

Survey questionnaire and topline

2016 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL

WAVE 17 May

FINAL TOPLINE

May 10 – June 6, 2016

FORM 2 N=1,480

ASK ALL FORMS [N=4,563]:

TALK Thinking about conversations you have had in person, on the phone, or by email, text message or social media, which of these topics, if any, have you talked about in the PAST 7 DAYS?

		<u>Selected</u>	<u>Not selected /No answer</u>
a.	The economy and job situation May 10-June 6,2016	46	54
b.	Severe storms May 10-June 6,2016	37	63
c.	Food and nutrition May 10-June 6,2016	47	53
d.	The 2016 presidential election campaign May 10-June 6,2016	66	34
e.	Health and medicine May 10-June 6,2016	53	47
f.	Sports May 10-June 6,2016	36	64
g.	None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH] May 10-June 6,2016	7	93

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD1 Compared with twenty years ago, do you think the eating habits of people in the U.S. are...

May 10-June 6

2016

29	More healthy today
54	Less healthy today
17	About the same
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD2 Compared with twenty years ago, do you think people in the U.S. pay...

May 10-June 6

2016

54	More attention to eating healthy foods today
26	Less attention to eating healthy foods today
19	About the same amount of attention to eating healthy foods
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD3 Which of these do you think is a BIGGER PROBLEM in the U.S. today...

May 10-June 6

2016

12	The total amount of food people eat is too much
24	The types of food that people eat are not healthy enough
63	Both are equally big problems today
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:FUD4 How important, if at all, do you think each of the following are when it comes to improving a person's chances of a long and healthy life? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Healthy eating habits

May 10-June 6

2016

72	Very important
25	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
1	Not at all important
*	No answer

b. Genetics and hereditary factors

May 10-June 6

2016

47	Very important
45	Somewhat important
6	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	No answer

c. Getting enough physical exercise

May 10-June 6

2016

71	Very important
26	Somewhat important
1	Not too important
1	Not at all important
*	No answer

d. Safe and healthy housing conditions

May 10-June 6

2016

61	Very important
34	Somewhat important
3	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD5 How often, if at all, do you hear or read news stories about the health effects of what people eat and drink?

May 10-June 6

2016

23	Every day
43	A few times a week
24	A few times a month
9	Less often than that
*	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD6 How often, if at all, do you hear or read news stories that have advice about the health effects of what people eat and drink which **CONFLICTS WITH** earlier news stories on these topics?

May 10-June 6

2016

21	All the time
51	Some of the time
21	Not too often
5	Not at all
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD7 Which of these statements is closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2]

May 10-June 6

2016

61	New research is constantly improving our understanding about the health effects of what people eat and drink, so it makes sense that these findings conflict with prior studies
37	Research about the health effects of what people eat and drink cannot really be trusted because so many studies conflict with each other
2	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD8 Which of these statements is closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2]

May 10-June 6

2016

25	It is difficult to know how to eat healthy because there is so much conflicting information
72	Even though new studies sometimes disagree with prior findings, the core ideas about how to eat healthy are pretty well understood
2	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD9 How well, if at all, does each of these statements describe your overall approach to eating? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. I focus on the taste sensations of every meal

May 10-June 6

2016

23	Very well
53	Fairly well
20	Not too well
4	Not at all well
1	No answer

b. I usually eat whatever is easy and most convenient

May 10-June 6

2016

12	Very well
45	Fairly well
34	Not too well
9	Not at all well
1	No answer

c. My main focus is on eating healthy and nutritious

May 10-June 6

2016

18	Very well
55	Fairly well
23	Not too well
3	Not at all well
1	No answer

d. I eat when it is necessary, but I don't care very much about what foods I eat

May 10-June 6

2016

7	Very well
29	Fairly well
40	Not too well
23	Not at all well
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD10 When it comes to eating healthy, which of these statements best describes you?
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2]

May 10-June 6

2016

41	Most days I eat about what I should
58	Most days I should probably be eating healthier
1	No answer

NO QUESTIONS FUD11 AND FUD12**ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:**

FUD13 Have you, personally, done any grocery or food shopping in the PAST 30 days, or haven't you done this?

May 10-June 6

2016

89	Yes, have done this
11	No, have not done this
1	No answer

NO QUESTION FUD14**ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:**

FUD15 Thinking about the PAST 30 DAYS, how often did you or someone in your household do each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Buy organic food (Include fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, grains and packaged foods.)

May 10-June 6

2016

43	Several times
25	About once
25	Never
6	Not sure
1	No answer

- b. Buy fruits and vegetables grown in your local area

May 10-June 6

2016

46	Several times
26	About once
13	Never
14	Not sure
1	No answer

FUD15 CONTINUED...

c. Buy GMO-free food, which is food labeled as having no genetically modified ingredients

May 10-June 6

2016

27	Several times
17	About once
28	Never
27	Not sure
1	No answer

d. Decide whether or not to buy a food product because of what you read in the nutrition and ingredients label

May 10-June 6

2016

49	Several times
22	About once
20	Never
8	Not sure
1	No answer

NO QUESTIONS FUD16-FUD18**ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:**

FUD19 How easy or hard is it to find organic foods in your local community? (Include fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, grains and packaged foods.)

May 10-June 6

2016

33	Very easy to find
48	Easy to find
15	Hard to find
3	Very hard to find
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD20 When organic foods COST MORE than conventionally-grown food, is the higher price an important reason in whether or not you buy it, or not an important reason in your buying decisions?

May 10-June 6

2016

72	Yes, an important reason
27	No, not an important reason
1	No answer

ASK IF "BUY ORGANIC SEVERAL TIMES IN THE LAST 30 DAYS" OR "ONCE IN PAST 30 DAYS" (FUD15A=1,2) [N=1,032]:Thinking about the organic food that you bought in the past 30 days (Include fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, grains and packaged foods.)... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

FUD21 Was the following a reason that you bought organic food, or not?

a. To help the environment

May 10-June 6

2016

33	Yes, this was a reason
60	No, this was not a reason
7	No answer

b. To get healthier foods

May 10-June 6

2016

76	Yes, this was a reason
17	No, this was not a reason
6	No answer

c. Because it was the most convenient

May 10-June 6

2016

22	Yes, this was a reason
72	No, this was not a reason
7	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD22 How much of the food you eat is organic?

May 10-June 6

2016

6	Most of it
34	Some of it
44	Not too much
15	None at all
1	No answer

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS FUD23-FUD24]**ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:**

FUD23 Do you think organic fruits and vegetables generally ...

May 10-June 6

2016

32	Taste better than conventionally-grown foods
5	Taste worse than conventionally-grown foods
59	Have about the same taste as conventionally-grown foods
3	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD24 Do you think organic fruits and vegetables generally ...

May 10-June 6

2016

55	Better for one's health than conventionally-grown foods
3	Worse for one's health than conventionally-grown foods
41	Neither better nor worse for one's health than conventionally-grown foods
1	No answer

NO QUESTIONS FUD25-FUD26**ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:**

FUD27 When hosting a social gathering, how often, if at all, do you think the host should ask guests ahead of time if they have any food restrictions or food allergies?

May 10-June 6

2016

37	Always
25	Sometimes
21	Not too often
16	Never
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD28 How much, if at all, does it bother you when guests ask for special kinds of food options at a social gathering you are hosting?

May 10-June 6

2016

9	A lot
22	Some
37	Not too much
30	Not at all
2	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD29 Do you consider yourself a vegan or vegetarian?

May 10-June 6

2016

3	I am a strict vegan or vegetarian
6	I am mostly vegan or vegetarian
91	I am neither vegan or vegetarian
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD30 Do you currently have any kind of food intolerance or food allergy?

(Check as many as apply) **[ITEMS IN ORDER SHOWN]**

<u>May 10-June 6, 2016</u>		<u>Selected</u>	<u>Not selected</u> <u>/No answer</u>
a.	I have a severe allergic reaction to some foods	5	95
b.	I have a mild or moderate allergic reaction to some foods	11	89
c.	I have an intolerance to some foods	17	83
d.	No, None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]	69	31

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:FUD31 Thinking about your CLOSEST FAMILY AND FRIENDS, how many of them...
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

a. Have a food intolerance or food allergy

May 10-June 6

2016

3	Most of them
21	Some of them
43	Only a few
33	None of them
*	No answer

b. Are vegan or vegetarian

May 10-June 6

2016

2	Most of them
10	Some of them
32	Only a few
55	None of them
1	No answer

c. Are focused on eating healthy and nutritious

May 10-June 6

2016

18	Most of them
50	Some of them
26	Only a few
6	None of them
*	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

Thinking about genetically modified foods, sometimes called GMOs...

FUD32 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about foods with genetically modified ingredients?

May 10-June 6

2016

29	A lot
52	A little
19	Nothing at all
*	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD33A Do you think foods with genetically modified ingredients are generally...

May 10-June 6

2016

7	Better for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients
33	Worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients
32	Neither better nor worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients
26	Not sure
1	No answer

IF NO ANSWER OR NOT SURE (FUD33A=8,99) [N=366]:

FUD33B Even if you are not sure, which is closer to your views? Do you think foods with genetically modified ingredients are generally...

May 10-June 6

2016

11	Better for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients
22	Worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients
58	Neither better nor worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients
10	No answer

COMBINED RESPONSES FUD33A AND FUD33B [N=1,480]:

May 10-June 6

2016

10	Better for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients/lean
39	Worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients/lean
48	Neither better nor worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients/lean
3	No answer/Refused to lean

ASK IF "WORSE FOR YOUR HEALTH" (FUD33A=2 OR FUD33B=2) [N=594]:

FUD34 Do you think the health risk for people who eat genetically modified foods, over the course of their lifetime, is... **[FLIP ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS HIGH TO LOW; LOW TO HIGH]**

May 10-June 6

2016

15	Very high
36	High
38	Medium
9	Low
2	Very low
*	No answer

COMBINED RESPONSES FUD33A, FUD33B AND FUD34 [N=1,480]:

May 10-June 6

2016

10	Better for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients/lean
39	Worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients/lean
6	Very high
14	High
15	Medium
3	Low
1	Very low
*	No answer
48	Neither better nor worse for your health than foods with no genetically modified ingredients/lean
3	No answer/Refused to lean

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD35 How much do you, personally, care about the issue of genetically modified foods?

May 10-June 6

2016

16	A great deal
37	Some
31	Not too much
15	Not at all
*	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD36 How much of the food you eat has genetically modified ingredients?

May 10-June 6

2016

11	Most of it
40	Some of it
31	Not too much
17	None at all
2	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:FUD37 How likely is it that genetically modified foods will... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Lead to more affordably-priced food

May 10-June 6

2016

20	Very likely
36	Fairly likely
31	Not too likely
11	Not at all likely
2	No answer

b. Lead to health problems for the population as a whole

May 10-June 6

2016

16	Very likely
33	Fairly likely
39	Not too likely
10	Not at all likely
2	No answer

FUD37 CONTINUED...c. Create problems for the environment²⁴

May 10-June 6

2016

18	Very likely
31	Fairly likely
39	Not too likely
9	Not at all likely
2	No answer

d. Increase the global food supply

May 10-June 6

2016

25	Very likely
44	Fairly likely
23	Not too likely
6	Not at all likely
3	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD38 What role, if any, do you think each of the following groups should have in MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT POLICY ISSUES related to genetically modified foods? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Elected officials

May 10-June 6

2016

24	A major role
45	A minor role
30	No role
1	No answer

b. The general public

May 10-June 6

2016

57	A major role
32	A minor role
10	No role
1	No answer

²⁴ The figure for "not too likely" was corrected May 21, 2018.

FUD38 CONTINUED...

c. Scientists

May 10-June 6		
<u>2016</u>		
60	A major role	
28	A minor role	
11	No role	
1	No answer	

d. Food industry leaders

May 10-June 6		
<u>2016</u>		
42	A major role	
41	A minor role	
15	No role	
2	No answer	

e. Small farm owners

May 10-June 6		
<u>2016</u>		
60	A major role	
30	A minor role	
9	No role	
1	No answer	

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD39 Thinking about what you have read and heard, how well do scientists understand the health risks and benefits of eating genetically modified foods?

May 10-June 6		
<u>2016</u>		
19	Very well	
44	Fairly well	
29	Not too well	
6	Not at all well	
2	No answer	

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD40 How much, if at all, do you trust each of the following groups to give full and accurate information about the health risks and benefits of eating genetically modified foods?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

a. Elected officials

May 10-June 6

2016

4	A lot
21	Some
38	Not too much
36	Not at all
1	No answer

b. Scientists

May 10-June 6

2016

35	A lot
43	Some
14	Not too much
7	Not at all
1	No answer

c. Food industry leaders

May 10-June 6

2016

10	A lot
32	Some
33	Not too much
24	Not at all
1	No answer

d. The news media

May 10-June 6

2016

9	A lot
36	Some
33	Not too much
21	Not at all
1	No answer

FUD40 CONTINUED...

e. Small farm owners

May 10-June 6	
<u>2016</u>	
29	A lot
49	Some
16	Not too much
5	Not at all
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD41 As far as you know, how many scientists say that genetically modified foods are safe to eat?

May 10-June 6	
<u>2016</u>	
14	Almost all
28	More than half
31	About half
16	Fewer than half
7	Almost none
5	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD42 How often, if ever, do you think research findings from scientists about genetically modified foods are influenced by each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. The desire to help the industries they work with or work for

May 10-June 6	
<u>2016</u>	
30	Most of the time
50	Some of the time
13	Not too often
5	Never
2	No answer

b. Concern for the best interests of the public

May 10-June 6	
<u>2016</u>	
19	Most of the time
48	Some of the time
24	Not too often
6	Never
2	No answer

FUD42 CONTINUED...

c. Their own personal political leanings

May 10-June 6

2016

20	Most of the time
49	Some of the time
23	Not too often
6	Never
2	No answer

d. The desire to advance their career

May 10-June 6

2016

30	Most of the time
48	Some of the time
17	Not too often
3	Never
2	No answer

e. The best available scientific evidence

May 10-June 6

2016

30	Most of the time
51	Some of the time
13	Not too often
4	Never
2	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD43 How closely, if at all, do you follow news about genetically modified foods?

May 10-June 6

2016

6	Very closely
28	Somewhat closely
43	Not too closely
22	Not at all closely
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD44 Overall, how would you rate the job news media do in covering issues about genetically modified foods?

May 10-June 6

2016

5	Very good job
37	Somewhat good job
38	Somewhat bad job
18	Very bad job
3	No answer

NO QUESTION FUD45**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS BIO45-BIO46]****ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:**

FUD46 Do you think the news media generally... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

May 10-June 6

2016

30	Exaggerate the health risks of genetically modified foods
40	Don't take the health risks of genetically modified foods seriously enough
26	Are about right in their reporting
4	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,480]:

FUD47 Do you think the news media generally... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

May 10-June 6

2016

22	Give too much attention to skeptics of the safety of genetically modified foods
43	Give too little attention to skeptics of the safety of genetically modified foods
32	Give about the right amount of attention to skeptics of the safety of genetically modified foods
4	No answer

ASK ALL FORMS:

Here's a different kind of question. (If you don't know the answer, select "Not sure.") As far as you know...

ASK ALL [N=4,563]:

KNOSCT22 Which is the better way to determine whether a new drug is effective in treating a disease? If a scientist has a group of 1,000 volunteers with the disease to study, should she... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2]**

May 10-June 6

2016

65	Give the drug to half of them but not to the other half, and compare how many in each group get better (<i>Correct</i>)
35	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer
14	Give the drug to all of them and see how many get better
20	Not sure
1	No answer

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS KNOSCT23 TO KNOSCT34; KNOSCT22 ALWAYS FIRST]**ASK ALL:**

KNOSCT23 What gas is made as a consequence of burning fossil fuels? Is it ... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4]**

May 10-June 6

2016

68	Carbon dioxide (<i>Correct</i>)
32	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer
4	Hydrogen
1	Helium
2	Radon
24	Not sure
1	No answer

NO QUESTION KNOSCT24, KNOSCT25 AND KNOSCT26

ASK ALL:

KNOSCT27

If the chances that an old bridge will collapse starts at 1% in week 1 and doubles each week (as shown below), what is the chance that the old bridge will collapse during week 7?

Chances the bridge will collapse is ...

1% at Week 1
2% at Week 2
4% at Week 3
8% at Week 4

Enter the % chance that the bridge will collapse at Week 7

May 10-June 6

2016

58 64% (*Correct*)
42 NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer
20 All other numeric responses
19 Not sure
2 No answer

ASK ALL:

KNOSCT28

Which of the following conditions can be treated effectively by antibiotic medications?

[Check all that apply] **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS with ITEM e and f always last]**

May 10-June 6

2016

44 Bacterial infection only (*Correct*)
56 NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer

		<u>Selected</u>	<u>Not selected</u> <u>/No answer</u>
a.	Viral infections (such as a cold)	22	78
b.	Fungal infections (such as athlete's foot)	27	73
c.	Bacterial infections (such as strep throat infections)	81	19
d.	Allergic reactions to insect bites	17	83
e.	None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]	2	98
f.	Not sure [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]	10	90

ASK ALL:

KNOSCT29 If a scientist wants to determine if a new drug is effective at treating high blood pressure by giving half of a group of 1,000 volunteers a new medication and the other half a "sugar pill," she wants to rule out... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-3]**

May 10-June 6

2016

55	A placebo effect (<i>Correct</i>)
45	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer
3	A third person effect
17	A false consensus effect
23	Not sure
1	No answer

NO QUESTION KNOSCT30**ASK ALL:**

KNOSCT31 Which of these terms refers to health benefits occurring when most people in a population get a vaccine? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-3]**

May 10-June 6

2016

32	Herd immunity (<i>Correct</i>)
68	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer
8	Population control
33	Vaccination rate
26	Not sure
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

KNOSCT32 Which of the following can be genetically modified?

[Check all that apply] **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS with ITEM e and f always last]**

May 10-June 6

2016

36	Selected all (<i>Correct</i>)
64	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer

		<u>Selected</u>	<u>Not selected</u> <u>/No answer</u>
a.	An apple	59	41
b.	Salmon	51	49
c.	A mosquito	42	58
d.	Corn	70	30
e.	None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]	2	98
f.	Not sure [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]	20	80

ASK ALL:

KNOSCT33 Humans and mice share the same genetic make-up by... **[RANDOMIZE ORDER LOW TO HIGH; HIGH TO LOW with NOT SURE ALWAYS LAST]**

May 10-June 6

2016

33	About 50% or more (<i>Correct</i>)
67	NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer
7	Less than 10%
14	Between 11% and 49%
46	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

KNOSCT34 Which gas makes up most of the Earth's atmosphere? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4]**

May 10-June 6

2016

27	Nitrogen (<i>Correct</i>)
73	NET Incorrect/Not Sure/No answer
9	Hydrogen
10	Carbon dioxide
35	Oxygen
17	Not sure
2	No answer

TOTAL NUMBER CORRECT KNOSCT22 THROUGH KNOSCT34 [N=4,563]:

May 10-June 6

2016

4	9 out of 9
8	8 out of 9
10	7 out of 9
10	6 out of 9
13	5 out of 9
14	4 out of 9
11	3 out of 9
12	2 out of 9
10	1 out of 9
8	0 out of 9
22	High science knowledge (7-9 correct)
48	Medium science knowledge (3-6 correct)
30	Low science knowledge (0-2 correct)

More details on the science knowledge index can be found in [Chapter 4](#) and the [Methodology](#) section of the related report, "[The Politics of Climate](#)."