

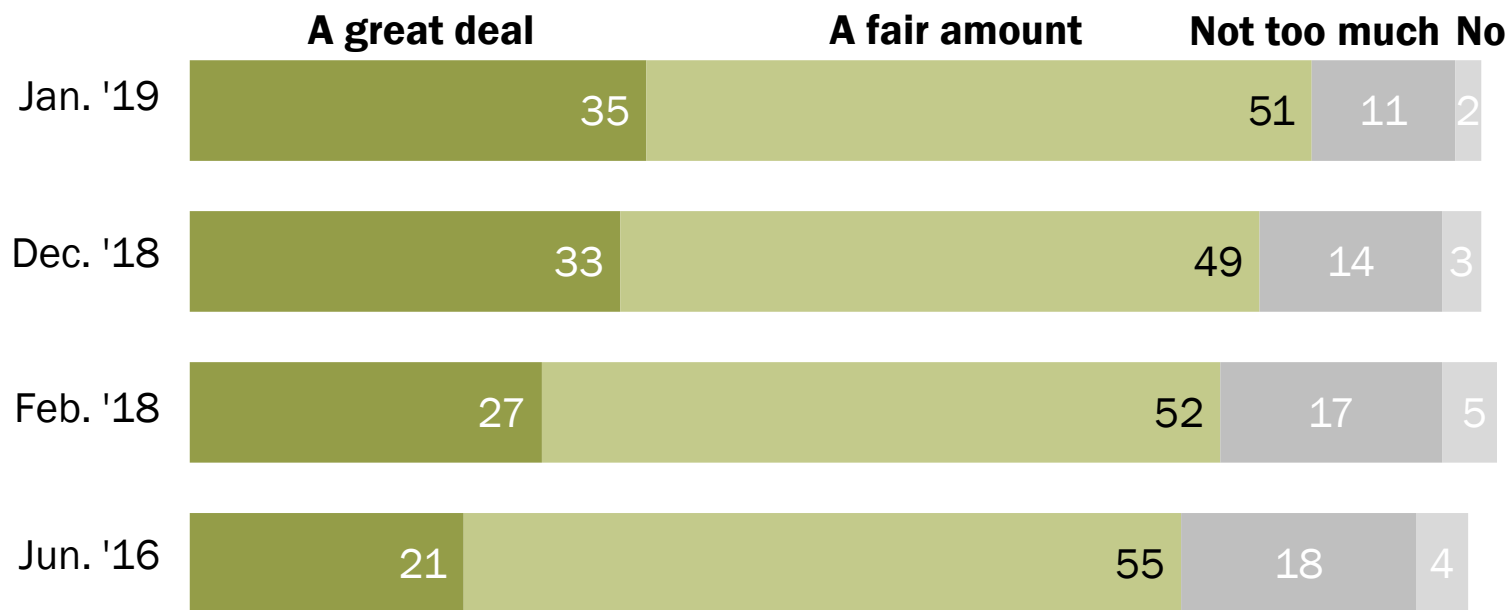
# Trust and Mistrust in Americans' Views of Scientific Experts

*More Americans have confidence in scientists, but there are political  
divides over the role of scientific experts in policy issues*



# Americans' confidence in scientists to act in the public interest is up since 2016

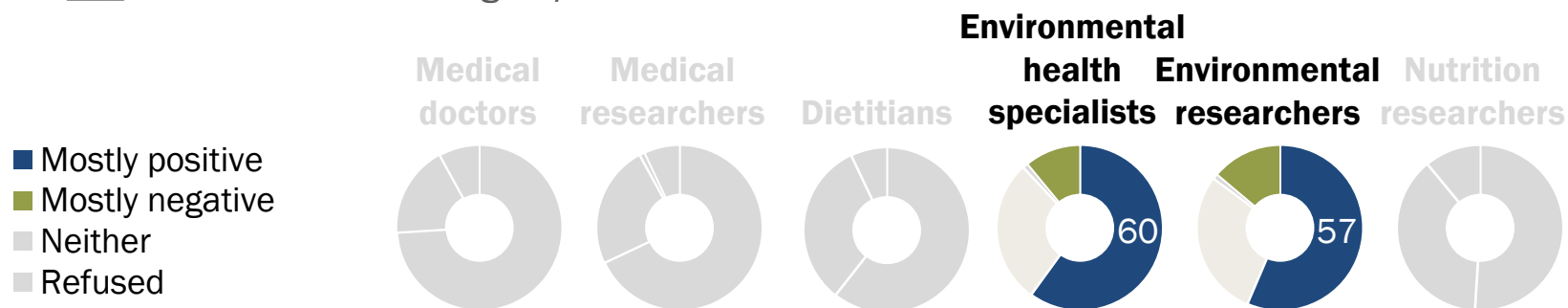
Have \_\_\_ of confidence in scientists to act in the best interests of the public



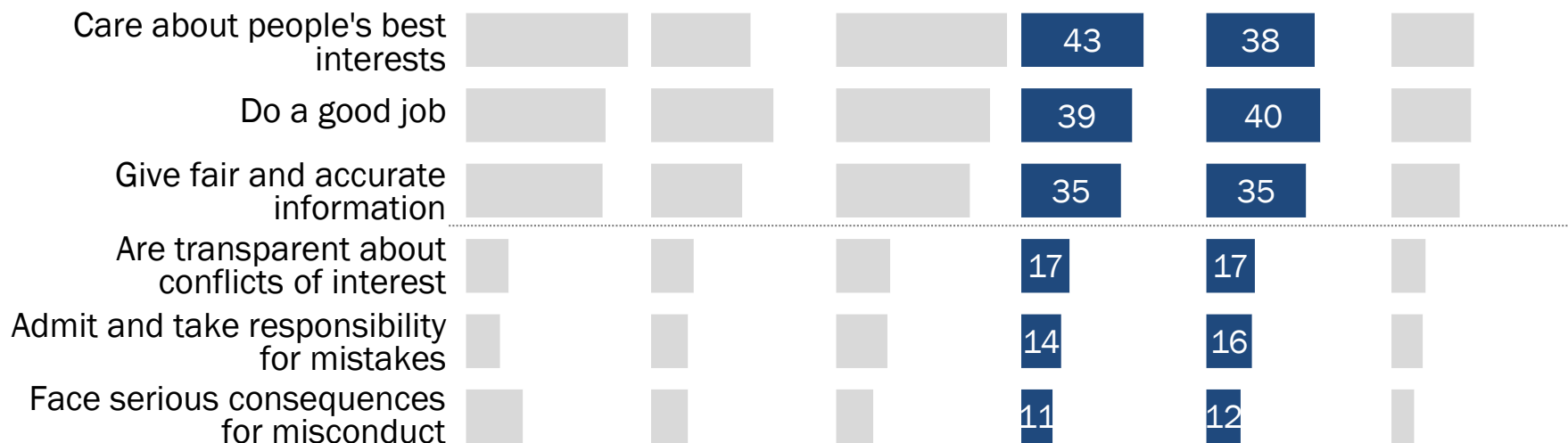
Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# Trust in medical doctors and dietitians is higher than that for researchers in these areas

Have a \_\_\_ view of each of these groups



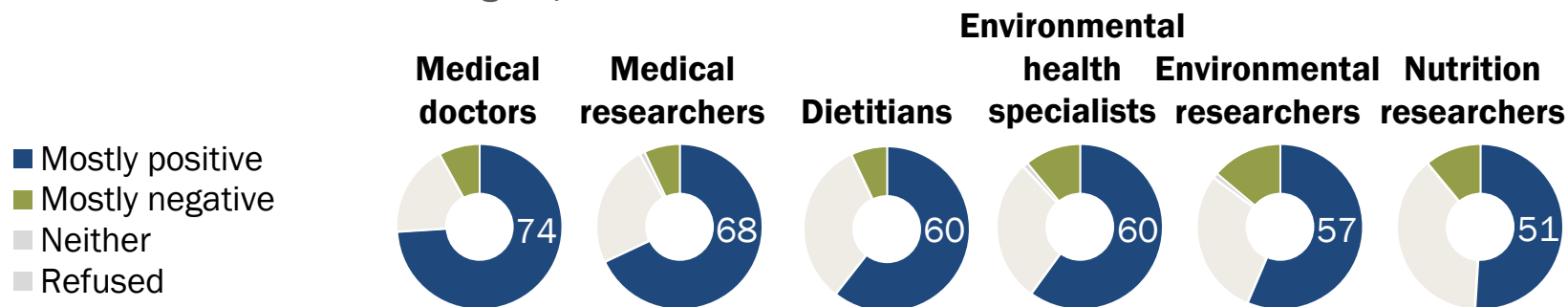
Each of these groups \_\_\_ all or most of the time



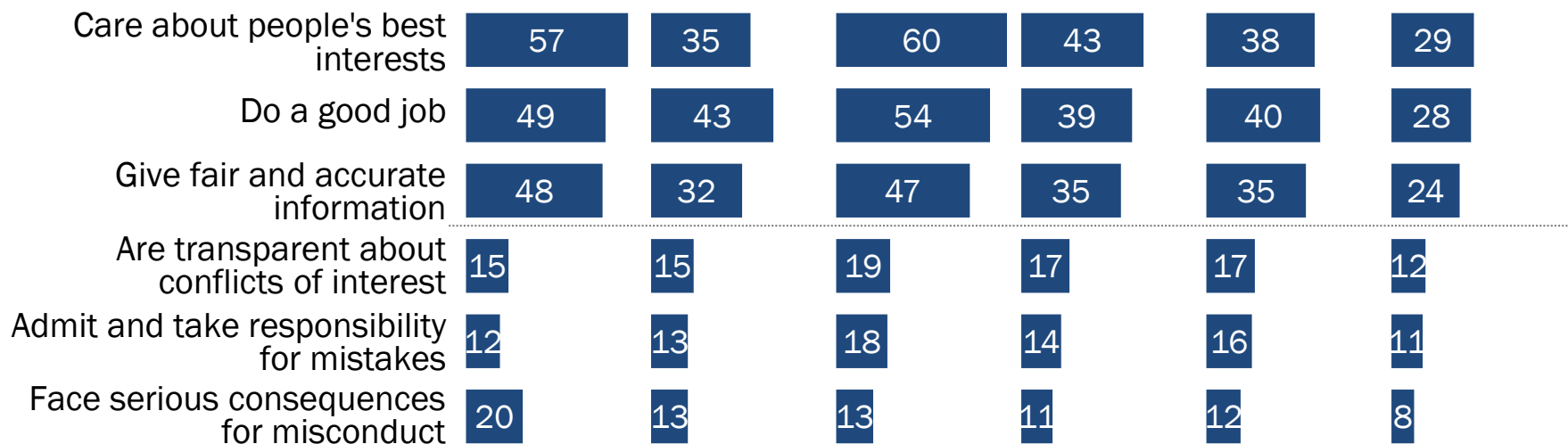
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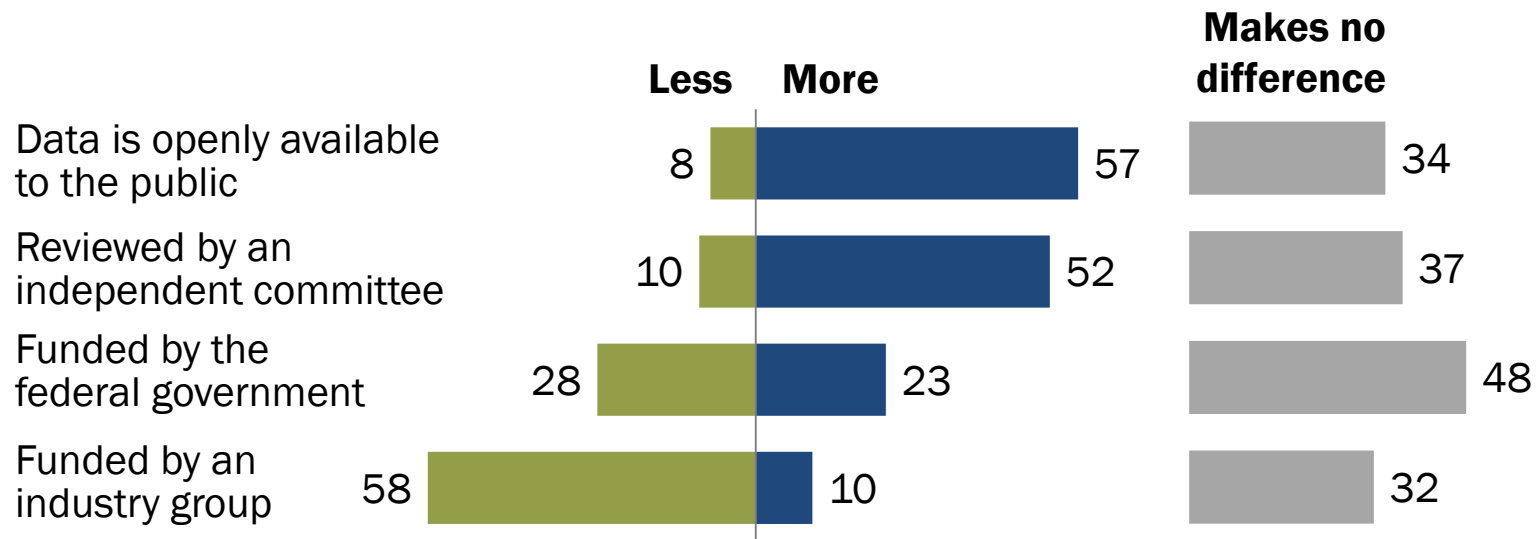
Each of these groups \_\_\_ all or most of the time



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# Majority of Americans say they are more apt to trust research when the data is openly available

*When they hear each of the following, they trust scientific research findings ...*



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# People more familiar with environmental researchers have more trust in their competence

*Each of these groups say the following about environmental research scientists*

**Among those who know \_\_\_\_  
about environmental researchers**

● Nothing at all ● A little ● A lot

Have a mostly positive  
view of this group

37 ● ● ● 73

*Environmental researchers \_\_\_\_ all or most of the time*

Care about the public's  
best interests

23 ● ● ● 59

Do a good job conducting  
research

27 ● ● ● 63

Provide fair and  
accurate information

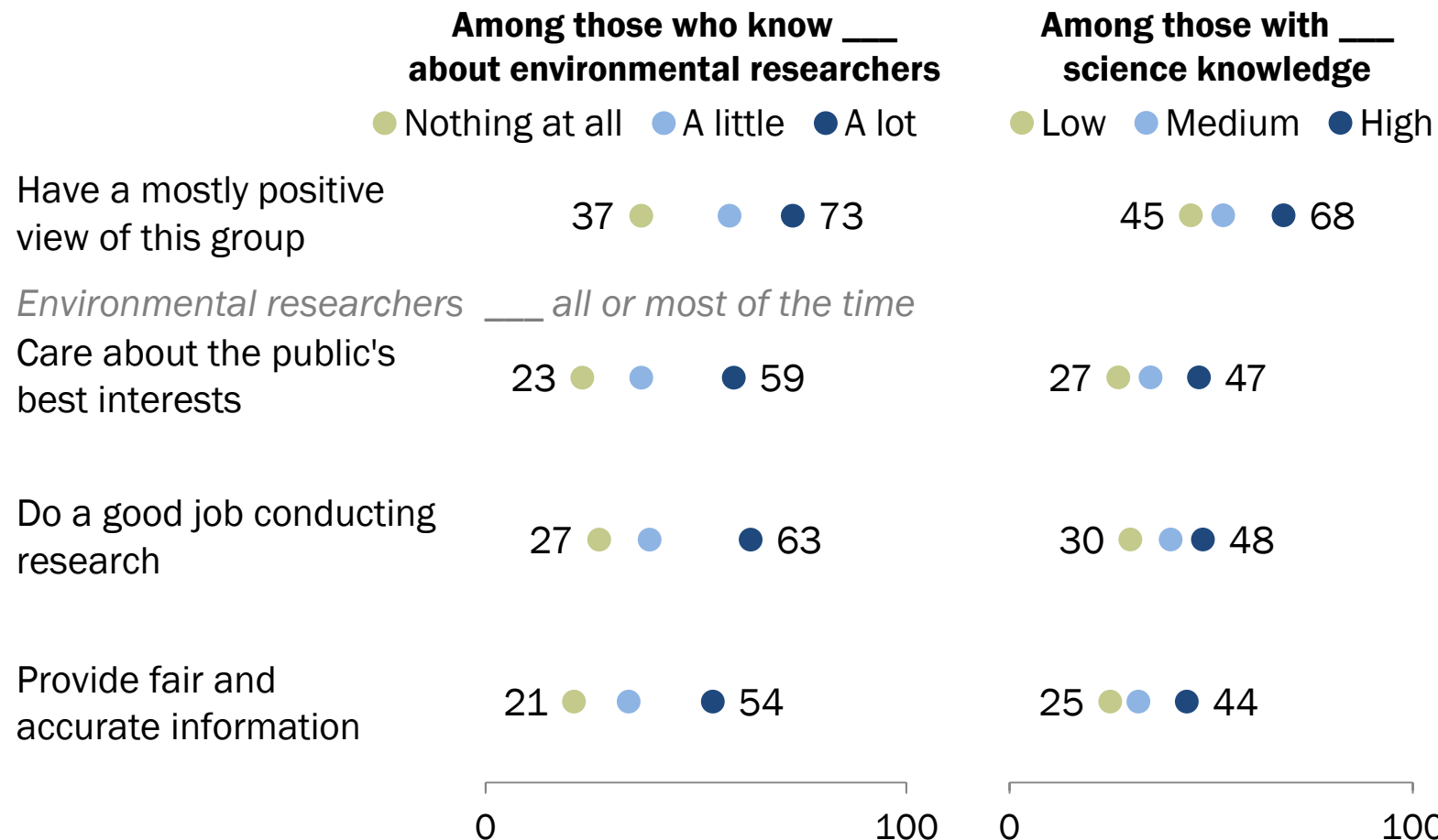
21 ● ● ● 54

0 100

Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# People more familiar with environmental researchers have more trust in their competence

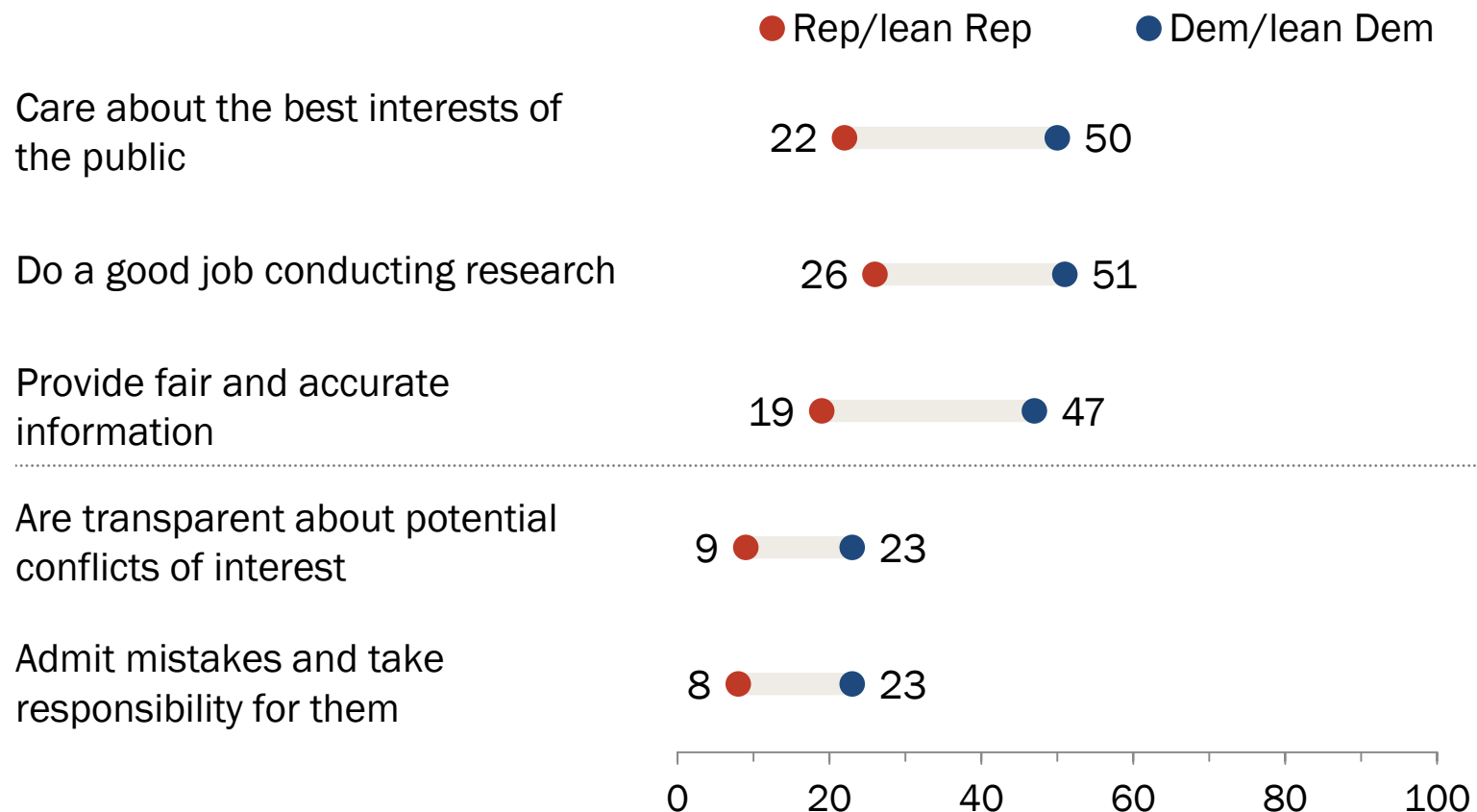
*Each of these groups say the following about environmental research scientists*



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# Democrats are about twice as likely as Republicans to say environmental researchers regularly do a good job

*Environmental research scientists do the following all or most of the time*



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

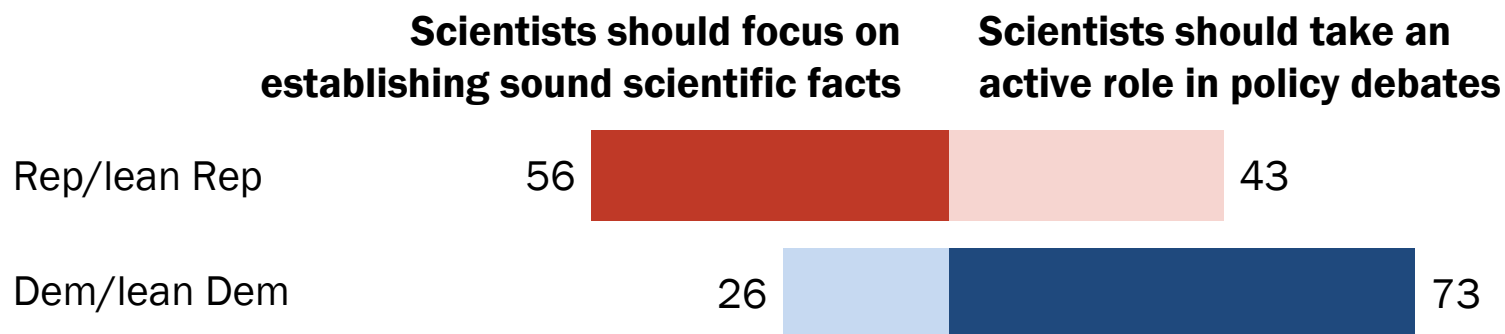


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# **PARTISAN DIVIDES OVER SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS**

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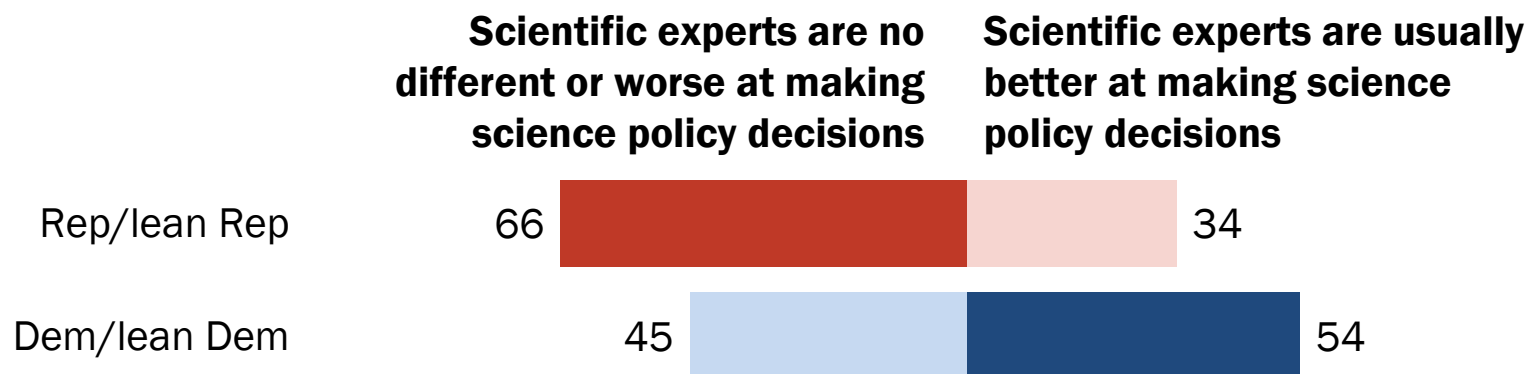
# Party differences over the role of scientists in policy



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

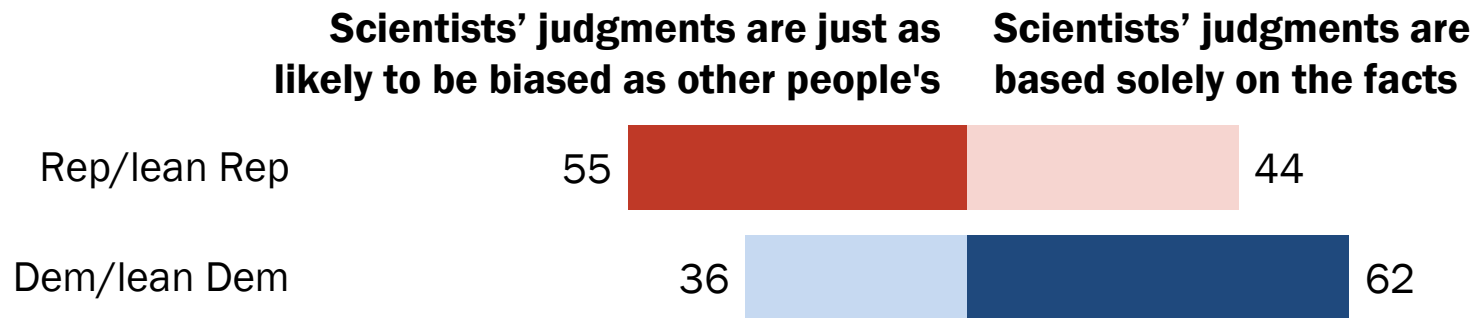
# More Democrats than Republicans say scientific experts make better science-related policy decisions

*Compared with other people ...*



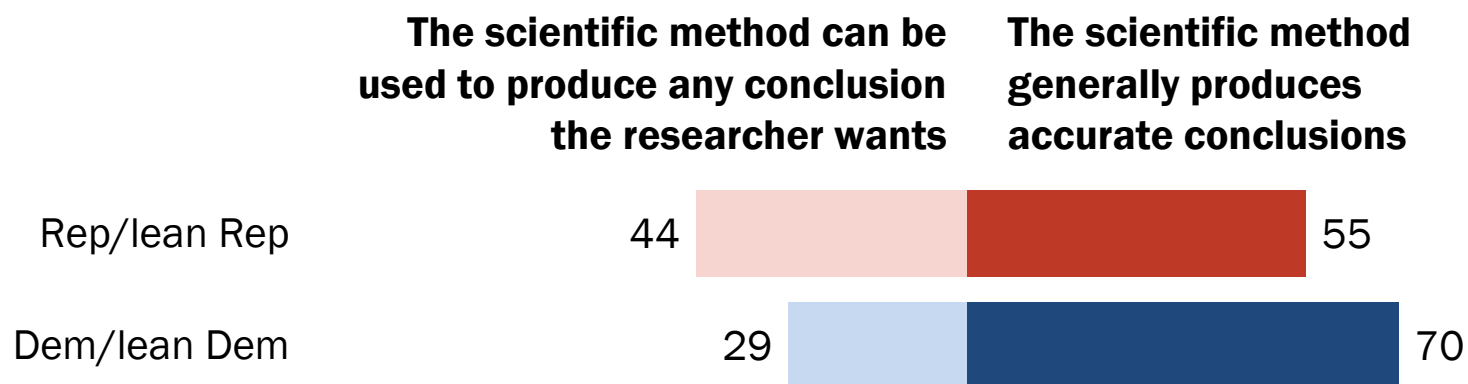
Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# Republicans more likely than Democrats to view scientists as susceptible to bias



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

# More Democrats than Republicans say the scientific method produces accurate conclusions



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

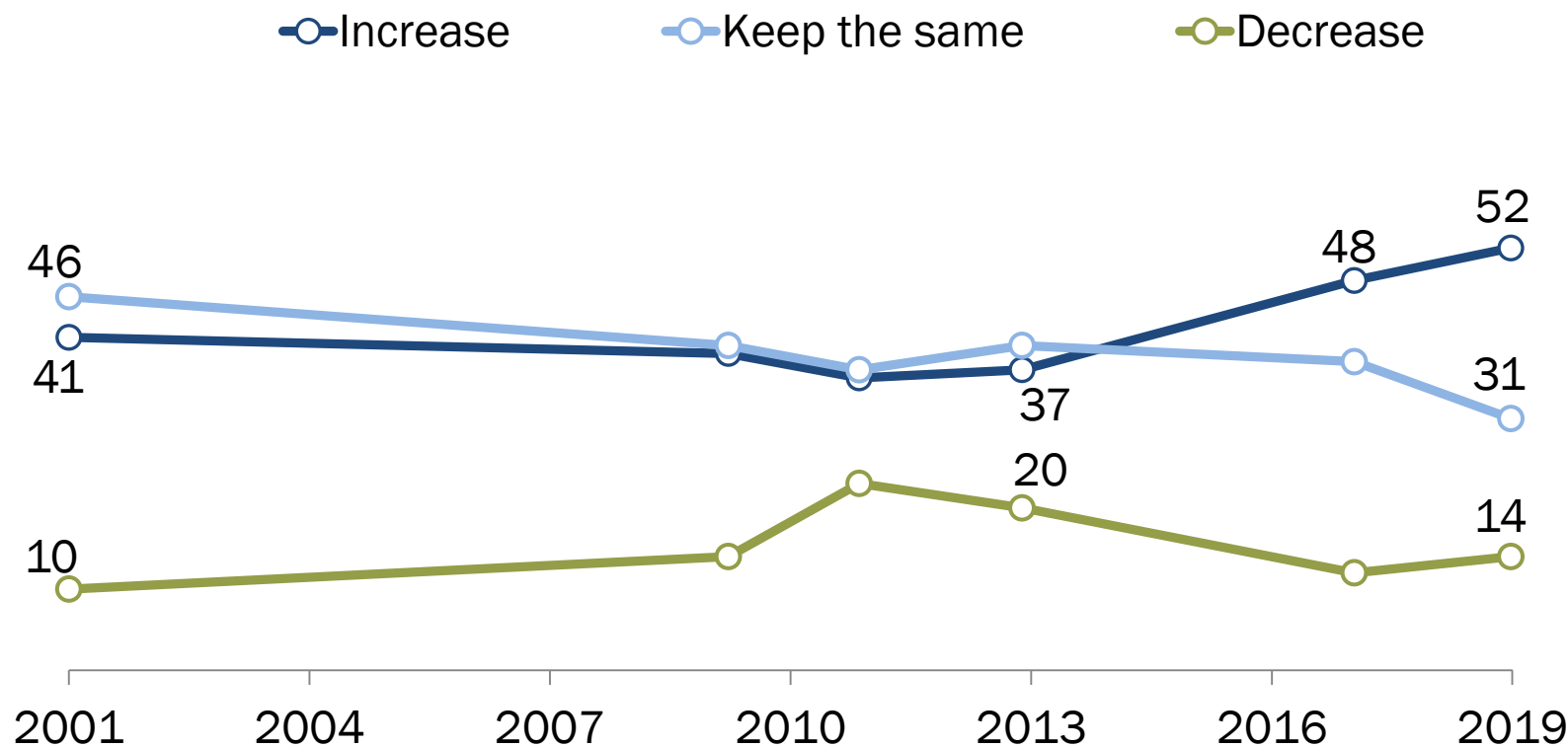
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# **SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE RESEARCH**

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# About half of Americans support more federal funding for scientific research

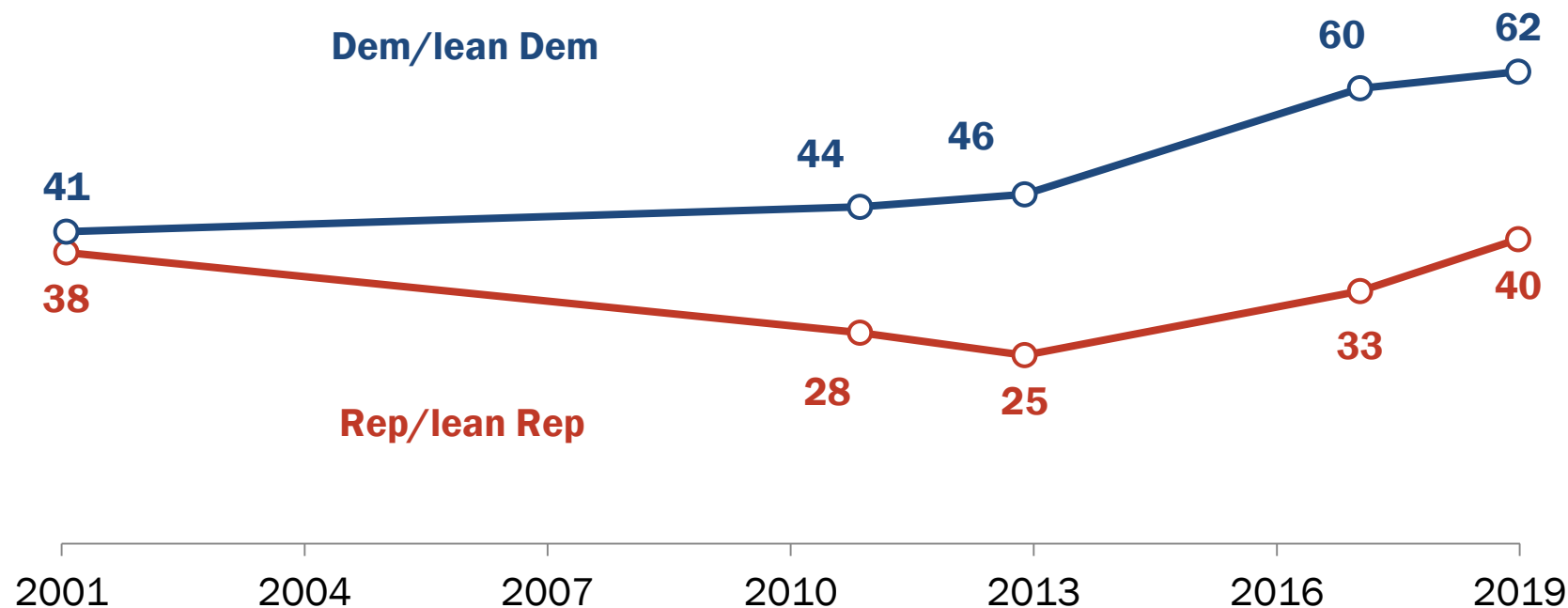
They would \_\_\_\_ federal spending for scientific research



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Mar. 20-25, 2019

# Political divides over support for more scientific research funding have grown

*They would increase federal spending for scientific research*

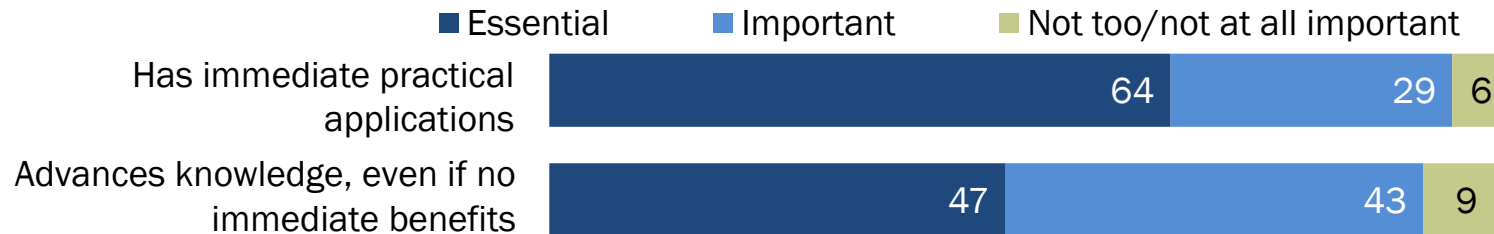


Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Mar. 20-25, 2019



# More Americans see importance in applied scientific research than basic scientific research

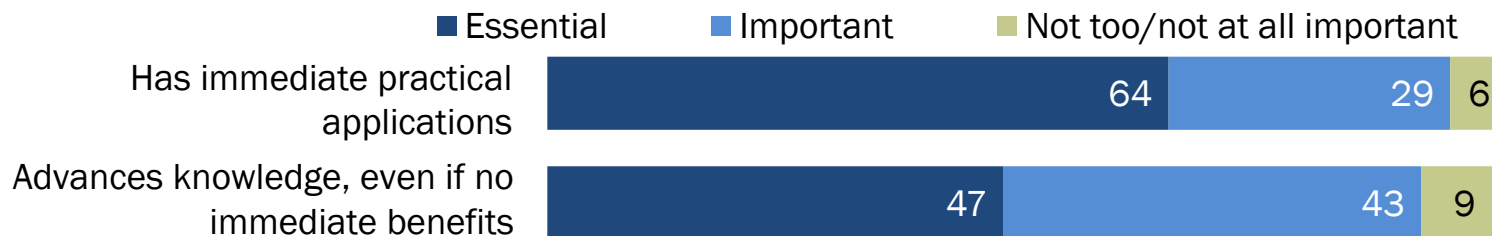
*Scientific research that does each of the following is \_\_\_\_ for society*



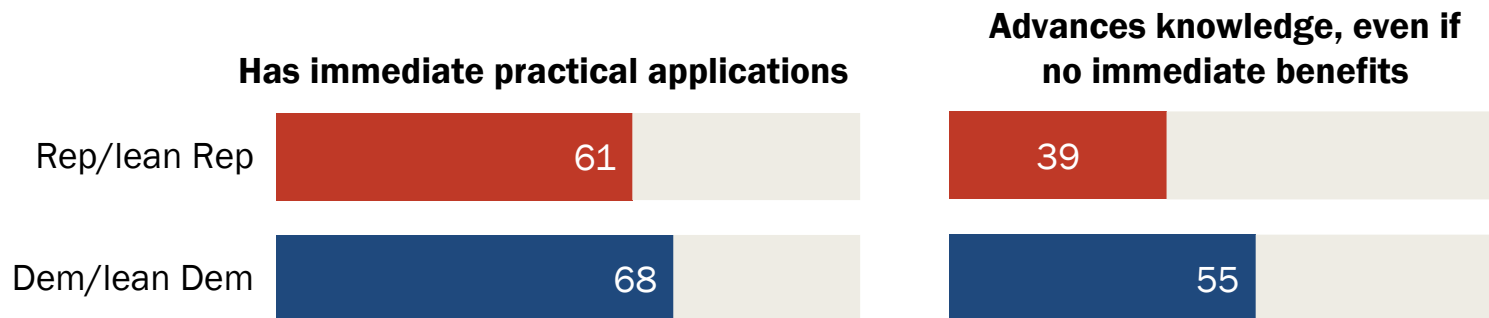
Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019

# More Americans see importance in applied scientific research than basic scientific research

*Scientific research that does each of the following is \_\_\_ for society*



*Scientific research that does each of the following is essential for society*



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019

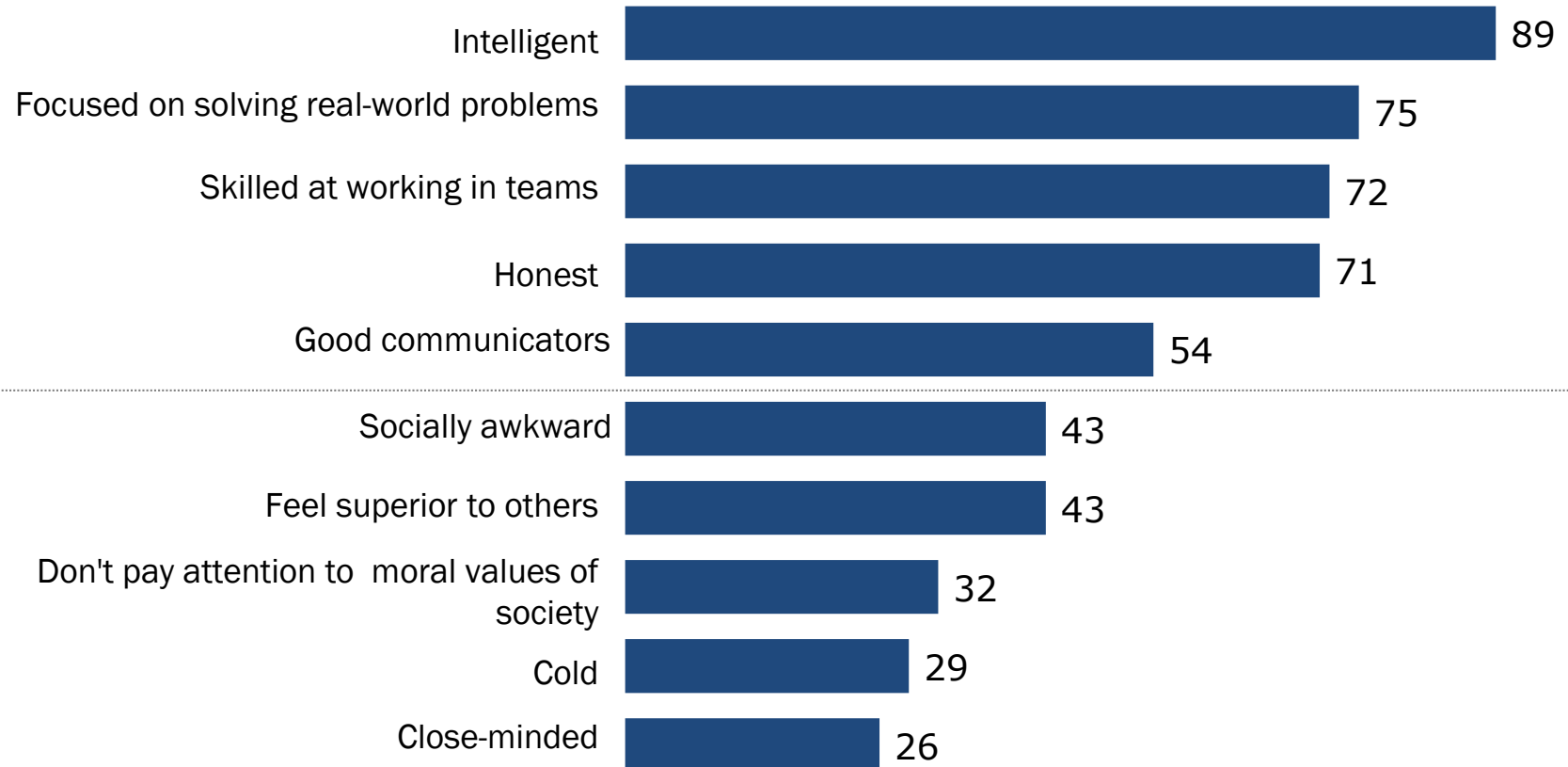
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# **PUBLIC IMAGE OF RESEARCH SCIENTISTS**

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# Majorities of Americans see scientists as intelligent, focused on solving real-world problems

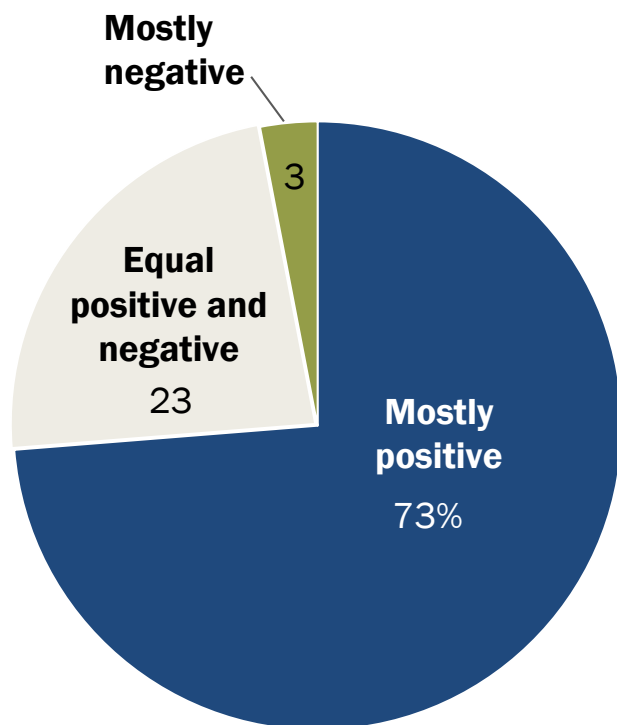
*Each of the following describes research scientists well*



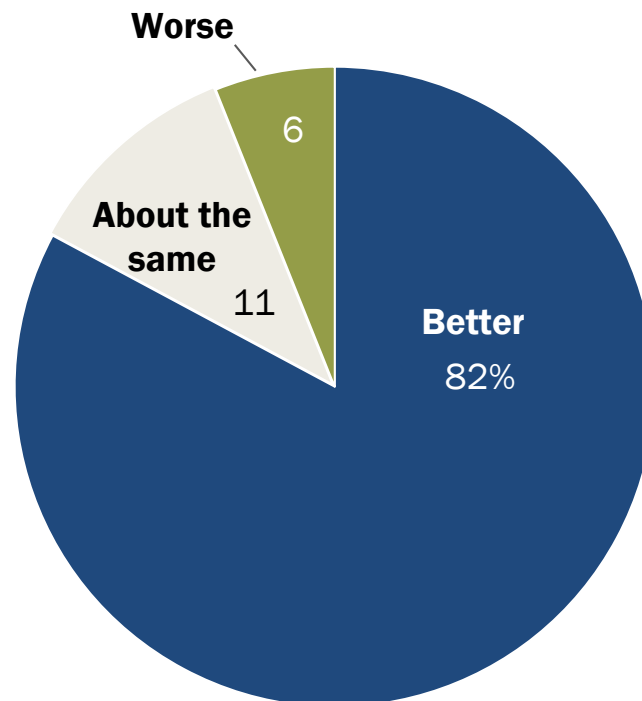
Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019

# Most Americans see science as bringing benefits to society and expect more to come

*Science has had a \_\_\_\_ effect on people's lives*



*Looking ahead to the next 20 years, developments in science will make people's lives ...*



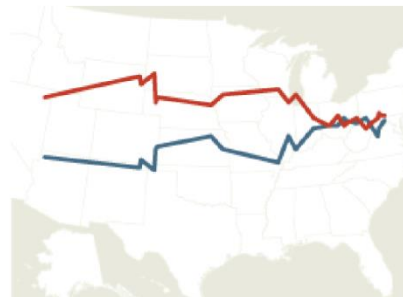
Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults Jan. 7-21, 2019.

**Cary Funk, Ph.D.**

*Director, Science and Society Research*

**cfunk@pewresearch.org**

**@surveyfunk** 



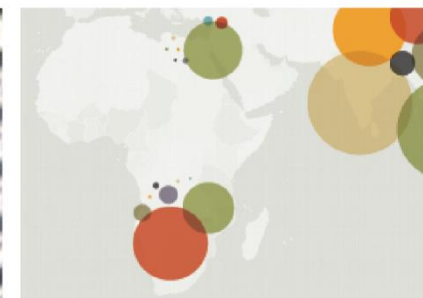
**U.S. Survey Research**



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Survey Research**



**Data Science**



**Demographic Research**