AEI Public Opinion Studies

# Public Opinion on Conspiracy Theories 

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( November 2013)

Soon after John F. Kennedy's assassination 50 years ago, stories began to circulate that the assassination was a conspiracy and not the work of a single individual. The National Opinion Research Center asked the first question we have been able to locate right after the assassination. In the November-December 1963 poll, 24 percent said the assassination was the work of one man, while 62 percent said that other people were involved. When Fox News asked registered voters a similar question in 2003, the results were 25 and 66 percent, respectively. In an April 2013 AP-GfK/Roper poll, 24 percent said one man was responsible and 59 percent said others were involved in a conspiracy. Other pollsters who have asked about the assassination also find strong support for the belief that a conspiracy existed.

This AEI Public Opinion Study looks closely at public attitudes about a variety of conspiracy theories. This collection includes subjects such as whether aliens landed at Roswell, whether 9/11 was the work of the U.S. government, whether Princess Diana's death was an accident, and whether Elvis and Osama bin Laden are still alive. We also look at the persistence of the belief among a segment of the population that President Obama was not born in the United States. We begin with the assassination of Kennedy.

Quantifying the precise number of Americans who are conspiracy theorists is not possible with the data we have. Each specific conspiracy in this collection of questions produces different responses, and it is not possible to use surveys taken at different times
to produce a specific figure. Softer questions, asking if the government isn't telling the full story, if there is more to know, or if there is cause to wonder consistently produce stronger responses than questions specifically about whether plots and schemes are afoot. In addition, conspiracy theorists frequently mask their true beliefs by insisting that more questions still need to be answered. These qualifications make it hard to come up with a firm figure.

An additional difficulty is figuring out at what point an individual crosses the line from skeptic to conspiracy theorist. For example, what does it mean when in April 2011, slightly more than an a fifth of Republicans told New York Times interviewers that they weren't sure if President Obama was born here or in another country? The line between uncertainty and conspiracy is hard to determine with blunt survey questions.

We know from a vast amount of survey data that skepticism about the federal government's power and reach is deep. It seems that whenever pollsters use the words "government" and "cover-up," a substantial number respond in the affirmative. Although small numbers appear to believe deeply in many of these conspiracies, the belief that there was a cover-up of the Kennedy assassination has the broadest appeal.

This collection indicates that a small number, somewhere in the range of 10 percent (with the exception noted above involving the Kennedy assassination) generally believe in most conspiracies. Far more are likely to believe that the government is hiding information from the public.

We don't find compelling evidence from the data in this document that particular demographic groups are susceptible to a belief in conspiracy theories. It depends on the theory. Middle-aged Americans are more likely to believe in the JFK assassination conspiracy than older or younger ones. Young people and Democrats are most likely to subscribe to conspiracy theories about $9 / 11$. Women are more likely to believe foul play was involved in Princess Diana's death. While the demographic data presented here are by no means exhaustive, we're hesitant to endorse what much of the literature concludes - that the young and less educated are more prone to conspiratorial instincts.

## JFK Assassination

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination on November 22,1963 , surveys show that a large swath of the public considers the event to have been something other than the work of a single man. While the responses vary, they nevertheless suggest that Americans think Lee Harvey Oswald was not a lone gunman. Whether the assassination was the work of the Soviet or Cuban governments, the C.I.A., defense contractors, right wingers, or even Vice President Lyndon Johnson, it has managed to animate the public imagination for over 50 years.

Intrigue surrounding the Kennedy assassination remains deep, making this conspiracy theory the most widely believed such theory in American politics today. In fact, a majority of Americans subscribe to the idea. Initial surveys suggested that belief in an assassination conspiracy was stronger among Democrats than among Republicans. That belief remains true, but the gap on partisan responses has shrunk. The latest poll we have is from AP/GfK-Roper and was conducted April 2013. It shows that 24 percent believe the assassination was the work of one individual, while 59 percent say that others were involved.

- I'm going to read some ways that some people felt when they first heard that the President John F. Kennedy was dead, and I'd like you to tell me which one of the statements on this card comes closest to your own feelings at the time. Very deepest, quite deeply, crossed my mind, never occurred to me. Thought it was done by some Communist or other radical to get rid of the President.

Nov. 1963

|  | Very deepest <br> feeling |
| :---: | :---: |
| NORC | $13 \%$ |


| Felt it quite | Crossed mind | Never occurred |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| deeply | but not deeply | to me |
| $15 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $32 \%$ |

- I'm going to read some ways that some people felt when they first heard that the President John F. Kennedy was dead, and I'd like you to tell me which one of the statements on this card comes closest to your own feelings at the time. Very deepest, quite deeply, crossed my mind, never occurred to me. Thought it was done by a segregationist or extreme right-winger.

| Nov. 1963 | NORC | $8 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $32 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

- Are you pretty much convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald was the man who shot the President John F. Kennedy, or do you have some doubt that he was the one?

Nov. 1963
NORC

| Pretty much | Have some |
| :---: | :---: |
| convinced | doubt |
| $72 \%$ | $22 \%$ |

## Don't know 6\%

 $22 \%$- Do you think this the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the work of just one man or were other people involved too?

Nov. 1963
NORC
One man Other people
Don't know
$14 \%$

- Do you feel the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the work of one man or do you feel it was part of a broader plot or conspiracy?

|  |  | Part of a broader plot | Work of one man | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sep. 1966 | Harris Poll | $46 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Feb. 1967 | Harris Poll | 44 | 35 | 21 |
| May 1967 | Harris Poll | 66 | 19 | 15 |

- This November (2003) is the $40^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Do you feel that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the act of one individual or part of a larger conspiracy?

|  |  | One individual | Larger conspiracy |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| May 1967* | Harris | $19 \%$ | $66 \%$ |
| Oct. 1975* | Harris | 20 | 66 |
| Mar. 1981* | Harris | 21 | 67 |
| Oct. 2003 | Fox News | 25 | 66 |

Demographics, 2003

| Republicans | $31 \%$ | $58 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Democrats | 20 | 73 |
| Independents | 24 | 67 |

Note: Fox question asked of registered voters. *Question wording is "Do you feel that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the act of one individual or part of a greater conspiracy?"

- As you may know, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, 40 years ago this month. From what you know about it, do you think the important facts about the assassination have been reported or do you think there are still important unanswered questions about the assassination?
have been reported unanswered

Nov. 1983
ABC
18\% 76\%
Nov. 2003
ABC
29
65

- Do you think one man - Lee Harvey Oswald - was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy, or do you think there were others involved?

|  |  | One man, Oswald | Others |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Oct. 1988 | CBS | $13 \%$ | $66 \%$ |
| Jan. 1992 | CBS/NYT | 10 | 77 |
| Oct. 1993 | CBS | 11 | 75 |
| May. 1998 | CBS | 10 | 74 |
| Nov. 1998 | CBS | 10 | 76 |

- Do you think there was an official cover-up to keep the public from learning the truth about the Kennedy assassination?
-------Kennedy assassination official cover-up?-------
Oct. 1988
Jan. 1992
Oct. 1993
May 1998
Nov. 1998
Nov. 2003
CBS/NY

| Yes | No |
| :--- | :--- |
| $61 \%$ | $17 \%$ |
| 75 | 13 |
| 81 | 12 |
| 68 | 18 |
| 74 | 13 |
| 68 | 24 |

- There have been many theories about who was involved in the assassination. I'd like to know if you think any of the following groups were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy...

| Oct. 1993 | CBS | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Yes } \\ & 49 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No } \\ & 20 \% \end{aligned}$ | Oswald acted alone (Vol.) $11 \%$ | Don't know $20 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Oct. 1993 | CBS | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Yes } \\ & 13 \% \end{aligned}$ | -The <br> No <br> $54 \%$ | oviet Union ---Oswald acted alone (Vol.) $11 \%$ | Don't know 22\% |
|  |  | Yes | No | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Cubans -------- } \\ & \text { Oswald acted } \\ & \text { alone (Vol.) } \end{aligned}$ | Don't know |
| Oct. 1993 | CBS | 22\% | 44\% | 11\% | 23\% |

- Some people say Oswald was the one who actually fired the shots at Kennedy, but some say Oswald did not fire any shots at Kennedy, but was set up by others to take the blame. Which view comes closest to your own?

Oswald fired shots Set up by others Other view Don't know

- Do you think that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the John Kennedy assassination or do think that there was a conspiracy that included other people?
(Asked of the 73 percent of respondents who thought there was a conspiracy) Which, if any of these groups do you think might have been involved in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy . . . ?

Dec. 1991 Yankelovich/CNN/Time

|  | Might have been involved <br> in a conspiracy to assassinate JFK |
| :--- | :---: |
| CIA | $50 \%$ |
| The mafia | 48 |
| The Cuban government | 34 |
| Anti-Castro Cuban exiles | 19 |
| American military leaders | 18 |
| The Dallas police | 13 |

Note: Adds to more than 100 percent due to multiple responses.

- Has the movie $J F K$ changed your views about the Kennedy assassination?

|  |  | Yes | No |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jan. 1992 | CBS/NYT | $36 \%$ | $58 \%$ |

Note: Asked of those who had seen the movie JFK.

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely...officials in the federal government were directly responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy. Is this very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely?
---Govt. officials involved In JFK assassination?---

| Very | Somewhat |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| likely | likely | Unlikely |
| $18 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $42 \%$ |
| 12 | 28 | 51 |

- Do you think that eventually we will know the whole story about the Kennedy assassination or do you think we will never really know about what happened?

May 1998 CBS
Nov. 1998 CBS

| Yes, we will know |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| the whole story |  |
| $11 \%$ | No |
| 19 | $84 \%$ |
|  | 77 |

- Do you think the government should conduct another investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?

|  |  | --Government should conduct another investi |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Oct. 2003 | Yes | No |  |
|  | Fox News | $20 \%$ | $74 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |
| Republicans | $16 \%$ | $78 \%$ |  |
| Democrats | 27 | 68 |  |
| Independents | 14 | 80 |  |

- Do you think that we know all the facts about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy or do you think there was a cover up?

|  | We know all the facts | There was a cover up |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Oct. 2003 | Fox News | $74 \%$ | |  |
| :---: |
| Demographics |

- Turning now to the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, there have been many theories about who was involved in the assassination. I'd like to know if you think any of the following were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Do you think Lyndon Johnson was involved in the assassination, or don't you think so?

|  |  | Yes, LBJ involved | No, not involved |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Nov. 2003* | Gallup | $18 \%$ | $75 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |
|  | $18-29$ year olds | - | - |
|  | $30-49$ | $17 \%$ | $78 \%$ |
|  | $50-64$ | 24 | 70 |
|  | 65 and older | 15 | 81 |


| Male | $18 \%$ | $79 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Female | 18 | 71 |
|  |  |  |
| Republican | $15 \%$ | $79 \%$ |
| Democrat | 19 | 78 |
| Independent | TK | TK |

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- Turning now to the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963. There have been many theories about who was involved in the assassination. I'd like to know if you think any of the following were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Do you think the mafia was involved in the assassination, or don't you think so?

Nov. 2003
Gallup
Yes, mafia involved Not involved

Demographics

| 18-29 year olds | - | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ | $41 \%$ | $53 \%$ |
| $50-64$ | 38 | 54 |
| 65 and over | 28 | 66 |
|  |  |  |
| Male | 37 | 59 |
| Female | 36 | 53 |
| Republican <br> Democrat | 35 | 57 |
|  | 43 | 51 |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Turning now to the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963. There have been many theories about who was involved in the assassination. I'd like to know if you think any of the following were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Do you think the C.I.A. was involved in the assassination, or don't you think so?

Nov. 2003
Gallup
Yes, C.I.A involved No, not involved

Demographics

| $18-29$ year olds | - | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ | $40 \%$ | $56 \%$ |
| $50-64$ | 37 | 54 |
| 65 and over | 13 | 81 |
|  |  |  |
| Male | $32 \%$ | $64 \%$ |
| Female | 35 | 56 |

Republican $25 \% \quad 66 \%$
Democrat $40 \quad 54$

Independent 36
Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Turning now to the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963. There have been many theories about who was involved in the assassination. I'd like to know if you think any of the following were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Do you think the Soviet Union was involved in the assassination, or don't you think so?

Nov. 2003

|  | Yes, Soviet Union |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | was involved | No, not involved |
| Gallup | $15 \%$ | $77 \%$ |

Demographics

| $18-29$ year olds | - | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ | $13 \%$ | $78 \%$ |
| $50-64$ | 15 | 75 |
| 65 and over | 21 | 75 |
|  |  |  |
| Male | $16 \%$ | $80 \%$ |
| Female | 14 | 74 |
|  |  |  |
| Republican | $13 \%$ | $78 \%$ |
| Democrats | 22 | 70 |
| Independents | 12 | 81 |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Turning now to the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963. There have been many theories about who was involved in the assassination. I'd like to know if you think any of the following were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Do you think the Cubans were involved in the assassination, or don't you think so?

Nov. 2003
Gallup
Yes, the Cubans were involved No, not involved

Demographics

| $18-29$ year olds | - | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ | $15 \%$ | $80 \%$ |
| $50-64$ | 21 | 73 |
| 65 and over | 15 | 74 |
|  |  |  |
| Male | $17 \%$ | $80 \%$ |
| Female | 14 | 75 |
|  | $17 \%$ | $74 \%$ |
| Republican | 18 | 76 |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Do you feel the John F. Kennedy assassination was the work of one man, or was it part of a broader plot?
- (If one man/Part of a broader plot) Do you feel pretty sure about that, or is that just your hunch?

Nov. 2003

|  | -------------- One man------------- |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ABC | Sure | Just a hunch |
|  | $14 \%$ | $8 \%$ |


| ---------- Broader plot---------- |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Sure | Just a hunch |
| $39 \%$ | $31 \%$ |

- Do you think Lee Harvey Oswald was the only gunman in the Kennedy assassination, do you think there was another gunman in addition to Oswald there that day, or do you think Oswald was not involved in the assassination at all? Do you feel pretty sure about that, or is that just your hunch?

Nov. 2003
ABC

| -- Only Oswald-- | - Another gunman-- |  | - Not Oswald-- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sure | Hunch | Sure Hunch | Sure | Hunch |  |
| $21 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $3 \%$ |

- How likely is it that some people in the federal government knew about the assassination of President Kennedy in advance?

Sep. 2007

|  | -- People in government knew about assassination--- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unlikely |  |
| Scripps Howard/Ohio U $20 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $40 \%$ |  |

- There has been significant speculation about the circumstances surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Which statement do you agree with more? And would you say you strongly agree with that statement or just somewhat agree?

May 2012 UVA/Hart Research
There is nothing left to know about the circumstances surrounding the Kennedy assassination. Lee Harvey Oswald acted on his own to assassinate the President, and there was no conspiracy

$$
\text { Strongly agree } \quad 15 \%
$$

Just somewhat agree
10
There are still too many questions surrounding Kennedy's assassination to say that Lee Harvey Oswald acted by himself, or that there is not a larger conspiracy regarding the details of his death

| Strongly agree | $31 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Just somewhat agree | 44 |

- Do you believe that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing President Kennedy, or was there some larger conspiracy at work?

| Oswald acted | Larger conspiracy |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| alone | at work | Not sure |
| $25 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $24 \%$ |


| Mar. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $25 \%$ | $51 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization

- Do you think that one man was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy, or do you think that others were involved in a conspiracy?

Apr. 2013
AP-GfK/Roper Poll

| One man | Others involved | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $24 \%$ | $59 \%$ | $16 \%$ |

## Pearl Harbor

Questions arose concerning Pearl Harbor shortly after the attack and subsequent decision to go to war. The fortunate absence of America's aircraft carriers that day is a consistent sticking point for conspiracists. Pollsters only addressed these suspicions beginning in 1971 with the first question coming from Harris. We have found only three questions regarding this conspiracy. In two of them, a sizable minority of the population believes President Roosevelt knew in advance and used the attack as an excuse to go to war.

- Tell me whether you think each of the following factors was a major cause of World War II, a minor cause, or not a cause at all...a conspiracy involving President Roosevelt, who wanted an excuse to go to war with Germany and provoked Japan into attacking the U.S. to provide him with that excuse.

1971
Harris

| $---------A$ | conspiracy involving | FDR?--------- |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Major | Minor | Not a |
| cause | cause | cause |
| of WWII | of WWII | of WWII |
| $8 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $54 \%$ |

- Some people have argued that President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew about Japanese plans to bomb Pearl Harbor but did nothing about it because he wanted an excuse to involve the U.S. on the side of the allies in the war. From what you know or have read, do you agree or disagree with this point of view?

Nov. 1991
Gallup
Agree
Disagree
Don't know $22 \%$

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely...President Roosevelt knew in advance that the Japanese were going to bomb Pearl Harbor, but he did not warn our troops because he wanted to get the United States involved in World War II?

|  |  | ------FDR knew of Pearl Harbor attack?------- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Very | Somewh |  |
|  |  | likely | likely | Unlikely |
| Jun. 1997 | Scripps Howard/Ohio U. | 16\% | 26\% | 43\% |

## The Holocaust

Conspiracy theories surrounding the Holocaust take many forms, all very disturbing. Several prominent confrontations between Holocaust deniers and universities over the freedom to speak publicly may have motivated Gallup and CBS News to ask several polling questions in 1994. We have been unable to find any others.

The four 1994 Gallup questions provide an excellent case study in how variations in question wording and structure can give different impressions of how many people subscribe to a given conspiracy theory.

- Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened?

Nov. 1992
Roper
$\begin{array}{ccc}\text { Seems possible } & \text { Seems impossible } & \text { Don't know } \\ 22 \% & 65 \% & 12 \%\end{array}$

- Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews in Nazi death camps during World War II never happened?

Jan. 1994 Gallup/CNN/USA Today

| Possible | Impossible | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $37 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $5 \%$ |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- As you know, the term Holocaust usually refers to the killing of millions of Jews in Nazi death camps during World War II. Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened?

Jan. $1994 \quad$ Gallup
Note: Asked of a half sample.

- As you know, the term Holocaust usually refers to the killing of millions of Jews in Nazi death camps during World War II. Do you doubt that the Holocaust actually happened, or not?

|  | Yes, doubt | No | No opinion |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Jan. 1994 | Gallup | $9 \%$ | $87 \%$ | $4 \%$ |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- As you know, the term Holocaust usually refers to the killing of millions of Jews in Nazi death camps during World War II. In your opinion, did the Holocaust definitely happen, probably happen, probably not happen, or definitely not happen?

|  | Definitely <br> happened | Probably <br> happened | Definitely <br> did not <br> happen | did not <br> happen |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan. $1994 \quad$ Gallup/CNN/USA Today | $83 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $*$ |
| Note: Asked of a half sample. |  |  |  |  |

- As you may know, the term 'the Holocaust' refers to the Nazi extermination of millions of Jews during the Second World War. Do you think the Nazi extermination of millions of Jews actually took place, or not?

|  | Yes took place, |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Yes, took | No did not | but not | Probably |  |
| Jan. 1994 | place | take place | millions | happened | Don't know |  |
|  | CBS News | $90 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $5 \%$ |

## Aliens, UFOs, and Roswell

Belief in unidentified flying objects, or aliens for that matter, doesn't imply a conspiracist impulse by itself. However, belief in a government cover-up of alien visits strongly overlaps the belief in these phenomena in many polls. Below, we present survey data on all three categories.

Polls taken by Roper Starch Worldwide from 1977 to 1999 show that around 20 percent believe UFOs from somewhere in the universe exist. A similar proportion embraces the view that UFOs landed in the United States at Roswell, New Mexico and that the government is engaged in a systematic cover-up of this event.

The 1997 US Air Force report on Roswell renewed general public and pollster interest in what conspiracists refer to as "the Roswell incident." In a June 1997 question by Gallup, 25 percent of those interviewed said they believed the government report. Sixty-four percent did not. In a March 2013 Public Policy Polling survey, 21 percent of Americans agreed that aliens did land in Roswell and the government covered it up.

In the 1990s, the gender difference on the questions where data were available was rather small. But it seems to have grown. In recent questions, men seem more likely than women to believe in the existence of aliens, the presence of UFOs, and a government conspiracy to conceal public knowledge of their existence.

- Now here is a list of some different things. Would you tell me for each one whether it is something you believe in, or something you're not sure about, or something you don't believe in...UFOs (unidentified flying objects from somewhere else in the universe)?

|  |  | Believe | Not sure | Don't believe |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan. 1977 | RoperASW | 29\% | 33\% | 37\% |
| Jan. 1985 | RoperASW | 25 | 36 | 39 |
| Jul. 1988 | RoperASW | 18 | 36 | 46 |
| Jul. 1994 | RoperASW | 22 | 32 | 45 |
| Jul. 1997 | RoperASW | 22 | 30 | 47 |
| Aug. 1999 | RoperASW | 19 | 26 | 54 |

- Of course, everyone is more interested in some things being carried in the news than in others. Is news about reports about UFOs something you have recently been following fairly closely, or just following casually, or not paying much attention to?

Feb. 1978

| Following | Following |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| closely | casually | No attention |
| $24 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $40 \%$ |

- In your opinion, are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?

|  |  | Real | Imaginary | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jun. 1990 | Gallup | $47 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
| Feb. 1991 | PSRA | 61 | 25 | 14 |
| Sep. 1996 | Gallup | 49 | 31 | 21 |
| Jan. 2000 | Yankelovich/ |  |  |  |
|  | CNN/Time | 43 | 42 | 15 |

Demographics, Jan. 2000

| $18-29$ | $44 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ | 48 | 40 | 12 |
| $50-64$ | 43 | 37 | 20 |
| $65+$ | 35 | 48 | 17 |
|  |  |  |  |
| LT HS grad | 36 | 46 | 17 |
| HS grad | 44 | 43 | 14 |
| Some college | 47 | 39 | 14 |
| College plus | 42 | 42 | 14 |
|  |  |  |  |
| <\$35K | 44 | 41 | 15 |
| $\$ 35 \mathrm{~K}-\$ 49 \mathrm{~K}$ | 46 | 42 | 11 |
| $\$ 50-\$ 74 \mathrm{~K}$ | 50 | 39 | 11 |
| $>\$ 75 \mathrm{~K}$ | 39 | 46 | 15 |

- Do you think that UFOs (unidentified flying objects) have ever visited earth in some form, or not?

Sep. 1996
Gallup
Yes
$45 \%$

No
Don't know/Refused $16 \%$

- In your opinion, does the US government know more about UFOs than they are telling us?

Sep. 1996
Gallup
Yes
$71 \%$

No
Don't know 10\%

- As you may have seen in the news, some people have recently claimed to have seen unidentified flying objects - or UFOs. Do you personally believe in the existence of UFOs?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| May 1997 | Yankelovich/CNN/Time | $38 \%$ | $55 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | $18-29$ years old | $38 \%$ | $56 \%$ | $6 \%$ |
|  | $30-49$ | 43 | 52 | 5 |
|  | $50-64$ | 42 | 52 | 7 |
|  | 65 and over | 26 | 66 | 8 |


| HS grad and less | 39\% | 55\% | 7\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Some college | 40 | 55 | 5 |
| College plus | 38 | 56 | 6 |
| Republican | 35\% | 61\% | 3\% |
| Democrat | 38 | 55 | 7 |
| Independent | 43 | 51 | 6 |
| Men | 39\% | 55\% | 6\% |
| Women | 38 | 55 | 7 |

- Do you think that intelligent beings from other planets have ever visited the earth, or don't you think so?

May 1997
Jun. 1997
Yankelovich/CNN/Time
Yankelovich/CNN/Time

| Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| $31 \%$ | $60 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| 34 | 52 | 14 |

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely...The U.S. Air Force is withholding proof of intelligent life from other planets.

Jun. 1997
Scripps Howard/Ohio U

| ---------USAF withholding UFO evidence?-------- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very | Somewhat |  |
| likely | likely | Unlikely |
| $24 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $40 \%$ |

- Do you believe that a spacecraft from another planet crashed in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947, or not?

| $----B e l i e v e ~ i n ~ R o s w e l l ~ c r a s h ?----~$ |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| Yes | No |
| $31 \%$ | $53 \%$ |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- In the past week, the U.S. Air Force issued a report saying that people in New Mexico - who reported seeing UFOs and the bodies of aliens - actually saw the remains of weather balloons and crash-test dummies that were part of top-secret U.S. military experiments. Do you believe this report, or not?
---Believe govt. report on Roswell crash?---

| Yes | No |
| :--- | :--- |
| $25 \%$ | $64 \%$ |

Jun. 1997
Gallup
25\%
64\%
Note: Asked of a half sample.

- How much have you heard about an incident that occurred in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 which some people believe was caused by a spacecraft from another planet that crashed there: a great deal, a moderate amount, on a little, or nothing at all?

Jun. 1997

|  | Great | Moderate | Only a | Nothing |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gallup/CNN/USA Today | deal | amount | little | at all |
|  | $29 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $20 \%$ |

- Do you think the U.S. Air Force is covering up a UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico?

| ----------- Roswell cover-up?-------------- |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Yes | No | Note sure |
| $39 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $29 \%$ |

Jun. 1997 Fox
39\% 32\%
29\%
Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you think that a UFO crash-landed in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, or don't you think so?
$\left.\begin{array}{llllll} & & & & \begin{array}{c}\text { Not }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Do not believe/ } \\ \text { not sure beings } \\ \text { sure }\end{array} \\ \text { Jun. } 1997 & \text { Yave visited }\end{array}\right\}$
- Do you think that there are intelligent beings living on other planets in the universe, or don't you think so?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jun. 1997 | Yankelovich/CNN/Time | $54 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | $64 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
|  | Women | 45 | 41 | 14 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | X-Files watchers | $64 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
|  | No X-Files | 45 | 41 | 14 |

- Do you think that intelligent beings from other planets have ever visited the earth, or don't you think so?
- (If Yes) Do you think the United States government knows about the existence of intelligent life on other planets and is hiding that fact from the American public, or don't you think so?

| Jun. 1997 | Yankelovich/CNN/Time | --------------Evidence of alien life?-------------- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Yes, govt. is hiding $27 \%$ | Yes, govt. not hiding 6\% | Don't believe/ Not sure 66\% |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | 28\% | 7\% | 63\% |
|  | Women | 25 | 4 | 69 |
|  | X-Files watchers | 33\% | 7\% | 58\% |
|  | No X-Files | 21 | 4 | 1 |

- Do you think that intelligent beings from other planets have ever visited the earth, or don't you think so?
- (If yes) Please tell me whether you believe or do not believe that each of the following is true. Intelligent beings from other planets have been in contact with members of the U.S. government.

| ----- Aliens in contact with U.S. govt.?------- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes, in | Yes, not | Don't believe/ |
| contact | in contact | Not sure |
| $13 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $66 \%$ |

- Have you or has anyone you know ever seen a UFO or anything they believed was a spacecraft from another planet?

Jun. 1997

|  | Yes, personally | Yes, someone I know | No |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Yankelovich/CNN/Time | $8 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $74 \%$ |

Demographics

| Men | $9 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $73 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Women | 7 | 17 | 76 |
|  |  |  |  |
| X-Files watchers | $10 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $73 \%$ |
| No X-Files | 7 | 17 | 76 |

- Have you or anyone you know ever had physical contact with beings from another planet?

|  |  | personally | I know | No | Don’t believe |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jun. 1997 | Yankelovich/CNN/Time | - | $2 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $66 \%$ |

- Have you or anyone you know ever been abducted by beings from another planet?

| Jun. 1997 | Yankelovich/CNN/Time | - | $2 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $66 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

- How likely do you think it is that the federal government is withholding information from the public on each of the following matters . . . very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all . . . The existence of UFOs?

|  |  | $-----------G o v t . ~ w i t h h o l d i n g ~ e v i d e n c e ~ o f ~ U F O ~ e x i s t e n c e--------------~$ | Very | Somewhat | Not very |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| Jun. 1998 | Fox | likely | likely | likely | likely |
|  | $28 \%$ | $27 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $17 \%$ |  |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Just your best guess - do you think the federal government has told the public everything the government knows about UFOs, or do you think the government has important information about UFOs that it's keeping secret?
- (If keeping secrets) Just your best guess - do you think the government has strong evidence that aliens from another planet have visited the Earth, or not?
- (If strong evidence) Do you think the government has solid proof that aliens from another planet have visited the Earth, or not?

|  | ------- Yes, govt. keeping secrets about UFOs--------- |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Has | Strong | No strong | Unsure of | No |  |
|  |  | proof | evidence | evidence | evidence | secrets |
| Jun. 1997 | ABC | $26 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $15 \%$ |

- Do you think the U.S. government is withholding information from the public about the existence of UFOs, or don't you think so?

- The federal government is withholding proof of the existence of intelligent life from others planets?

Jul. 2006
Scripps Howard/Ohio U
Very likel
Somewhat likely
Unlikely
$16 \%$
$22 \%$
54\%

- Some Americans feel that flying saucers are real and that the federal government is hiding the truth about them from us. Do you think this is very likely, somewhat likely or not likely?

|  |  | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unlikely |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sep. 2007 | Scripps Howard/Ohio U | $11 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $55 \%$ |

- In general, do you believe in or do you not believe in unidentified flying objects or UFOs?

Oct. 2007
AP/Ipsos-Public Affairs

| -------------- Believe in UFOs---------------- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Believe in it | Do not | Don't know |
| $34 \%$ | $63 \%$ | $3 \%$ |


| Demographics |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Male | $40 \%$ | $58 \%$ | $2 \%$ |
| Female | 29 | 68 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $<\$ 30 \mathrm{~K}$ in income | $33 \%$ | $63 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| $\$ 30 \mathrm{~K}-\$ 49 \mathrm{~K}$ | 39 | 59 | 2 |
| $\$ 50-\$ 74 \mathrm{~K}$ | 33 | 64 | 3 |
| $>\$ 75 \mathrm{~K}$ | 32 | 66 | 2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Republican | $31 \%$ | $68 \%$ | $1 \%$ |
| Democrat | 38 | 60 | 2 |
| Independent | 35 | 58 | 7 |

- Do you believe a UFO crashed at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947, and the government covered it up, or not?

|  | Public Policy Polling | Do <br> Mar. 2013 | Do not <br> $21 \%$ | Not sure <br> Demographics |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | $32 \%$ |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe aliens exist, or not?

| Mar. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | Do <br> $29 \%$ | Do not <br> $47 \%$ | Not sure <br> $24 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | $35 \%$ | $43 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
|  | Women | 22 | 51 | 27 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you think the U.S. government has secretly allowed aliens to take over our society in exchange for help with industrial technological advances, such as electric power and the microwave, or not?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Sep. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $3 \%$ | $86 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | $2 \%$ | $90 \%$ | $8 \%$ |
|  | Women | 5 | 83 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Democrat | $1 \%$ | $89 \%$ | $10 \%$ |
|  | Republican | 7 | 81 | 12 |
|  | Independent | 3 | 89 | 8 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

# Martin Luther King Jr. Assassination 

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. Two months later, James Earl Ray, a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, was arrested in London at Heathrow Airport. He was extradited to the United States and charged with the assassination. In March of 1969, Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Some believe that the assassination was carried out by the US government and argue that James Earl Ray was a scapegoat. These allegations have a receptive audience. In a 1976 Harris poll, 69 percent believed the assassination was the work of a conspiracy. In a 2008 CNN poll, 55 percent endorsed the notion of a conspiracy.

- (Asked only of African Americans) Do you think Martin Luther King's assassination was the result of a conspiracy or that it was the act of one man only?

|  |  | Conspiracy | One man | Not sure |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 1969 | Gallup | 82\% | 5\% | 13\% |

Note: Asked of African Americans.

- Do you feel that the Assassination of Martin Luther King was the act of one individual or part of a larger conspiracy?

Oct. 1975
Harris
One individual
$24 \%$
Conspiracy
$60 \%$
59
Not sure
$16 \%$
15

- Now here is a question about the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of Martin Luther King, or do you think others were involved?

Dec. 1976
Gallup

| One man | Others | No opinion |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $18 \%$ | $69 \%$ | $13 \%$ |

- All in all, do you feel the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. was the work of one man or do you feel it was part of a broader plot or conspiracy?

|  | One man | Broader plot | Not sure |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sep. 1978 | Harris | $19 \%$ | $69 \%$ | $12 \%$ |

- Now a question about the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., or do you think others were involved?

|  |  | One man | Others involved | Don't know |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 1998 | CBS | $12 \%$ | $69 \%$ | $19 \%$ |

Independent 77
Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Now a question about the assassination of civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., do you think one man James Earl Ray was responsible for the assassination of Martin Luther King or do you think others were involved?

| Mar. 1998 | CBS | One man <br> Demographics <br> D |  | Others involved <br> $70 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | | Don't know |
| :---: |
| $20 \%$ |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- Do you think the assassination of Martin Luther King was the act of one individual or part of a larger conspiracy?

Mar. 2008

Demographics

| CNN/Essence | Act of one individual 33\% | Part of conspiracy 55\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 18-29 | 31\% | 65\% |
| 30-49 | 28 | 62 |
| 50-64 | 38 | 54 |
| 65 and older | 43 | 46 |
| Less than HS grad | 19\% | 68\% |
| HS grad | 25 | 67 |
| Some college | 36 | 58 |
| College plus | 45 | 46 |
| Male | 37\% | 55\% |
| Female | 30 | 60 |
| Republican | 43\% | 47\% |
| Democrat | 30 | 64 |
| Independent | 31 | 60 |
| White | 40\% | 50\% |
| Black | 9 | 88 |

## Moon Landing

Conspiracies surrounding the moon landing gained traction in the mid-1970s with several self-published books and papers that claimed the landings were staged by NASA. Conspiracy advocates point to a variety of supposed evidence, some even coming from the famous video footage of the moon landing itself - shadows appearing to come from multiple light sources, prints in the Moon dust despite the lack of moisture, and the American flag planted by Buzz Aldrin fluttering in the wind despite the vacuum of space. We have found only a few questions that ask if the moon landing was a hoax. Around six percent of the population believe it.

- Thinking about space exploration, do you think the government staged and faked the Apollo moon landings, or don't you feel that way?

Jul. 1995


| No, don't |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| feel this way | Not sure |
| $83 \%$ | $11 \%$ |

- Thinking about the space exploration, do you think the government staged or faked the Apollo moon landing, or don't you feel that way?

Jul. 1999
Gallup
Yes, staged
$6 \%$

| No | Not sure |
| :--- | :---: |
| $89 \%$ | $5 \%$ |

- Do you believe the moon landing was faked, or not?
-------The moon landing was faked-------

Mar. 2013
Public Policy Polling

| Believe | Do not | Not sure |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $7 \%$ | $84 \%$ | $9 \%$ |

Demographics

| Men | $6 \%$ | $86 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Women | 7 | 82 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $18-29$ years old | $11 \%$ | $74 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| $30-45$ | 9 | 84 | 7 |
| $46-65$ | 4 | 88 | 7 |
| $65+$ | 6 | 83 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Democrat | $7 \%$ | $80 \%$ | $13 \%$ |
| Republican <br> Independent | 4 | 90 | 6 |
|  | 9 | 82 | 9 |
| Hispanic | $15 \%$ | $73 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| White | 5 | 88 | 7 |
| African American | 8 | 68 | 24 |

## Waco

The FBI's raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Texas in the spring of 1993 has produced several conspiracy theories. Some believe that the FBI deliberately set fire to the compound. Others embrace the view that the government covered up several features of the attack.

Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh cited Waco as one motivation for his bombing in 1995, leading the media and pollsters to revisit the incident. In September 1999, Attorney General Janet Reno initiated a special investigation of events at Waco. The report concluded that the fire that eventually killed 73 members of the Branch Davidian compound was not caused by government agents, but government employees had failed to disclose information and in some cases, obstructed the initial investigation.

Questions about WACO illustrate an interesting point about public opinion in America. Far more people say it is likely the government is covering up information about WACO than believe the FBI or government actually set the fire.

- Do you think government agents deliberately set the fire in which the Branch Davidians died or do you think this was an accident?

|  |  | ----- FBI deliberately set Waco fire?----- |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Apr. 1995 | Deliberate | Accident |

- Do you think federal law enforcement officials are covering up anything about the role of government officials at Waco, or don't you think so?

Jul. 1995
Yankelovich/CNN/Time

| ---Federal officials are covering up--- |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| Yes | No |
| $49 \%$ | $39 \%$ |

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely... The FBI deliberately set the fires that destroyed the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas in 1993.

Jun. 1997 Scripps Howard/Ohio U $18 \% \quad 22 \%$ 50\%

- The FBI now says it used potentially flammable tear gas canisters near the compound in Waco a few hours before the fire there. Before now the FBI said it did not do this. Do you think the FBI has been intentionally trying to cover up its actions in Waco, or do you think it made an honest mistake when it denied using flammable devices there?

Sep. 1999
ABC

| ---FBI's intentions in Waco fire?--- |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Cover-up | Mistake |
| $57 \%$ | $23 \%$ |

- Do you think there has been an official cover-up by the government or the FBI to keep the public from learning the truth about the events in Waco?

|  |  | --------- Cover-up of Waco fire?------------ |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Cover-up | No cover-up | Don't know |
| Oct. 1999 | CBS | $62 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $13 \%$ |
| Apr. 2000 | CBS | 51 | 33 | 16 |

Demographics, April 2000

| Male | $53 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Female | 49 | 32 | 19 |


| $18-29$ | $61 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-44$ | 53 | 33 | 14 |
| $45-64$ | 48 | 37 | 15 |

65 and over $39 \quad 40 \quad 21$
LT HS grad $50 \% \quad 22 \% \quad 28 \%$

| HS grad | 51 | 31 | 18 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| Some college | 55 | 35 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |


| College plus | 45 | 41 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| Republican | $56 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Democrat | 50 | 32 | 18 |
| Independent | 50 | 37 | 13 |

- Who do you think probably set the first fire which killed the cult members, the FBI who conducted the assault or the Branch Davidians themselves?

|  |  | ---- Waco fire was set by?----- |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sep. 1999 | FBI | Davidians |
|  | $27 \%$ | $46 \%$ |

- As you know, after previously denying that it had done so, the FBI has recently acknowledged firing potentially flammable tear gas in the 1993 raid of the Branch Davidian Compound in Waco, Texas. Do you think that the FBI deliberately withheld this evidence, or not?

|  |  | ---FBI deliberately withheld evidence?--- |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sep. 1999 | NBC/WSJ | Yes | No |
| Demographics |  | $76 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
|  | $18-29$ years old |  |  |
|  | $30-49$ | $77 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
|  | $50-64$ | 79 | 10 |
|  | $65+$ | 67 | 10 |
|  |  |  | 13 |
|  | Male | $77 \%$ |  |
|  | Female | 74 | $11 \%$ |
|  |  |  | 11 |

Note: Asked of a half sample.

- In 1993, there was a 51-day standoff and violent confrontation in Waco, Texas between the Branch Davidians, led by David Koresh, and the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. There was a large fire in the compound there that resulted in the deaths of 80 people. Do you think the complete truth about the events at Waco will come out some day, or do you think this is something that can't be found out?

|  |  | Truth will come out | Truth can't be found |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Oct. 1999 | CBS News | $43 \%$ | $50 \%$ |
| Apr. 2000 | CBS News | 47 | 45 |

Note: The 1999 question did not include the background on the Waco incident. That description appeared earlier in the poll.

## Vincent Foster

Vincent Foster, Jr. was a Deputy White House Counsel during the initial months of President Bill Clinton's administration. Before joining the White House, he was a successful private lawyer. But he fell into depression in 1993 and was found dead in a public park in July of that year.

While his death was ruled as a suicide after official investigations, it remains the subject of many conspiracy theories, including the theory that the President or Hillary Clinton had him killed.

- Regarding the death of White House aide Vincent Foster, do you think...It was a suicide for reasons that have been pretty well explained, it was a suicide for reasons still not fully explained, or it was not a suicide?

Mar. 1994 PSRA/Newsweek
A suicide for reasons pretty well explained $11 \%$
A suicide for reasons not fully explained 47
Not a suicide 15
Don't know 27

- From what you know, do you think Vincent Foster - the former aide to President Bill Clinton committed suicide or do you think he was murdered?

Jul. 1995

|  | Suicide | Murdered |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Time/CNN/Yankelovich | $35 \%$ | $20 \%$ |

Not sure $45 \%$

- Do you think the Clinton Administration is covering up anything in the investigation of Vincent Foster's death, or don't you think so?

Jul. 1995
Time/CNN/Yankelovich

| Yes, covering up | No, don't | Not sure |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $45 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $26 \%$ |

## Oklahoma City Bombing

In the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in April 1995, a theory emerged that the government had in fact blown up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. While there has not been extensive polling on this question, results nevertheless indicate that about one in ten respondents think the government may possibly have carried out the attack. Around half of Americans believe the government is likely withholding further information.

- Some people have said the government might have bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City in order to blame extremist groups. Do you think this might possibly be true, or that it is almost certainly not true?

Apr. 1995
CBS

| --- Govt. bombed OK City building? --- |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Might be true | Not true |
| $9 \%$ | $85 \%$ |

- Some people have said the federal government bombed the federal government building in Oklahoma City in order to blame extremist groups. Do you think this is true or not true?

|  |  | ---Govt. bombed OK City building?--- |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Apr. 1995 | Yankelovich/CNN/Time | True | No |
|  |  | $4 \%$ | $89 \%$ |

- How likely do you think it is that the federal government is withholding information from the public on each of the following matters . . . very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all . . . The Oklahoma City bombing?

|  |  | Very | Somewhat | Not very | Not at all |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | likely | likely | likely | likely |
| Jun. 1998 | Fox News | 23\% | 25\% | 22\% | 23\% |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

## TWA 800

On July $17^{\text {th }}$ 1996, TWA Flight 800 exploded and crashed minutes after takeoff from JFK International Airport. The National Air Transportation Safety Board concluded that the likely cause was the accidental ignition of fuel vapors in the fuel tank. The FBI, running a parallel investigation, concluded that terrorism was not a cause of the accident. This hasn't stopped the spread of several conspiracy theories about the incident, including one that suggests a missile from a US Navy vessel caused the crash and the government covered it up.

- Do you think the government is covering up the real cause of the TWA Flight 800 crash?

|  |  | --- TWA 800 | govt. cover-up?---- |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- |
|  |  | Yes | No |
| Nov. 1996 | Fox News | $37 \%$ | $42 \%$ |
| Mar. 1997 | Fox News | 54 | 31 |
| Jul. 1997 | Fox News | 49 | 38 |
| Note: Asked of registered voters. |  |  |  |

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely...the U.S. Navy, either by accident or on purpose, shot down TWA passenger Flight 800 near New York City last year and is covering up what it did.

|  | --- Navy shot down TWA Flight 800?---- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Very | Somewhat |

- How likely do you think it is that the federal government is withholding information from the public on each of the following matters...very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all... The explosion of TWA Flight 800 ?

|  |  | ----Govt. Withholding Information On TWA 800 Explosion?--- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Very | Somewhat | Not very | Not at all |
|  |  | likely | likely | likely | likely |
| Jun. 1998 | Fox News | 27\% | 30\% | 19\% | 17\% |

- Now thinking about TWA Flight 800 that crashed over Long Island last year--from what you've heard or read what do you believe was the cause of that crash? Was it mechanical failure, a terrorist attack, an accidental strike by a US Navy missile, or something else?

|  |  | failure | attack | by the US Navy | else |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul. 1999 | Gallup | $56 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $13 \%$ |

## Princess Diana

Surveys indicate that a sizable minority of Americans believe there was more to Princess Diana's death in an automobile crash in August 1997 than official reports suggested. People seem to be aware of the various theories surrounding her death. However, most don't think they are true. Women are more likely than men to see Diana's death as a planned and not an accidental event.

- Do you think the car crash that killed Princess Diana was probably an accident, or do you think it was probably planned in advance?

|  |  | Probably an accident | Probably planned | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2004 | CBS | $58 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $16 \%$ |

- Do you think that eventually we will know the whole story about Princess Diana's car crash, or do you think we will never really know what happened?

Mar. 2004
CBS
Yes
$15 \%$

No
Don't know
$4 \%$

- Do you believe there was foul play involved in Princess Diana's death, or was it purely an accident?

Aug. 2007
Fox News
Foul play
$31 \%$
Accident
$50 \%$

Don't know 19\%

Demographics

| Male | $27 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Female | 36 | 45 | 19 |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- On a different topic, I'd like to ask if you've heard people talking about some things and how likely you think the talk is. For example, have you heard that Princess Diana's death was the result of a conspiracy?

Mar. 2009 Scripps Howard/Ohio U

| Have heard <br> that her death <br> was the results of |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| a conspiracy | No |
| $81 \%$ | $18 \%$ |

(Asked of those who have heard) How likely do you think it is that Princess Diana's death was the result of a conspiracy? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, or unlikely?

|  |  | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unlikely |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2009 | Scripps Howard/Ohio U $14 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $46 \%$ |  |

## Was 9/11 A Government Conspiracy?

The 9/11 terror attacks caused some Americans to search for an explanation beyond the official one. Because the attacks caused a significant shift in American foreign policy, some think the Bush administration purposefully allowed the attacks to happen in order to justify war and retribution. Others go so far to claim the government actively planned and carried out the attacks.

As the surveys below indicate, there are many conspiracy theories about $9 / 11$. Selfidentified Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe the Bush administration hid information about the attacks from the public.

- Some people believe that the US government and its 9/11 Commission concealed or refused to investigate critical evidence that contradicts their official explanation of the September 11th attacks, saying there has been a cover-up. Others say that the $9 / 11$ Commission was a bi-partisan group of honest and well-respected people and that there is no reason they would want to cover-up anything. Who are you more likely to agree with?

|  | Agree 9/11 Commission <br> concealed or refused <br> to investigate <br> critical evidence | No reason to <br> believe the <br> 9/11 Commission <br> covered up anything |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 2006 Zogby/9-11 Truth | $48 \%$ |  |


| Women | 50 | 41 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
| $18-29$ year olds | $38 \%$ | $54 \%$ |
| $30-49$ | 49 | 44 |
| $50-64$ | 55 | 34 |
| $65+$ | 50 | 36 |
|  |  |  |
| Republican <br> Democrat | $64 \%$ | $27 \%$ |
| Independent | 36 | 53 |
|  | 44 | 48 |

Note: 9/11 Truth is an organization devoted, in their words, to exposing "the official lies and cover-up surrounding the events of September 11th, 2001 in a way that inspires the people to overcome denial and understand the truth; namely, that elements within the US government and covert policy apparatus must have orchestrated or participated in the execution of the attacks for these to have happened in the way that they did." However, these questions are included here due to the subject matter and to Zogby's status in the polling community. Some of the questions in the survey display a more pro-conspiracist edge than others in this document. The poll remains a controversial survey in the polling community.

- There are also accusations being made following the $9 / 11$ terrorist attack. One of these is . . . ?

People in the federal government either assisted in the 9/11 attacks or took no action to stop the attacks because they wanted to United States to go to war in the Middle East.

Jul. 2006 Scripps Howard/Ohio U Very likely Somewhat likely Unlikely

The collapse of the twin towers in New York was aided by explosives secretly planted in the two buildings.

Jul. 2006
Scripps Howard/Ohio U

| Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unlikely |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $6 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $77 \%$ |

The Pentagon was not struck by an airliner captured by terrorists but, instead was hit by a cruise missile fired by the U.S. military.

|  |  | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unlikely |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul. 2006 | Scripps Howard/Ohio U | $6 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $80 \%$ |

- Some people say that so many unanswered questions about 9/11 remain that the nation needs a new independent investigation of the attacks, including whether any US government official consciously allowed or helped facilitate their success. Other people say the $9 / 11$ attacks were thoroughly investigated and that any speculation about US government involvement is absurd. Who are you more likely to agree with?

May 2006
Aug. 2007
Demographics, Aug 2007

| $18-29$ year olds | $64 \%$ | $28 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-49$ | 38 | 57 |
| $50-64$ | 32 | 62 |
| $65+$ | 24 | 66 |


| Less than HS education | $45 \%$ | $49 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| High school grad | 45 | 49 |
| Some college | 38 | 55 |
| College + | 32 | 62 |
|  |  |  |
| Married | $30 \%$ | $63 \%$ |
| Single | 70 | 28 |
| Divorced/Widowed/ |  |  |
| $\quad$ Separated |  |  |
|  | 33 | 62 |
| Less than \$25K in income | $49 \%$ | $43 \%$ |
| \$25K-\$35K | 52 | 45 |
| \$35K-\$50K | 36 | 56 |
| \$50-75K | 39 | 57 |
| \$75-\$100k | 33 | 64 |
| \$100K+ | 22 | 69 |

Note: See note above about this survey.

- In October 2006, a New York Times/CBS poll found that only $16 \%$ of Americans believe they have been told the whole truth about this administration's foreknowledge of the September 11 attacks. Based upon your knowledge of the 9/11 events, do you agree or disagree that the Congress should investigate the executive branch's conduct prior to, during, and following the September 11 attacks?

| Aug. 2007 | Agree | Disagree <br> Zogby/9-11Truth <br> Demographics <br> 18-29 year olds <br> $30-49$ | $78 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Note: See note above about this survey.

- There are three main schools of thought regarding the $9 / 11$ attacks. The first theory is the official story, and maintains that 19 Arab fundamentalists executed a surprise attack which caught US intelligence and military forces off guard. The second theory known as Let It Happen argues that certain elements in the US government knew the attacks were coming but consciously let them
proceed for various political, military, and economic motives; and the third theory Made It Happen contends that certain US government elements actively planned or assisted some aspects of the attacks. Based on your knowledge of 9/11 events and their aftermath, which theory are you more likely to agree with?

| Aug. 2007 | Zogby/9-11Truth Off | Official story 64\% | Let it happen $26 \%$ | Made it happen $5 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | 18-29 year olds | 33\% | 63\% | 1\% |
|  | 30-49 | 62 | 24 | 8 |
|  | 50-64 | 73 | 21 | 3 |
|  | 65+ | 67 | 20 | 4 |
|  | Less than HS education | n 37\% | 28\% | 6\% |
|  | High school grad | 49 | 36 | 10 |
|  | Some college | 62 | 28 | 4 |
|  | College + | 72 | 21 | 3 |
|  | Married | 70\% | 20\% | 4\% |
|  | Single | 40 | 48 | 7 |
|  | Divorced/Widowed/ Separated | 59 | 31 | 5 |
|  | Less than $\$ 25 \mathrm{~K}$ in income | ome 45\% | 34\% | 15\% |
|  | \$25K-\$35K | 47 | 47 | 2 |
|  | \$35K-\$50K | 67 | 24 | 4 |
|  | \$50-75K | 68 | 27 | 5 |
|  | \$75-\$100k | 72 | 17 | 7 |
|  | \$100K+ | 75 | 19 | 1 |

Note: See not above about this survey.

- How about that some people think the federal government had specific warnings of the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington, but chose to ignore these warnings. Is this very likely, somewhat likely or not likely?
---Federal government had specific warnings---
Very likely Somewhat likely Unlikely
Sep. 2007 Scripps Howard/Ohio U $32 \% \quad 29 \% \quad 30 \%$
- When it comes to what they knew prior to September 11th, 2001, about possible terrorist attacks against the United States, do you think members of the Bush Administration are telling the truth, are mostly telling the truth but hiding something, or are they mostly lying?


| Democrats | 9 | 60 | 27 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Independents | 18 | 61 | 15 |

- Do you think President Bush intentionally allowed the $9 / 11$ attacks to take place because he wanted the United States to go to war in the Middle East?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Sep. 2009 | Public Policy Polling | $14 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $8 \%$ |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe Saddam Hussein was involved in the September $11^{\text {th }}$, 2001, attacks on America, or not?


Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe the United States government knowingly allowed the attacks on September $11^{\text {th }}$, 2001, to happen, or not?

Mar. 2013
Public Policy Polling

| -- -Government | knowingly | allowed attacks--- |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Believe | Do not | Not sure |
| $11 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $11 \%$ |

Demographics

| $18-29$ years old | $18 \%$ | $68 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| $30-45$ | 10 | 80 | 10 |
| $46-65$ | 11 | 76 | 13 |
| $65+$ | 7 | 85 | 8 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Democrats | $14 \%$ | $76 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Republicans | 8 | 83 | 9 |


| Independents | 12 | 74 | 14 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| Hispanic | $14 \%$ | $75 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| White | 10 | 81 | 9 |
| African American | 8 | 66 | 26 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

## Iraq

Many pollsters spent a considerable amount of time in 2003 and 2004 determining whether people believed the president or his administration lied about WMDs or intentionally misled the country on the subject in order to make the case for war. Questions in late 2006 demonstrated a large shift in the public's attitudes. In May 2003, 36 percent said that the Bush administration "misinterpreted or misanalysed the intelligence reports they said indicated Iraq had banned weapons," while 61 percent gave that response in October 2006. Recent polls show opinions are still divided. In a March 2013 Public Policy Polling 2008 poll, 44 percent believed that the Bush administration intentionally misled the public about the possibility of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to promote the Iraq War. Forty-five percent said they did not believe that.

- Do you believe that the U.S. government deliberately exaggerated the reports of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in order to increase support for war, or do you think it tried to present the information accurately?

Jun. 2003
Aug. 2003
Oct. 2003
Dec. 2003
Feb. 2004
Apr. 2004
June 2004
Aug. 2004
Sept. 2004
Oct. 2004
Nov. 2004

Tried to present accurately 56\% 53 49 50
51
50
50
51
46
53
49

Deliberately exaggerated $37 \%$ 40 41 45 43 43 44 44 45 46 48

- Before the Iraq War, the Bush administration said it had intelligence reports indicating that Iraq was hiding banned chemical or biological weapons from UN weapons inspectors. So far, however, no such banned weapons have been found in Iraq. Do you think the Bush administration . . . ?
Yes No

Misinterpreted or misanalysed the intelligence reports they said indicated Iraq had banned weapons

| May 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | $36 \%$ | $54 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jul. 10-11, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 45 | 41 |
| Jul. 24-25, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 41 | 49 |
| Aug. 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 44 | 47 |
| Oct. 9-10, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 49 | 39 |


| Oct. 23-24, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 50 | 39 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jan. 2004 | PSRA/Newsweek | 54 | 36 |
| Mar. 2004 | PSRA/Newsweek | 55 | 35 |
| Jul. 2004* | PSRA/Newsweek | 56 | 36 |
| Sept.-Oct. 2004* | PSRA/Newsweek | 51 | 41 |
| Oct. 27-29, 2004* | PSRA/Newsweek | 50 | 43 |
| Oct. 5-6, 2006 | PSRA/Newsweek | 61 | 30 |

Purposely misled the public about evidence that Iraq had banned weapons in order to build support for war

| May 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | $36 \%$ | $57 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jul. 10-11, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 38 | 53 |
| Jul. 24-25, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 39 | 56 |
| Aug. 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 43 | 51 |
| Oct. 9-10, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 45 | 45 |
| Oct. 23-24, 2003 | PSRA/Newsweek | 42 | 49 |
| Jan. 2004 | PSRA/Newsweek | 41 | 51 |
| Mar. 2004 | PSRA/Newsweek | 46 | 49 |
| Jul. 2004* | PSRA/Newsweek | 44 | 51 |
| Sep.-Oct. 2004* | PSRA/Newsweek | 45 | 50 |
| Oct. 27-29, 2004 | PSRA/Newsweek | 43 | 54 |
| Oct. 5-6, 2006 | PSRA/Newsweek | 58 | 36 |

Note: *Asked of registered voters.

- Do you think the Bush administration deliberately misled the American public about whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, or not?

|  |  | Yes, misled | No |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| May-Jun. 2003 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | $31 \%$ | $67 \%$ |
| Jun. 9-10, 2003 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 31 | 64 |
| Jun. 27-29, 2003 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 37 | 61 |
| Jul. 2003 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 39 | 58 |
| Jan.-Feb. 2004 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 43 | 54 |
| Jul. 2004 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 45 | 52 |
| Oct. 2004 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 47 | 51 |
| Apr. 2005 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 50 | 48 |
| Jul. 2005 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 51 | 47 |
| Oct. 2005 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 53 | 45 |
| Jan. 2006 | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 53 | 46 |
| Mar. 10-12, 2006* | Gallup/CNN/USA Today | 51 | 46 |
| Mar. 9-11, 2007 | CNN/ORC | 54 | 40 |
| Feb. 2008 | Gallup/USA Today | 53 | 42 |
| Dec. 2011 | CNN/ORC | 57 | 41 |
| Mar. 2013 | CNN/ORC | 54 | 44 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $54 \%$ | $45 \%$ |
|  | Men | 54 | 45 |
|  | Women |  |  |
|  |  | $51 \%$ | $38 \%$ |
|  | 18-29 | 51 | 43 |
|  | 30-49 | 46 | 47 |
|  | 60-64 |  | 51 |


| HS or less | $59 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Some college | 54 | 46 |
| College grad | 49 | 49 |
|  |  |  |
| Democrat | $76 \%$ | $23 \%$ |
| Independent | 54 | 42 |
| Republican | 23 | 75 |

Note: *Asked of a half sample.

- In making its case for war with Iraq, do you think the Bush administration told the American people what it believed to be true or intentionally misled the American people?

| Jul. 2004 | ABC/WP | $55 \%$ | $42 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2005 | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 55 | 43 |
| Jun. 2005^ | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 48 | 52 |
| Jul. 2005 | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 55 | 42 |
| Aug. $2005^{*}$ | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 57 | 40 |
| Nov. 2005 | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 44 | 55 |
| May 2006 | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 46 | 52 |
| Nov. 2006* | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 51 | 47 |
| Dec. 2006 | $\mathrm{ABC} / W P$ | 45 | 52 |

Note: *Asked of registered voters. ^Asked of a half sample.

- Do you believe the Bush administration intentionally misled the public about the possibility of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to promote the Iraq War, or not?

Mar. 2013

| Public Policy Polling | Do |
| ---: | :--- |
|  | $44 \%$ |
| Obama's Birthplace |  |

The question of whether Barack Obama was born in the United States loomed relatively large in the background - and occasionally the foreground - of the 2008 and 2012 presidential races. The assertion of a conspiracy to hide and obscure Obama's true background was also discussed in the attempt to delegitimize the President's qualifications for the presidency.

American attitudes about Obama's birthplace have been surveyed extensively. Even though a majority of Americans consistently tell pollsters that they think the President is a U.S. citizen, a substantial portion (as high as 39 percent in some polls) think Obama was born abroad. Perhaps expectedly, these responses divide starkly along party lines; Republicans are more likely to believe Obama was not born in the United States, although some polls show that about 10 percent of Democrats also embrace this view. Moreover, these opinions are skewed according to the ages of those polled, with older Americans being more prone to believe Obama was born abroad.

- From what you have heard, where was Barack Obama born? . . . Illinois, Hawaii, Kansas, Indonesia

Sep. 2008
AP/Yahoo Illino

| Hawaii | Kansas | Indonesia |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $47 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $12 \%$ |

- How much have you heard about some people who claim that Barack Obama was not born in the US and therefore not eligible to be president? . . . A lot, a little, nothing at all.

|  |  | A lot | A little | Nothing at all |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul. 2009 | Pew | $31 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $19 \%$ |

- Do you think Barack Obama was definitely born in the United States, probably born in the United States, probably born in another country, or definitely born in another country?

|  |  | --------Born in U.S.-------- |  | ---Born in another country--- |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Definitely | Probably | Probably | Definitely |
| July 2010 | CNN/ORC | 42\% | 29\% | 16\% | 11\% |
| Mar. 2011 | CNN/ORC | 46 | 26 | 15 | 10 |
| Apr.-May 2011 | CNN/ORC | 58 | 22 | 10 | 7 |
| Demographics, July 2010 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | 41\% | 26\% | 16\% | 14\% |
|  | Women | 43 | 31 | 16 | 9 |
|  | Republican | 23 | 34 | 27 | 14 |
|  | Democrat | 64 | 21 | 7 | 8 |
|  | Independent | 37 | 31 | 17 | 12 |
| Demographics, April-May 2011 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | 58\% | 22\% | 11\% | 7\% |
|  | Women | 58 | 22 | 9 | 8 |
|  | 18-34 | - | - | - | - |
|  | 35-49 | 57\% | 24\% | 12\% | 6\% |
|  | 50-64 | 62 | 19 | 10 | 8 |
|  | 65+ | 60 | 21 | 9 | 5 |
|  | Attended college | 64\% | 21\% | 7\% | 5\% |
|  | No college | 51 | 22 | 14 | 10 |
|  | Republican | 32\% | 37\% | 16\% | 12\% |
|  | Democrat | 78 | 11 | 3 | 6 |
|  | Independent | 58 | 22 | 12 | 6 |

- On another subject, where was Barack Obama born, as far as you know?

The U.S. Another country No opinion

| Apr. 2010 | Wash Post/ABC | $68 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Apr.-May 2011 | PSRA/Wash Post | 77 | 3 | 19 |

- Do you think Barack Obama was born in the United States, or not?

|  |  | Yes | No | Don't know |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Apr. 2011 | Fox News | $67 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $10 \%$ |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Was President Obama born in the U.S.?

|  |  | Yes | No | Don't know |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Apr. 2011 | CBS/NYT | $57 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Republicans | $33 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $22 \%$ |
|  | Democrats | 81 | 10 | 9 |
|  | Independents | 52 | 25 | 23 |

- Do you think people who actively and publicly question whether Barack Obama was truly born in the United States are just nutty conspiracy theorists, or do you think there is cause to wonder where he was born and it's important enough to justify their actions?

Conspiracy theorists Cause to wonder
Apr. 2011

| Fox News | $51 \%$ | $40 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
| College degree | $55 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| No college | 49 | 42 |
| Under 35 | $56 \%$ | $35 \%$ |
| 35-54 | 50 | 42 |
| $55+$ | 48 | 42 |
| Republican | $29 \%$ | $63 \%$ |
| Democrat | 74 | 20 |
| Independent | 48 | 41 |
| Men | $48 \%$ | $48 \%$ |
| Women | 54 | 36 |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you think Barack Obama was definitely born in the United States, probably born in the United States, probably born in another country, or don't you know enough to say?

|  |  | ------ Born in U.S.-------- |  | --Born in another country-- |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Definitely | Probably | Probably | Definitely |
| Apr. 2011 | Gallup | $38 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| May 2011 | Gallup | 47 | 18 | 8 | 5 |

Demographics, May 2011

|  | Definitely/Probably <br> born in U.S. | Definitely/Probably <br> born in another country |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Republicans | $49 \%$ | $23 \%$ |
| Democrats | 81 | 5 |
| Independents | 65 | 14 |

Demographics, April 2011

| Republicans | $35 \%$ | $43 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Democrats | 78 | 9 |
| Independents | 56 | 20 |

- Where was Barack Obama born, as far as you know?

Apr. 2011
Pew

|  | Another | Don't know/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The U.S. | country | No opinion |
| $75 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $19 \%$ |

- And one last question to get your view on a topic that has been in the news... Was Barack Obama born in the United States or was he born in another country?

Apr. 2011
Pew

|  | Another | Don't know/ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The U.S. | country | Refused |
| $55 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $22 \%$ |

- Where was Barack Obama born, as far as you know?
- (If No) Is it your best guess that Obama was born in the United States, or in another country?

Aug. 2012

## AP

|  | Another |
| :---: | :---: |
| The U.S. | country |
| $49 \%$ | $39 \%$ |

Don't know/
Refused
$12 \%$

## Osama bin Laden

Some people tell pollsters they have doubts about whether Osama bin Laden was killed by US Navy Seals. Fifteen percent told Fox News that there was a chance that he was alive, while 24 percent told CBS News that they had doubts about whether he was killed. But when asked directly whether he's alive, around 6 to 11 percent were willing to state so. A March 2013 Public Policy Polling survey suggests the conspiracy is much more vibrant among young people.

- Do you think there is any chance Osama bin Laden is still alive, or do you absolutely believe he is dead?

May 2011 Fox News

| Chance he's | Absolutely believe |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| still alive | he's dead | Don't know |
| $15 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $6 \%$ |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Do you have any doubts that Osama bin Laden was killed when American Navy Seals raided his compound in Pakistan?

June 2011
CBS/60 Minutes/Vanity Fair
Convinced Osama bin Laden is dead Still have doubts Demographics

| $18-29$ years old | $71 \%$ | $28 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $30-44$ | 63 | 34 |
| $45-64$ | 78 | 20 |
| $65+$ | 81 | 11 |
|  |  |  |
| HS Grad or Less | $66 \%$ | $30 \%$ |
| Some College | 74 | 24 |
| College Plus | 84 | 15 |
|  |  |  |
| Republican | $76 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
| Democrat | 79 | 18 |
| Independent | 66 | 32 |

- Do you believe that Osama bin Laden is dead, or do you think he is still alive?

Jun. 2011
Demographics

| LT HS Grad | - | - | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| HS grad | $82 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
| Some college | 84 | 11 | 4 |
| College plus | 97 | 2 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $<\$ 30 \mathrm{~K}$ | $75 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| $\$ 39 \mathrm{~K}-\$ 49 \mathrm{~K}$ | 86 | 12 | 2 |
| $\$ 50 \mathrm{~K}-\$ 74 \mathrm{~K}$ | 84 | 9 | 6 |
| $>\$ 75 \mathrm{~K}$ | 97 | 3 | 0 |


| Democrat | $87 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $3 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Republican | 91 | 8 | 1 |
| Independent | 82 | 14 | 4 |

- Do you believe Osama bin Laden is still alive, or not?

|  |  | Do | Do not | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $6 \%$ | $83 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | $18-29$ years old | $21 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
|  | $30-45$ | 3 | 85 | 11 |
|  | $46-65$ | 3 | 89 | 7 |
|  | $65+$ | 8 | 88 | 7 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

## Other Theories

There are a myriad other minor conspiracy theories currently in circulation. Catalogued below is a list of some of them, as well as the extent to which the population embraces or rejects them.

- Do you feel that the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy was the act of one individual or part of a larger conspiracy?

Oct. 1975
Sep. 1978
Mar. 1981
One individual
$30 \%$
34
38

| Conspiracy | Not sure |
| :---: | :---: |
| $55 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| 55 | 11 |
| 48 | 14 |

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely...the CIA has deliberately allowed Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to black kids living in inner-city neighborhoods. Is this very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely?

CIA has allowed Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to black kids in inner-city neighborhoods?

Jun. 1997
Scripps Howard/Ohio U

| Very | Somewhat |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: |
| likely | likely | Unlikely |
| $22 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $38 \%$ |

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely... Our military leaders are withholding what they know about nerve gas or germ warfare attacks on American troops during the Persian Gulf War?

|  |  | Military withholding Gulf War syndrome evidence |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very | Somewhat |  |  |
| Jun. 1997 | Scripps Howard/Ohio U | likely | likely | Unlikely |
|  | $48 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $11 \%$ |  |

- There have been reports and rumors that Elvis Presley is still alive. Do you think there is any possibility at all that Elvis is still alive?

|  | -- There is a possibility |  |  | Elvis is alive--- |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Aug. 1997 | Fox News | Yes | No | Not sure |
|  | $6 \%$ | $89 \%$ | $5 \%$ |  |

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Here are several accusations that some people have made against the federal government in recent years. Please tell me if you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely... Our military leaders withheld information about the dangers of the chemical called "Agent Orange" during the Vietnam War?

Jun. 1997
Scripps Howard/Ohio U

| --Military leaders withheld evidence of Agent Orange-- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very | Somewhat |  |
| likely | likely | Unlikely |
| $60 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $8 \%$ |

- There are a number of recent historical incidents where some people believe we do not know the whole truth. If you had a chance to learn the complete truth about one of the following incidents, which one would you choose to know about?

Mar. $1999 \quad$ Fox News

| The possible crash of an alien spacecraft at Roswell, New Mexico | $14 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| The existence of a conspiracy in President Kennedy's assassination | 33 |
| The existence of a conspiracy in the Martin Luther King assassination | 10 |
| The real cause of the TWA Flight 800 crash | 17 |
| The existence of a conspiracy in the Oklahoma City Bombing | 19 |
| Don't know | 3 |
| Note: Asked of registered voters. |  |

- Do you believe that a secretive power elite with a globalist agenda is conspiring to eventually rule the world through an authoritarian world government, or New World Order, or not?
--Secretive power elite conspiring to rule world--
Mar. $2013 \quad$ Public Policy Polling

| Do | Do not | Not sure |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $28 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $25 \%$ |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe the government adds fluoride to our water supply, not for dental health reasons, but for other, more sinister reasons, or not?
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { Mar. } 2013 & \text { Public Policy Polling } & 9 \% & 74 \%\end{array}$
Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.
- Do you believe that shape-shifting reptilian people control our world by taking on human form and gaining political power to manipulate our societies, or not?

|  |  | --Shape-shifting reptilian people control our world-- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | Believe | Do not | Not sure |
|  | $4 \%$ | $88 \%$ | $7 \%$ |  |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe media or the government adds secret mind-controlling technology to television broadcast signals, or not?

|  | Government adds mind-controlling technology to TV |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2013 | Bublic Policy Polling | Believe | Do not | Not sure |
|  | $15 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $15 \%$ |  |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe that the exhaust seen in the sky behind airplanes is actually chemicals sprayed by the government for sinister reasons, or not?

|  |  | - -Exhaust behind airplanes is sinister chemicals-- |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2013 | Do | Do not | Not sure |  |
| Demographics |  | $5 \%$ | $87 \%$ | $8 \%$ |
|  | $18-29$ year olds |  |  |  |
|  | $30-45$ | $17 \%$ | $74 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
|  | $46-65$ | 8 | 85 | 10 |
|  | $65+$ | 2 | 91 | 7 |
|  |  | 2 | 88 | 10 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe that the pharmaceutical industry is in league with the medical industry to "invent" new diseases in order to make money, or not?

|  |  | - -Pharmaceutical industry invents new diseases-- |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2013 | Dublic Policy Polling | $15 \%$ | Do not | Not sure |
| Demographics |  |  | $69 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
|  | $18-29$ years old | $27 \%$ |  |  |
|  | $30-45$ | 12 | $68 \%$ | $5 \%$ |
|  | $46-65$ | 12 | 66 | 22 |
|  | $65+$ | 14 | 70 | 18 |
|  |  | 71 | 15 |  |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you believe Paul McCartney actually died in a car crash in 1966 and was secretly replaced by a lookalike so The Beatles could continue, or not?

|  |  | Do | Do not | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mar. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $5 \%$ | $80 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | $18-29$ year olds | $14 \%$ | $73 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
|  | $30-45$ | 5 | 80 | 15 |
|  | $46-65$ | 4 | 86 | 9 |
|  | $65+$ | 1 | 74 | 25 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- I'd also like to ask about some conspiracy theories that are sometimes mentioned among Americans. Please tell me whether you think each of these is very likely, somewhat likely or not likely. So when I say that oil companies are conspiring to keep gasoline prices high, is that very likely, somewhat likely or not likely?

Jul. 2006

|  | - -Oil companies conspiring to keep gas prices high-- |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unlikely |
| Scripps Howard/Ohio U | $50 \%$ | $30 \%$ |

- Do you believe the C.I.A was instrumental in distributing crack cocaine into America's inner cities in the 1980s, or not?

Mar. 2013
Public Policy Polling

| Do |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $14 \%$ | Do not <br> $55 \%$ | Not sure <br> $30 \%$ |
| $15 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| 13 | 60 | 27 |
| 22 | 32 | 46 |
| $14 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $34 \%$ |
| 9 | 60 | 31 |
| 21 | 54 | 25 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you think the U.S. government engages in so-called "false flag" operations, meaning that the government sometimes plans and executes mass shootings or terrorist events, and then makes it look like those activities were carried out by others, or not?

Sep. $2013 \quad$ Public Policy Polling

| Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| $13 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $17 \%$ |

Demographics

| Hispanic | $15 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $39 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| White | 13 | 60 | 27 |
| African American | 22 | 32 | 46 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Democrats | $14 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $34 \%$ |
| Republicans | 9 | 60 | 31 |
| Independents | 21 | 54 | 25 |

Demographics

| Men | $12 \%$ | $73 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Women | 14 | 67 | 19 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Democrats | $9 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| Republicans | 21 | 58 | 21 |
| Independents | 10 | 72 | 19 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you think there is a secret society such as Skull and Bones that produces most of America's political and financial leaders to serve the interests of the wealthy elite, or not?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Sep. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $19 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $31 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | $24 \%$ | $59 \%$ | $18 \%$ |
|  | Women | 14 | 43 | 43 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Democrats | $20 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $33 \%$ |
|  | Republicans | 15 | 53 | 31 |
|  | Independents | 20 | 52 | 28 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you think the U.S. government has engaged in the assassination of entertainers who have tried to spread a counterculture message they didn't like, such as John Lennon, Kurt Cobain, Tupac Shakur, and others, or not?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Sep. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $12 \%$ | $72 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | $18 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $13 \%$ |


| Women | 7 | 74 | 19 |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Democrats | $9 \%$ | $75 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Republicans | 14 | 96 | 17 |
| Independents | 13 | 72 | 16 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you think that major sporting events like the NBA playoffs or the Super Bowl are sometimes rigged by referees and league offices to create an outcome that will lead to better ratings and more money and publicity for the sport, or not?

|  |  | Yes | No | Not sure |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Sep. 2013 | Public Policy Polling | $32 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| Demographics |  |  |  |  |
|  | Men | $30 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
|  | Women | 33 | 45 | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Democrats | $27 \%$ | $52 \%$ | $21 \%$ |
|  | Republicans | 34 | 47 | 19 |
|  | Independent | 35 | 48 | 18 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

- Do you think the U.S. government has a secret fleet of black helicopters that will be used in an eventual United Nations military takeover of the United States, or not?

Sep. $2013 \quad$ Public Policy Polling

| Yes | No | Not sure |
| ---: | :--- | ---: |
| $9 \%$ | $71 \%$ | $20 \%$ |

Demographics

| Men | $7 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Women | 11 | 66 | 23 |
| Democrats | $8 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Republicans | 11 | 66 | 23 |
| Independents | 8 | 68 | 24 |

Note: PPP is a Democratic polling organization.

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