME Is your home owned or rented?

1. Owned
2. Rented
3. Don’t know
4. Refused

MSTATUS Are you…? (Marital status)

1. Single, that is never married
2. Single, that is living with a partner
3. Married
4. Separated
5. Widowed
6. Divorced
7. Refused

EMPLOY Employment Status

1. Full-time
2. Part-time
3. Retired
4. Homemaker
5. Student
6. Temporarily unemployed
7. Disabled/Handicapped
8. Other not employed
9. Refused

TOTPER Including yourself, how many people are living in your household?

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five
6. Six
7. Seven
8. Eight or more
9. Refused

ADULTS How many of these are adults, 18 or older?

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five
6. Six
7. Seven
8. Eight or more
9. Refused

KIDS1217 How many are children 12 to 17?

1. None
2. One
3. Two
4. Three
5. Four
6. Five
7. Six
8. Seven
9. Eight or more
10. Refused

KIDS611 How many are children 6 to 11?

1. None
2. One
3. Two
4. Three
5. Four
6. Five
7. Six
8. Seven
9. Eight or more
10. Refused

KIDSLESS6 How many are children under 6?

1. None
2. One
3. Two
4. Three
5. Four
6. Five
7. Six
8. Seven
9. Eight or more
10. Refused

PARENT Are you the parent or guardian of anyone under 18 in your household?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know
4. Refused

AGE What is your age?

AGE2 Could you please tell me if you are…?

1. 18-29
2. 30-49
3. 50-64
4. 65+
5. Refused

TOTALAGE Reformatted age #1

1. 18-29
2. 30-49
3. 50-64
4. 65+
5. Refused

REFAGE Reformatted age #2

1. 18-29
2. 30-44
3. 45-64
4. 65+
5. Refused

EDUC What is the highest level of school you have completed or degree you have received?

1. Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)
2. High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma)
3. High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)
4. Some college, no degree (includes community college)
5. Two year associate degree from a college or university
6. Four year college or university degree/Bachelor’s degree (e.g. BS, BA, AB)
7. Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree
8. Postgraduate or professional degree, including master’s, doctorate, medical, or law degree (e.g. MA, MS, PhD, MD, JD)
9. Don’t know
10. Refused

INCOME Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes…?

1. Less than $15,000
2. $15,000 but less than $25,000
3. $25,000 but less than $30,000
4. $30,000 but less than $40,000
5. $40,000 but less than $50,000
6. $50,000 but less than $75,000
7. $75,000 but less than $10,000
8. $100,000 and over (Unspecified)
9. Less than $50,000 (Unspecified)
10. $50,000 but less than $100,000 (Unspecified)
11. Over $100,000
12. $100,000 to under $150,000
13. $150,000 to under $200,000
14. $200,000 to under $250,000
15. $250,000 or more
16. Don’t know
17. Refused

RACE Race of respondent

1. White Non-Hispanic
2. Black Non-Hispanic
3. White Hispanic
4. Black Hispanic
5. Unspecified Hispanic
6. Asian/Chinese/Japanese
7. Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native
8. Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander
9. Other Race
10. Mixed
11. Refused

REGVOTE Are you registered to vote at your present address or not?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know
4. Refused

C3a How many telephone numbers does your household have that I could have reached you on? Not extensions, but different telephone numbers, not counting cell phones?

SEX

1. Male
2. Female

RELIGION What is your present religion, if any? Are you…

1. Baptist
2. Catholic, Roman Catholic
3. Evangelical
4. Jehovah’s Witness
5. Jewish/Judaism
6. Lutheran
7. Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints/LDS)
8. Muslim/Islamic
9. Orthodox (Eastern, Greek, Russian, Armenian, etc)
10. Pentecostal (Assemblies of God, Four-Square Gospel)
11. Presbyterian
12. Protestant
13. Seventh Day Adventist
14. Unitarian/Universalist
15. Buddhist
16. Hindu
17. Christian (Just Christian)
18. Non-denominational or Independent
19. Episcopalian or Anglican
20. Methodist
21. Church of Christ, or Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)
22. Church of God
23. Congregational or United Church of Christ (UCC)
24. Holiness (Nazarenes, Wesleyan Church, Salvation Army)
25. Reformed
26. Nothing in particular
27. Atheist
28. Agnostic
29. Other
30. Don’t know
31. Refused

IDENT

1. Landline
2. Cell Phone sample
3. Landline in language
4. Cell phone in language

ANYCELL Now thinking about telephone use… Does anyone in your household, including yourself, have a working cell phone?

1. Yes, respondent or someone in household has cell phone
2. No
3. Don’t know
4. Refused

ANYLAND Now thinking about your telephone use, is that at least one telephone INSIDE your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone?

1. Yes, has a home telephone
2. No, no home telephone

8 Don’t know

1. Refused

C1a How many different cell phone numbers do you personally answer calls on?

BORNUS Were you born on the island of Puerto Rico, the United States or in another country?

1. United States
2. Puerto Rico
3. Another Country
4. Don’t know
5. Refused

QNCO3 How many years have you lived in the United States?

DATE

HEALTHINSU Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time?

1. Yes, covered by health insurance
2. No, not covered by health insurance
3. Don’t know
4. Refused

TYPEINS Which of the following is your MAIN source of health insurance coverage? Is it:

1. Somewhere else
2. Plan through your or your spouse’s employer
3. Plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or a state or federal marketplace
4. Medicare
5. Medicaid/state-specific Medicaid plan
6. Plan through your parents/mother/father
7. Don’t know
8. Refused

HE2K Did you purchase your plan directly from an insurance company, from the marketplace known as healthcare.gov or a state-specific marketplace or through an insurance agent or broker?

1. Directly from an insurance company
2. From healthcare.gov/state-specific marketplace
3. Through an insurance agent or broker
4. Somewhere else
5. Don’t know
6. Refused

HE2Z Regardless of how you purchased your plan, do you know if it is a marketplace or healthcare.gov or a state-specific marketplace plan, is it NOT a marketplace or healthcare.gov or state specific plan, or are not sure?

1. Marketplace plan
2. Non-marketplace plan
3. Not sure
4. Refused

**MAIN SURVEY**

**ASK ALL**

On another topic

PEW1 Right now, how would you rate each of the following priorities for America’s energy policies?

First, do you think **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** Do you think **[ITEM]** should be a top priority for America’s energy policies, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? *{modified stem and response options 8-10}*

a. Reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources

b. Creating jobs within the energy sector

c. Protecting the environment from the effects of energy development and use

d. Keeping consumer energy prices low

e. Increasing reliance on renewable energy sources *{new}*

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

1 Top priority

2 Important but lower priority

3 Not too important

4 Should not be done

9 Don’t know/Refused (**VOL.**)

**ASK ALL**

PEW2 Which of these statements come closest to your own view about the MOST EFFECTIVE WAY to increase reliance on renewable energy sources, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]** *{new}*

1. Government regulations are necessary to encourage businesses and consumers to rely more on renewable energy sources
2. The private marketplace will ensure that businesses and consumers rely more on renewable energy sources, even without government regulations
3. **[VOL. –DO NOT READ]** Don’t know/Refused

**ASK ALL**

PEW3 As you think about energy sources, do you think of the use of each of the following energy sources is very effective in minimizing air pollution, somewhat effective, not too effective, or not at all effective in minimizing air pollution? First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?** **[NEXT ITEM]**? [**IF NECESSARY:** Is the use of **[ITEM]** very effective in minimizing air pollution, somewhat effective, not too effective, or not at all effective?] *{new}*

a. Natural gas

b. Coal

c. Solar power

d. Wind power

e. Nuclear power

f. Oil

RESPONSE CATEGORIES

1 Very effective in minimizing air pollution

2 Somewhat effective

3 Not too effective

4 Not at all effective in minimizing air pollution

9 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL. –DO NOT READ)**

**ASK ALL**

PEW4 Do you think it is possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still effectively protect air and water quality in the U.S. or do you think it’s not possible to do this with fewer regulations? *{new}*

1. Yes, possible to cut back on environmental regulations and still effectively protect air and water quality
2. No, not possible to do this with fewer regulations
3. Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW5 Do you think the Trump Administration is doing too much, too little, or about the right amount to protect the environment? {based on TFC LAT 4-01, 8-06} {QID:qid}

1 Too much

2 Too little

3 About the right amount

9 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

On another topic

PEW6 Which of these statements comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]** {*mod Politics 3-16, phone*}

1. Ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence government if they are willing to make the effort
2. There’s not much ordinary citizens can do to influence government

9 **[VOL. –DO NOT READ]** Don’t know/Refused

**ASK ALL:**

PEW7 Just your impression, would you say there are more, fewer or about the same number of protests, marches and demonstrations these days, compared with recent years? {new}

1. More
2. Fewer
3. About the same number

9 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW8 Would you say news organizations give too much, too little or about the right amount of coverage to protests, marches and demonstrations these days? {new}

1. Too much
2. Too little
3. About the right amount
4. Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL**

PEW9 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about protests, marches and demonstrations ABOUT SCIENCEheld this April? **[READ]** *{based on trend}*

1. A lot
2. A little
3. Nothing at all
4. **[VOL. –DO NOT READ]** Don’t know/Refused

**ASK ALL**

PEW10From what you’ve heard, do you strongly support, support, oppose or strongly oppose the goals of the protests, marches and demonstrations about science held this April? *{mod based on Race 2016 black lives matter movement}*

1. Strongly support
2. Support
3. Oppose
4. Strongly oppose
5. Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW11 Do you think protests, marches and demonstrations about science held this Aprilwill be effective or not effective at the following? First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** Do you think protests, marches and demonstrations about science will be effective or not effective at **[ITEM]**? *{new}*

1. Encouraging scientists to be more active in civic and public affairs
2. Raising support for government funding of science
3. Encouraging policymakers to rely more on the advice of scientific experts
4. Increasing efforts to address global climate change
5. Yes, effective
6. No, not effective

9 Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW12 Overall, do you think the protests, marches and demonstrations about science held this April will help, hurt or make no difference to public support for science? *{new}*

1. Help
2. Hurt
3. Make no difference
4. Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW13Do you think that opposition to the Trump administration’s handling of science issues is a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason that people participated in protests, marches and demonstrations about science held this April?*{new}*

1. A major reason
2. A minor reason
3. Not a reason
   1. Don’t know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent? {QID:party}

1 Republican

2 Democrat

3 Independent

4 No preference **(VOL.)**

5 Other party **(VOL.)**

9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party? {QID:partyln}

1 Republican

2 Democrat

9 Other/Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as... **[READ]** {QID:ideo}

1 Very conservative

2 Conservative

3 Moderate

4 Liberal [OR]

5 Very liberal

9 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't know/Refused