

Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from ATP Wave 143, conducted from Feb. 13 to 25, 2024. A total of 12,693 panelists responded out of 14,762 who were sampled, for a response rate of 89% (AAPOR RR3). The survey includes an [oversample](#) of 2,051 Jewish and Muslim Americans from Ipsos' KnowledgePanel, SSRS's Opinion Panel, and NORC at the University of Chicago's AmeriSpeak Panel. These oversampled groups are weighted to reflect their correct proportions in the population. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is less than 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,693 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

ATP panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based sampling (ABS) recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. ["AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling."](#)

birthday is asked to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.²

We have recruited a national sample of U.S. adults to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to boost sample size with underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic, Black and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Across the six address-based recruitments, a total of 23,862 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,917 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 30,859 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,920 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. All active panel members who completed the ATP wave fielded from July 31 to Aug. 6, 2023 (ATP W132), or panelists who previously identified as Jewish or Muslim, were invited to participate in this wave.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23-March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,391
Aug. 27-Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	831
April 25-June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	404
Aug. 8-Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	3,848
Aug. 19-Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,387
June 1-July 19, 2020; Feb. 10-March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,440
May 29-July 7, 2021; Sept. 16-Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	731
May 24-Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,454
April 17-May 30, 2023	ABS	686	576	434
	Total	43,580	30,859	11,920

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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² Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

The ATP was supplemented with an oversample of self-identified Jewish and Muslim American panelists from three other probability panels: Ipsos' KnowledgePanel, SSRS's Opinion Panel, and NORC at the University of Chicago's AmeriSpeak panel. All panelists who met the selection criteria were selected with certainty.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos, SSRS and NORC. The survey for ATP and KP panelists was programmed by Ipsos, while the survey for SSRS and NORC panelists was programmed by SSRS. A small number of SSRS panelists took their survey over the phone with an interviewer. Both web programs were rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos, SSRS and NORC project management teams and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All ATP respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Respondents from the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, SSRS Opinion Panel and AmeriSpeak were offered the cash equivalent of \$10 for completing this survey.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Feb. 13 to 25, 2024. Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset of ATP panelists with a known residential address on Feb. 12.³

Invitations were sent out in separate launches. Sixty ATP panelists and 300 KP panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Feb. 13. The ATP and KP panelists chosen for the soft launch were known responders who had completed previous surveys

³ Postcard notifications are sent to 1) panelists who have been provided with a tablet to take ATP surveys, 2) panelists who were recruited within the last two years, and 3) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining ATP and KP sampled panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Feb. 14.

Overall, 129 SSRS panelists were included in the SSRS soft launch, which began with an initial invitation on Feb. 14. And 110 NORC panelists were included in the NORC soft launch, which began with an initial invitation on Feb. 15. All remaining SSRS and NORC sampled panelists were included together in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Feb. 15.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to four email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to four SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 143

	ATP/KP soft launch	ATP/KP full launch	SSRS soft launch	NORC soft launch	SSRS/ NORC full launch
Initial invitation	Feb. 13, 2024	Feb. 14, 2024	Feb. 14, 2024	Feb. 15, 2024	Feb. 15, 2024
First reminder	Feb. 17, 2024	Feb. 17, 2024	Feb. 17, 2024	Feb. 17, 2024	Feb. 17, 2024
Second reminder	Feb. 19, 2024	Feb. 19, 2024	Feb. 19, 2024	Feb. 19, 2024	Feb. 19, 2024
Third reminder	Feb. 22, 2024	Feb. 22, 2024	Feb. 22, 2024	Feb. 22, 2024	Feb. 22, 2024
Final reminder	Feb. 24, 2024	Feb. 24, 2024	Feb. 24, 2024	Feb. 24, 2024	Feb. 24, 2024

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Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, six ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of inclusion in the panel to which they belong. Separately for each of the four panels (ATP, KP, SSRS, NORC), the base weights for Muslim and Jewish respondents were scaled to be proportional to the group's effective sample size. These weights were then combined and calibrated so that the overall proportions of Jewish and Muslim respondents respectively match the [National Public Opinion Reference Survey](#) (NPORS) benchmark.

This weight is then calibrated again to align with the full set of population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table (which also includes the NPORS benchmarks for the shares of Jewish and Muslim adults). In order to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights, the weights were trimmed separately among Jewish, Muslim, Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, and non-Hispanic Asian respondents at the 98th percentile, and among all other respondents at the 99.5th percentile. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2022 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Black (alone or in combination) x Hispanic	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	
Party affiliation x Voter registration	2022 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	2023 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Religiously unaffiliated, Other)	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 143

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	12,693		1.5 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	5,312	44%	2.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	7,007	48%	2.1 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Jewish and Muslim respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. Refer to the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Additional wave methodology

This report also features a question that was fielded from a survey conducted in [December 2023](#) (ATP Wave 139). Portions of the analysis in this publication are based on individuals who responded to both ATP Wave 139 and Wave 143. For that analysis, the same weighting procedure used for the full sample was applied to the subset of panelists who completed both waves.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 143

	AAPOR code	ATP	KP	SSRS	AmeriSpeak	Total
Completed interview	1.1	10,642	959	696	396	12,693
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	35	2	0	0	37
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	22	0	0	0	22
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	320	0	0	0	320
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	1	0	0	0	1
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.3	6	0	0	0	6
Completed interview but was removed for ineligibility		0	120	71	76	267
Eligibility undetermined	3.2	0	168	618	630	1416
Screened out	4.7	0	0	0	0	0
Total panelists sampled for the survey		11,026	1,249	1,385	1,102	14,762
Completed interviews	I	10,642	959	696	396	12,693
Partial interviews	P	0	0	0	0	0
Refusals	R	377	2	0	0	379
Non-contact	NC	1	0	0	0	1
Other	O	6	0	0	0	6
Unknown household	UH	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown other	UO	0	168	618	630	1416
Not eligible	NE	0	120	71	76	267
Screen out	SO	0	0	0	0	0
Total		11,026	1,249	1,385	1,102	14,762
Est. eligibility rate among unscreened: $e = (I+P+R)/(I+P+R+SO+NE)$		100%	88.9%	90.7%	83.9%	
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		97%	85%	50%	39%	88%
AAPOR RR3 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+[e*(UH+UO)])$		97%	90%	55%	43%	89%

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Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 143

	ATP	KP	SSRS	NORC	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%	11%	9%	29%	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%	61%	49%	76%	68%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 143	45%	19%	74%	79%	48%
Response rate to Wave 143 survey	97%	90%	55%	43%	88%
Cumulative response rate	4%	1%	2%	8%	4%

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