INSIDE

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Trust

Protection, Progress, and Perseverance

Pew's commitment to public service brought new accomplishments in 2019, from conservation in Chile to better opportunities for Americans' retirement savings.

Winter 2020 | Vol. 22, No. 1

TIME CAPSULE

In 1989, four decades after the creation of the Pew Memorial Foundation, Pew made $146 million in grants to 448 organizations—an amount that equaled the total grantmaking of the organization's first 25 years. With growing assets, Pew adopted four operating principles that would guide it through the end of the 20th century: service, accountability, open communication, and interdisciplinary programming. These principles were applied to six program areas: the environment, culture, education, health and human services, public policy, and religion.

Peter Tobia for The Pew Charitable Trusts

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Cover: Antonio Vizcaíno

Trust
magazine.pewtrusts.org
ISSN: 1540-4587

The Pew Charitable Trusts is a public charity driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Working with partners and donors, Pew conducts fact-based research and rigorous analysis to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.

Pew is the sole beneficiary of seven individual charitable funds established between 1948 and 1979 by two sons and two daughters of Sun Oil Co. founder Joseph N. Pew and his wife, Mary Anderson Pew.

A Brighter Tomorrow Begins With Lessons Learned Today

Theodore Roosevelt, whose full and multifaceted life included exemplary public service as a military leader, governor of New York, conservationist, and president of the United States, understood that history is the best guide to a brighter tomorrow. "The more you know about the past," he said, "the better prepared you are for the future."

This issue of *Trust* begins with our annual look at last year's accomplishments. In 2019, Pew continued to work—often with equally ambitious and data-driven partners—on initiatives ranging from expanding public lands to supporting arts and heritage in Philadelphia. And many of our accomplishments would not have been possible without understanding the history that created an opportunity to address an important new challenge.

For example, today's most common retirement plan is the 401(k), which Congress created in 1978 to permit employees to save money on a pre-tax basis while employers match some of those savings. The plans increased in popularity in 1981 when the Internal Revenue Service allowed payroll deductions. And in 2006, after research supported by Pew showed the effectiveness of automatic participation, federal law began to allow employers to automatically enroll workers in retirement plans, further increasing their use. Yet our most recent analysis determined that only 53 percent of small and medium-sized businesses offered their employees a retirement plan—and 37 percent of those businesses cited cost as the reason. This careful study of past trends in private sector pensions gave rise to a new U.S. Labor Department rule in July, citing our research, that allows small companies to band together and provide future retirement security for their workers.

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey inundated Houston and its suburbs. The storm was the latest in a sad history in Texas that saw Galveston devastated in 1900 and more recent hurricanes such as Rita in 2005 and Ike in 2008, causing hundreds of billions of dollars in damage. But in June, the Lone Star State became a national leader in planning for future floods and mitigating damage—in part because of that history, and in part because of research by Pew that helped inform Texas' first flood plan, including $800 million for mitigation. That's almost three times what the federal government budgeted for the entire nation.

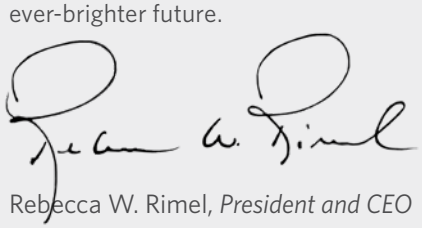
In 2019, Pew continued to work—often with equally ambitious and data-driven partners—on initiatives ranging from expanding public lands to supporting arts and heritage in Philadelphia.

The Pew Research Center, of course, has spent decades surveying and analyzing social, political, religious, and demographic trends in the United States and around the world. This evidence-based research now includes more than 50 new reports developed over the past two years that builds on much of this work and forms the center's Trust, Facts, and Democracy initiative. As the nation prepares for the 2020 elections, Michael Dimock, the center's president, has written an overview of how the public views the accuracy of news, the role of social media, the tone and nature of political debate, and the ways in which people gauge trust in their fellow Americans' political decision-making and in Washington institutions. For example, in 1958, three-quarters of Americans trusted the federal government in Washington to do the right thing. That number has now fallen to 17 percent. The center's fact-based work is intended, as Mike writes, to help policymakers "channel

the power of rigorous and objective information to inform decisions and strengthen democratic life."

Chilean Patagonia's ecological diversity and natural beauty is matched only by the region's rich history. The area has been inhabited by indigenous people for more than 10,000 years and probably earned its name from the word *patagones*, or giant men, which is how Ferdinand Magellan's crew described the native Tehuelche people when the Portuguese explorer arrived there in 1520. Today, indigenous residents of Patagonia are instrumental in bringing their knowledge of the region's history to bear on current conservation concerns. In this issue, you'll meet one of them, Blanca Esther Cardenas. Along with others in her small community, she collects red seaweed, which can be used in food, medicine, and cosmetics. When outside interests started to take the seaweed for their own benefit, Cardenas helped create a marine management area to protect the seaweed and the sea—so, as she says in the story, "we don't exhaust those resources in the future."

At Pew, we never want to exhaust our enthusiasm for learning and our commitment to public service. Together with our partners, who help us understand challenges like these and see the opportunities they present, we eagerly begin a new year and a new decade. It is a perfect time to honor our past, understand the challenges of our present, and stay optimistic about an ever-brighter future.



Rebecca W. Rimel, *President and CEO*

Trust

Winter 2020 | Vol. 22, No. 1

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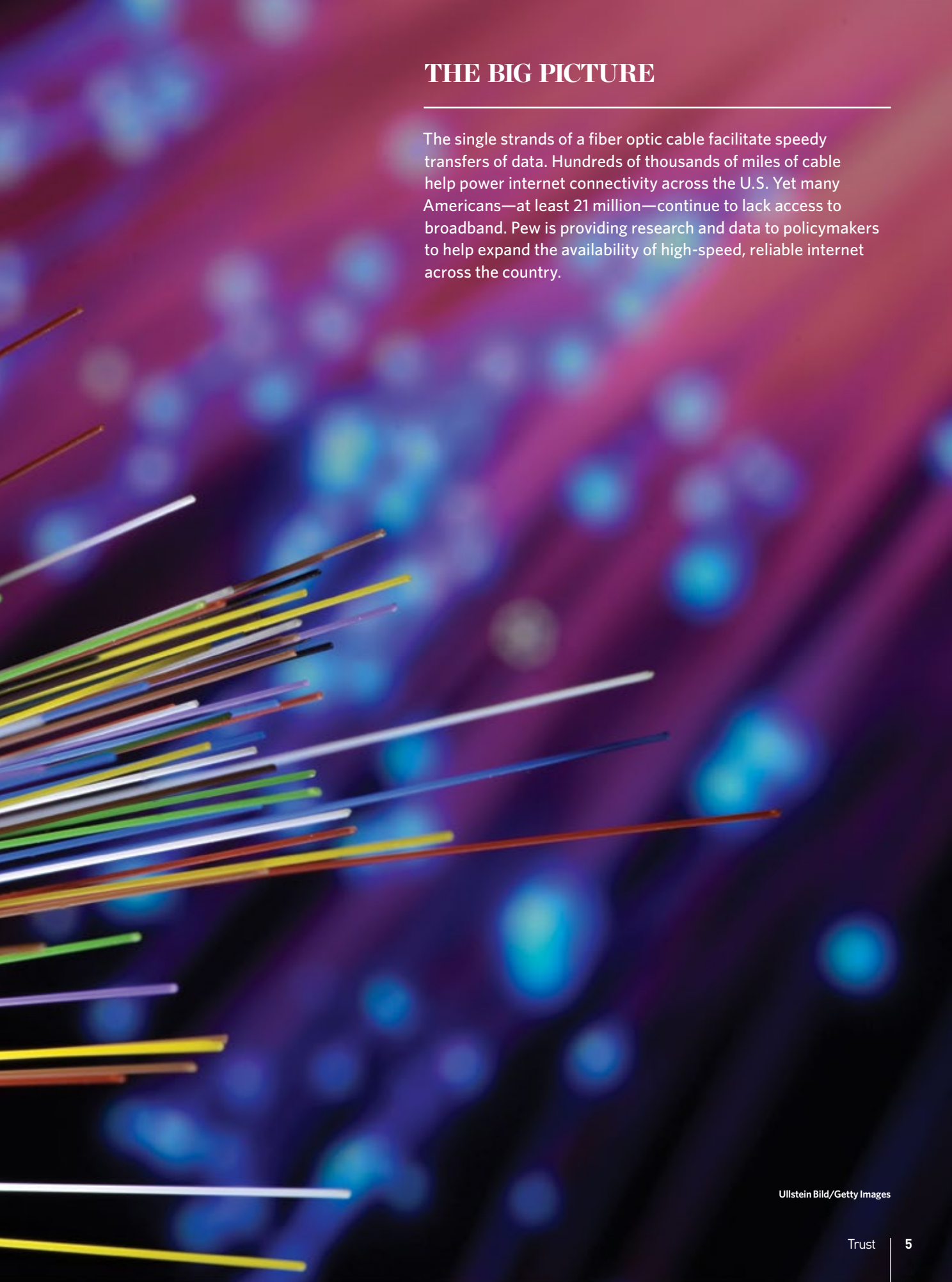
THE BIG PICTURE

The single strands of a fiber optic cable facilitate speedy transfers of data. Hundreds of thousands of miles of cable help power internet connectivity across the U.S. Yet many Americans—at least 21 million—continue to lack access to broadband. Pew is providing research and data to policymakers to help expand the availability of high-speed, reliable internet across the country.



Ullstein Bild/Getty Images

A rare sight, a North American right whale mother and calf swim in the Atlantic Ocean. Right whales are critically endangered throughout their range. *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Off New England, Once-Plentiful Whales Face Extinction

BY JOHN BRILEY

If you haven't heard about North Atlantic right whales, it might be because their numbers are so small. Only about 400 remain, making these cetaceans one of the world's most endangered large species. But it doesn't have to be that way.

North Atlantic right whales live, feed, and mate off the East Coast of North America, migrating each fall from the Canadian Maritimes and New England to calve in waters off the Southeast U.S. In their home territory and along that journey, they face a gantlet of threats, chiefly entanglement in the ropes stringing lobster and crab traps to buoys, and strikes from ships along this heavily trafficked corridor.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has been aware of these problems for years: A downward trend in the North Atlantic right whale population began in 2010, and 30 whales have died since 2017.

Meanwhile, scientists have observed only 12 births since the 2017 calving season—less than one-third the previous average annual birth rate. These data led the agency to ramp up efforts to help the animals, including adjusting shipping routes, considering new regulations to protect them from entanglement in fishing gear, and working with the fishing industry on gear designs less likely to injure and kill whales.

A downward trend in the North Atlantic right whale population began in 2010, and 30 whales have died since 2017.

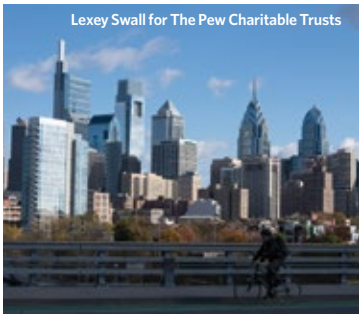
So far these efforts have fallen short. A study published in June by a team of whale biologists, veterinarians, and pathologists concluded, "If the present downward trend continues, the population could become functionally extinct within a few decades."

In evaluating the cause of death for 70 right whales from Florida to the Gulf of St. Lawrence between 2003 and 2018, the authors found that almost 90 percent of the cases in which the cause of death was determined were caused by preventable trauma—that is, entanglements and vessel strikes. Many of the injuries were severe: ropes wrapped around whales' heads, mouths, baleen, flippers, and flukes, causing deep lacerations, bone deformities, partial or total amputations, starvation, and drowning. Injuries can also lead to poor feeding and swimming, and entanglements are blamed for lower reproduction rates as well.

More recently, the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, the primary advisory body to NOAA Fisheries, proposed that lobster fishermen use fewer traps, and weaker rope, which may not be enough to stop lethal entanglements. Pew has advocated for a transition to ropeless gear, such as units retrievable via remote beacons, and for seasonal area closures in places of high risk to whales. The latest round of right whale deaths shows that NOAA needs to act quickly and decisively.

"I doubt that anyone, including New England fishermen, wants to see the North Atlantic right whale go extinct," says Peter Baker, who leads Pew's oceans work in the Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada. "We have a chance to save them, but we won't have many more. To save these whales from extinction, NOAA must continue to work with fishermen and engineers to develop ropeless gear for use in areas where whales migrate. In the meantime, NOAA should implement seasonal fishery closures where right whales are most likely to become entangled in lobster gear."

Who's Leaving Philadelphia?


Lexey Swall for The Pew Charitable Trusts

Each year, roughly 60,000 residents leave Philadelphia. To find out what motivates these moves, Pew's Philadelphia research initiative surveyed 1,000 people who had recently relocated—and found no single reason to be dominant. Instead, the survey found that reasons for leaving varied based on respondents' age, income, ties to the area, education level, and whether the moves were to the Philly suburbs or to locations outside of the region completely.

The largest number left for job opportunities, either better positions elsewhere or an inability to find the right job in Philadelphia. Jobs were cited by 26 percent of those surveyed overall and 44 percent of people who had left the region. Employment was also the primary motivator for those with bachelor's degrees or higher, as well as for those who moved to the area after childhood. Moves by those with roots in Philadelphia or a high school diploma or less were more often motivated by concerns about public safety and other quality-of-life issues.

Age played a role as well. Although employment was the main reason cited by those under age 50, job opportunities were much less of a factor for people ages 50 or over. Among this cohort, 27 percent cited public safety as their top concern, followed by the cost of living at 17 percent, and neighborhood change at 13 percent.

The survey also noted that people who have moved out of Philadelphia in the past several years differ in several ways from those who have remained. For starters, movers are younger than city residents as a whole—half of the movers are ages 18-34, a group that represents 30 percent of the city's overall population. And although African-Americans are Philadelphia's largest racial or ethnic group, the biggest contingent of movers has been non-Hispanic whites; they represented 45 percent of the outflow while African-Americans made up 30 percent, Hispanics 13 percent, and Asians 7 percent.

"Different demographic groups had varied explanations for leaving, but jobs were at or near the top of the list cited by blacks, whites, Hispanics, and Asians, and public safety was just as important as jobs for both blacks and Hispanics," says Larry Eichel, who directs the research initiative. "It's also worth noting that most survey respondents didn't characterize themselves as fleeing the city. In fact, 70 percent rated Philadelphia a good or excellent place to live."

—Demetra Aposporos

Student Loan Borrowers Need More Support

More than 43 million Americans have student loans through federal government programs, the largest section of the education loan market, and over the past decade the total debt from those loans has skyrocketed from about $650 billion to approximately $1.4 trillion.

This college debt can become an unwieldy burden for many: According to a report from Pew released in November, within five years of beginning to pay back their loans, about a quarter of the borrowers in the study defaulted, defined as making no payment for 270 days in a row.

In addition, 21 percent of borrowers owed more than their original balances after paying on loans for five years. This outcome is, at least in part, a result of having missed or stopped payments at times, periods during which interest continues to accrue and drive up the overall debt. Only 22 percent of borrowers had never missed or paused payments.

The report provides a broad overview of the pathways that borrowers take through repayment and where they struggle during the loan repayment process over a five-year period.

It highlighted that borrowers who owe the least, often less than $10,000, default at higher rates. Existing data suggest that many began—but didn't finish—college, and so may not be able to access the higher-paying jobs that often come with a degree. Furthermore, students of color, first-generation students, and those who attend for-profit colleges are also at greater risk of defaulting.

"It's critical to identify at-risk borrowers before they are in distress—in particular, by looking at indicators such as missing payments early on, repeatedly suspending payments, and previous defaults," says Sarah Sattelmeyer, who directs Pew's research on student debt repayment.

Borrowers who fail to repay student loans can face serious financial consequences. They may get charged collection fees, have their wages garnished, or have money withheld from income tax refunds or other federal payments, such as Social Security. Failure to repay loans could also damage credit scores, and make borrowers ineligible for other aid programs.

The report recommends that Congress and the U.S. Department of Education, which holds a majority of student loans, take steps to increase repayment success with a focus on three points: Identify struggling borrowers early before they are in distress, guide loan servicers on how to help these borrowers, and eliminate barriers to enrollment in affordable repayment plans.

In December, an important bipartisan step forward in relieving one obstacle for borrowers came when President Donald Trump signed a new law that requires data sharing between the Internal Revenue Service and the education department. The move will help borrowers who are in repayment plans based on their family size and incomes by steamlining duplicative income verification requirements they must make each year.

"The typical borrower is not someone who puts their payment on autopay and forgets about it. Many go back to school, miss payments, experience financial distress, and struggle with an overly complex repayment system," says Sattelmeyer. "If we can identify struggling borrowers early, we can engage sooner, providing them resources when and where they need them."

—Carol Kaufmann

Banter Snaps/Unsplash

Karrastock/Getty Images

Americans Wary of News on Social Media Sites

As heated debate continues over how social media sites can improve the quality of news on their platforms while enforcing rules fairly, most Americans are pessimistic about these efforts and highly concerned about several issues when it comes to social media and news.

Majorities say that social media companies have too much control over the news on their sites, and that the role social media companies play in delivering news results in a worse mix of news for users. At the same time, social media is now a part of the news diet of an increasingly large share of the U.S. population.

These findings are based on a survey conducted July 8-21, 2019, among 5,107 U.S. adults who are members of the Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel. The study also examined Americans' perceptions of the biggest problems when it comes to social media and news, the political slant of news posts they see on social media, and which sites they go to for news.

"Almost all Americans—about 9 in 10, or 88 percent—recognize that social media companies have at least some control over the mix of news people see," says Elisa Shearer, lead author of the survey. And most Americans feel this is a problem: About 6 in 10 (62 percent) say social media companies have too much control over the mix of news people see on their sites, roughly four times as many as say that they don't have enough control (15 percent). Just 21 percent say that social media companies have the right amount of control over the news people see.

The largest social media platforms control the content on their feeds using computer algorithms that rank and prioritize posts and other content tailored to the interests of each user. These sites allow users to customize these settings, although previous research has found that many Americans feel uncertain about why certain posts appear in their news feed on Facebook specifically. Social media companies have also been public about their efforts to fight both false information and fake accounts on their sites.

Although social media companies say these efforts are meant to make the news experience on their sites better for everyone, most Americans think they just make things worse. A majority (55 percent) say that the role social media companies play in delivering the news on their sites results in a worse mix of news. Only a small share (15 percent) say it results in a better mix of news, while about 3 in 10 (28 percent) think these efforts make no real difference.

—Demetra Aposporos

Joshua Tree National Park in California was expanded as part of the largest land conservation legislation approved in a decade. *Alan Copson/Getty Images*

From conducting research aimed at improving retirement savings opportunities to seeking passage of the nation's largest land conservation law in a decade, Pew worked with a variety of organizations in 2019 to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.

A YEAR of COLLAB


ORATIVE
WORK

Matteo Colombo/Getty Images

LAND PRESERVATION

The largest land conservation legislation passed by Congress in a decade protects more than 2 million acres of land and 676 miles of rivers and includes expansion of Death Valley National Park, which straddles the border between California and Nevada. A rare bipartisan success story, the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act—named for the longtime conservationist lawmaker from Michigan—was overwhelmingly approved by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump in March. The legislation came after research, public education, outreach, and administrative action amid growing public awareness about the value of our shared natural landscapes. The bill included six Pew priorities that resulted in protection of lands and waters in California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Campion Foundation
The Conservation Alliance
Harder Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Patagonia
Tortuga Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

In September, the Pacific Fishery Management Council unanimously decided to authorize deep-set buoy gear for use by California's swordfish fleet as an alternative to indiscriminate large-mesh drift gillnets, which are suspended near the surface and kill and injure more whales, dolphins, and porpoises on the U.S. West Coast than all other types of commercial fishing gear combined. Deep-set buoy gear is an innovative method that drops hooks deep into the water—as far down as 1,200 feet—to where swordfish typically feed, then uses a strike indicator to relay when a fish is on the line. This promotes catching mainly the targeted species—swordfish—and also allows for any bycatch to be released more quickly. The gear has undergone more than eight years of research and testing, and Pew helped to fund its development.

INNOVATIVE FISHING GEAR

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation

Ralph Pace

OPIOID TREATMENT

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the proven most effective intervention for patients with opioid use disorder, combining any of three Food and Drug Administration-approved medicines with behavioral health therapy. But it isn't always available due to a lack of qualified providers, limited funding, or available resources. Pew has been working to prioritize MAT and expand access to it across the country. Last January, after a Pew study showed just 46 percent of state-licensed drug treatment slots in Philadelphia offered MAT, the city announced all 80 residential drug treatment programs would offer the treatment within a year. Delaware and Louisiana, after working with Pew to assess how to better expand access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder, approved bills to increase the number of providers offering MAT, boost the medications' availability in residential treatment facilities, and encourage correctional facilities to offer these medications as well.

After enduring multiple floods in recent years, including those from Hurricane Harvey which inundated Houston and its suburbs, Texas lawmakers and Governor Greg Abbott in June enacted new legislation making the Lone Star State a national leader in planning for future floods—and investment in how to mitigate them. Pew's flood preparedness team and state fiscal health project helped build support for two key bills that require Texas policymakers to develop the state's first flood plan, using watershed-based strategies, and to set aside $800 million for mitigation, which is almost three times the amount the federal government appropriated in 2019 for those efforts for the entire nation.

FLOOD-PREPARED COMMUNITIES

Scott Olson/Getty Images

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The J. M. Kaplan Fund

Made up of fjords, forests, wetlands, waters, and towering mountain peaks, Chile's Kawésqar National Park and Kawésqar National Reserve are spread across southwestern Patagonia. In January, the Chilean government created these new protected areas, which total more than 13 million acres, furthering its reputation as a world leader in conservation. Pew, working with partners and local organizations, is seeking long-term protection of Patagonia, one of the world's last largely intact natural areas.

CHILEAN CONSERVATION

Antonio Vizcaíno

Pew research determined that only 53 percent of small- to mid-sized businesses offer a retirement plan. The analysis from Pew, which is studying the challenges and opportunities for increasing retirement saving, also showed that 37 percent of those small businesses cited cost as the reason. In July, the U.S. Department of Labor cited those findings when it issued a rule making it easier for small private-sector companies to band together and provide retirement plans to their workers. And in December, President Donald Trump signed legislation that says businesses no longer have to be in the same industry to band together in order to offer a retirement plan. Easing that restriction will allow larger plans available to all employers that proponents say will provide economies of scale and reduce administrative costs.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS

SHARK PROTECTIONS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

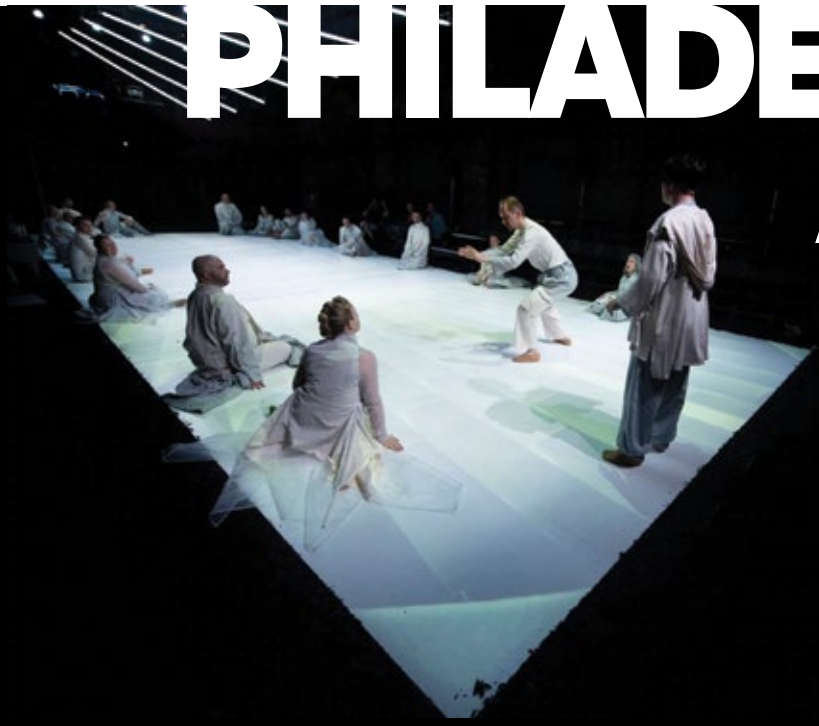
Shark Conservation Fund

More than a dozen shark species at risk of extinction gained protections in August thanks to a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species vote that secured historic international trade restrictions. The safeguards cover 18 species of rays and sharks including makos, giant guitarfish, and wedgefish, all categorized as endangered or critically endangered due to population declines—some greater than 70 percent—caused by overfishing, inadequate management, and a lack of trade controls. Some experts estimate that up to 100 million sharks are killed each year—mainly for their fins, used in shark fin soup. Now any fins or meat traded internationally must come from sustainably managed fisheries that don't harm the status of wild populations.

Pew has spent a decade working with stakeholders to bring attention to the plight of sharks and rays, grow momentum for protecting such commercially valuable marine life, and champion the stewardship of our global resources.

Benjamin Lowy/Getty Images

PHILADELPHIA ARTS

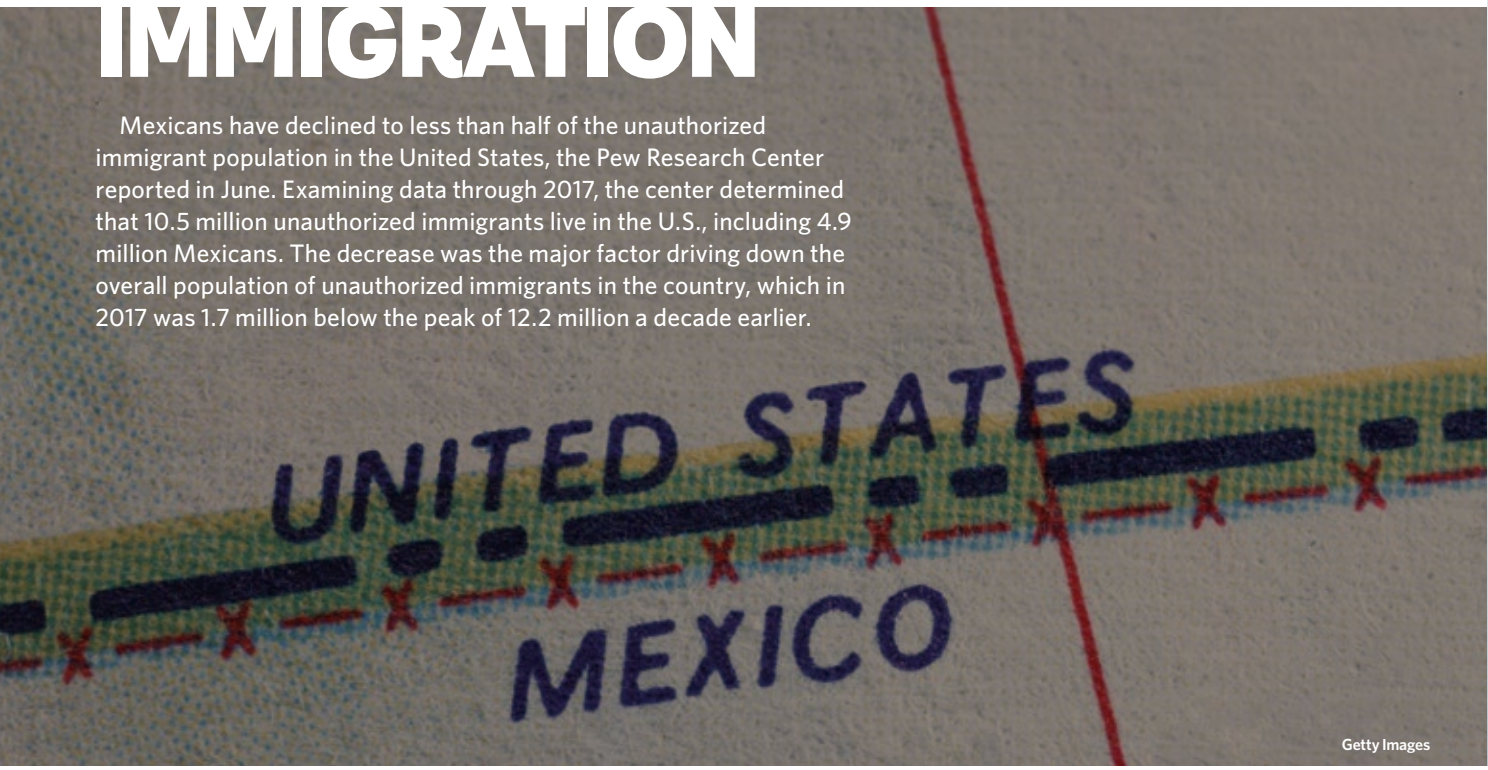


Aniara: fragments of time and space is a theatrical choral work based on a science-fiction poem by Swedish Nobel laureate Harry Martinson that contemplates humans' relationship to Earth and to one another. With support from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia's Grammy Award-winning chamber choir The Crossing created the new work in collaboration with the Finnish theater group Klockriketeatern and composer Robert Maggio, a Pew arts fellow. After its premiere in Philadelphia in June, the production earned international acclaim with performances in the Netherlands and Finland.

Jose F. Moreno for Philadelphia Inquirer

IMMIGRATION

Mexicans have declined to less than half of the unauthorized immigrant population in the United States, the Pew Research Center reported in June. Examining data through 2017, the center determined that 10.5 million unauthorized immigrants live in the U.S., including 4.9 million Mexicans. The decrease was the major factor driving down the overall population of unauthorized immigrants in the country, which in 2017 was 1.7 million below the peak of 12.2 million a decade earlier.



Getty Images

Getty Images

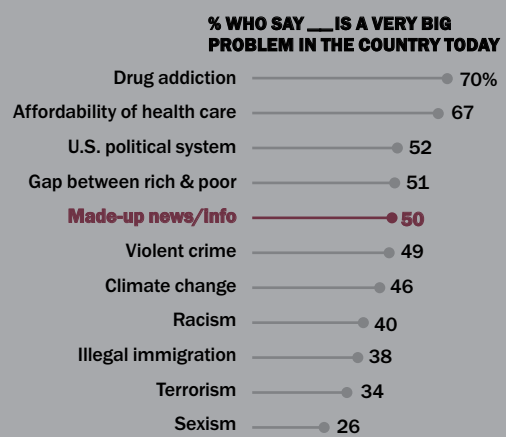
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized a rule in September that requires all U.S. hospitals have an antibiotic stewardship program—a major step forward in the fight against superbugs. Stewardship programs help to slow the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and improve patient outcomes by ensuring that antibiotics are used only when necessary, and at the right dosage and duration. These programs promote the most effective treatment option for a given illness, which helps patients to recover as quickly as possible, and in doing so they help to reduce inappropriate antibiotics use, which contributes to the emergence of resistant bacteria. Pew, working with many stakeholders, has advocated for this rule since 2016.

PUBLIC HEALTH

NEWS

More Americans view made-up news as a national problem than terrorism, illegal immigration, racism and sexism, according to a Pew Research Center survey released in June. Nearly 7 in 10 adults say made-up news and information affects Americans' confidence in government institutions and about half say it is having a major impact on our confidence in each other.

Americans see made-up news as a bigger problem than other key issues ...



... and most see it as detrimental to the country's democratic system

MADE-UP NEWS AND INFORMATION HAS A BIG IMPACT ON...

68% Americans' confidence in government

54% Americans' confidence in each other

51% Political leaders' ability to get work done

AUSTRALIA

A bird's eye view showcases the waters of Shark Bay swirling along Western Australia's coastline on the Indian Ocean. Here, at the westernmost point of the continent, vast seagrass beds provide refuge for the globally threatened marine animals that swim around the bay's banks, peninsulas, and islands. In February 2019, the Western Australian Government announced a plan to create 12.5 million acres of new national parks on land and sea during the next five years—the largest commitment in the country's history. With the support of local partners, Pew led the advocacy effort to protect the diverse range of habitats in the region and will remain involved as the parks are developed on the continent's coast.

Maico Presente/Getty Images


FACTS

Amid growing political polarization, revived nationalism, fractured media, and rapidly changing technology, the Pew Research Center is focusing on

TRUST, FACTS, AND DEMOCRACY

BY MICHAEL DIMOCK

For more than three decades, the Pew Research Center has examined how people think about democracy, trust in institutions, and the role of information in society. In light of current debates about the state of the democratic process and the importance of truth, we decided in 2018 to redouble our focus on the role of information and trust in democratic societies.

The decision reflected a changing world: In the U.S. and abroad, anxiety over misinformation has increased alongside political polarization and growing fragmentation of the media. Faith in institutions has declined, cynicism has risen, and citizens are becoming their own information curators. All of these trends are fundamentally changing the way people arrive at the kind of informed opinions that can drive effective governance and political compromise.

Global in scope, the center's "Trust, Facts and Democracy" initiative has published more than 50 pieces of related research. And through the 2020 election cycle, we'll release several additional reports.

The center's work delves into a confluence of factors challenging the essential role that trust and facts play in a democratic society: Americans' disintegrating trust in each other to make informed choices, their apprehension at the ability of others to effectively navigate misinformation, and the increasingly corrosive antagonism and distance across party lines, where even objective facts can be viewed through the prism of partisanship.

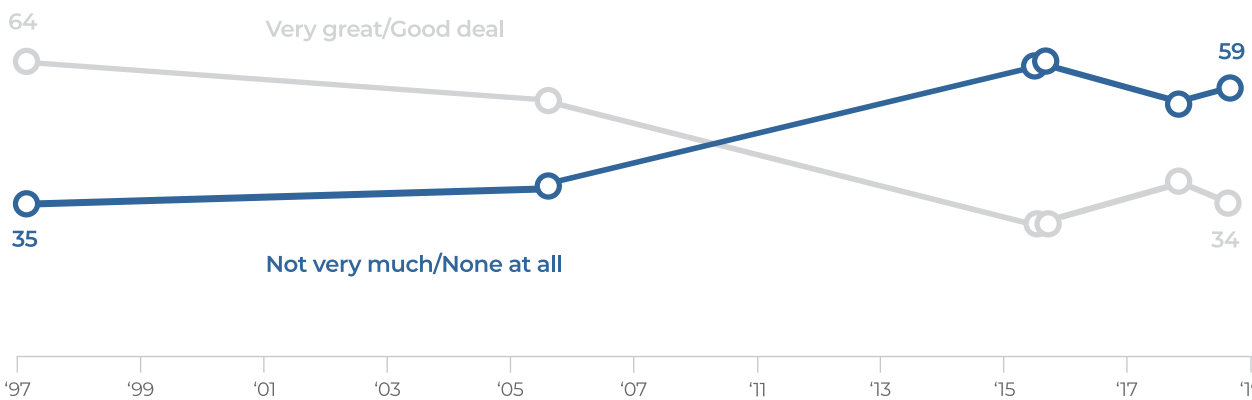
Our surveys have found that while Americans generally agree on democratic ideals and values that are important for the United States, for the most part they see the country falling well short in living up to these ideals.

This "democratic deficit" extends to a growing and troubling public distrust in each other's ability to make informed decisions about democratic leadership. Almost 8 in 10 (78 percent) say that knowledgeable voters are very important to the U.S., yet when asked how the phrase "voters are knowledgeable about candidates and issues" describes the country, about 4 in 10 (39 percent) say it characterizes the nation even somewhat well.

This lack of trust in each other's ability to make astute political choices is a relatively new phenomenon. About 6 in 10 adults now say they have little or no confidence in the wisdom of the American people when it comes to making political decisions while 39 percent express at least some confidence. As recently as 2007 that balance of opinion was almost the reverse, with 57 percent confident and just 42 percent not confident in their fellow citizens.

Less than half of Americans express confidence in public's political wisdom

% saying they have ____ (of) trust and confidence in the wisdom of American people in making political decisions



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown. Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 20–25, 2019.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Driving Americans' doubts about each other is their increasingly bitter partisan animosity, as well as their anxiety that fellow citizens are too easily misled in the fractured social media and digital communications environment.

About two-thirds think made-up news and altered videos create a great deal of confusion about the facts of current issues. And while Americans put a good deal of faith in their own ability to recognize inaccurate or misleading information, they are less sure about others' ability to discern it.

In particular, Americans are wary about the role of social media in the nation's news diet. While more than half (55 percent) of adults report that they get news from social media at least sometimes, almost two-thirds (62 percent) say social media companies have too much control over the mix of news that people see on their sites. And an overwhelming majority (83 percent) says one-sided and inaccurate news is a "very big" or "moderately big" problem on social media.

Across all forms of media, Americans express deep concern over the creation and spread of made-up news. More view it as a very big problem for the country than they do terrorism, illegal immigration, racism, and sexism. Additionally, nearly 7 in 10 U.S. adults (68 percent) say made-up news and information greatly affect Americans' confidence in government institutions, and roughly half (54 percent) say it's having a major impact on our confidence in each other. (See Page 19.)

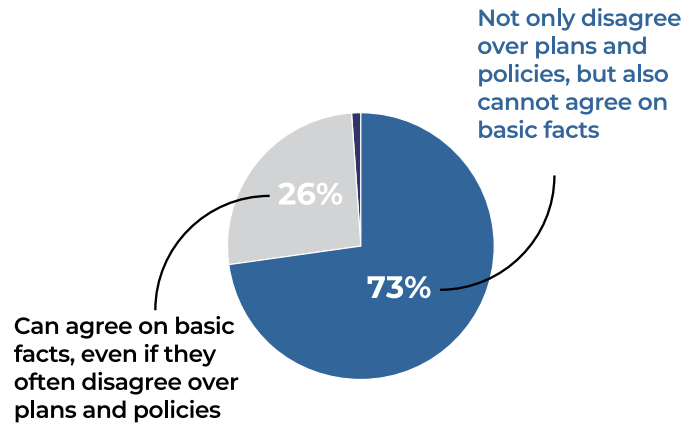
Against this backdrop, the center's research has found that the public is struggling to differentiate between fact and opinion. A survey measuring the public's ability to distinguish between five news-related statements (ones that could be proved or disproved based on objective factual evidence) and five opinion statements found that only about one-quarter (26 percent) of Americans correctly identified all five factual statements as facts, and just 35 percent identified all five opinion statements correctly as opinions.

Not surprisingly, fact and opinion statements are often viewed through a prism of partisanship. Overall, Republicans and Democrats are more likely to classify a news statement as factual if it favors their side. Consider the factual statement "President Barack Obama was born in the United States." Nearly 9 in 10 Democrats (89 percent) correctly identified it as a factual statement, compared with 63 percent of Republicans.

Similarly, Republicans and Democrats are more likely to incorrectly classify opinions as factual when they favor their side. For example, the opinion statement that "increasing the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour is essential to the health of the U.S. economy"—generally viewed as an issue favored by Democrats—was viewed as fact by 37 percent of Democrats. By contrast, just 17 percent of Republicans classified it as fact.

Republicans and Democrats say they can't agree on 'basic facts'

On important issues facing the country, most Republican voters and Democratic voters... (%)



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 3–15, 2019.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

An overwhelming majority (83 percent) says one-sided and inaccurate news is a "very big" or "moderately big" problem on social media.

So it's probably no surprise that there's a widespread lack of confidence that we share a common set of truths and ideals as a nation. Fully 73 percent of the public says that most Republican and Democratic voters not only disagree over plans and policies, but also disagree on "basic facts."

But both sides agree on the poor state of public discourse in this country. Large majorities complain that the tone and nature of political debate in the country has become more negative (85 percent), less respectful (85 percent), and less fact-based (76 percent) over the past several years. And 6 in 10 say that discourse has been less focused on issues than in the past.

Fifty-five percent say President Donald Trump has changed the tone and nature of political debate in this country for the worse, less than half as many (24 percent) say he has changed it for the better, and 20 percent say he has had little impact.

Many Americans find that conversations about politics have become tense experiences they prefer to avoid. More than half (53 percent) say that talking about politics with someone they disagree with is stressful and frustrating.

But the president's role in the state of the nation's political discourse breaks along party lines. Democrats overwhelmingly (84 percent) have negative reactions to Trump's statements, while the reactions of Republicans are more varied. About half of Republicans (49 percent) say he has changed political discourse for the better, while 23 percent say he has changed it for the worse and 27 percent say he hasn't changed it much either way.

When it comes to the nature of partisan polarization in this era, there is little evidence that the nation is more divided or that either party is taking more extreme policy positions. Instead, polarization is about the alignment of nearly all major social and issue divides along the same partisan cleavage, and the much deeper levels of partisan animosity people express about those on the other side. Deeply negative views of the other party have grown to the point that 40 percent or more of Democrats and Republicans see the other party not just as people they disagree with, but as a threat to the well-being of the nation.

That does not mean that Democrats and Republicans feel more positively about their own political party. In fact, in a phenomenon that can be described as "negative partisanship," their increasing allegiance to their party is driven by a disdain and fear of the other party and not by a loyalty and love for their own.

This mutual hostility has grown significantly in just a few years and is expressed in deeply personal terms. A majority (55 percent) of Republicans say Democrats are "more immoral" than other Americans, an 8 percentage point increase from 2016. And 47 percent of Democrats now say the same about Republicans, a 12-point jump from just four years ago.

For these reasons, many Americans find that conversations about politics have become tense experiences they prefer to avoid. More than half (53 percent) say that talking about politics with someone they disagree with is stressful and frustrating. This discomfort has grown more among Democrats, rising to 57 percent from 45 percent in 2016, while changing little among Republicans. Among all Americans, confidence in the federal government and elected officials continues a decades-long descent.

In 1958, about three quarters (73 percent) expressed trust in government in Washington to do what's right. Today, only 17 percent do.

But it is worth noting that this is not a turn against the broader role of government in American society. Today, 47 percent of Americans favor bigger government providing more services while the same amount want a smaller government doing less; that's almost identical to the 44 percent-40 percent division of opinion in 1976. It's also not a rejection of the government's ability

to perform: Most federal agencies get favorable ratings from the U.S. public, including the departments of Defense and Health and Human Services, and even the Internal Revenue Service. And state and local governments have continued to receive positive public ratings throughout the past decade.

Rather, the public's ire is focused on the electoral system in the U.S. and on Congress—and the way members of the Senate and the House of Representatives do their jobs. About three-quarters (74 percent) say elected officials don't "care what people like me think" and put their own interests first. And although most see elected officials as intelligent and even patriotic, wide majorities think they are selfish and dishonest.

At the root of the public's doubts is a skeptical view of how the electoral process has changed for the worse. About three-quarters also believe money is playing a bigger role in elections today than in the past. About half say congressional districts are not fairly drawn. About 4 in 10 say it is not clear that our elections are free from tampering. And, as discussed above, due to partisanship and concerns about misinformation, most lack confidence in the wisdom of their fellow voters.

But despite Americans' doleful views on what has gone wrong, they remain optimistic that the challenges can be addressed. Fully 84 percent think that trust in government can be improved. And 86 percent believe it is possible to improve trust in each other.

Indeed, when Americans can move away from the political and partisan realm, their confidence in each other actually remains sound. Clear majorities are certain that their fellow citizens will act in a number of important pro-civic ways, such as reporting serious local problems to authorities, obeying federal and state laws, doing what they can to help those in need, and honestly reporting their income when paying taxes.

The center's work on trust, facts, and democracy is meant to help explain how people in the U.S. and around the world gather information and whom they turn to as they try to make sense of it.

Moving forward, we will build on the center's work on partisan polarization and animosity by exploring how feelings of alienation from the rhetoric of our political leaders—and anxiety over the pitfalls of talking about social and political issues in our personal lives—might be changing the civic conversation at the core of our democracy.

And with the 2020 election cycle well underway, the center will provide a concentrated focus on understanding today's information environment and how it affects what people know and believe.

We offer this data without recommendations for action. Rather, we hope this work serves the variety of innovative approaches being offered by citizens, civic organizations, and policymakers who seek to channel the power of rigorous and objective information to inform decisions and strengthen democratic life.

Michael Dimock is president of the Pew Research Center.

AFTER THE FACT >

Listen to a conversation with Michael Dimock about the Pew Research Center's trust, facts, and democracy initiative at pewtrusts.org/afterthefact

Jagged peaks in the Andes Mountains rise above dense forest in the Los Lagos region, or Lake District, in Chilean Patagonia. Sparsely populated, Chilean Patagonia spans nearly 130,000 square miles—larger than the state of New Mexico. The pristine marine and terrestrial ecosystem, filled with mountains, glaciers, sub-Antarctic forests, and archipelagoes at South America's southern frontier, is home to an array of plants and wildlife, some found only here—and a handful of people are trying to safeguard its treasures.

PRESERVING PATAGONIA

ONE WOMAN'S FIGHT TO SAVE HER HOMELAND'S TREASURES

BY CAROL KAUFMANN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL DeCHANT FOR THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

January to April are the warmest months in the Southern Hemisphere and the time when the sea provides a treasure: red seaweed. Blanca Cárdenas is there to collect it.

It's a big commodity, this seaweed, in her close-knit community of Chana, population of some 80 people, located in the Chaitén municipality in Chilean Patagonia. Chaitén, a coastal town in the Lake District, is a gateway to popular tourism attractions. People travel from all over the world to trek or kayak through national parks, hike to the top of a volcano, and boat through narrow fjords and across clear lakes and rivers. The area is also rich with islands, estuaries, and channels that provide habitat for the abundant plants and wildlife, population untold. Particularly important to Cárdenas and fellow algae gatherers is the red seaweed, known as luga (Gigartina skottsbergii), which can be used in food, medicine, and cosmetics. So as long as the weather is clear, she goes out to harvest it daily.

But when some people who lived outside of Chana realized the seaweed was valuable, they began collecting it for their own benefit and decimated the supply. In response, Cárdenas organized local fishers, seaweed collectors, and algae harvesters into a union and served as its first president—an unusual feat for a woman in the traditional society where she was born and raised. The union's goal was simple: to create a marine management area that is protected by the government. It succeeded in creating two.

"We started protecting the sea many years ago," says Cárdenas. "And thanks to those management areas, we're able to protect our resources. We can already see the results. We have significant algae and seafood production—and the sea is regenerating itself."

Small, organized groups such as this union are a cornerstone of protecting Chilean Patagonia's natural heritage.

Cárdenas is also a partner in an environmental corporation, Yene Purrun We, which means "place where the whales dance" in the language of the local Mapuche people. The group is working with other indigenous organizations to get the region of Chaitén designated an Espacio Costero Marino de Pueblo Orginarios, or Coastal Marine Space of Native People. Once an application for designation meets all the requirements, then any requests for aquaculture concessions must stop. Furthermore, if the group succeeds in claiming the designation, the coastline and its riches will be preserved for people who've lived off the sea for generations.

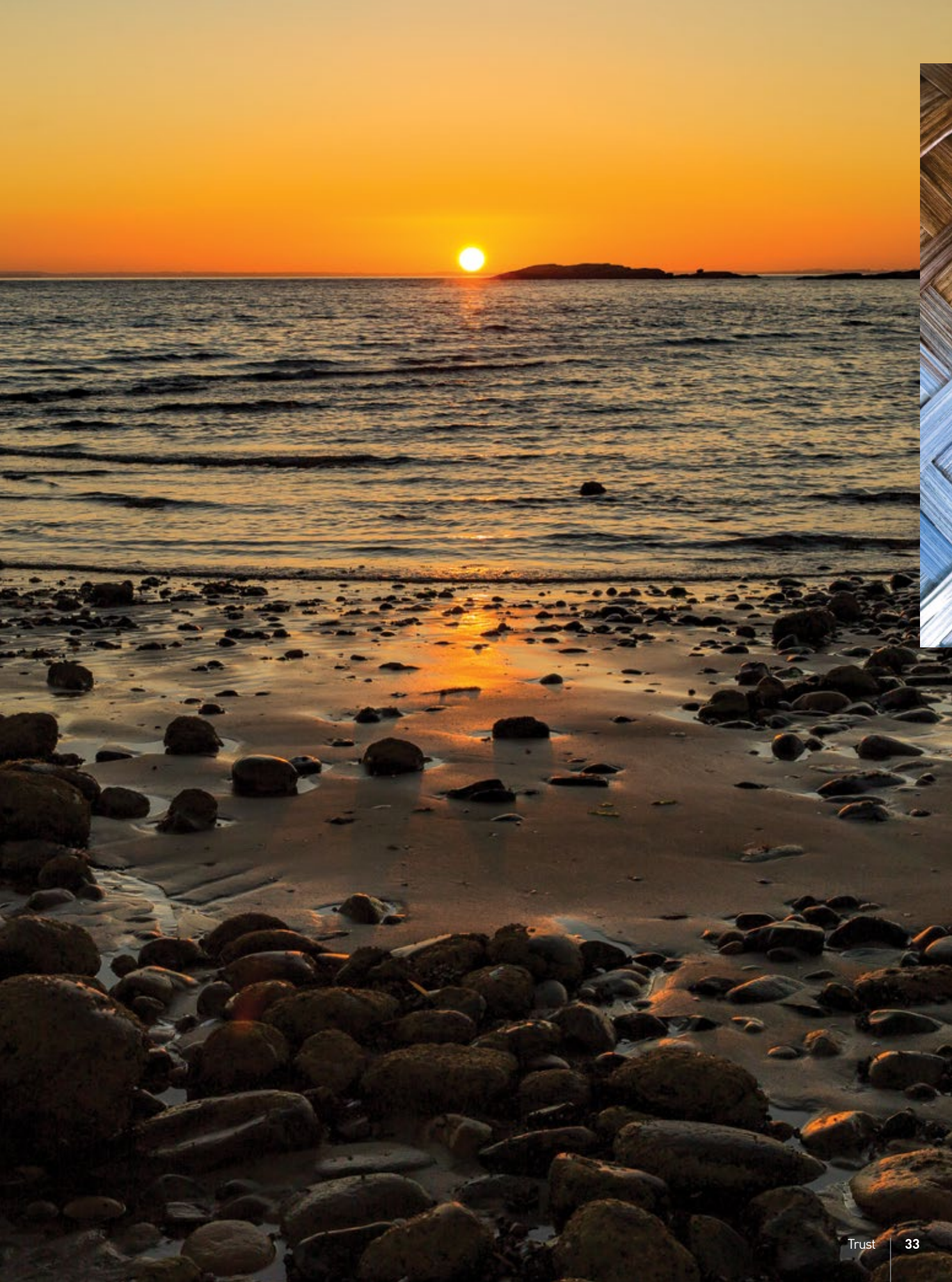
Boosted by locally driven organizations, the government of Chile has worked to protect its rich resources and has recognized Cárdenas as a steward for the environment. More than 20 percent of all land and 40 percent of all ocean areas are under some form of protection. But to ensure that these resources will be protected for generations, more work is needed.

Pew is collaborating with Chilean government officials and locally organized groups, such as Yene Purrun We, as well as with people such as Cárdenas, to responsibly develop, manage, and protect more areas of Chilean Patagonia's natural bounty.

Blanca Esther Cárdenas rows her boat across the Negro River to pebbled shores where she collects seaweed.

Cárdenas holds a piece of dried, leatherlike red seaweed (above) that she pulled from the water and will dry on the rocks along its shores. Thanks to the work of the union, the seaweed has replenished itself, and the local community is reaping the rewards. Homegrown potatoes (right) fill a basket Cárdenas made from leftover fishing nets. She reuses and repurposes materials and grows all her own food, never going to the grocery—ever. "I have been taught that we have to take care of nature," she says. "This comes from my parents, because they also got their livelihood from natural resources."

Opposite: Sunset casts an amber hue over the soft sands of a beach in Puerto Montt, a coastal city on the Pacific Ocean where the economy is fueled by salmon fishing. "The sea for me is like a mother," says Cárdenas. "Because it doesn't ask for anything and it gives us everything. A mother doesn't expect anything from her children. She just gives."



Cárdenas lives on a farm (above) surrounded by chickens, sheep, cattle, pigs, ducks, and several dogs—as well as her extended family. She shares a book about Patagonia (below) with her granddaughter, Yael Vallejos, as she teaches her what she knows about the land and sea. "Throughout my life, I've learned that we have to take care of nature so that people today and the children of tomorrow may also have that opportunity to know how to use natural resources in a sustainable way so we don't exhaust those resources in the future," Cárdenas says. For all her efforts to ensure the ecosystem will be intact for years to come, the Chilean government has recognized Cárdenas as a steward for the environment.

Close to the bottom of the planet, a ship motors (left) through one of the many archipelagoes in Chile's Magallanes y La Antarctica region, where mountain climbers and adventure seekers travel through the archipelagoes and fjords. Chilean Patagonia is also considered a biodiversity hotspot, particularly for marine life. "In these places, we still have air, we still have native forests, we still have wetlands and algae, which also contributes a lot to purifying the air, the water," Cárdenas says. "The world should care about not finishing off what's left and try to reestablish what once was in some places. If we stand together and become aware of what nature is, I think that in 10 or 20 years from now, this place will be as beautiful as it is now. And improved."

The Number of People in the Average U.S. Household Is Going up for the First Time in Over 160 Years

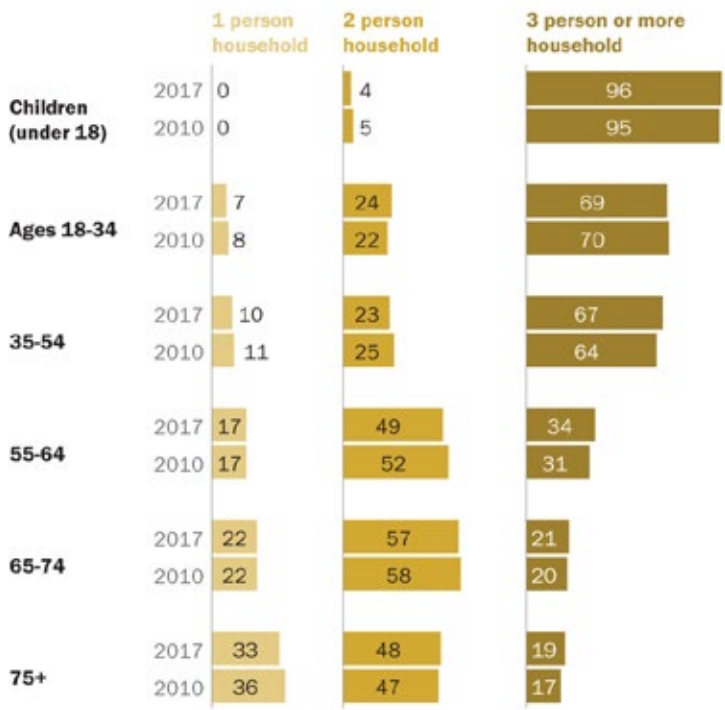
BY RICHARD FRY

Over the course of the nation's history, there has been a slow but steady decrease in the size of the average U.S. household—from 5.79 people per household in 1790 to 2.58 in 2010. But this decade will likely be the first since the one that began in 1850 to break this long-running trend, according to newly released Census Bureau data. In 2018 there were 2.63 people per household.

Households are increasing in size mathematically because the growth in the number of households is trailing population growth. The newly released data indicates that the population residing in households has grown 6 percent since 2010 (the smallest population growth since the 1930s), while the number of households has grown at a slower rate (4 percent, from 116.7 million in 2010 to 121.5 million in 2018).

Since 2010, more adults ages 35 and older live in households with at least three people

Distribution of people across household sizes, among different age groups (%)



Source: Pew Research Center

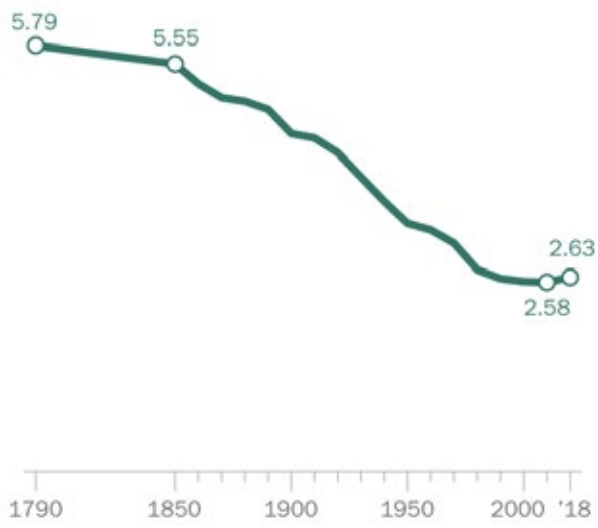
The increase in household size is significant because it could have implications for national economic growth. Rising household size reduces the demand for housing, resulting in less residential construction and less demand for home appliances and furniture. In general, it leads to a less vigorous housing sector—fewer apartment leases and home purchases, as well as less spending related to housing, such as cable company subscriptions and home accessories.

The long-running decline in American household size can be tied to at least two demographic trends. The size of immediate families has declined over time as women have had fewer children. In 1790, the total fertility rate of white women was 7.0 births (meaning a white woman had, on average, seven births in her lifetime). By 1870 it had fallen to 4.6 births, and by 1940 it stood at 2.2. For black women, the total fertility rates were 7.7 and 2.8 births for 1870 and 1940, respectively.

Furthermore, the rise of the nuclear family resulted in fewer extended family living arrangements and smaller households. In 1850, almost 70

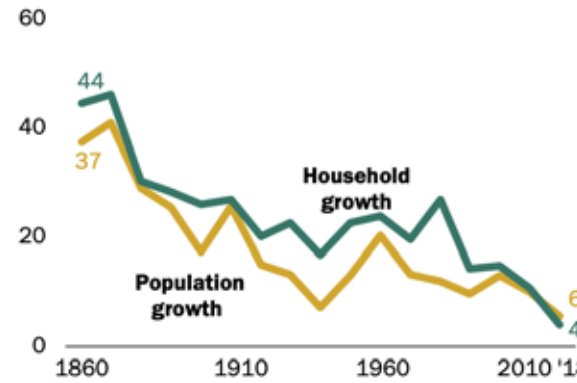
This decade will likely be the first in at least 160 years in which American households have more people

Average number of people per household



Since 2010, household growth has trailed population growth

Growth in number of households and population per decade (%)



Source: Pew Research Center

percent of those ages 65 and older lived with their adult children. By 2000, less than 15 percent did so. These demographic changes may reflect more fundamental societal changes such as industrialization, urbanization, rising living standards (especially for older adults), and constricted immigration in the first half of the 1900s.

This decade's likely upturn in average household size reflects several demographic trends.

A growing share of the population resides in multigenerational family households. By 2016, 20 percent of Americans lived in a multigenerational household, up from 12 percent in 1980. On average, these families have about two more members than other households. This partly reflects the country's increasing racial and ethnic diversity. The Asian, black, and Hispanic populations are more likely to live in multigenerational households than non-Hispanic whites.

In addition, more Americans in the wake of the Great Recession are "doubled up" in shared living quarters. This arrangement refers to the presence of an "extra adult" in the household, who might be an adult child or parent of the householder, or simply a roommate or boarder in the household. In 2019, 20 percent of households are shared households, up from 17 percent in 2007.

Most age groups are living in larger households this decade. The change is most apparent for adults ages 35 and older. For example, in 2017, 67 percent of 35- to 54-year-olds lived in a household with three or more people, an increase from 64 percent in 2010. A similar increase in households of three or more is apparent among 55- to 64-year-olds.

While bigger households may be bad for the wider economy, they are often advantageous for the households themselves. The additional household members may be working adults who contribute to household income. The widely noted arrangement of young adults residing with their parents demonstrates the economic benefits of bigger households. Last year, 6 percent of families that had at least one adult child age 25 to 34 living in the home were in poverty. The Census Bureau estimates that the poverty rate for these families would have been 11.5 percent if the young adult were not a member of the household.

Average household size will likely exceed 2.58 persons in 2020 if the current pace of household growth holds.

Richard Fry is a senior researcher focusing on economics and education at the Pew Research Center.

The Next Step States Need to Take to Combat the Opioid Crisis

Making medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder more readily available is a cost-effective, life-saving strategy. Some states are showing the way.

The Washington Post/Getty Images

BY SUSAN K. URAHN

Despite billions of federal dollars flowing into states to help fight the opioid epidemic—which was responsible for nearly 48,000 deaths in the United States in 2017, or approximately 130 each day—this public health crisis continues to grow. The number of overdose deaths has risen precipitously over the past 20 years, and policymakers and officials at the state and local levels have struggled to make meaningful progress in reducing this trend.

But the ongoing tragedy of opioid-related deaths is not the full story. Today, more than 2 million Americans suffer from opioid use disorder (OUD), a chronic, debilitating brain condition caused by recurrent use of opioids for which too few have access to effective treatment. Only 1 in 9 people with a substance use disorder receives any kind of care, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), the most effective therapy for OUD. MAT combines

Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs with behavioral therapies such as counseling and has been proved to help individuals adhere to treatment longer, reduce illicit drug use and infectious-disease transmission, and decrease overdose deaths.

But the drugs that help alleviate symptoms associated with OUD are not readily available across the country, which makes managing the problem especially difficult. Today, only 23 percent of publicly funded treatment centers report offering MAT drugs, and less than half of privately funded treatment centers report that their health care providers make these drugs available.

In addition, prescribers who want to treat patients with buprenorphine, one of three drugs approved by the FDA to treat OUD, must first undergo hours of training and obtain a waiver from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. In contrast, the agency does not require health care providers to obtain additional training or waivers before prescribing opioids, the medications at the core of this public health crisis. As a result, 44 percent of U.S. counties—where 20 million Americans live—had no prescribers authorized to order buprenorphine in 2017.

With state budgets continually stretched by competing demands, policymakers and officials must be judicious in how they allocate funds to combat the opioid crisis. Putting public dollars into expansion of access to MAT as a way to help manage the opioid crisis would be a cost-effective and life-saving strategy.

Several states have taken steps to increase access to MAT and report promising results. Rhode Island, for example, has focused on expanding OUD treatment for people within the corrections system. Today, all of Rhode Island's jails and prisons offer access to the three FDA-approved medications for OUD—buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone—and individuals are referred to continued treatment immediately upon their release, the period when research shows they are most susceptible to relapse and overdose. The state has seen a significant reduction in overdose deaths since it implemented this initiative in 2016.

In Virginia, the Addiction Recovery Treatment Services Program has transformed how the state's Medicaid program approaches OUD treatment. Since 2017, Medicaid recipients in Virginia have had access to the full spectrum of services associated with MAT, which is more readily available in medical office settings. In addition, reimbursement rates for treatment now align with the average rates for private insurance. As a result, more than 3,500 Virginia Medicaid recipients are now receiving OUD treatment, an increase of 51 percent since the program started, and no patient has to travel more than 60 miles to receive treatment.

Vermont has implemented a care delivery model known as "hub and spoke," in which patients can receive treatment for substance use disorder in one of nine hubs—where intensive therapy options are available—and in provider spokes, where treatment is often integrated into general medical care in communities across the state. As a result of adopting this model in 2013, Vermont has the highest capacity per capita to treat OUD of any state in the country. In addition, the number of Vermont physicians who have obtained waivers to prescribe buprenorphine has increased 64 percent, with a 50 percent rise in patients served by these doctors.

With state budgets continually stretched by competing demands, policymakers and officials must be judicious in how they allocate funds to combat the opioid crisis.

Finally, in Indiana, Louisiana and Wisconsin—three states where The Pew Charitable Trusts provided technical assistance to combat the opioid crisis—state lawmakers have implemented policies designed to expand access to MAT. In Indiana, Governor Eric Holcomb signed legislation in 2018 that would open nine opioid treatment facilities where patients take medications for OUD under the supervision of medical staff and receive counseling and other care services. Once all the sites are operational, OUD treatment will be no more than an hour's drive for any Indiana resident. In Wisconsin, which was facing a shortage of substance use disorder counselors, then-Governor Scott Walker signed legislation in 2018 that modified the state's counselor certification and licensure process to ensure that qualified providers are able to treat patients. And in Louisiana, Governor John Bel Edwards just signed legislation that will require all licensed residential facilities that treat substance use disorder to offer at least two forms of MAT on-site by 2021.

Federal and state funds have been critical to implementing these evidence-based initiatives. As states continue to grapple with the opioid crisis, public officials and managers would do well to dedicate available resources to expanding access to MAT, the most proven therapy for OUD.

Susan K. Urahn is the executive vice president and chief program officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts. A version of this article first appeared in Governing *on June 26, 2019.*

Pew experts explore innovative ideas on the most critical subjects facing our world.

Rise of Cashless Retailers Problematic for Some Consumers

Cash remains important payment option for many

BY NICK BOURKE, TARA ROCHE AND RACHEL SIEGEL

Restaurants, stores, and stadiums around the country have stopped accepting cash as payment and instead are requiring patrons to pay with cards or digital devices, although some have already abandoned the practice in response to a public backlash.

Businesses that have gone cashless say they did so in response to concerns about security (theft of cash), a desire for greater efficiency (faster transactions), and consumer demand as most of their clientele pays electronically. Opponents, however, cite the possible discriminatory impact of this practice, saying that it violates the Civil Rights Act because unbanked consumers—meaning those who do not have a bank account—are more likely to be members of minority groups.

According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., just 6.5 percent of households are unbanked, but research by Pew shows that these Americans are more likely than those with bank accounts to pay primarily with cash. These households also tend to have the fewest payment alternatives.

Policymakers around the country have reacted swiftly to the changing payments market. In Massachusetts, where lawmakers banned cashless businesses in 1978, legislators have been working to repeal the prohibition. Meanwhile, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and San Francisco acted to prohibit cashless storefronts last year, and similar proposals are under consideration in the District of Columbia and New York City.

In response to this trend, Democrats in Congress proposed two bills, the "Cash Always Should Be Honored Act" and the "Payment Choice Act of 2019," both of which would require storefront retailers—those with a physical location—to accept cash as legal tender. The bill introductions elevate the debate to the national stage. If cashless retail continues to spread, policymakers elsewhere will be challenged to decide whether or how to intervene.

With the advent of new payment platforms and electronic accounts tied to smartphones, some businesses are finding it easier and perhaps safer to eliminate the use of cash, a trend likely to continue spreading. But although many unbanked consumers and those who primarily use cash have access to electronic forms of payments, that access often comes with additional costs and different concerns about financial protection and security.

Most consumers used cash in the previous month

Cash made up nearly 40 percent of in-person transactions in 2017, according to the Federal Reserve, and, although its usage continues to decline, cash is still the most widely used payment type. Further, a Pew survey of consumers in 2018 about their payment experiences found that 78 percent used cash at some point in the previous month; for 14 percent (more than 35 million adults), cash remains the primary method of payment.

According to the survey, some groups are more likely than others to use cash, including minorities, households with incomes under $50,000, and unbanked consumers. For example, though white consumers are more likely to report some cash use in the past month, minorities are nearly twice as likely to say they primarily pay this way. In addition, 23 percent of households with incomes under $50,000 say they primarily pay with cash compared with just 10 percent of households earning $50,000 or more per year.

Prepaid cards may help unbanked consumers but are less trusted than cash

Consumers without bank accounts do have payment options other than cash. Research from the Federal Reserve shows that although most of the unbanked depend on cash to pay their bills, 27 percent also use prepaid cards. Prepaid cards work like debit cards and carry the same consumer protections against

loss of funds, but they are not connected to a bank account. They are widely available from convenience stores, banks, or post offices and can generally be reloaded at any of these locations. Research by Pew shows that many unbanked prepaid cardholders use the cards as substitutes for checking accounts: More than 40 percent receive direct deposits from employers to their cards, and 75 percent reload them regularly.

Some businesses that have transitioned to cashless operations, such as stadiums and airlines, have installed cash-to-prepaid kiosks, which could help address the disparate effects of banning cash. These kiosks enable consumers to load money into prepaid accounts to use anywhere card payments are accepted. However, unlike cash, prepaid cards can carry fees to purchase, reload, and withdraw funds or to call customer service, among other activities. As a result, cash-to-prepaid kiosks can reduce the impact on those who use cash only if the cards are free to obtain and use. In addition, consumers view prepaid cards as less protected than cash and therefore may feel unsure about using them, according to the Pew research. (See Figure 2.)

Consumers have strong views of the protections offered by cash

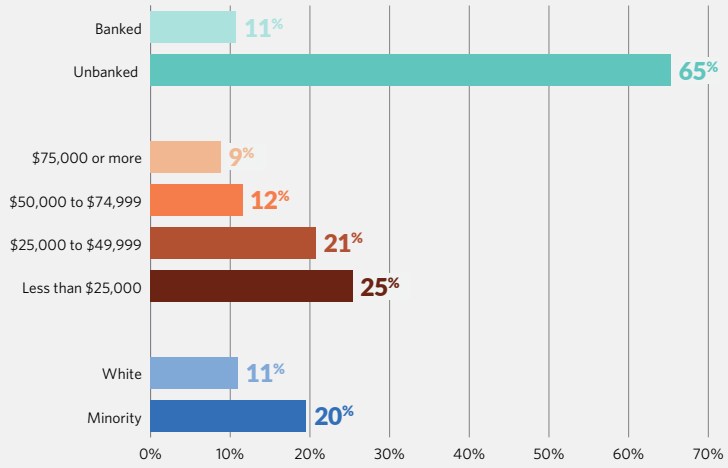
Despite business community concerns about security, consumers across demographic groups prefer the protections that come with cash, compared with other payment methods: A third of those who made a transaction in the past year rated cash as "perfectly protected" against payment issues, such as being charged twice or not receiving a good that was paid for, more than any other payment type. This is likely because, unlike electronic payment methods, personal and financial information cannot be accessed and used to steal funds. Still, there is no recourse if cash is lost or stolen the way there is for credit, debit, and prepaid cards, which is likely why a quarter of Americans also see cash as providing no protection at all.

Millions of consumers rely on cash to make purchases, either by necessity or by choice. If businesses continue to adopt cashless practices, the ranks of policymakers considering whether to intervene to preserve cash as a payment option for those who have few alternatives are likely to increase as well.

Nick Bourke is the director, Tara Roche is a manager, and Rachel Siegel is a senior associate for The Pew Charitable Trusts' consumer finance project.

Unbanked, Lower-Income, and Minority Consumers Most Likely to Pay Primarily With Cash

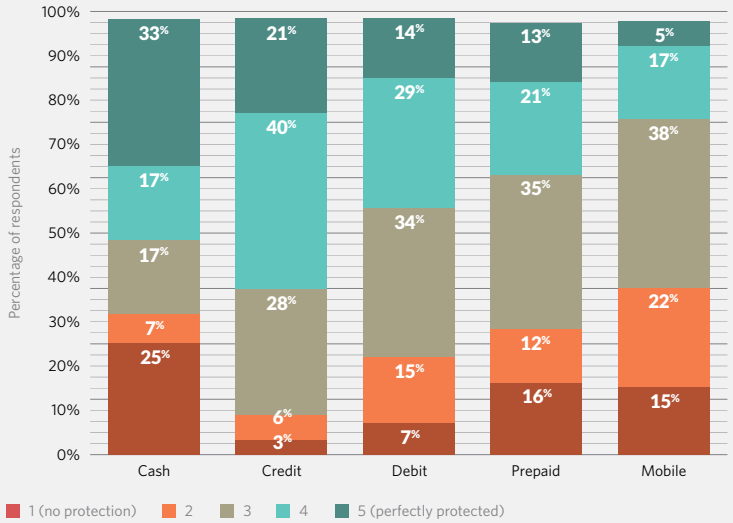
Percentage of respondents by frequency of cash use



Source: Pew's mobile payment survey, 2018

Americans Split Over Degree of Protection Offered by Cash

How consumers rank safety of various payment types



Source: Pew's mobile payment survey, 2018

How Much Do You Know About Wildlife Migration and Free-Flowing Rivers?

Take our quiz to test your waterways knowledge

Diana Robinson/Getty Images

1. **In 2016, researchers documented this animal making the longest known land-based migration in the lower 48 states, traveling more than 240 miles from the low elevation winter range of Wyoming's Red Desert to the mountain slopes of northeast Idaho. Is it a/an:**

a. Mule deer
b. Antelope
c. Bison
d. Elk

2. **Which of the following is not an impediment to large animal migration?**

a. Rivers
b. Fences
c. Highways
d. Development

3. **Collisions between large animals and vehicles are a danger to travelers and migrating animals. They're also expensive. How much do these collisions cost Americans each year?**

a. $8 million
b. $15 million
c. $500 million
d. $8 billion

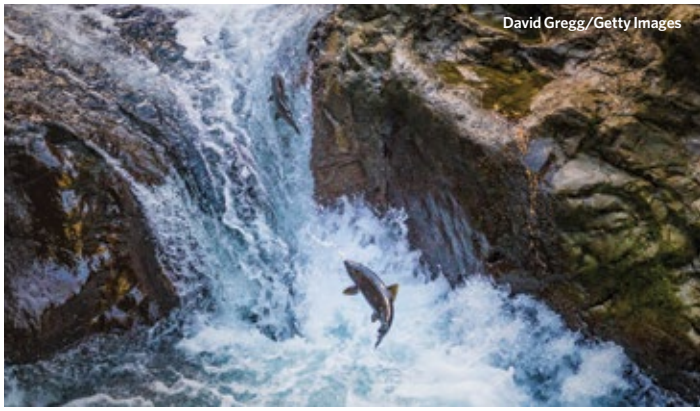
4. **How many of the more than 90,000 dams on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams list need repair or are still operating beyond their life expectancy?**

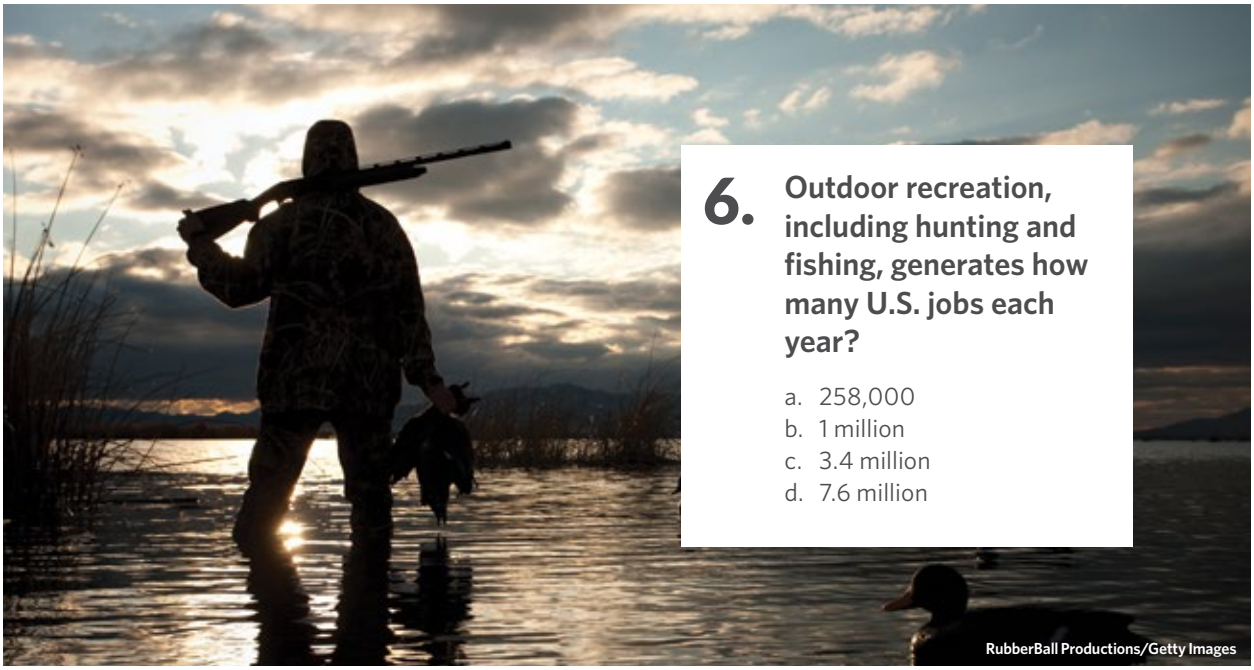
a. Less than 1 percent
b. 10 percent
c. 20 percent
d. About a third

Jennifer Sharp/Getty Images

5. How do dams affect rivers?

a. Adversely affect water quality, including increasing water temperatures, sometimes to levels that are lethal for aquatic wildlife
b. Alter the habitat and block the movement of fish and other aquatic species
c. Trap sediment and prevent it from moving downstream
d. All of the above


David Gregg/Getty Images


RubberBall Productions/Getty Images

6. Outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, generates how many U.S. jobs each year?

a. 258,000
b. 1 million
c. 3.4 million
d. 7.6 million

7. A culvert is a structure, often a metal or concrete pipe, that allows a river to flow from one side of a road or trail to the other. How might a culvert pose a serious barrier to the natural movement of fish and other animals?

a. Set above the riverbed, creating a fall that restricts wildlife movement
b. Too small, constricting flow and increasing water velocity
c. Shallow placement, resulting in inadequate water flow
d. All of the above

Turn page for answers

8. What percent of U.S. rivers are federally protected?

a. Less than 1 percent
b. 25 percent
c. About half
d. All


Olympic National Park

Answers

1. **A:** Scientists began tracking mule deer 255, a doe, on March 11, 2016, when they fitted her with a GPS-enabled collar near Superior, Wyoming. On June 15, she was recorded 242 miles northwest near Island Park, Idaho, about a hundred miles farther than the previous longest mule deer trek. She has since repeated the migration.
2. **A:** River crossings can be challenging for some species, but they are a regular part of many large animals' migration routes.
3. **D:** U.S. drivers have an estimated 1 million to 2 million collisions with animals each year, costing American taxpayers more than $8 billion and causing 200 deaths and 26,000 injuries to people annually, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.
4. **D:** The average age of our nation's dams is 56 years, and by 2025, 7 in 10 U.S. dams will be more than 50 years old, according to the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card published by the American Society of Civil Engineers.
5. **D:** Removing dams provides many benefits for rivers and wildlife, such as restoring access to upstream fish habitat, and in some cases, replenishing beaches, which in turn, builds important nearshore habitat for wildlife and fisheries.
6. **D:** Outdoor activities also generate $887 billion in consumer spending, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.
7. **D:** To facilitate passage for fish and other animal species, river diversions should resemble as closely as possible the natural conditions of the stream and the banks.
8. **A:** Less than 1 percent of the United States' nearly 3.7 million miles of rivers are federally designated as wild and scenic.

Joe Riis

John Schnobrich/Unsplash

Why Survey Estimates of the Number of Americans Online Don't Always Agree

Information sources can track internet usage differently, making final numbers difficult to reconcile.

BY ARNOLD LAU

How many U.S. adults use the internet? This might seem like a straightforward question, with a straightforward way to find out: Just ask. Indeed, there is a lot of information available from large, high response rate federal surveys as well as from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center and other organizations. However, these different sources of information measure internet use in ways that can be tricky to reconcile. Depending on the source, the estimated share of Americans who were online as of 2017 and 2018 is as low as 79 percent or as high as 89 percent.

The Pew Research Center has been tracking Americans' internet behavior for years, all the while focusing on personal use from any location. While our approach has evolved over time, the current measurement consists of two questions: "Do you use the internet or email, at least occasionally?" and "Do you access the internet on a cellphone, tablet or other mobile handheld device, at least occasionally?" In a January 2018 phone survey, 89 percent of U.S. adults said "yes" to at least one of these questions.

Internet use is also tracked by the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey (CPS) Computer and Internet Use Supplement, whose survey questions differ somewhat.

The ACS asks, "At this house, apartment, or mobile home—do you or any member of this household have access to the internet?" The ACS asks respondents to distinguish between households that have access by paying a cellphone company or internet service provider and those that have access without paying.

If one assumes that a household reporting having internet access means that every member of that household has access (which isn't always the case), then in 2017, 88 percent of American adults had either free or paid internet access at home. This number, however, does not include people who live in group quarters who may otherwise have internet access, such as dormitories, nursing homes, or prisons, as they were simply not asked this question.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPS data take a slightly different tack, focusing on internet use rather than access. That survey asks, "Does anyone in this household, including you, use the internet at home?" Based on this question alone, 81 percent of American adults live in households where someone uses the internet at home. The difference between the two figures can be at least partly attributed to the questions' wording and scope. The CPS, for example, does ask people living in group quarters this question. And households can have internet access without anyone actually using it—for example, if it is provided for free by their community or included in a bundle with other services.

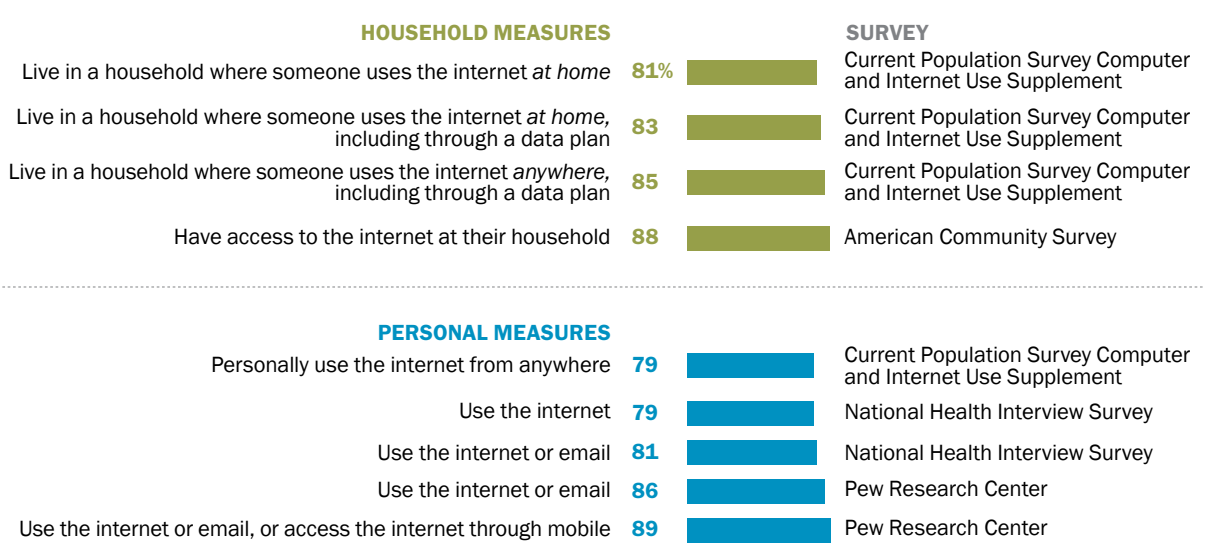
Another difference is that some people may interpret "using the internet at home" as only encompassing broadband, satellite internet, dial-up and the like, while the ACS' response options clarify that mobile devices count. The CPS separately asks, "Does anyone in this household access the internet using a data plan for a cellphone, smartphone, tablet, mobile hotspot, or other device? This type of internet service is provided by a wireless carrier, and may be part of a package that also includes voice calls from a cellphone or smartphone." If we include Americans who say yes to this question, the previous 81 percent figure rises to 83 percent.

Depending on the source, the estimated share of Americans who were online as of 2017 and 2018 is as low as 79 percent or as high as 89 percent.

All of that answers only a piece of the original question, because these questions only consider internet in people's homes. The CPS also asks a battery of questions about whether anyone in the household uses the internet at work; at school; at a coffee shop or other business that offers internet access; while traveling between places; at a library, community center, park or other public place; at someone else's home; or at some other location. (Each location is asked about separately.) If we once again expand the previous

Estimates of internet use vary along with question wording

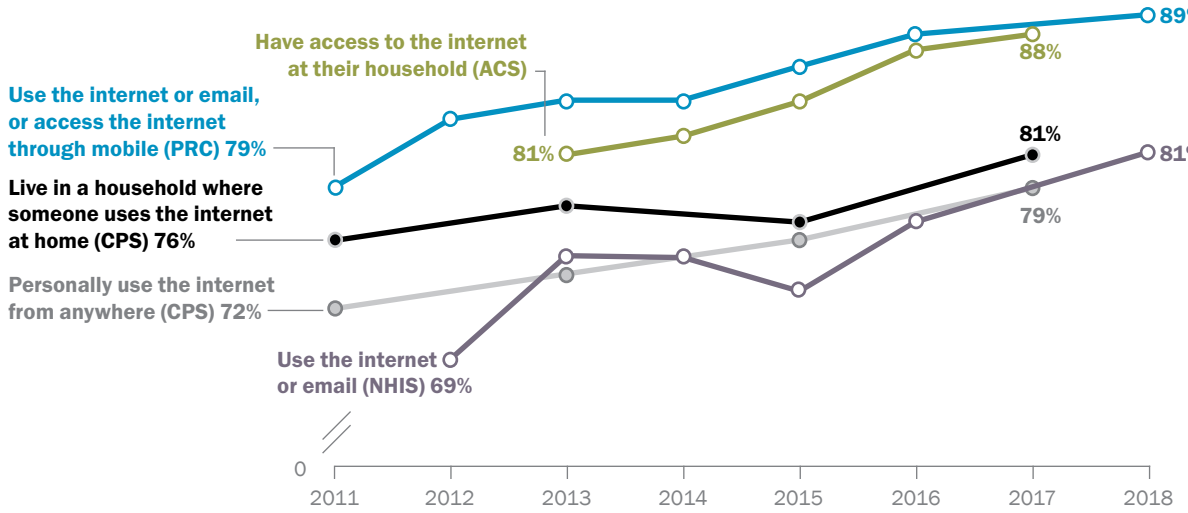
Percent of U.S. adults who...



Source: Pew Research Center

Year-to-year change in adoption rates are similar across surveys

Percent of U.S. adults who...



Source: Pew Research Center

CPS estimate to include people who may not use the internet at home but do so somewhere else, the estimate ticks up to 85 percent.

The CPS also drills down to ask people exactly which members of their household use the internet at various places, yielding an estimate that 79 percent of U.S. adults personally use the internet from anywhere. Unfortunately, the CPS does not ask its respondents whether they personally access the internet using a cellular data plan. This CPS estimate lines up closely with the 2018 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which estimates that 79 percent of U.S. adults would say yes to a very simple question, "Do you use the internet?"

Another potential measurement wrinkle comes from the various types of activities people can engage in on the internet. Some might equate "using the internet" with web browsing alone, inadvertently excluding email. Someone who only checks their email via a standalone email client or a mobile app could potentially say they don't use the internet. Fortunately, the NHIS also asks respondents whether they send or receive emails. If we combine this with the previous estimate, we get a slight uptick to 81 percent of U.S. adults who either "use the internet" or use email.

It is also possible that some people who say they don't use the internet are in fact accessing social media services such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. A Pew Research Center study conducted in 11 emerging and developing countries, not including the United States, found that a median of 10 percent did just this, reporting that they used social media but not the internet. However, the CPS only asks about social media use among people who've previously said they use the internet from anywhere, so the extent to which this happens among Americans is not measurable from that survey.

Different measures, similar trends

While these varied approaches to measuring internet use can be bewildering, they all tell roughly the same story when viewed over time. Whether the measure is internet access, home internet use, personally using the internet anywhere, or the center's composite measure which includes email and cellphones, more and more Americans have the internet than in previous years.

Arnold Lau is a Pew Research Center analyst focusing on survey methodology.

How Restoring Oysters Can Make New York Harbor 'the Thriving Ecosystem It Once Was'

An ambitious project is using shellfish to improve the environment for wildlife and city residents.

Billion Oyster Project is a New York-based nonprofit organization with a goal of restoring a billion oysters to New York Harbor by 2035. Pew is partnering with the project to help improve water quality and habitat in New York and create a statewide oyster management and recovery plan. Billion Oyster Project Executive Director Pete Malinowski (top) and Director of Restoration Katie Mosher (bottom) spoke with Pew recently about the project, the importance of oysters to the city, and how habitat restoration can build community.

Roy Ritchie

Katie Orlinsky for The Pew Charitable Trusts

Why choose New York Harbor for a big oyster restoration effort?

Malinowski: I grew up on an oyster farm in Fishers Island, New York, working on the farm after school and during the summer. I moved to New York City in 2007 and met Murray Fisher, founder of the New York Harbor School. At that time, the school was involved in beach cleanups, monitoring water quality, and tracking oyster populations, and we wondered if it would be possible to restore oysters to the harbor. Shortly after, we started growing oysters on a larger scale on Governors Island. It was exciting to think about the potential of significantly changing how New York Harbor looked, about making it a more natural place.

Mosher: Around the time Pete and Murray met, educators and others began to realize that the harbor habitat was being ignored. The idea of restoring oysters generated excitement and enthusiasm and brought New York communities together. Interest was blossoming.

Describe a typical day in restoration for Billion Oyster Project.

Mosher: We just spent several days on the water in Jamaica Bay for our final check on the adult oysters we installed four years ago, creating over an acre of habitat. Fish, crabs, and several other filter-feeding species are now using the reef, and some of the oysters are bigger than the calipers we use to measure them! Students and alumni at the New York Harbor School drove the boats, and summer interns, professional divers, and budding young scientists pitched in to collect oysters from the reef and monitor the beds. We do this work with the New York Department of Environmental Protection, Hudson River Foundation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and HDR Inc. They were long days, and it's hot out there in the middle of summer, but it was a lot of fun.

What has surprised you in your efforts to restore oysters in New York Harbor?

Malinowski: One big surprise was what happened with a large oyster nursery we installed in Brooklyn Navy Yard, where a large combined sewer overflow makes water quality particularly bad. The idea was if they could survive here, they could survive in most of the harbor. The first year it looked like it wasn't going to work: They were covered in tunicates—a filter-feeding soft animal—and they didn't grow particularly well. But they were still alive, and we were hoping the first year wasn't what was to come. A year later, the oysters were doing much better and were surrounded by polychaete worms, anemones, barnacles, mussels, and, near the cages, blue crabs and small black fish. It was a lightbulb moment: If you build it, they will come. Just give it time. And the harbor is getting dramatically cleaner compared to 30, 40, 50 years ago.

Mosher: It's been a real surprise to me, as someone doing this for more than 10 years, to see how the human community and its ability to access New York Harbor has changed over time. When we first started, there were not a lot of places where people could even touch the water. It's actually changing—it's a real shift.

What are the most promising opportunities for Billion Oyster Project right now?

Malinowski: The most promising opportunity is shifting the conversation—and the policies—around oyster restoration to work at the scale necessary to restore New York Harbor. We've been chugging away on a lot of small- to medium-scale projects for a long time, but we need larger-scale projects. Some regulators still view restoring oysters in polluted water as a public health risk, which is backwards and prevents us from improving the environment. There has to be a way to make it safe for humans and native wild animals to live together.

Mosher: Oyster larvae need something hard to settle on; they die if they settle into soft sediment. One of the reasons oysters have not recovered on their own in New York Harbor is because shells were removed and not returned. So, in addition to getting shell back in the water, another opportunity in this urbanized part of the estuary is working with partners, including engineers and landscape architects, to think about ways to incorporate oysters or reef habitat as they design and construct at the edge of the water.

What does success look like for Billion Oyster Project?

Malinowski: Success looks like a city turned back into a thriving natural resource, in which New Yorkers go about their daily lives knowing they live in and around one of the great natural places in the world: New York Harbor. It's returning actual abundance and diversity to the harbor and to people's lives so they're walking up from the subway talking about the egrets they saw on the way to work. It's the 1.1 million public school students in New York City having a meaningful experience in the environment where they live.

Mosher: In the harbor, where the water is too polluted for people to eat the oysters, in part because there aren't enough oysters in the water to clean it, success would be a team of people from different backgrounds—the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Army Corps of Engineers, other restoration participants, scientists, shellfish growers, and regulators—working on this problem together. We need to collaborate to develop best practices and targets for installing large-scale oyster reefs. If we all make it a priority to restore oyster reef habitat that is effectively protected from harvest, New York Harbor can become the thriving ecosystem it once was.

Stateline, an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a team of veteran journalists who report and analyze trends in state policy with a focus on fiscal and economic issues, health care, demographics, and the business of government. More stories are available at pewtrusts.org/stateline.

David McNew/Getty Images

Got an Electric Car? Great! Where Do You Plug It In?

BY ELAINE S. POVICH

Electric vehicle owners—nearly 1.2 million of them on U.S. roads today—share the thrills of being energy-efficient and progressive. But they also have one big worry in common: where to plug in.

Depending on the state, access to public charging stations can be adequate—or nearly nonexistent.

Purchases of electric vehicles are growing at an astronomical rate—an 81 percent increase from 2017 to 2018, according to the Edison Electric Institute, which tracks electricity use—and nothing indicates

the trend will slow dramatically any time soon. But if anything could stunt the growth, it's the lack of power charging stations in some states.

Drivers can experience "range anxiety" wondering how far they can drive before the next charge and where to find a station before the car dies. It's the electric vehicle equivalent of driving a traditional car on an isolated country road with the gas gauge hovering near empty.

Many states want to encourage electric vehicle use to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. But ensuring that there are enough charging stations has been a challenge. Some states provide incentives for private investment, while others are relying on millions from a settlement with Volkswagen over its falsification of emissions tests to subsidize the building of commercial charging stations.

In addition, state utilities have just begun to cope with how to regulate the power supplied by the chargers by setting cost per kilowatt, peak charges, and subsidies.

Legislatures in Colorado, Washington, California, and New Mexico passed laws in 2019 calling on state utility boards to write rules governing electric charging stations to encourage EV adoption. In New Jersey, a bill to incentivize electric car buying and installation of charging stations passed a Senate committee in December with just one vote in opposition. Other states also are considering bills addressing electric vehicles and charging stations.

Home on the Range

Electric vehicles used for short commutes can be plugged in at home daily; the worry stems from longer trips.

For example, let's say you take a trip from Boston to Washington, D.C. In Massachusetts, there's a ratio of 13 electric vehicles to every public charger. But in New Jersey, there are about 35 vehicles to every public charger, and drivers on longer trips might worry that they won't find an available place to plug in.

Ford, maker of the electric Mustang, says the new 2021 model's range could be up to 300 miles, though auto experts say it's more like 240. But rather than touting the range, Ford is promoting the car's "sleek silhouette and muscular curves."

That could be because a lack of public charging stations turns off potential buyers, say many experts, including Matt Stanberry, managing director at Advanced Energy Economy, a business trade group focused on non-carbon sources of energy.

California has the most charging stations—more than 22,600 (some with multiple outlets) at last count in May by the website evadoption.com, which tracks electric vehicle issues. The state also has the most electric vehicles, approaching half a million. But North Dakota has 36 charging locations and Alaska 26.

> *"We are short on charging infrastructure across the board in every state, even the states that are doing better. We are all playing catch-up."*
>
> **—Matt Stanberry,** managing director, Advanced Energy Economy

"There is very good data that shows that [electric] vehicle adoption is slowed by a shortage of charging infrastructure," Stanberry said. "Consumer surveys cite a very high percentage level of charging infrastructure as one of their key concerns."

A survey for Volvo conducted in 2018 by the Harris polling firm showed that the No. 1 barrier to buying an electric vehicle was running out of power (58 percent), followed by low availability of charging stations (49 percent). And more charging stations was the No. 1 factor that would increase respondents' likelihood of buying.

"We are short on charging infrastructure across the board in every state, even the states that are doing better," Stanberry said in a telephone interview. "We are all playing catch-up."

Plugging In

There are three levels of charging available for plug-in electric vehicles, according to the Council of State Governments.

Most can be plugged into an ordinary 120-volt outlet, but charging is slow. The most popular charger resembles the 240-volt outlet used for refrigerators and washing machines, which provides 10-20 miles of range per hour of charging. The third choice, a direct current "fast charging" outlet, zaps 60-80 miles of driving into the car in only 20 minutes.

Most electric cars have plug heads that are compatible with the three types of chargers. Tesla is the exception, with its own style of plug and outlet, but Tesla drivers can buy an adapter that will fit the other outlets.

State utility boards face questions on how to regulate charging stations, including how to set the price that drivers must pay.

One model for charging for electricity involves so-called demand charges, which calculate the amount of electricity used in 15-minute increments. But high demand charges make fast-charging stations in places like malls and grocery stores costly and impractical, according to a report from the nonprofit Rocky Mountain Institute.

Incentives

Many states give residents incentives to buy electric vehicles. California allows alternative-fuel cars to use high-occupancy lanes (a godsend in Los Angeles traffic) and provides a rebate of between $1,500 and $2,000 on plug-in electric vehicles and hybrids.

A federal program also gives rebates on a sliding scale. But both of those programs are phasing out; some credits expired Jan. 1. A congressional effort to extend the program failed in 2018.

One of the biggest pushes for electric vehicles came with the 2017 Volkswagen pollution settlement, under which the car company settled with the federal government for violating emissions laws. The settlement allowed states to allocate up to 15 percent of their share of the nearly $3 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust from the Volkswagen payout to electric vehicle infrastructure.

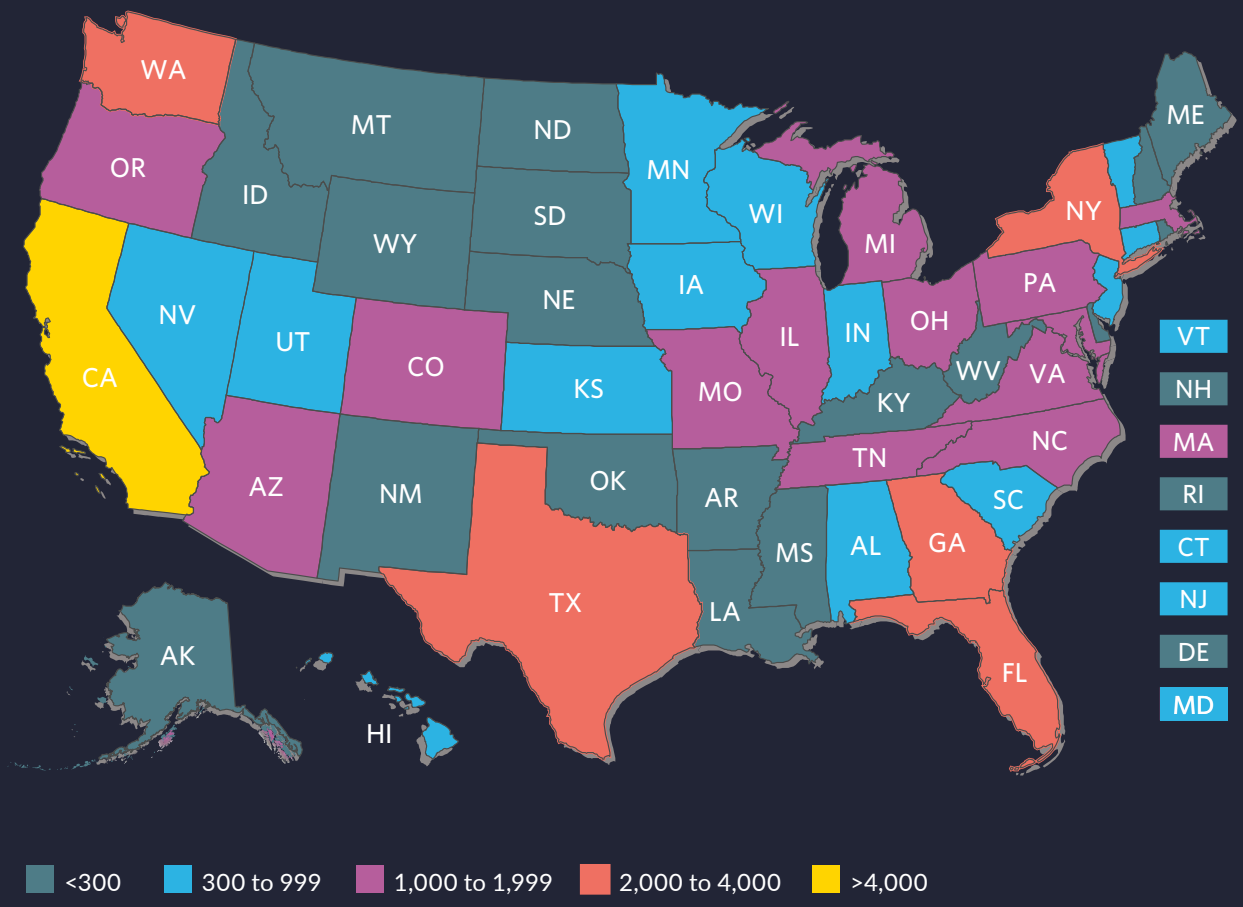
The consumer group U.S. PIRG in a May report ranked the states on how they used the Volkswagen money for electric car infrastructure in the three years since the settlement. The group gave Washington state and Hawaii an A-plus. Rhode Island and Vermont got As; and California, Massachusetts, and New York got Bs.

Fourteen states—Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—got a failing grade, meaning they did not prioritize infrastructure for electric cars.

Overall, California is the leading state in providing electric vehicle infrastructure. Former Gov. Jerry

Got An Electric Car? Here's Where to Plug It In.

With electric vehicles increasing in popularity, the challenge has become the availability of charging stations, especially on long trips. Some states have more charging stations than others.



A row of electric car charging stations in a Nebraska parking lot awaits vehicles. *Jim West/Report Digital-REA/Redux*

Brown, a Democrat, signed a 2018 executive order setting a goal of 5 million electric vehicles on the state's roads by 2030. Under the order, the state will spend $2.5 billion to continue electric vehicle rebates and build 250,000 electric charging stations.

California also requires automakers to sell a certain number of electric (or hydrogen powered) vehicles in the state, under its "zero emission vehicle" program. The exact number is based on how many vehicles the automaker sells overall in California. That program has been copied in 10 states: Connecticut, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Fleet Vehicles

Aside from personal vehicles, the push toward no-emissions electric vehicles includes cities and other jurisdictions committing to turning their fleet cars and trucks over to electric.

Minnesota, for example, in November pledged $15 million of its Volkswagen settlement money in grants to replace state school buses and heavy-duty vehicles with ones powered by electric motors and install more charging stations.

"Grant programs like Minnesota's are critical to installing electric charging infrastructure," said Kevin Miller, director of public policy at ChargePoint, a company that provides networks of residential and commercial electric vehicle charging stations. He said states like Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Colorado are considering modifying the regulatory and policy framework of electric vehicle charging.

But isn't it a "chicken and egg" question of whether chargers come first and then more vehicles—or more vehicles demanding places to charge up?

"It's not that we need a lot of chickens or a lot of eggs," Miller said. "They have to complement each other. Having a comprehensive state plan is important. A comprehensive plan addresses the systemic issues head on."

Elaine S. Povich is a staff writer for Stateline.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Pew Charitable Trusts applies a rigorous, analytical approach to ***improve public policy, inform the public,*** *and* ***invigorate civic life,*** *as these recent accomplishments illustrate.*

IMPROVING PUBLIC POLICY

Ships docked in Pohnpei, Micronesia, transfer tuna caught by purse seine from one vessel to another, an activity known as transshipment. *Adam Baske for The Pew Charitable Trusts*

Study shows gaps in monitoring of fishing in the Pacific Ocean

In September, Pew released a study on transshipment—the transfer of fish between fishing vessels and refrigerated cargo ships, at sea or in port—taking place in the western and central Pacific Ocean, operations worth $142 million in that region each year. The study found at least 140 ships operated in a manner consistent with transshipment activity during 2016, but only 25 of them submitted required high seas transshipment reports, illustrating the lack of detailed information available on most of the transshipment activities in the region. Pew's research combined commercially available satellite imagery and automatic identification system data with machine learning technology to analyze the movements of the carrier vessels. The findings showed the significant gaps in reporting, monitoring, and data sharing, meaning it's likely that more at-sea transshipment occurs than is reported.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to protect snapper and grouper

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved a new rule in September to protect 55 species of snapper and grouper that are caught when they are too small, out of season, or exceed a catch limit and have to be released. When pulled swiftly from the ocean, these deep-dwelling fish often die from barotrauma, a condition similar to "the bends" that affects scuba divers who ascend too rapidly. The new rule requires fishermen to carry a device to help fish survive catch and release. The high death rates of some South Atlantic species, such as red snapper, hurt the overall health of fish populations. Reusable, weighted descending devices automatically return fish to the depths, where they can swim away unharmed. Use of the devices may allow hundreds of thousands more fish to survive and reproduce each year. Pew worked with fishery managers, scientists, and recreational and commercial fishing leaders to win approval of the measure.

Canada partners with Inuit on Arctic marine protected areas

Canada announced the formal exploration of creating two marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Arctic. In late August, the shallow waters around Southampton Island became an area of interest, the first step to creating an MPA. Narwhals, belugas, and bowhead whales migrate through the area, which is larger than the state of Indiana and adjacent to two bird sanctuaries. And in September, the Canadian and Nunatsiavut governments announced an assessment to consider a protected area of the offshore waters and fjords of Northern Labrador that surround Torngat Mountains National Park. The fragile ocean ecosystem, fed by the iceberg-laden Labrador Current, encompasses fjords and shorelines critical to the breeding and migration of marine mammals, fish, seabirds, and waterfowl and would be the first formal Indigenous National Marine Conservation Area. Pew and its partners helped lay the groundwork for the two announcements, including facilitating community involvement to ensure the input of Indigenous groups.

Innovation Fund grants to biomedical researchers announced

Pew announced its third class of Innovation Fund investigators in September. The grants, which are available to alumni of Pew's three programs for early career biomedical scientists, will support six pairs of researchers who will undertake collaborative, interdisciplinary investigations. Each pair will be awarded $200,000 over two years to tackle complex questions in human biology and disease.

An elk (foreground, right) stands beside fencing that helps direct animals to an underground crossing tunnel on U.S. 285 near Buena Vista, Colorado. Structures built under or over busy roads help animals to safely navigate traditional migration routes while also reducing traffic collisions.
Matthew Staver/Getty Images

Supporting safe wildlife migration

In September, the Idaho Transportation Board approved funding for wildlife crossings at Rocky Point, a critical location on U.S. Highway 30 where some 6,000 mule deer cross twice a year, migrating from summer to winter range. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho Transportation Department are partnering to build these wildlife crossings to increase driver safety while also conserving one of Idaho's most impressive mule deer migration corridors. Pew provided technical comments, encouraged funding for the wildlife crossing project, and cultivated additional support from multiple partner organizations in Idaho.

The same month, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed an executive order directing the state's transportation and wildlife agencies to work together to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions while protecting crucial habitat for animals such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn. Pew has been an advocate for policy that seeks to improve driver safety while enhancing landscape connections for wildlife across the American West, including efforts in Colorado.


Peter Johnson/Corbis/VCG

Ecosystem-based management plan for Antarctic krill advances

In October, the 26 member governments of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources agreed to advance an ecosystem-based management plan for the Antarctic krill fishery, which takes into account the key role the small forage species plays in the region's food web. Delegates in support of the plan included those from Russia and China, two countries historically slowest to agree to conservation-oriented management measures for Antarctica's Southern Ocean. At the suggestion of Pew, scientists from the British Antarctic Survey and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in June held a krill fishery management workshop in France, where drafting of the plan began. Pew led funding of the workshop.

Pew participates in Juvenile Justice Policy Forum

In September, Pew's public safety performance project staff and state-based juvenile justice reform leaders gathered for two days of learning and discussion with legislators from 10 states that are emerging as juvenile justice champions. The program, which took place in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, built upon a National Conference of State Legislatures publication funded by Pew titled "Principles of Effective Juvenile Justice Policy." Presenters included researchers, executive branch officials, legislators, court administrators, and others involved in the system. The meeting furthered Pew's goal of advancing data-driven, research-informed justice policy that holds people accountable, makes cost-effective use of resources, and promotes public safety.

Pew marine fellows honored

- In September, the Royal Society of Canada named Rashid Sumaila a fellow of the Academy of Science for his pioneering work on fisheries economics. Sumaila is a professor at the University of British Columbia and a 2008 Pew marine fellow who studied financial factors that contribute to unsustainable commercial fishing.
- The Royal Society also named Anne Salomon a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists, which recognizes top midcareer leaders in Canada. Salomon is an associate professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and was awarded a Pew marine fellowship in 2013 for her research on the impacts of sea otter population recovery on the livelihoods and cultural values of Canadian First Nations.
- Asha de Vos, a 2016 Pew marine fellow, received an Inspirational Icon Award at the 21st Century Icon Awards in London in September. The award cites her research on Sri Lanka's threatened pygmy blue whales and her work establishing Oceanswell, a marine conservation organization founded as part of her Pew fellowship project.

Paul Robert/Unsplash

What do Americans know about religion?

The Pew Research Center released a report in July on Americans' knowledge about topics related to religion, finding that most U.S. adults can answer some basic questions about the Bible and Christianity, but they are less familiar with some other world religions and about what the U.S. Constitution says regarding religion as it relates to elected officials. The survey also reveals that Americans' levels of religious knowledge vary depending not only on what questions are being asked, but on who is answering. Jews, atheists, agnostics, and evangelical Protestants, as well as highly educated people and those who have religiously diverse social networks, show higher levels of religious knowledge, while young adults and racial and ethnic minorities tend to know somewhat less about religion than the average respondent does.

Trust in scientists is on the rise

In August, the Pew Research Center released a report examining public trust in scientific experts, finding that public confidence in scientists is on the upswing and 6 in 10 Americans say scientists should play an active role in policy debates about scientific issues. The survey finds public confidence in scientists on par with confidence in the military. It also exceeds the levels of public confidence in other groups and institutions, including the media, business leaders, and elected officials. At the same time, Americans are divided along party lines in terms of how they view the value and objectivity of scientists and their ability to act in the public interest, revealing particularly sizable gaps between Democrats and Republicans when it comes to trust in scientists whose work is related to the environment.


Unsplash

Varying interest in local news

The Pew Research Center published in August a new report finding that older Americans, black adults, and Americans with less education show considerably more interest in local news than their counterparts. Nearly a third of U.S. adults (31 percent) follow local news very closely, but local news does not play an equally vital role for all Americans. Relatively few Americans ages 18 to 29 (15 percent) follow local news very closely, compared with about 3 in 10 (28 percent) of those 30 to 49 and about 4 in 10 (39 percent) of those 50 and older. Black Americans show a stronger connection to local news: Just under half (46 percent) follow it very closely, while about a quarter (28 percent) of white Americans do the same, along with about a third (34 percent) of Hispanic adults. And about a third of Americans with a high school diploma or less education (36 percent) are very interested in local news, more so than those who have attended some college (30 percent) or received a college degree (25 percent). Additionally, there are large differences by age in how Americans prefer to get local news. Those ages 50 and older primarily turn to the TV set, while those younger than 50 mostly prefer online pathways. Black Americans and those with a high school diploma or less also express a far greater preference than their counterparts for getting local news through the TV set rather than online, in print, or on the radio.

Media employment continues to sink

The Pew Research Center released in August an analysis of staff layoffs that occurred in 2018 at newspapers and digital-native news outlets in the U.S. The report found that roughly a quarter of papers with an average Sunday circulation of 50,000 or more experienced layoffs. The layoffs come on top of the roughly one-third of papers in the same circulation range that experienced layoffs in 2017. In addition, the number of jobs typically cut by newspapers in 2018 tended to be higher than in the year before. Midmarket newspapers were the most likely to suffer layoffs in 2018—unlike in 2017, when the largest papers most frequently saw cutbacks. Meanwhile, digital-native news outlets also faced continued layoffs: In 2018, 14 percent of the highest-traffic digital-native news outlets went through layoffs, down slightly from 1 in 5 in 2017.

INVIGORATING CIVIC LIFE

Evaluation capacity building initiative graduates first cohort

The Pew Fund for Health and Human Services graduated its first cohort of grantee participants in its evaluation capacity building initiative, which started in early 2018 to strengthen grantees' abilities to monitor and evaluate their programs and use data to improve services for some of Philadelphia's most vulnerable residents. For more than a year, Pew partnered with consultants to help 30 Pew Fund grantees explore how to collect more useful data, encourage data-driven organizational cultures, and build stronger programs.

An installation by artist Polly Apfelbaum, "Face (Geometry) Naked (Eyes)," on display in Los Angeles. With support from Pew, Apfelbaum will create a new large-scale exhibition that draws from Pennsylvania German art and culture. *Courtesy of Ben Maltz Gallery*

Pew Center for Arts & Heritage announces new grantees

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage in October announced 39 grants in support of the Philadelphia region's cultural organizations and artists. The 2019 awards total more than $8.4 million and provide funding for 12 Pew arts fellowships and 27 project grants. The grants include two new areas of support. In addition to the center's long-standing annual fellowships for Philadelphia-based artists, for the first time a Pew Fellows-in-Residence program will bring two artists from outside the region to live, work, and embed themselves in the community, becoming part of the city's arts scene for a year. Additionally, the center is funding its first organizational collaboration, a multifaceted musical project between two of the city's major institutions—the Curtis Institute of Music and Drexel University's Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.

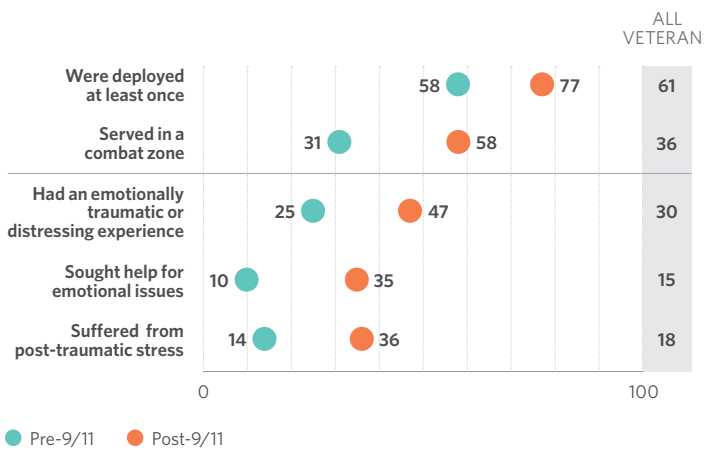
Gaby Bonilla/The Pew Charitable Trusts

A New Post-9/11 Generation of American Veterans

About 1 in 5 veterans today served on active duty after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. A Pew Research Center study released in September found that their collective experiences—from deployment to combat to the transition back to civilian life—are markedly different from those who served in previous eras. Roughly three-quarters of post-9/11 veterans were deployed at least once—compared with 58 percent of those who served before them—and these veterans are about twice as likely as their pre-9/11 counterparts to have served in a combat zone. These recent veterans are also more likely to bear the scars of battle, whether physical or not, with about half saying that they had emotionally traumatic or distressing experiences related to their military service and to say their adjustment to civilian life was difficult. Nearly all veterans expressed pride in their service with a majority endorsing the military as a career choice.

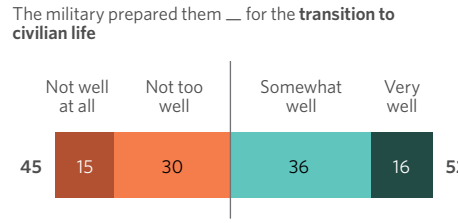
Post-9/11 veterans more likely to have been deployed, seen combat, experienced emotional trauma

Percentage of veterans from each era saying they...



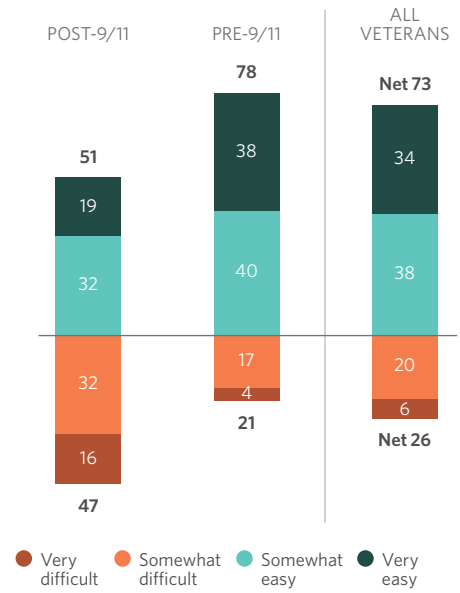
About half of veterans say the military prepared them well for their transition to civilian life

Percentage of veterans saying...



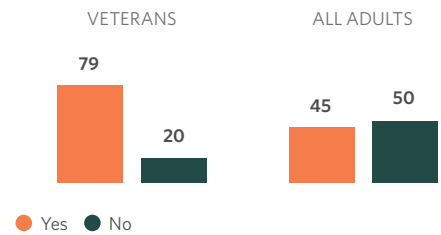
Post-9/11 veterans more likely than pre-9/11 veterans to say readjusting to civilian life was difficult

Percentage of veterans saying their readjustment to civilian life after military service was...



Most veterans endorse joining the military

Percentage of veterans/all adults saying they would advise a young person close to them to join the military



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"In these places, we still have air, we still have native forests, we still have wetlands and algae."

Preserving Patagonia, Page 28

Antonio Vizcaino