

The New Battlegrounds over Facts in Democracy

Cary Funk

Director, Science and Society Research

Email: cfunk@pewresearch.org

Twitter: [@surveyfunk](https://twitter.com/surveyfunk)

Scott Keeter

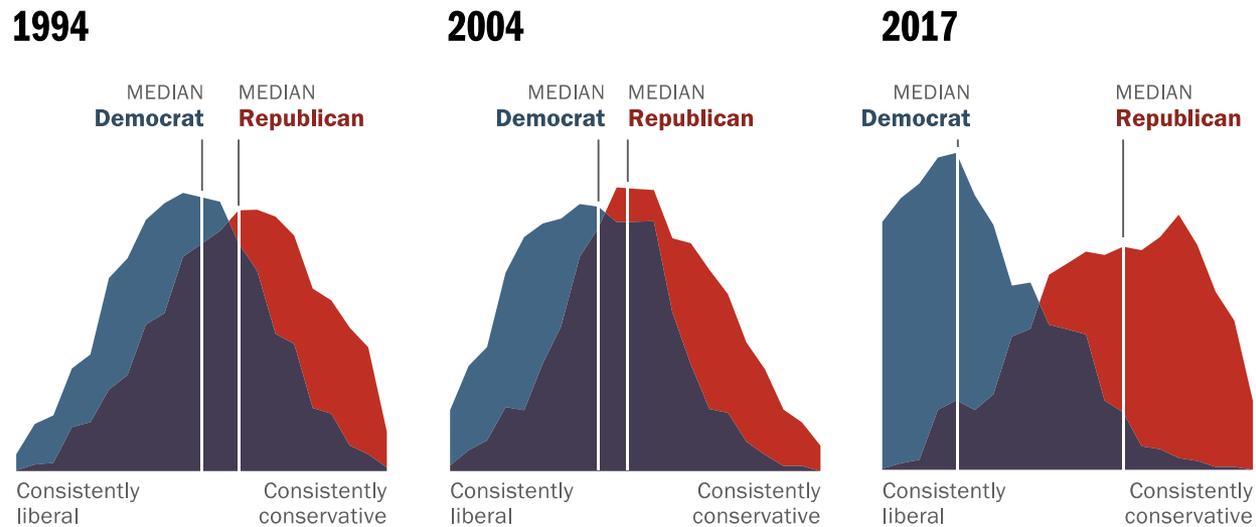
Senior Survey Advisor

Email: skeeter@pewresearch.org

Twitter: [@pollcat](https://twitter.com/pollcat)

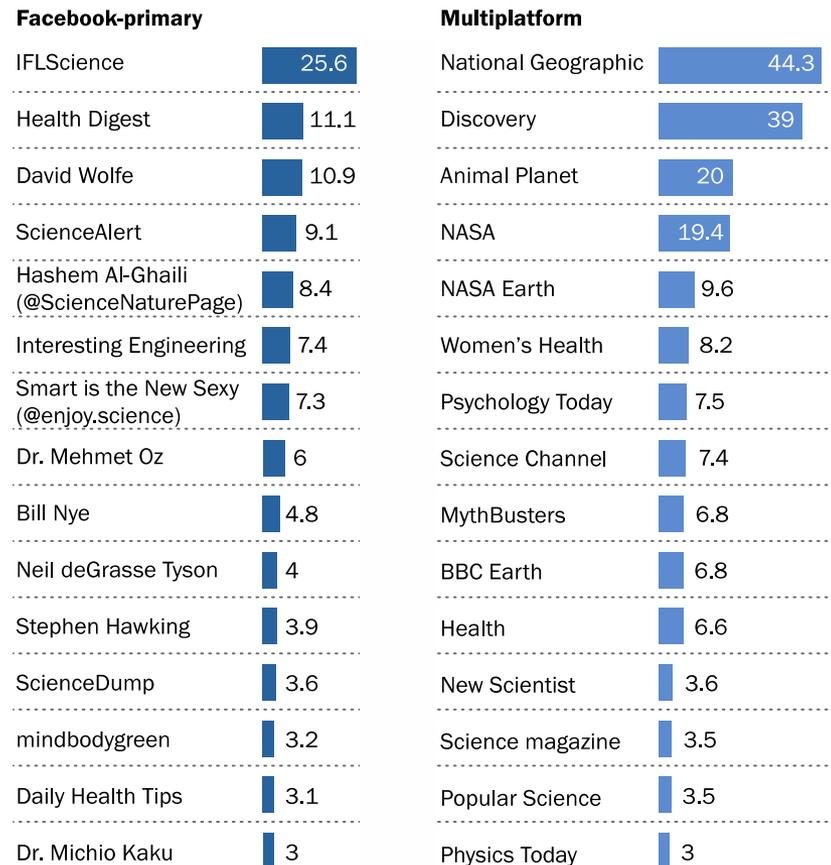
Democrats and Republicans more ideologically divided than in the past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values



Pew Research Center surveys of U.S. adults 1994 to June 8-18, 2017.

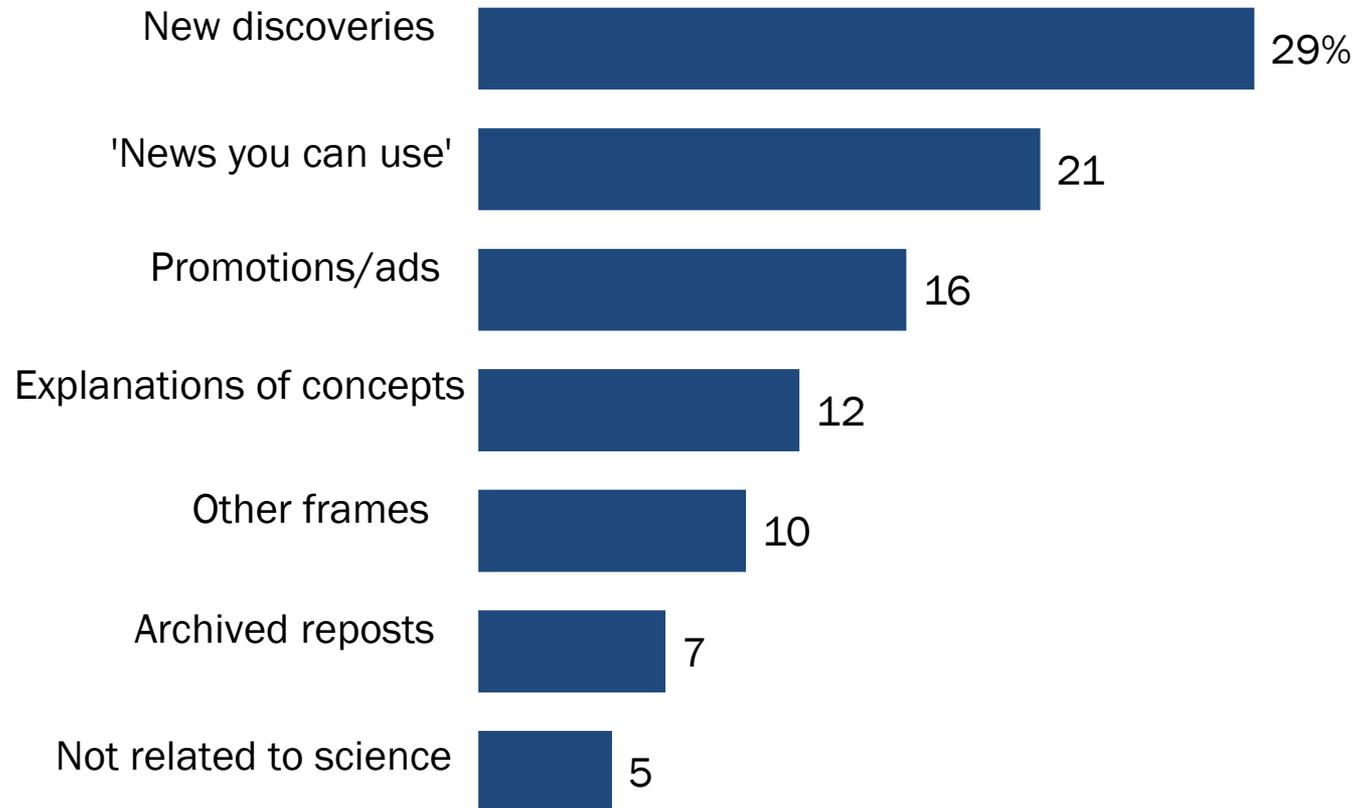
These 30 science-related Facebook pages each have 3 million to 44 million followers as of 2017



Note: Number of page likes as of June 12, 2017. "Facebook-primary" consists of Facebook pages from individuals or organizations that have a large social media presence on the platform but are not connected to any offline, legacy outlet. "Multiplatform" includes Facebook pages from established outlets or organizations, such as magazines, TV programs or government agencies.
 Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 30 science-related Facebook pages

About three-in-ten posts across these popular science-related Facebook pages feature new scientific discoveries

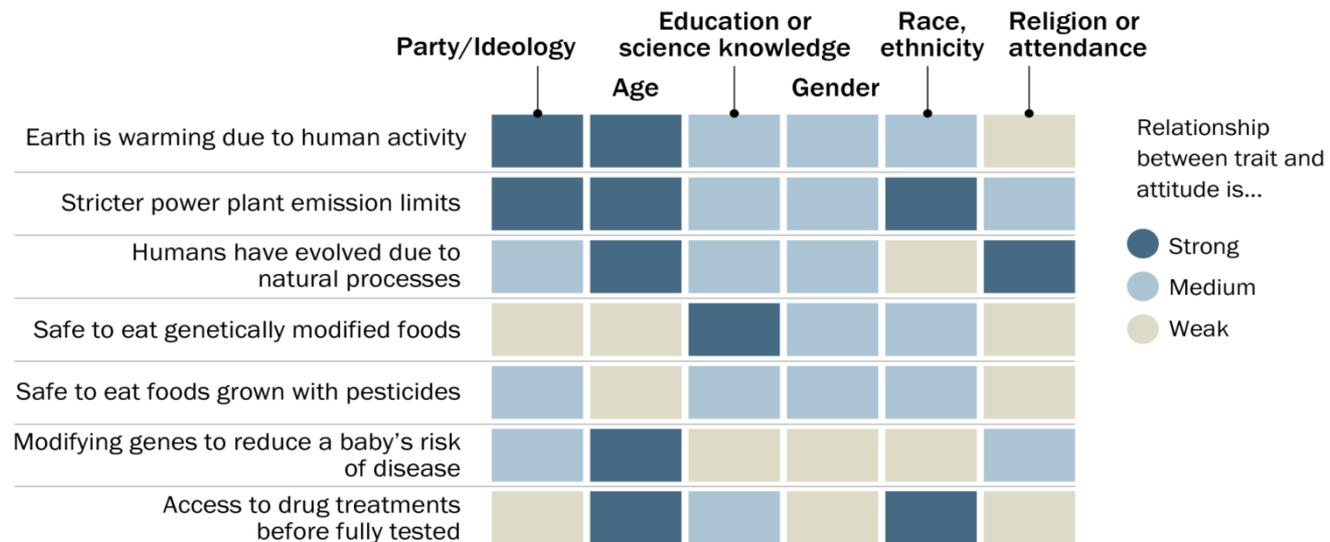
% of Facebook posts on 30 science-related pages using each frame



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of a random sample of Facebook posts from 30 popular science-related pages, January to June 2017.

Data from the public Facebook Graph API

Wide mix of factors influencing public views on science-related issues



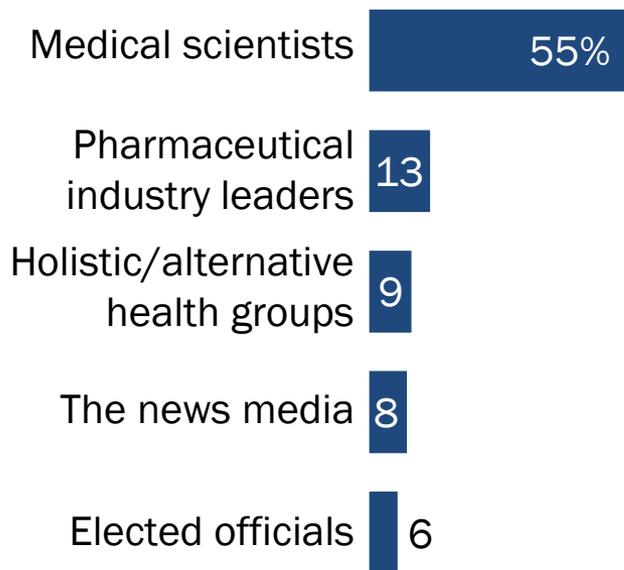
Note: Chart shows relative strength and statistical significance of each factor or set of factors.

Pew Research Center survey conducted Aug. 15-25, 2014

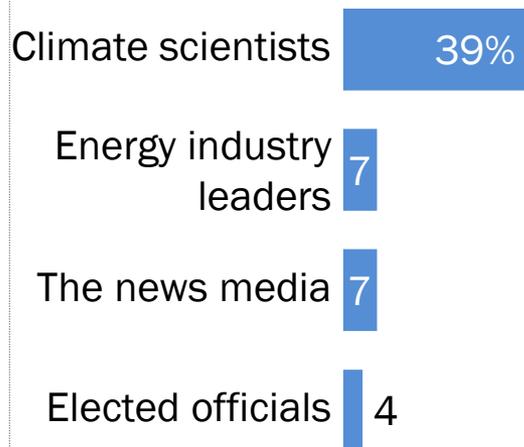
Americans are more likely to trust scientists than other groups for information about the MMR vaccine, climate change

Trust each of these groups a lot to give full and accurate information about...

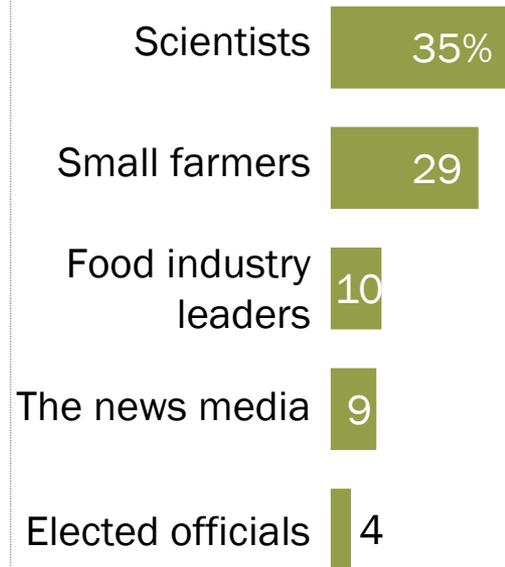
THE HEALTH RISKS AND BENEFITS OF THE MMR VACCINE



THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE



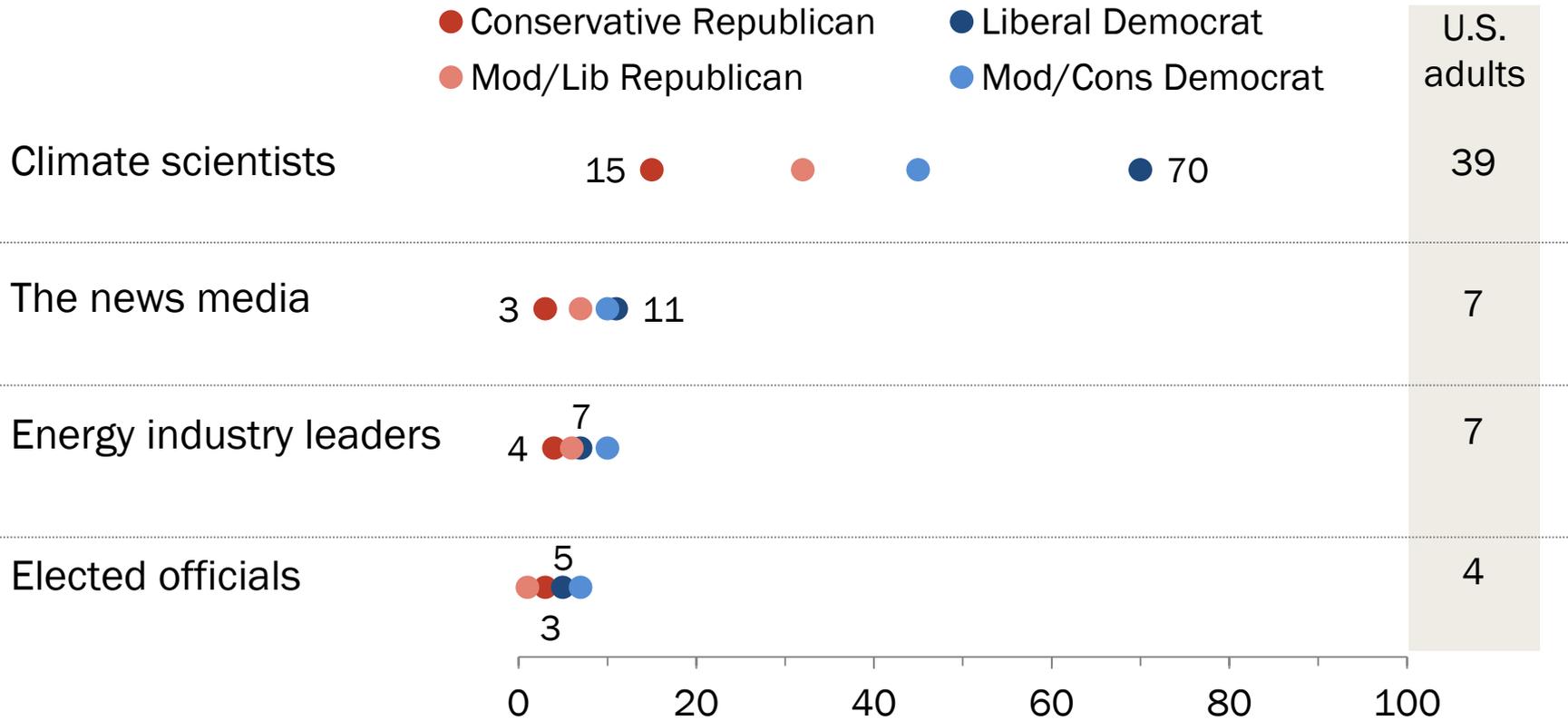
THE HEALTH RISKS AND BENEFITS OF EATING GM FOODS



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults May 10-June 6, 2016.

Trust in information from climate scientists varies by politics

Trust each of these groups a lot to give full and accurate information about the causes of global climate change



Note: Republicans and Democrats include independents and others who “lean” toward the parties.
 Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults May 10-June 6, 2016.

Role of science knowledge in perceptions of climate research depends on one's political views

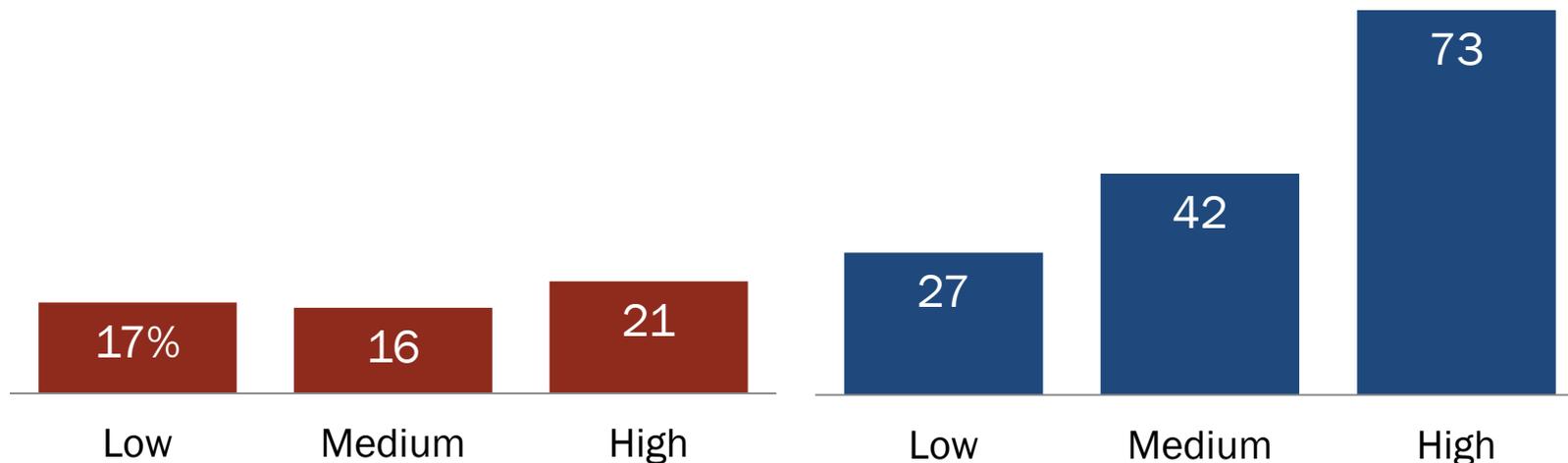
Climate scientists' research findings are influenced by the best available scientific evidence most of the time

Republican

Among those with ___ science knowledge

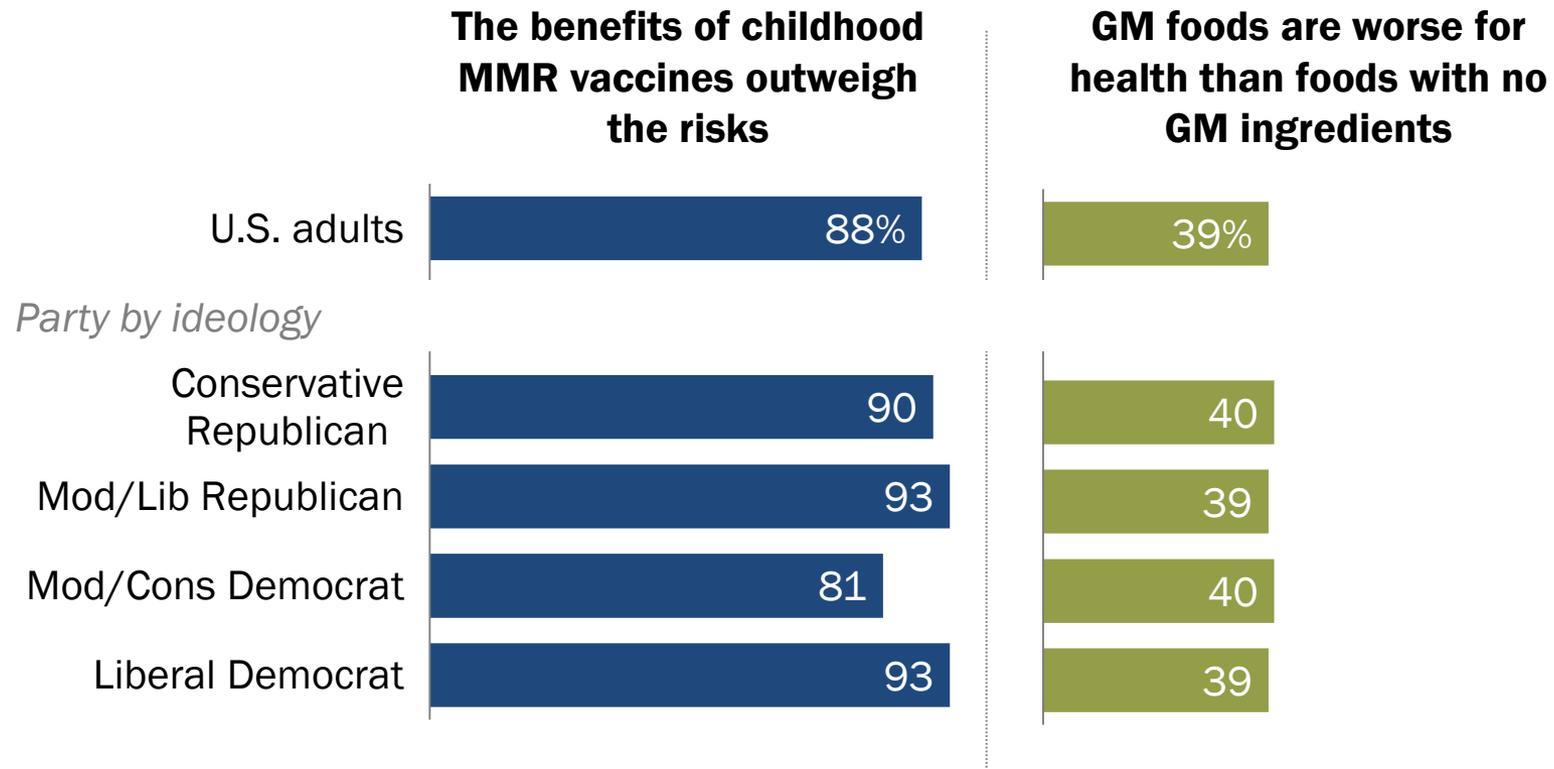
Democrat

Among those with ___ science knowledge



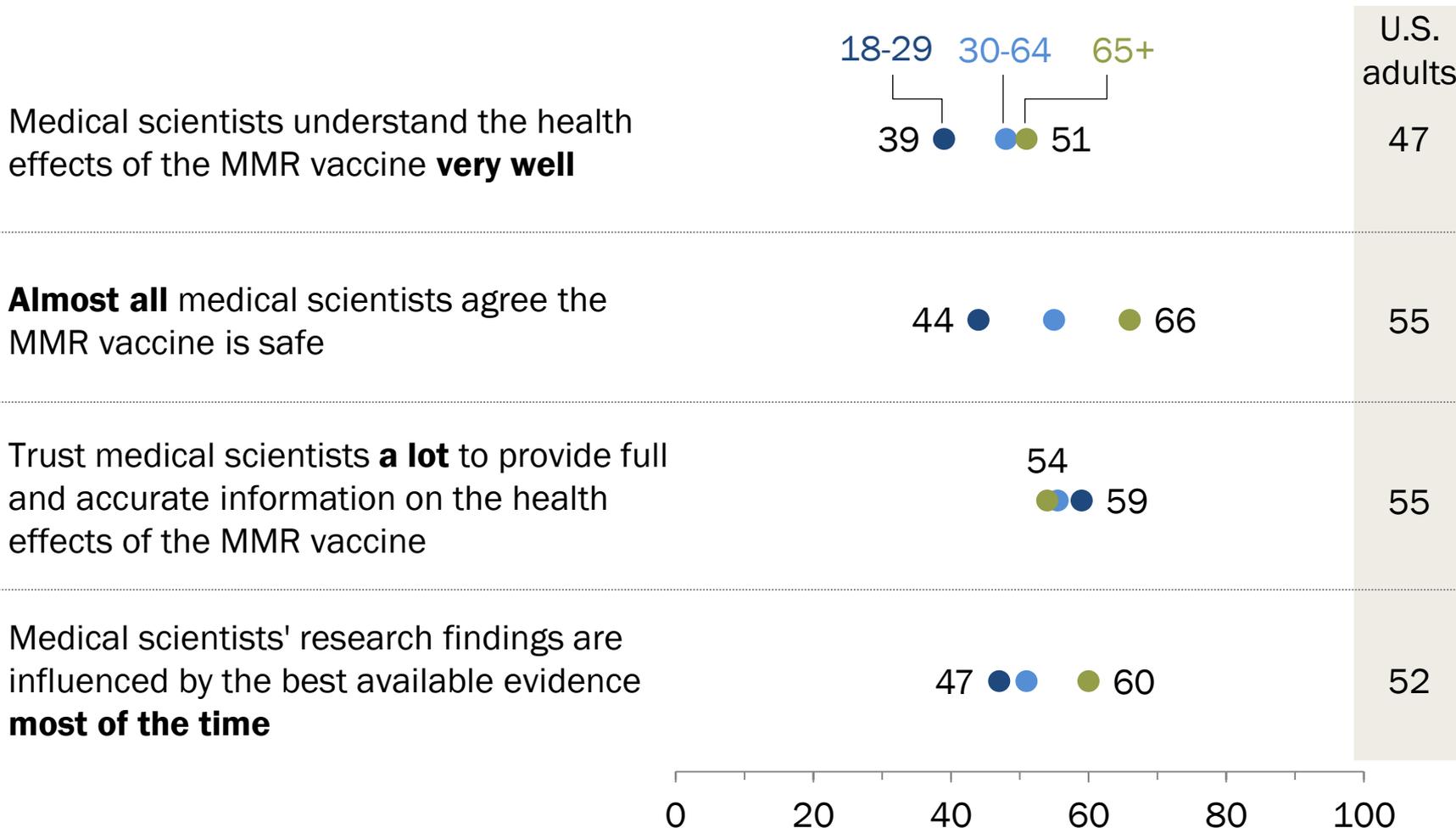
Note: Republicans and Democrats include independents and others who "lean" toward the parties. Science knowledge based on 9-item index. Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults May 10-June 6, 2016.

Some science-related issues in public discourse are not related to politics



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults May 10-June 6, 2016.

Younger Americans are more skeptical of medical scientists and their research on childhood vaccines



Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults May 10-June 6, 2016.

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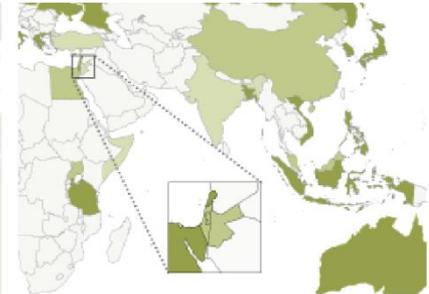
Senior survey adviser

skeeter@pewresearch.org

[@pollcat](https://twitter.com/pollcat) 



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