

Fall, 2016 NCSU Pack Poll: “Emerging Technologies Flash Poll” Toplines Report

November 10-13

N= 648

Completed Response Rate =

Margin of sampling error for completed response rate and questions asked of the full sample

These are the results for this semester’s first “Flash Poll.” The survey was administered over the internet to a random sample of 3,000 NCSU undergraduates, generating a 22% response rate. In addition to sampling error, other forms of error occur in surveys, such as confusion about question wording or the order of questions, but these are not precisely quantifiable. We do not apply post-stratification sample weights to adjust for possible demographic imbalances in our sample (primarily by gender), but weighting would only have minor effects on the results we report here (our sample is 55% male when men are 56% of the NCSU undergraduate student body).

[Split ballot: Half of sample received Q1a and half Q1b.]

Q1a. Overall, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the use of nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity for the US?

- Strongly favor 32%
- Somewhat favor 33%
- Somewhat Oppose 13%
- Strongly Oppose 5%
- No opinion 18%

Q1b. I believe that nuclear energy is a good source of energy generation compared to other methods such as coal, oil, gas and renewable resources?

- Strongly agree 28%
- Agree 38%
- Neither agree or disagree 22%
- Disagree 9%
- Strongly disagree 2%

[Split ballot: Half of sample received Q2a and half Q2b.]

Q2a. As you may know, the federal government currently provides very limited funding for medical research that uses stem cells obtained from human embryos. Which would you prefer the government to do?

- Place no restrictions on government funding of stem cell research 17%
- Ease the current restrictions to allow more stem cell research 54%
- Keep the current restrictions in place 10%
- Not fund stem cell research at all 6%
- No opinion 13%

Q2b Do you think the federal government should -- or should not -- fund research that would use newly created stem cells obtained from human embryos?

- Should fund research 62%
- Should not fund research 17%
- No opinion 21%

Q3. A local government in Florida is considering releasing genetically engineered (GE) mosquitoes to control the species of mosquitoes that spreads diseases such as Zika and dengue fever. Do you support the use of GE technology to control mosquitoes where they spread these diseases, or do you oppose using GE technology this way?

- Support 65%
- Oppose 15%
- No opinion 20%

Q4. Which statement do you agree with more: "We should use promising new technologies unless it can be demonstrated they cause harm," OR "We should only use promising new technologies after they have proven to be safe."

- "We should use promising new technologies unless it can be demonstrated they cause harm" 32%
- "We should only use promising new technologies after they have proven to be safe" 68%

Q5. What is your gender?

- Male 54%
- Female 43%
- Other 2%

Q6. Thinking about the possibility of an implanted device giving HEALTHY people a much improved ability to concentrate and process information... Which of these statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

- As humans, we are always trying to better ourselves and this is no different 60%
- This idea is meddling with nature and crosses a line we should not cross 40%