

Values in Conflict: Public Attitudes on Embryonic Stem Cell Research
Survey Questions

The Attitudes Towards Stem Cell Research Survey collected data from 2,212 Americans between September 9 and 19, 2005. The respondents were sampled randomly from Knowledge Network's web-enabled research panel designed to be representative of the entire U.S. population. The panel is representative because it was selected using high-quality probability sampling techniques, and was not limited to current Web users or computer owners. Households were selected using random digit dialing (RDD) and each household was provided with free hardware and Internet access as needed for research participation. Three thousand ninety-nine panel members were sampled and 2,254 cases completed the survey for a completion rate of 73 percent. Forty-two cases were excluded from final analysis because they did not answer more than one-third of the survey questions. Statistical results were weighted to correct for sampling error for characteristics highly correlated with population benchmarks. For the results based on all 2,212 qualified completions, there is a 95 percent confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is +/- 2.5 percentage points. For more details about the methodology go to: www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp/index.html

STEM CELLS

[SC]

Q12. Before today, had you heard about **embryonic stem cells**?

Yes 1
No 2

[DISPLAY SCREEN: EMBRYONIC STEM CELL DEFINITION]

Stem cells are cells that are able to give rise both to more stem cells and to specialized cell types (e.g. muscle cells, blood cells, liver cells).

The next few questions will be about one type of stem cells called embryonic stem cells. For the purposes of today's questions, here is a definition of embryonic stem cells. Embryonic stem cells are obtained from early embryos and can give rise to all cell types in the human body. When stem cells are obtained from embryos, the embryo is destroyed. Most scientists believe that human embryonic stem cell research holds great promise for understanding human disease and developing new treatments for diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and Parkinsons disease. Stem cells can be obtained from embryos that were created through IVF for couples trying to have a baby. Sometimes there are embryos remaining after IVF. Couples can donate these embryos to stem cell research in which the embryo will be destroyed.

Stem cells also can be obtained from bone marrow and umbilical cord blood. These stem cells are useful in treating some diseases such as some cancers and blood diseases. However, most scientists believe that developing new treatments for many diseases from these stem cells will take longer and is less certain than using embryonic stem cells.

[SKIP IF Q12 IS NO]

Q13. Over the last three months, have you read, seen or heard a lot, a little, or nothing about issues involving **embryonic stem cells**?

- A lot 1
- A little 2
- Nothing 3

[SC]

Q14. In general, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of **embryonic stem cell** research?

Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	
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[DISPLAY]

There is a public debate about **embryonic stem cell** research and disagreement about the public policies that should be put in place regarding this research. Some believe embryonic stem cell research is morally acceptable because research to find cures for diseases is extremely important. Others believe embryonic stem cell research is morally unacceptable because it requires the destruction of human embryos.

A number of proposals have been put forward for embryonic stem cell research policy. The current policy of the US government has three components: 1) it allows federal funding of research using a limited number of embryonic stem cells that were created before August 2001 (because those IVF embryos had already been destroyed); 2) it prohibits federal funding to create new embryonic stem cells or to study new embryonic stem cells created with private funds; and 3) it permits private funds to be used to create and study new embryonic stem cells. Some feel the current policy is a good compromise because of the controversy about destroying embryos. Others feel that federal funding is essential to spur important medical research.

[SC]

Q 15. Please review the following possible policies the government could adopt about research on **embryonic stem cells**. Select the one that you think is the best government policy.

1. The government should prohibit all research to create or study embryonic stem cells.
2. The government should keep the current policy that allows federal funding for research to study a small number of embryonic stem cells created before August 2001.
3. The government should not fund research to create new embryonic stem cells, but if private funding is used to create new embryonic stem cells then the government should fund research to study these cells.
4. The government should fund research to BOTH create and study new embryonic stem cells.

[IF SKIPPED, USE THIS PROMPT AND ADD RESPONSE ITEMS #5 AND #6]

We would like to know which policy you favor. Please pick one, or select one of the last two options.

[TWO NEW RLST OPTIONS]

5. Don't know

6. No opinion]

[SC; SKIP IF Q15= 4]

Q16.

Imagine that in a year from now scientists report results from new research showing that **embryonic stem cells** are an effective treatment for a serious disease like diabetes.

Would such a development change your views about government policy about embryonic stem cell research?

Yes 1
No 2

[SC; SHOW IF YES TO Q16]

Q 17. What would your policy preference be based on this new information?

1. The government should prohibit all research to create or study embryonic stem cells.
2. The government should keep the current policy that allows federal funding for research to study a small number of embryonic stem cells created before August 2001.
3. The government should not fund research to create new embryonic stem cells, but if private funding is used to create new embryonic stem cells then the government should fund research to study these new cells.
4. The government should fund research to BOTH create and study new embryonic stem cells.

[IF SKIPPED, USE THIS PROMPT AND ADD RESPONSE ITEMS #4 AND #5]

We would like to know which policy you favor. Please pick one, or select one of the last two options.

[TWO NEW RLST OPTIONS]

4. Don't know

5. No opinion]

[SC; SHOW TO ALL]

Q 18.

Imagine that a year from now scientists report results from new research in which new **embryonic stem cells** are created from embryos without harming or destroying the embryo. The embryos that provided the stem cells could still be transferred to a woman's womb and produce healthy babies.

Would such a development change your views about government policy about research using embryonic stem cells from embryos donated by couples after IVF?

Yes 1
 No 2

[SC; SHOW IF YES TO Q18]

Q19. What would your policy preference be based on this new information?

- 1. I would support embryonic stem cell research only when embryos are not destroyed
- 1. I would support embryonic stem cell research using embryos from both sources.

[IF SKIPPED, USE THIS PROMPT AND ADD RESPONSE ITEMS #3 AND #4]

We would like to know which policy you favor. Please pick one, or select one of the last two options.

[TWO NEW RLST OPTIONS]

3. Don't know

4. No opinion]

[RANDOMIZE FOLLOWING 6 QUESTIONS; ALL SC]

A number of arguments have been made in the embryonic stem cell debate. Please indicate if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following.

Q20. It is really important to find cures for diabetes, heart disease, and Parkinsons as quickly as possible, even if it means destroying embryos to do so.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
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Q21. It would be terrible if cures were delayed because of policies that make embryonic stem cell research difficult.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
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Q22. It would be terrible if embryos were destroyed because of policies that promote embryonic stem cell research.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
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Q23. It is really important to protect human embryos, even if it will delay the development of new medicines.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
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Q24. Using embryos for research is dehumanizing and turns embryos into commodities.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
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[sc]

Q25. All in all, which is more important to you, conducting **embryonic stem cell research** that might result in new medical cures OR not destroying the human embryos involved in this research?

- Conducting **embryonic stem cell research** that might result in new medical cures..... 1
- Not destroying the human embryos involved in this research 2

[sc]

Q26. Would you be willing to delay progress in medical research in order to find sources of stem cells that do not involve embryo destruction?

- Yes 1
- No..... 2

[sc; SHOW IF YES TO Q26]

Q27. If so, for how long?

- One year 1
- Five years. 2
- Ten years 3
- Twenty five years. 4
- Forever..... 5

[sc]

Q28.

In addition to embryos donated by couples after infertility treatment with IVF, it is possible for people to donate sperm and eggs specifically to create embryos to be used to make embryonic stem cells. Some scientists believe that stem cells from these embryos would be particularly useful in research. Some people oppose creating embryos specifically to be used to make stem cells because they believe it is wrong to create embryos only to destroy them.

In general, do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove or strongly disapprove of using embryos specifically created to be used to make **embryonic stem cells** in which the embryo will necessarily be destroyed?

Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	
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[sc]

Q29. In your view, is there a moral difference between creating embryos specifically for research and using embryos remaining after IVF for research?

Yes 1
No..... 2

[SC; show if yes at Q29]

Q30. Is creating embryos specifically for research morally more or less acceptable than using embryos donated by couples after IVF for research?

1. Creating embryos specifically for research is morally LESS acceptable than using embryos donated by couples after IVF for research.
2. Creating embryos specifically for research is morally MORE acceptable than using embryos donated by couples after IVF research.

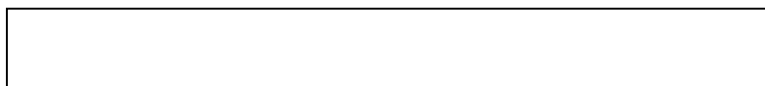
MORAL STATUS

[DISPLAY]

There is debate about the “moral status” of human eggs, embryos and fetuses. Moral status is a term people use to capture the extent to which “something” should be given the protections and the level of respect that society gives to each of us. For example, some people believe that an embryo has “maximum moral status” which means that it is always morally wrong to destroy an embryo. By contrast, other people believe that an embryo has no moral status, which would mean that there are no moral problems in destroying an embryo. Still others believe that the moral status of an embryo falls somewhere in between. These people believe that under some circumstances it might be morally permissible to destroy an embryo.

[USE SLIDING SCALE (FIRST ONE SHOWN ON CAPABILITIES DEMO) FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING 9 ITEMS;

- DISPLAY ALL 9 ON THE SAME SCREEN;
- RANDOMIZE EGG AND SPERM;
- RANDOMIZE FOUR EMBRYO QUESTIONS;
- PUT Q57 – Q59 IN FIXED ORDER IN LAST THREE SPACES;
- USE END POINTS “No Moral Status” AND “Maximum Moral Status”;



No Moral Status

Maximum Moral Status

Please rank the moral status of each of the following.

Q42. Human egg
Q43. Human sperm
Q44. One week old human embryo in a petri dish
Q45. One week old cloned/SCNT human embryo in a petri dish
Q46. One week old human embryo frozen in an IVF clinic
Q47. One week old human embryo in a woman's womb
Q48. 8 week old human fetus in a woman's womb
Q49. 24 week old human fetus in a woman's womb
Q50. Born human baby

[PROMPT IF ITEMS SKIPPED]

[SC]

Q51. Please identify which of the following photographs you think shows a one week old human embryo.

[RANDOMIZE IMAGES]

- 1- one week embryo
- 2- early fetus
- 3- older fetus