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The Pew Charitable Trusts  
**Trust**

**FOLLOWING**

**THE FACTS**

**TO**

**GOOD POLICY**

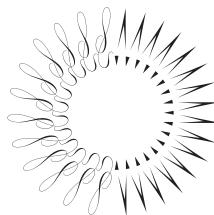
**AND**

**BETTER  
WORLD**



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## TIME CAPSULE



The Pew Charitable Trusts joined with the city of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania state leaders in 1996 to fund a new agency, the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp., now called Visit Philadelphia, with a mission of attracting visitors to Pew's hometown. Pew also helped raise funds to renovate Independence Mall, a three-block section of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. Located in the park are the Liberty Bell Center, where the bell is secured; the Independence Visitor Center, which serves as the welcoming center for the Philadelphia region; and the National Constitution Center. All three received critical funding from Pew and its partners during the 1990s. These civic projects and others reflect Pew's commitment to enhancing and protecting Philadelphia's and Pennsylvania's history, culture, and contributions to American democracy.

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Michael Nagle/Xinhua via Getty Images

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# Trust

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The Pew Charitable Trusts is a public charity driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Working with partners and donors, Pew conducts fact-based research and rigorous analysis to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.

Pew is the sole beneficiary of seven individual charitable funds established between 1948 and 1979 by two sons and two daughters of Sun Oil Co. founder Joseph N. Pew and his wife, Mary Anderson Pew.

# Follow the Facts



Today, when we travel, we often rely on mobile technology to help us navigate the world. Gone are the old days of maps, landmarks, and directions jotted down on the back of an envelope; instead, we follow turn-by-turn instructions to reach our desired destination. But navigating in the realm of policymaking is different: Evidence and facts are the guideposts that help policymakers find their way to success. That's why Pew continues its long tradition of collecting, analyzing, and sharing nonpartisan, evidence-based data that decision-makers can use to achieve their policy objectives.

Facts are critical to our work because they're the foundation that effective policies are built on and measured by and provide a common language that leaders can use to explain their policy choices to a deeply divided public. As such, facts don't prejudge. They don't pick sides in a debate. And they don't bend to popular opinion or short-term political and cultural trends. Instead, as Stephen C. Fehr's story in this issue of *Trust* notes, facts create "common ground for governors, legislators, and other leaders to develop and nurture programs that fix ills and spend taxpayers' dollars more wisely." Today, over two-thirds of states and more than 10 counties have used evidence-based policymaking to inform decisions about where to spend taxpayer dollars.

In Louisiana and Texas, for example, lawmakers from both parties working with technical support from Pew agreed to follow evidence-based correctional practices

that establish drug and mental health services for nonviolent offenders, reduce the need to build more prisons, and save taxpayers millions of dollars. Similarly, in New Mexico, in response to data showing that many children were not developmentally ready to start school, the state funded a carefully planned and designed pre-kindergarten program. Research demonstrated that 80% of the first group of 4-year-olds in the program graduated from high school while only 74% who were not in the program graduated. Now, New Mexico has increased spending on early childhood education programs from about \$150 million a decade ago to about \$500 million because of the data verifying advances in learning. And, as the story reports, now the federal government is looking to evidence-based policymaking too.

The Pew Research Center is an international leader in studying issues, attitudes, and trends through nonpartisan, data-driven, social science research to develop facts that heads of governments, NGOs, and other groups rely on to better understand the world. The Center is currently working on a multiyear series of surveys looking at the lives of Black Americans. The latest of these reports, "Race Is Central to Identity for Black Americans and Affects How They Connect With Each Other," highlights how Black Americans see themselves. Overall, 76% of Black adults say that being Black is extremely or very important to their identity.

The Center's survey delves deep, not looking at Blacks as a monolithic group, but exploring how their views are affected by income, demographics, location, and political affiliation. The report uncovers facts that might surprise some readers and that, as journalist Charles E. Cobb Jr. notes in this issue, "reflect the great diversity of the Black American community and also offer a window onto the connectedness among Black American adults." For example, 60% of Black adults who earn less than \$42,000 say that they have "few things in common with Blacks who are wealthy." And Black Americans under 29 are less likely to consider their Black identity important than those over 30.

In the early 2000s, discussions about climate change focused on what outcomes could happen. Today, they center on what is happening, and the facts are building: more extreme weather, ocean acidification, and loss of coastline to rising waters. To better understand these challenges—and solve them—will require new levels of cooperation among a range of stakeholders as well

# Trust

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as solid data. One place that allows a “fast motion” view of what is happening up and down the nation’s coastlines is the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. As staff writer Carol Kaufmann explains, “Blackwater has lost 5,000 acres since the late 1970s and ... the water could rise 2.1 feet by 2050.” To make matters worse, this deterioration of the Chesapeake Bay’s coastline is washing away wildlife habitat and archaeological treasures, including where Harriet Tubman was born—an area that could be fully submerged and lost in a decade. You can see and learn much more about Blackwater in a beautiful photo essay in this issue.

Every successful journey begins with a step in the right direction. In policymaking, having a solid understanding of the destination—solving a problem using nonpartisan, evidence-based research—is an essential starting point. If we look closely at the facts and follow their lead, there’s a good chance we will arrive at a more effective and prosperous future.



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## THE BIG PICTURE

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Through a microscope, an Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) resembles an alien creature from a science fiction movie. But in real-life size, these pink and semitransparent crustaceans are really small—measuring just 2 inches long on average. Their size belies their enormous role in the health of the Southern Ocean’s ecosystem, where krill are the undisputed center of the Antarctic marine food web. They travel in swarms—tens of thousands in a square yard—and are a main food source for a variety of the region’s best-known animals, from whales and seals to penguins. Even animals that don’t eat them directly, such as leopard seals and orcas, subsist on creatures that do. These relatives of shrimp also feed on carbon-capturing algae at the ocean’s surface, dropping their carbon-filled waste near the seafloor, which reduces carbon in the atmosphere and helps to reduce the effects of climate change. For all of these reasons, The Pew Charitable Trusts has worked for years to safeguard krill and their environment.





Justin Hofman/Alamy

# Robert Anderson “Andy” Pew

## 1936-2022

Robert Anderson “Andy” Pew’s lifelong service to his family’s charitable and business interests—including 55 years as a member of The Pew Charitable Trusts’ board of directors—led many to view him as a peerless steward of his family’s legacy. On June 25, Andy Pew died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He was 85.

“Andy was extremely proud of his service to the organization,” said Pew president and CEO Susan K. Urahn. “He was proud of our accomplishments, stalwart in his support of our Philadelphia programs, and held a deep enthusiasm for all our programmatic activities.”

As a member of the board of directors since 1967, Mr. Pew saw the organization’s transformation from a private grantmaker anonymously serving communities primarily in the Philadelphia region to a public charity engaged in addressing global challenges. Profound changes are rare among foundations, but Mr. Pew encouraged and actively embraced such thinking, once saying that the institution’s founders “did indeed think freely and dare to experiment. They seldom were inclined to accept what was, if they could find something better. On the other hand, they felt there were certain enduring truths that would be just as valid 100,000 years from now—individual freedom, fundamental morality—and those they embraced. They never saw any inconsistency between holding their beliefs and adapting to a changing world.”

During his tenure as a director, Mr. Pew worked closely with family members and others to help shape and grow the Trusts’ grantmaking portfolio, and later, its programmatic work. For instance, he collaborated with his cousin and fellow board director J. Howard “Howdy” Pew II to start the organization’s environmental grantmaking in the 1970s. Andy Pew often said he was inspired after reading Rachel Carson’s book *Silent Spring* in 1962.

Throughout his life, Mr. Pew was deeply engaged in service. Along with his dedication to Pew, he was a director on the board of The Glenmede Trust Company and supported several Philadelphia-area organizations,



including the Academy of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr Hospital, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. He was on the committee involved in planning the Philadelphia Bicentennial in 1976 and played a part in establishing the

Brandywine Conservancy and the Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Pew was proud of being a pilot and a sailor. He bought a Piper Comanche in 1965 and piloted it until a few years ago, and he owned a classic A-class gaff-rigged sloop, “Gull,” which he enjoyed sailing near his home in Maine. Mr. Pew served as trustee of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association for 44 years, the longest serving board member in the organization’s history.

Born in Philadelphia in 1936, Mr. Pew was the great-grandson of Sun Oil Company founder Joseph Newton Pew and his wife, Mary Anderson Pew. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Temple University and a master’s degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Pew served as president of the Helios Capital Corporation and Radnor Corporation (Sun Company subsidiaries) and as a director and corporate secretary for Sun Company Inc. He was the last family member to have worked at Sun.

Mr. Pew was predeceased by his parents and a son, Robert Anderson Pew Jr., and by his brother Arthur E. Pew III. He is survived by his wife, Daria Decerio Pew, and their son, as well as two sons and one daughter from a previous marriage, and his half brother Sandy Ford Pew, who is a member of Pew’s board of directors.

Former Pew board chair and current director Robert H. Campbell noted that he and the organization’s leadership would continue to be inspired by Mr. Pew’s values and dedication. “Andy Pew was resolutely loyal—to his family, his hometown, and this institution,” Campbell said. “The entire organization misses him, and we share our deepest sympathies with his family.”



Birds flock behind a fishing boat at sea. Christian Aslund/EyeEm via Getty Images

## A Big Step Toward Curbng Overfishing

BY JOHN BRILEY

With many experts citing overfishing as the greatest threat facing the ocean, members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have reached a binding agreement to curb some subsidies that enable industrial fleets to overfish.

Governments around the world spend \$22 billion a year on such harmful fishing subsidies, which are paid primarily to owners and operators of large, industrial vessels to help offset fuel and ship construction costs. That in turn enables those fleets to fish farther from shore, stay out longer than they otherwise could, and catch fish at an unsustainable rate.

The WTO's new agreement, which members agreed to in June, creates a global framework that limits a range of subsidies, including those for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; fishing of stocks categorized as overfished; and vessels fishing in the unregulated high seas. The deal, which applies to all 164 WTO member governments, includes measures that will enhance

transparency and accountability for how governments support their fishing sectors.

Pew had been pushing for an even stronger commitment to end all harmful fishing subsidies, in large part because one-third of all global fish populations are overfished and another 60% are being fished at maximally sustainable levels, according to a 2020 study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The good news is that this damage is reversible: A bioeconomic model developed by the Environmental Markets Lab at the University of California, Santa Barbara, showed that the most ambitious subsidy reform the WTO was considering—one that removes all harmful subsidies—could have resulted in a 12.5% increase in fish biomass throughout the ocean by 2050. That would equate to up to an additional 35 million metric tons of fish in the sea, or almost four times the amount of North America's fish consumption in 2017 (the most recent year for which reliable data is available).

Although the WTO didn't go that far, the new agreement is an important step in the right direction. And governments agreed to continue negotiating to include additional rules on subsidies that contribute to fishing in other countries' waters and to overcapacity—or a fleet's ability to harvest more fish than is sustainable—within a nation's own waters.

The June decision followed years of advocacy and groundwork by a broad spectrum of players, and the 2015 adoption by 193 countries of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. One of them—Goal 14—called for conserving and responsibly using ocean and marine resources. Under that aim, nations committed to effectively regulate fisheries, eliminate illegal fishing, and, by 2020, reach an agreement to prohibit the harmful fisheries subsidies that fund destructive fishing practices.

Although WTO members missed that deadline, they persisted, ultimately striking the deal at the WTO's 12th ministerial conference in June.

WTO members must now bring the treaty into force swiftly, says Isabel Jarrett, who manages Pew's reducing harmful fisheries subsidies project. She says it's encouraging that members have committed to recommending further rules on subsidies at the next ministerial conference.

"Curbing harmful fishing subsidies can help reduce overfishing, restore the health of fisheries, and revitalize communities that rely on those fisheries," Jarrett says. Those subsidies "have been a problem for decades, and this is a turning point in addressing one of the key drivers of global overfishing."

## News From Pew: Jones Becomes Board Chair

At its June meeting, The Pew Charitable Trusts' board of directors selected Christopher Jones as its new chair to succeed Robert H. Campbell, who had completed his second term in the position.

Jones began his service on Pew's board in 2016 after 24 years in the advertising industry, including tenure as worldwide chair and CEO of J. Walter Thompson Co., one of the world's largest advertising groups.

Pew's board includes approximately a dozen members at any given time and approves funding for the institution's programmatic initiatives and helps set the strategic vision for the organization.

Campbell will continue to serve as a member of the board, which he joined in 2001, with previous tenures as chair from 2008-2014 and from 2016 until last June. "I've had the privilege of being part of the Pew board for more than two decades and am excited about the critical initiatives we will continue to take on in the coming months and years," he said.

President and CEO Susan K. Urahn thanked Campbell for his leadership and guidance during his tenure as chair. "Importantly, we will continue to benefit from Bob's expertise on the board," she said.



"We're also excited for Chris Jones' tenure as chair given his critical insights and significant experience with boards and Pew's work around the world," she said. "As we approach our 75th anniversary in 2023, this is a terrific moment for the board, and all of our staff, to consider our path ahead with Chris as chair."

A resident of the United Kingdom, Jones brings an international perspective to the board at a time when Pew's international policy portfolio is growing. He also serves on several corporate and nonprofit boards in the U.S. and in England, and he spent a decade living and working in the United States during his tenure at J. Walter Thompson Co., which contributed to his deep interest in and knowledge of many aspects of Pew's U.S.-based initiatives. Known for his sense of humor and his enthusiastic backing of Pew's programmatic work, Jones was elected unanimously by his fellow board members.

"I'm honored to serve the Pew board as chair and value the contributions of all of my fellow board members and the staff members of the organization," Jones said. "I look forward to advancing Pew's efforts around the globe through the support of the board."

—Daniel LeDuc

# Philadelphians Worry About Guns, COVID-19

A January poll of residents in Philadelphia shows they are concerned for their safety as the city struggles with record-high gun violence, and are also still feeling far-reaching impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pew Charitable Trusts polling, published in April, finds that 70% of Philadelphians see crime, drugs, and public safety as the most important issue facing the city—up nearly 30 percentage points from 2020. Over the past 12 months, 65% of city residents reported hearing gunshots in their neighborhood. And 85% believe that gun violence in Philadelphia has gotten worse over the past three years. The portion of residents who say they feel safe in their neighborhood at night dropped to 44%, the lowest since the poll's 2009 onset.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to complicate Philadelphians' lives through changes to their physical and mental health, household finances, and security. Nearly half of adult residents know someone who has died from the virus, double the percentage in August 2020. Fifty-eight percent say they experience anxiety or nervousness when thinking about the pandemic, and 34% of parents say their child's emotional health is worse than before the pandemic. In most cases, Hispanic and Black Philadelphians experienced

these impacts more than White residents, and all Philadelphians with lower incomes and education levels were particularly hard hit.

The pandemic caused an economic crunch for many Philadelphians, with one-third of respondents saying they are worse off financially than they were in March 2020. For example, 44% of city residents reported having at least a little difficulty paying their rent or mortgage since the pandemic began, and 61% of those with children under 18 living with them reported difficulties paying their rent or mortgage. About one-third of residents believe things will never get back to the way they were before the pandemic and 14% expect the city's recovery will take at least a year.

"City residents expressed more pessimism about the city's future than at any time since Pew started polling residents in 2009, with 63% of residents now saying the city is pretty seriously on the wrong track," says Elinor Haider, who directs Pew's policy and research team in Philadelphia. "However, they also offered a glimmer of hope: A majority said the city's best days are ahead."

—Demetra Aposporos

# Few Signs of Widespread 'Zoom Fatigue'

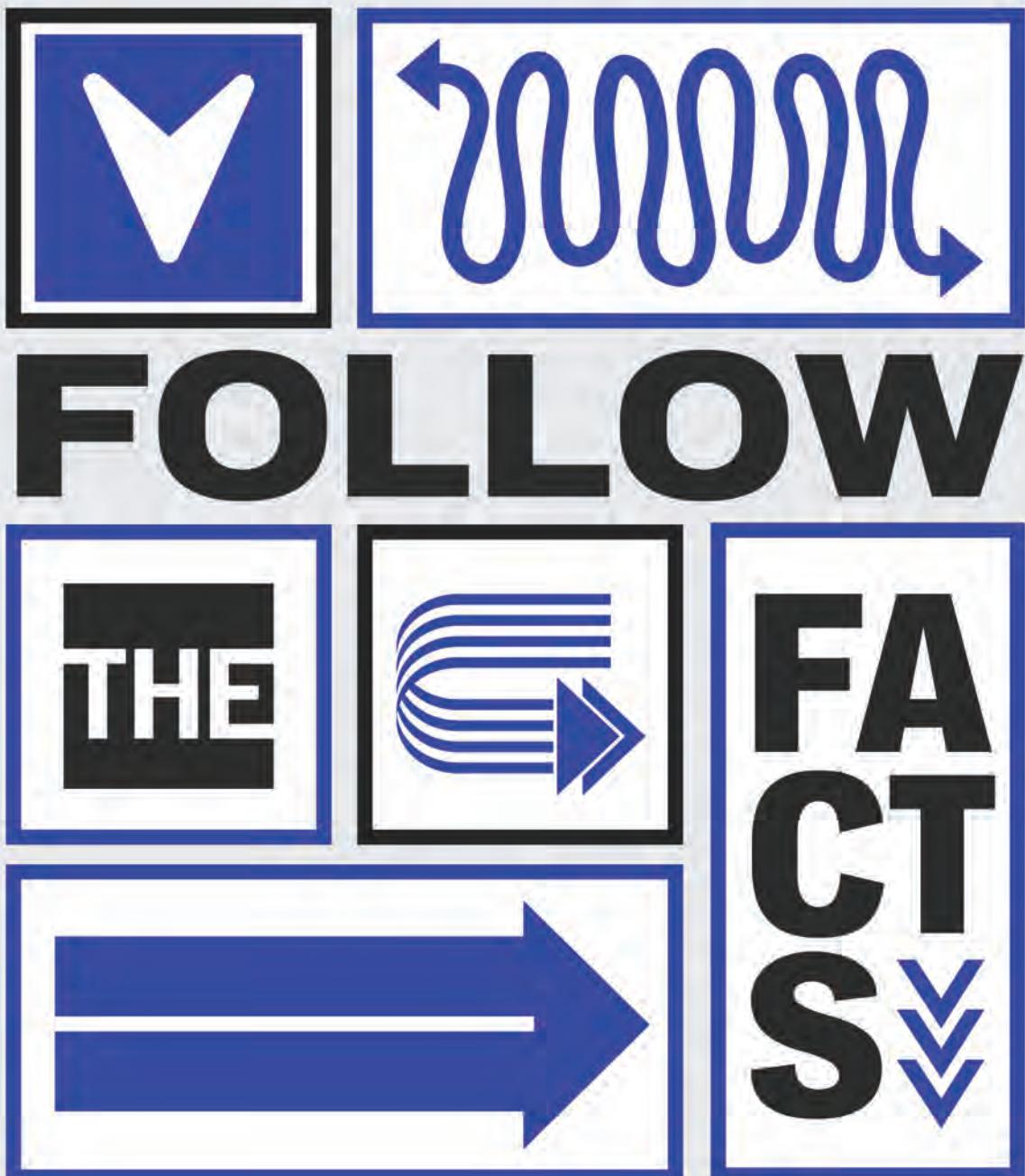
As remote work continues for many Americans, more than half of workers who say their jobs can mainly be done from home say they often use online platforms to connect with co-workers (56%). Most of these workers say they are fine with the amount of time they spend on video calls, but about 1 in 4 say they are worn out by it, according to a January 2022 Pew Research Center survey.

The use of video calling or online conferencing services, such as Zoom or Webex, is particularly common among those whose jobs can be done from home and who are, in fact, working from home all or most of the time. About two-thirds of these workers (66%) say they often use online conferencing services, compared with 49% of those who work from home sometimes and 35% who rarely or never do so. Workers who are new to teleworking during the pandemic are more likely than those who had already been teleworking before the COVID-19 outbreak to use videoconferencing: 77% of those who currently work from home all or most of the time—but rarely or never teleworked previously—say they use these services, compared with 48% who currently telework and did so before the pandemic.

Among those who have a job that can be done from home, men are more likely than women to say they use online conferencing software often (61% versus 51%). There are also age differences: 59% of workers ages 18 to 49 who have jobs that can be done from home say they use these tools often, compared with 48% of similar workers 50 and older. College graduates with jobs that can be done from home (68%) are also much more likely than those without a four-year college degree (40%) to say they use online conferencing software often. These differences hold up when looking only at those who are working from home all or most of the time.

Among those who regularly use videoconferencing tools for work, most are not bothered by the amount of time spent on video calls. Roughly three-quarters of working adults who use online conferencing services often (74%) say they are fine with the amount of time they spend on video calls, while 26% say they are worn out by it.

—Demetra Aposporos



**Evidence-based policymaking has come to the fore, helping legislators and other leaders determine what works—and what doesn't—when spending taxpayers' dollars. By Stephen C. Fehr**

**A**s 2005 began, officials in New Mexico—long one of the nation’s most impoverished states—found that many children were starting school at age 5 with the developmental skills of a 2- or 3-year-old.

Policymakers responded by creating a state-funded voluntary prekindergarten program, featuring kids copying letters on a white board, learning how to use their fingers to hold chalk, playing the role of a restaurant server, or listening to their teacher read *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* Through the years, the initiative has tapped multiple national and state sources—including The Pew Charitable Trusts’ Results First initiative—to design, implement, and evaluate the plan to ensure that it would improve student performance.

Today, state officials say New Mexico’s pre-K effort is succeeding. Data shows that 80% of the initial group of 4-year-olds in the program’s first year graduated from high school, exceeding their peers who were not in pre-K—only 74% of whom graduated. Graduation rates for English-as-a-second-language learners and children from low-income families were even higher.

New Mexico’s achievement is an example of evidence-based policymaking, which is using research and data to influence policy and budget decisions. The practice is increasingly gaining ground among policymakers throughout the nation: Over two-thirds of the states, as well as more than 10 counties, have used this practice in the past decade to help decide where to spend taxpayer dollars on programs, practices, and policies that are proved to work. The federal government also has embraced research-centered approaches; President Joe Biden has proclaimed 2022 a “Year of Evidence” to strengthen and expand evidence-based policymaking throughout the federal bureaucracy.

At The Pew Charitable Trusts, evidence-based approaches to improving public policy have become standard on a range of subjects from recommendations for state retirement systems to criminal justice research. Relying on facts and evidence, Pew’s researchers have found, builds nonpartisan common ground for governors, legislators, and other leaders to develop and nurture programs that fix ills and spend taxpayers’ dollars more wisely.

“Evidence” in public policymaking is not the courtroom type. Instead, it refers to credible, nonpartisan research on programs and policies that are demonstrated to be effective. Decision-makers use this evidence to add, subtract, or alter programs—usually as part of the government budget process. As a result of the data on the value of New Mexico’s pre-K programs, for instance, the state’s lawmakers have boosted spending on early childhood education programs from about \$150 million a decade ago to about \$500 million this year.



## Relying on facts and evidence builds

**nonpartisan common ground...**

The research supporting evidence-based policymaking is neither anecdotal nor aspirational; knowledgeable specialists scrutinize the data through multiple rigorous research methods, such as randomized controlled trials. New Mexico officials, for example, focused their pre-K initiative on specific outcomes, in this case higher scores preparing 4-year-olds for kindergarten and tracking those scores through high school.

“In some form or fashion, state government is going to touch the lives of individual New Mexicans,” says Charles Sallee, deputy director of New Mexico’s Legislative Finance Committee. “We have to make sure government is functioning at a level to get better results for them.”

In an era of intense political polarization in state capitols, evidence-based policymaking stands out because objective facts guide elected officials in both parties to find solutions to pressing problems. “It is an area of rare agreement between the parties to do something constructive,” says John Kamensky, emeritus senior fellow at the IBM Center for The Business of Government.

In Louisiana and Texas, Republicans and Democrats agreed in recent years to reform their respective criminal justice systems. The transformations happened because lawmakers were convinced that the states could institute evidence-based correctional practices that would save millions of dollars, reduce the need to build prisons, and care for nonviolent offenders with community-based drug and mental health treatment programs that would keep them from returning behind bars.

The bipartisan reform in Louisiana, aided by Pew’s technical assistance, was “proof of the good that can happen when we come together and put people over

politics," said Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (D). In Texas, Rep. Jerry Madden, a Republican from Plano, said: "The legislature pulled together and worked across party lines to implement a 'justice reinvestment strategy' based on a data-driven re-examination of each part of the corrections system and a careful cost-benefit analysis of corrections expenditures."

The bipartisan underpinnings of evidence-based policymaking were also a factor in Tennessee's creating

the Office of Evidence and Impact, which developed the fiscal 2022-23 state budget with data showing the effectiveness of programs. "It's about arming our decision-makers with data and research that's not political, that's not Republican or Democrat," Christin Lotz, director of the 3-year-old office, told a recent conference of local government leaders in Washington. "You know, 'Here are the facts. We can demonstrate this program is working or is not working.'"

## **"We have to make sure government is functioning at a level to get better results."**



Children participate in an early childhood program at Western New Mexico University. The state used evidence-based policymaking to improve its pre-K efforts, and data shows that 80% of the first group of 4-year-olds in the program went on to graduate from high school. *Western New Mexico University*

## How It Works

The framework for carrying out evidence-based policymaking varies among states; few engage in all components. But the basic elements are the same to bring evidence into programmatic decision-making processes.



**Assessment.** Once an issue is identified, officials look for programs or practices successful in other places—often using a national clearinghouse that has compiled a database of programs. Officials then assess the evidence of the programs' effectiveness, put together an inventory of them, and identify their potential return on investment. Massachusetts turned to Pew's Results First Clearinghouse Database to find programs that would cut prison and court-related spending and bolster prevention, early intervention, and drug court programming. Minnesota has created its own interactive, online evidence-based inventory of social policy programs and recently added a novel demographics tool disclosing the race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and education of the people using the services.

**Budget.** As the state spending plan is developed, officials provide policymakers with information about how evidence-based programs are performing, often giving funding priority to services proved to achieve substantial benefits relative to their cost. New Mexico, for example, requires state agencies to indicate how much of the money in their budget requests will go to evidence-based programs. "Hopefully, by getting them on board requesting evidence-based programs over

time, they are going to be much more likely to be successful through the funding process if they prioritize those requests," says Sallee of the Legislative Finance Committee.

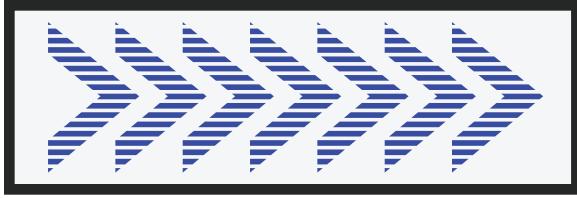
**Implementation and oversight.** Once a program is approved, officials monitor its operation to ensure that the goals can be achieved as designed. From that point, officials generally measure the impact of programs and report those results, such as with New Mexico schoolchildren's reading and math skills, to lawmakers and the public.

**Targeted evaluation.** Officials assess the evidence using rigorous evaluation methods: Has the policy or program worked? This approach allows officials to tweak programs to improve results, adjust costs, or determine their usefulness. Colorado lawmakers created an evidence continuum, a five-step criteria that defines categories of evidence in budget planning. By using the same, consistent definitions across all departments, officials make it clear when a program backed by research has shown impact. "If states are truly the laboratories of democracy, the use of data and evidence helps us be more effective technicians in those laboratories," said Colorado Governor Jared Polis (D).

This policymaking framework bears Pew's imprint; the organization has been a leader in developing tools and resources for state-focused decision-makers to implement initiatives shown to succeed throughout the country. Its Results First initiative, launched in 2011 in collaboration with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, pioneered the cost-benefit analysis approach, among other components.

Pew now is handing off some of Results First's key resources to outside organizations, but the emphasis on evidence-based policymaking continues to infuse virtually every issue Pew takes on. "Rigorous analysis is instinctive to us," says Kil Huh, who heads Pew's government performance division, a portfolio that includes state fiscal and economic policy, consumer finance, safety and justice, and public health. "We use data and research to provide facts that inform and encourage change."

Pew developed an early reputation as a reliable information broker in the public pension field through a thorough examination of data on all state-administered retirement plans from states' own publicly reported financial information. Pew researchers revealed for the first time a \$1 trillion gap between what states had set aside to pay for employees' retirement benefits and the cost of those payments, a startling finding that prodded policymakers throughout the country into action. "That fact drove more than a decade of reforms by states to shore up their retirement systems, efforts that continue to this day," Huh says.



Of course, Pew is not alone in advancing data and evidence in state and local policymaking. The Bloomberg Philanthropies supports Results for America and What Works Cities, initiatives that have brought together a range of public and private government, business, research, and philanthropic officials to nurture state and local practices and policies grounded in data. And the National Conference of State Legislatures' Center for Results-Driven Governing and Pennsylvania State University's Evidence-to-Impact Collaborative are taking on some of Results First's resources.

### The federal push for evidence

The federal government's push to increase the use of evidence builds on state and local efforts—especially following the Great Recession of 2007–09, when deep budget cuts triggered demand from officials for smarter spending decisions based on reliable information about programs that delivered successful outcomes.

A turning point occurred in 2016 when President Barack Obama and Congress created the bipartisan Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, whose recommendations on expanding the demand for and use of data-driven research led lawmakers to enact the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act in 2018. “The driving purpose of this legislation is very simple: We are requiring federal agencies to prioritize evidence when they are measuring a program’s success,” said then-House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan (R) of Wisconsin, a bill sponsor. President Donald Trump signed the legislation.

The “Year of Evidence” in 2022 attempts to accelerate the federal government’s data-driven decision-making capability as explained in the act, especially its recommendation that lawmakers put in place a scientific evaluation process “to learn what’s working, what’s not, and how we can improve.”

To back up its emphasis on evidence practices, the Biden administration offered states and localities financial incentives in the \$350 billion American Rescue Plan Act if officials could include in their project applications how they would use evidence and outcomes. Similarly, the very first instruction in Biden’s executive order implementing the \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was, “Agencies are charged to make evidence-based decisions … [and] use data to measure and evaluate progress.”

State and local governments responded with hundreds of proposals. Michigan asked to spend some of its federal dollars on evidence-based programs that would boost the state’s lower-than-average community college graduation rates. Tulsa, Oklahoma, said it could expand an evidence-based program that provides jobs to people with serious mental illnesses.

In a sign of how the approach is becoming more ingrained at the federal level, President Biden’s proposed fiscal 2023 budget pledged “to promote a culture of evidence” throughout the government with evidence-based initiatives to address low-income housing, homelessness, job creation, and education staffing shortages.

The COVID-19 pandemic also prompted an urgent need for evidence-based policymaking. The fast pace of the virus and its variants meant that information was often changing and unpredictable. But the first major pandemic in 100 years stirred considerable interest in how evidence plays a major role in managing a lethal crisis.

Because of the pandemic, Americans learned a new data-shaped language: positivity rates, social distancing, hot spots, quarantine, and more. Evidence influenced decisions about wearing masks, who could get a hospital bed and ventilator, and when schools and businesses and workplaces could open. Every state created a digital dashboard of COVID data; Indiana’s listed 24 COVID-related data sets.

Data directed who got the first vaccinations and where rates were lowest, partially reflecting the heightened emphasis that officials gave to racial and ethnic equity following the May 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Minnesota, Utah, and North Carolina, among others, used race and ethnicity data to ensure that the vaccine would be distributed to areas disproportionately affected by the pandemic.



**“Here are the facts. We can demonstrate this program is working or is not working.”**



Ilana Mosley, a biomedical Ph.D. student, studies a wild mouse captured in the Sam Houston National Forest in Huntsville, Texas, in March. She is collecting data on how viruses, including COVID-19, spread in the wild. The pandemic boosted interest in how evidence plays an important role in managing a health crisis. Annie Mulligan for The Washington Post/Getty Images

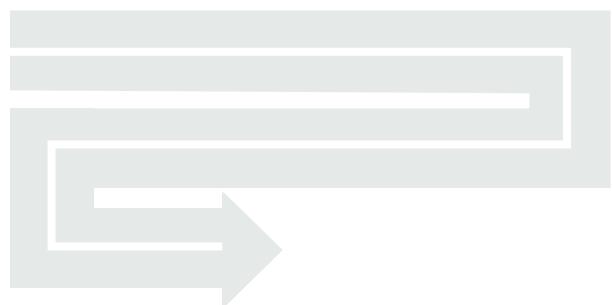
But the experience with data during the pandemic also demonstrated some of its drawbacks. State dashboards differed widely, for example, because there was no national standard for what data should be reported.

Apart from the pandemic, evidence-based policymaking has other challenges. Evaluating programs often is frustrating for state officials because data and evidence do not exist, are too old to be useful, or confound government officials who lack the expertise to analyze the information. The data itself can be flawed, supported by invalid methodologies, or collected randomly. California's state auditor periodically releases reports that reveal numerous problems with the accuracy and completeness of state data overall.

And though practitioners recommend reviewing results of successful practices in other states, what has proved to work in one state is no guarantee it will succeed in another. "Fifty states function in 50 different ways," says Katherine Barrett, co-author of *Making Government Work: The Promises and Pitfalls of Performance-Informed Management*. Adds Barrett's co-author Richard Greene: "Not every state relies on evidence to the same degree."

As evidence-based policymaking continues to evolve and gain acceptance, Huh, of Pew, says states should

consider backing up their commitment to the practice by integrating evidence into the everyday business of government. "Evidence isn't a one-time effort," Huh says. "It starts with a commitment to include nonpartisan data and research when making program and policy decisions."



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Stephen C. Fehr covered state and local governments for the Kansas City Star and The Washington Post before spending more than a decade on Pew's state fiscal team.



*The Complexities of*

# RACE AND IDENTITY



# A new report from the Pew Research Center explores how Black Americans think of themselves.

By Charles E. Cobb Jr.

It's not often that Black Americans are asked with any degree of thoughtfulness what they think of themselves—their nuanced attitudes and beliefs—or how and what they think of Black identity. But at a time when the nation's racial consciousness has been raised, the Pew Research Center conducted an in-depth online survey of nearly 4,000 Black adults in October 2021. Among the findings: A large majority of Black Americans say that being Black is extremely or very important to how they think of themselves. Black adults who say being Black is important to their sense of self are more likely to feel connected to groups of Black people, in and outside of the United States, than those who don't feel this way. And one-third of Black adults have used multiple methods to research their family history. The resulting report, "Race Is Central to Identity for Black Americans and Affects How They Connect With Each Other," was released in April.

Geography, political opinion, education, and religious belief or nonbelief as well as age and income all have historically affected attitudes about identity within the Black community. The report reflects the Center's new strategy of "putting Black people first" in racial research, says Mark Hugo Lopez, director of race and ethnicity research at the Center, by exploring different angles of how Black Americans view themselves, their communities, and Black history, rather than starting with a comparison to other Americans on the

same measures. The overall work was shaped by three themes: identity, mobility, and representation.

"We try and figure out where different populations are clustered," explains Kiana Cox, a research associate at the Center and one of the report's authors. The survey underscored that the Black community is not monolithic and that economic status plays a role in attitudes, so participants were divided into three income categories: lower (\$42,000 or less), middle (\$42,000-\$125,000), and upper (\$125,000 or more), which correlated to 46%, 39%, and 9% of respondents, respectively. Among Black lower-income respondents, 6 in 10 say they have few things or nothing in common with Blacks who are wealthy. This attitude and divide between haves and have-nots may startle those who might have expected a racial unity that transcends income differences but would not surprise many people in the world's developing nations of Africa, Asia, or Latin America. Adding a further twist: The report also found that "Black adults who live in urban areas (54%) are more likely than those living in rural (46%) or suburban (48%) areas to say that they have few things or nothing in common with Black people who are wealthy."

The responses reflect the great diversity of the Black American community—and also offer a window onto the connectedness among Black American adults. If for no other reason than survival, race has always driven a kind of Black solidarity in the United States. A look at

**Opposite page, above:** A crowd celebrates Juneteenth—which commemorates the end of slavery and became a national holiday in the U.S. in 2021—in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York, this year. A new survey from the Pew Research Center explores how Black Americans view their identity and also touches on their knowledge of Black history. Michael Nagle/Xinhua via Getty Images

**Opposite page, below:** Members and delegates of the NAACP youth council pose at the organization's sixth annual Youth Conference in Richmond, Virginia, in 1944. Library of Congress/Corbis/VCG via Getty Images

**Overall, a total of 76% of Black adults say that being Black is “extremely important” (54%) or “very important” (22%) to how they think about themselves.**





the Black American struggle for full citizenship and civil rights, from the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909 as lynching surged, especially in the South, to the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement in July 2013 following the acquittal of George Zimmerman for the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida, goes a long way toward explaining this solidarity. Overall, a total of 76% of Black adults say that being Black is "extremely important" (54%) or "very important" (22%) to how they think about themselves, with majorities across demographic and political subsets of the Black population saying they feel this way. The overall percentage drops to 58% among Black people with Hispanic heritage and 57% among people who are Black and multiracial.

Lopez says that an important shift in the approach to understanding the diversity of Black people in this survey of Black identity is that it includes Black Hispanics, Black immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa, and those who are multiracial. He explains that within the Center there has been an ongoing discussion about how to measure and report different concepts of race for years. "There was a lot of interest from Center staff

in doing more to understand the diversity and nuances of the nation's various populations," which would of course include the U.S. Black population, Lopez says. Throughout, the report uses "Black Americans," "Black people," and "Black adults" interchangeably to refer to those who self-identify as Black regardless of ethnicity. The terms "immigrant" and "foreign-born" are used interchangeably to refer to Black people who were born outside the U.S. The sample used for this study is much larger than usual—3,912 adults, says Lopez. "Our work was designed to tell the stories of different age groups, of different education groups, by income, immigrant status, and groupings like Black Hispanics, multiracial non-Hispanic Blacks, single-race non-Hispanic Blacks, and others; we wanted to tell stories of the many different parts of the Black population," he says.

This report on Black Americans and identity is the latest in a series of reports from the Center looking at the lives of Black Americans. The first, "Faith Among Black Americans," was released in February 2021 and studied religious practices and beliefs. Two more reports are in the works: one looking at Black Americans and politics and the other analyzing how race, gender, and sexuality interact and affect identity in unique ways.

**Above:** Youth attend a candlelight vigil for Trayvon Martin a month after the teenager's death a decade ago outside the community in Sanford, Florida, where he was shot and killed by George Zimmerman. Mario Tama/Getty Images

**Opposite page:** Demonstrators raise their fists in protest after the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by a White Minneapolis police officer. The protesters gathered at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Brooklyn, New York, on June 5, 2020. Angela Weiss/AFP via Getty Images



It may be surprising, at least to this writer, that—in today's era of intense and widely supported young Black political activism—the share of Black adults under 30 who say that Blackness is an extremely or very important part of their personal identity is only 63%, as compared with 76% among 30- to 49-year-olds and roughly 80% among those over 50. Less surprising, perhaps, is a partisan divide: Black Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents are more likely (82%) to see Black identity as central to how they view themselves than are Black Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (58%). One question that emerges, Lopez says, is whether racial desegregation—accompanied by greater integration and opportunity, other racial changes, and especially a larger political presence—has led, in addition to an expanded Black middle class, to a more homogenous U.S. culture, with the result that the nature of Black identity may be changing.

The specificity found in the identity report brings to mind, although not an exact comparison, the four broad general Black categories that journalist Eugene Robinson made more than a decade ago in his book *Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America*, describing how Black communities have changed—or, perhaps

more accurately, expanded—as a result both of the post-World War II civil rights movement and of a natural evolution of society as it matures. Robinson's general categories are: a mainstream middle-class majority with a full ownership stake in American society; a large, abandoned minority with less hope of escaping poverty and dysfunction than at any time since Reconstruction's crushing end in the 19th century; a small transcendent elite with enormous wealth, power, and influence that eclipses that of most Whites; and a fourth category made up of two newly emergent groups—individuals of multiracial heritage and communities of recent Black immigrants—that turn upside down old definitions of what it means to be Black.

"These four black Americas are increasingly distinct, separated by demography, geography, and psychology," Robinson wrote in his 2010 book. "They have different profiles, different mind-sets, different hopes, fears, and dreams." Any discussion of Black identity today must factor in this post-civil rights movement evolution; the Center's report helps illustrate this.

Important issues to Black Americans are not always uniquely or clearly racial; many are shared with U.S. society as a whole. When the survey asked about the

Above: Relatives comfort 81-year-old veteran James Bowlding, who had recently lost his wife, at the family's 30th reunion in Maryland in the early 2000s. The Center survey found that 81% of those who say that Blackness is important to them said they have spoken to relatives about family history. Ed Kashi/VII via Redux

most important issue facing their community, Black Americans named violence and crime as the largest areas of concern (17%), followed by economic issues such as poverty and homelessness (11%). Other points of concern were housing (7%), COVID-19 and public health (6%), or infrastructure issues such as the availability of public transportation and the conditions of roads (5%). Touchpoints on safety and personal identity can shift with current events.

Even before the shooting that killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket earlier this year, the broad issue of gun violence—which to me includes domestic and gang violence, suicide, drive-bys, and the growing number of mass shootings—worried many in Black America and was an issue much broader than Black identity. According to a separate survey about U.S. gun policies undertaken by the Center in April 2021, 8 in 10 Black adults believed, as did a majority of the general public (48%), that gun violence is a significant problem in the United States. But more specifically to the Black population, anti-Black hate violence—an old concern going back to the days of slavery and the Ku

Klux Klan, and today the White supremacist hate being encouraged by nativist politicians—is central to how Blacks think of their place in America. More than a third (35%) of the 8,263 criminal incidents identified in the FBI's hate crimes report for 2020 involved anti-Black or African American bias, even though Black people account for about 12% of the U.S. population, according to recent research from the Center. And because many hate crimes do not get reported to the police, these FBI statistics may be an undercount.

To better understand how this information can weigh on Black Americans, the Black identity report found that about 5 in 10 Black Americans (52%) say that “everything or most things that happen to Black people in the United States” affect what happens in their own lives, while another 30% say that some things that happen nationally to Black people have a personal impact on them.

Black identity significantly affects how connected Black Americans feel to their ancestral histories. Most Black adults (57%) say their ancestors were enslaved, either in the U.S. or another country. Of the Black



The U.S. flag flies at the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day weekend 2022. In the background, wearing yellow, are members of the Buffalo Soldiers. The Black motorcycle club, named for the famed Civil War Army regiment of Black soldiers, traveled from across the country to honor people of color who have died in battle. Astrid Riecken for The Washington Post via Getty Images



adults who say that Blackness is “very” or “extremely” important to them, about 60% know that their ancestors were enslaved. Those who say that Blackness is somewhat, a little, or not at all important to them are less likely to know this (45%). Furthermore, 81% of those who say that Blackness is important to them said they have spoken to relatives about family history. Among those for whom Blackness is less important, a smaller share learned about their family histories from their relatives (59%). In addition, 1 in 3 Black adults overall say they had used two or more methods—talking to relatives, conducting online research, or using mail-in DNA services—to research their family history.

The report also revealed significant age differences in awareness and sources of information related to Black history. Although 60% of adults age 65 and over say they feel extremely or very informed about Black history, just 38% of 18- to 29-year-olds feel the same. And 40% of this younger age group say they’re not even sure if their ancestors were enslaved. This leapt out at me as a 79-year-old African American, because stories of slavery in my family were a routine part of my childhood and certainly contributed to my deep involvement with the 1960s Southern civil rights movement.

Even considering the massive amount of illuminating data in the Center’s study, it remains true that much of the current flowing through Black life and identity is not easily visible. Courtland Cox, one of the 1960s leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the current chair of the SNCC Legacy Project, recently told me that to understand Black identity we must “think of people living in a house. The dynamic of their interactions is not going to be the same outside of the house. There are a set of things that you have to react to coming from both inside and outside. It means you have to understand who and what they are inside and outside of the house. The complete picture of them is a human picture. Key to understanding Black identity is understanding Blacks as human beings—their humanity.”

Elaborating on and deepening Cox’s metaphor of house, family, and identity, Derrick Johnson, the president and CEO of the NAACP, says, “Blackness is cultural space used to define power and Blacks in Black space. But the center of gravity has shifted. The beautiful gumbo, Black cultural gumbo of our experiences is everything; it evolves.”



*Charles E. Cobb Jr. is a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists and a veteran of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. His latest book is This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible.*

**About 5 in 10 Black Americans (52%) say that “everything or most things that happen to Black people in the United States” affect what happens in their own lives, while another 30% say that some things that happen nationally to Black people have a personal impact on them.**

**Opposite page:** More than 250,000 people gathered at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963, where Martin Luther King Jr. would give his “I Have a Dream” speech. The Center’s survey found that although 60% of adults age 65 and over say they feel extremely or very informed about Black history, just 38% of 18- to 29-year-olds feel the same. Archive Photos/Getty Images



The sun dips below the horizon at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Maryland's Eastern Shore. With about 32,000 acres of tidal marsh—more than twice the size of Manhattan—the refuge provides public recreation, quiet landscapes, and a haven for about 250 bird species. And it is slowly slipping under water due to the effects of climate change. *Michael DeChant for The Pew Charitable Trusts*

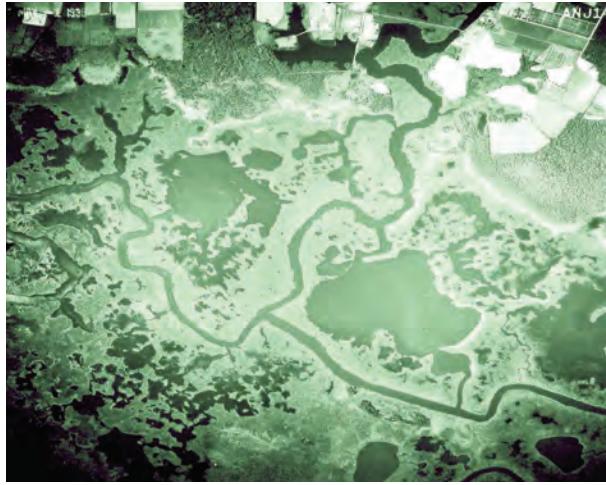


# When the Water Rises

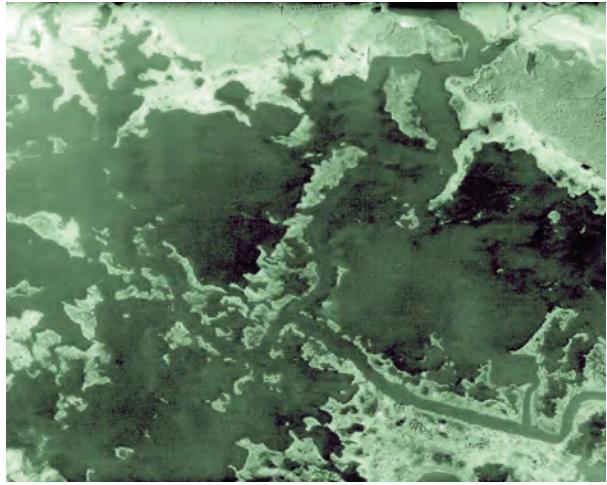
A wildlife refuge along the Chesapeake Bay offers a “fast-motion” view of the effects of climate change and rising waters along the nation’s coastlines.

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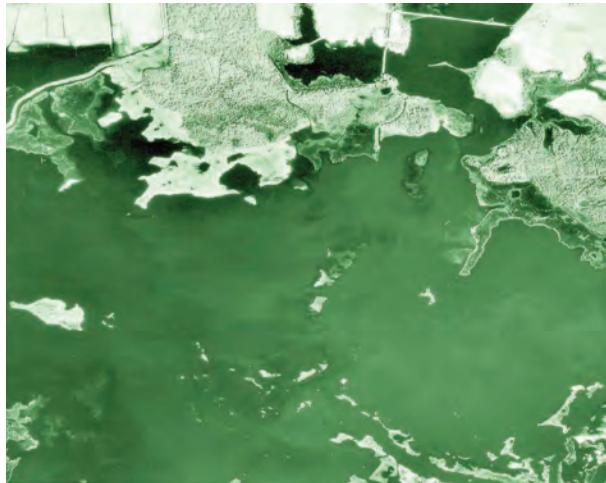
By Carol Kaufmann



1938



1974



1989



2011

Aerial images shot across a 73-year time frame—with light colors representing vegetation and dark ones open water—show how Blackwater's wetlands have diminished over time. Courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Blackwater has lost 5,000 acres of land since the late 1970s, and Maryland state researchers predict the waters could rise 2.1 feet by 2050—which means that if you were patient enough to stand at the shoreline without moving, the water would pass your knees in less than three decades.

In a single 360-degree spin, a casual visitor to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge can spy a blue heron strutting through mudflats and white-tailed deer and their cousins—called sikas—striding through croplands while a flock of egrets lifts into a late-summer-afternoon sun.

Established in 1933, Blackwater is a waterfowl sanctuary along the Atlantic Flyway on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The place is tranquil but not quiet: Birds chirp, squawk, and sing. The refuge is notable for its part in preserving the American bald eagle, which can often be spotted swooping in midair or looking down from nests high in the treetops.

But for all the bird calls and activity, much of what is happening at Blackwater is silent. The Chesapeake Bay, like the ocean along much of the U.S. coastline, is rising, and its waters are engulfing the land. Blackwater has lost 5,000 acres of wetlands since the late 1970s, and Maryland state researchers predict that the waters could rise 2.1 feet by 2050—which means that if you were patient enough to stand at the shoreline without moving, the water would pass your knees in less than three decades.

Blackwater's lowlands are notable because they preview what is beginning to happen to much of the country's coastlines. "At Blackwater you're seeing in fast motion, compared to the rest of the country, the effects of climate change," says Joseph Gordon, who directs The Pew Charitable Trusts' project to preserve marine life in the United States.

**"At Blackwater you're seeing in fast motion, compared to the rest of the country, the effects of climate change."**



**Water blankets Key Wallace Drive, which cuts across the Blackwater refuge. The road, a main pathway for visitors, is prone to tidal flooding along the causeway.** Courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



A man fishes in the Little Blackwater River, which used to be full of marsh grasses, but the rising sea has turned it into a flowing waterway. In the background, stands of trees are dying from the roots up as saltwater invades the ground below, leaving behind what's known as a ghost forest. *Michael DeChant for The Pew Charitable Trusts*



**“Even when we were looking for the Lost Colony of Roanoke, you could see how the edge of where they lived was being eaten away by the wave action. All these sorts of things have always been a problem for archaeologists, but it seems to be escalating at an alarming rate.”**

The project works to conserve salt marshes and other key habitats and areas along the country's coastlines in partnership with local leaders, Indigenous communities—and often the U.S. Department of Defense, which sees the rising waters threatening bases and the military's mission of protecting the nation.

“The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is in a really key location beneath some critical airspace for the Department of Defense and for the Navy, in particular, where they train pilots and train on a lot of important aircraft. Part of that process involves needing to maintain a very safe, quiet, and dark space beneath that training area,” says Kristin Thomasgard, program director for the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program. “Part of what is so important to the Department of Defense is our stewardship of important natural resources and important waterways.”

Land and livelihoods, national security, and many species of birds and other wildlife are not all that's at risk from rising water at Blackwater. Knowledge of our nation's past is also on the brink of being washed away.

Harriet Tubman grew up near what is now the Blackwater refuge, escaped slavery, and then returned to the region to free other slaves, guiding them to safety on the Underground Railroad. Last year, state archaeologists discovered the location of the cabin where she was born 200 years ago.

But soon after the discovery came another more disheartening understanding: “We would excavate a 5-foot-by-5-foot excavation unit and dig down about not even a foot. And we'd leave and come back the next morning, and our units were full of water,” says Julie Schablitsky, chief archaeologist for the Maryland Department of Transportation. She predicts that the site could be submerged within a decade—and notes that other important historic sites around Chesapeake Bay face the same fate.

“We're really in a race against time because [the rising water] is eating away shorelines where people lived

thousands of years ago,” Schablitsky says. “Even when we were looking for the Lost Colony of Roanoke, you could see how the edge of where they lived was being eaten away by the wave action. All these sorts of things have always been a problem for archaeologists, but it seems to be escalating at an alarming rate.”

The expanding water means that marshland can be lost, and even the areas that remain can become different from what was there before. Invasive vegetation called phragmites—very tall grass from Europe that doesn't have nearly as much wildlife value as the native marsh grasses—is taking over more and more marsh real estate.

In the past, biologists and ecologists tried to restore wetlands to pre-Colonial conditions before settlers came in. But the changes coming now are forcing coastal communities to rethink how they go about restoration and conservation, not just in Blackwater but along other U.S. coastlines. And there are other challenges.

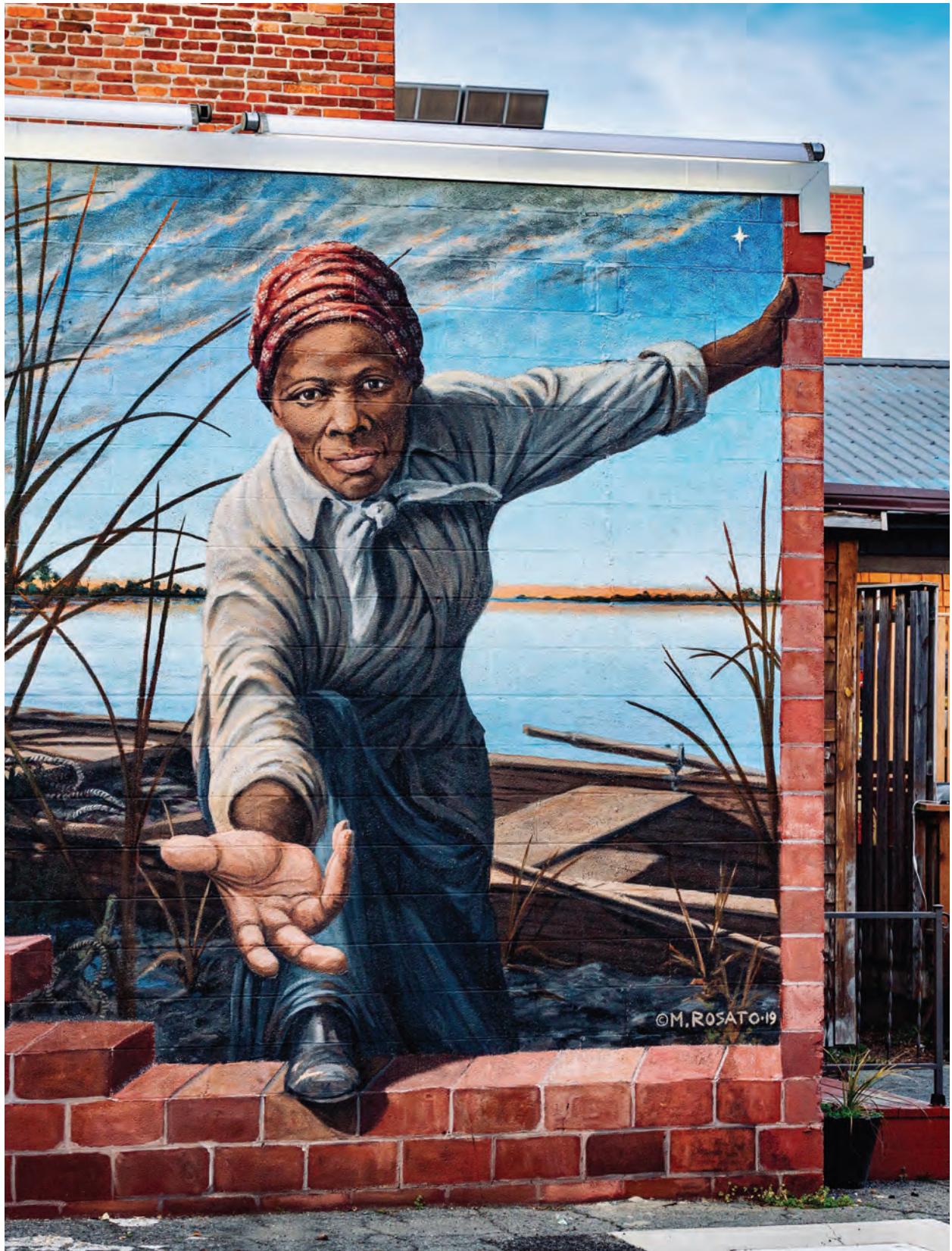
“Most of the U.S. coast is privately owned,” says Pew's Gordon. “With sea-level rise happening, we can't solve that problem with new parks and refuges alone; that's not going to happen. What really needs to happen is people coming together to help, with the parks, with the refuges, with state parks, with private lands, to develop a plan for the future so we can create the kind of coastal habitat that we—and the wildlife that depends on it—need.”



*Carol Kaufmann is a staff writer for Trust.*



*Learn more about the rising waters at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Pew's podcast, "After the Fact." Listen at [pewtrusts.org/afterthefact](http://pewtrusts.org/afterthefact).*



An image of Harriet Tubman reaches out from a mural painted on a museum and educational center bearing her name in nearby Cambridge, Maryland. Tubman was born on a plantation in the Blackwater area and later hid slaves traveling the Underground Railroad. The area is rich with related sites and artifacts, and the state of Maryland is working to find remnants of this history before rising sea levels make it impossible. Michael DeChant for The Pew Charitable Trusts



Stevica Mrdja/EyeEm via Getty Images

## Nonprofits Fill the Gap in Statehouse News Coverage

*With the traditional role of newspapers diminished, nonprofit news organizations and student journalists are bolstering reporting of state capitols.*

BY TOM INFIELD

Nonprofit news organizations are emerging as an increasingly important source of coverage of the nation's state capitols, where some of the most important issues in American life—including voting rights, abortion, and pandemic debates on masks and vaccine mandates—are playing out.

A Pew Research Center study released in April found that after years of decline, the total number of statehouse reporters has increased since 2014 by 11%, from 1,592 to 1,761.

Although newspaper reporters still make up the largest segment of statehouse journalists, their share of the nation's total statehouse press corps has dropped from 38% to 25% since 2014, the last time the Center looked at statehouse coverage. Nonprofits now are the second-largest segment, accounting for 1 in 5 reporters.

But the overall increase masks a drop in the number of full-time reporters, who are often better equipped than part-timers to provide depth and context to coverage; the study found that more than half of reporters covering statehouse issues—52%—were part-timers, including students and interns. The Center discovered that newspapers nationally employed 448 reporters assigned to state government news, including

245 full-timers; the number of full-timers was down by about a third from 2014.

Katerina Eva Matsa, the Center's associate director for journalism research and co-author of the study, says that the surprising finding for many observers may be that, whether full time or part time, student or professional, the number of "boots on the ground" in state capitol news coverage is up from eight years ago.

"Hearing the decline of newspaper newsrooms, I think a lot of people expected that to translate into fewer statehouse reporters," Matsa says. "But so much more is happening. Students have made a great contribution, although their numbers can fluctuate from year to year. The contributions of nonprofit organizations is definitely a big story here. They have really increased their presence."

The nonprofits all rely on a digital presence, the report says, and also reach their audiences through newsletters, and podcasts, and by publishing their stories in traditional print media outlets. The Center's researchers also noted that nonprofit news organizations often focus on specific single topics such as immigration, education, the environment, or health care. Others explicitly function as watchdogs on state government.

Veteran statehouse reporters, as well as people who follow state issues, watch the coverage trends outlined in the Center's report closely because of the role state governments play in the lives of Americans. Brad Bumsted, a reporter who has covered Pennsylvania state government since the late 1980s, mostly for newspapers, applauds the increase in journalists of all kinds assigned to capitol news in Harrisburg—where the ranks have grown from 41 to 47 reporters since 2014, according to the Center's study. What's significant to Bumsted is that the number of full-timers is up from 25 to 28, although he says that's about half of the number who covered the state capitol in Harrisburg in the '80s.

Now employed full time by The Caucus, a watchdog publication of LNP Media Group Inc., in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Bumsted says that state news is often made in backrooms and corridors, not always in open legislative session. Getting that type of news, he says, can require a full-timer's experience.

"The question is, what about the quality of the reporting? I don't think there's any doubt that it's a big advantage to work full time on a beat as complicated as the capitol. We have the largest full-time legislature in the nation, with 253 members of the House and Senate. The issues are complex, and it's hard to just parachute in and do a story."

In addition to newspapers and nonprofits, the study found that television stations employ 16% of the nation's statehouse reporters; radio stations, 10%; university news outlets, 7%; and wire services (such as the Associated Press), 6%. The rest are in miscellaneous categories.

The Center's researchers also looked at reporting at Native American reservations and land trusts and found that a total of 134 journalists were covering Tribal governments for 44 media outlets. There was no comparative data from 2014.

The 20% of the statehouse press corps representing nonprofits is an increase from 6% in 2014, and the growing number and strength of nonprofit newsrooms has made an impact in Pennsylvania, California, Texas, and elsewhere. The study identified 59 nonprofit outlets across the country that had at least one statehouse reporter; one of them, States Newsroom, launched in 2017 and now has affiliate outlets in 23 states.

Nonprofits have more than tripled their aggregate statehouse news employment, from 92 positions to 353, since 2014, the report says. Journalists for nonprofits now account for the largest percentage of capitol reporters in 10 states and the second-largest share in 17 states.

In Pennsylvania, the increase in full-time reporters covering state news has been led by Spotlight PA, an organization started in 2019 by four established news organizations—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, PennLive in Harrisburg, and public radio station WITF, also in Harrisburg.

The nonprofit employs 18 people, including nine reporters and five editors. "We're slated to grow to 23 by year's end," says Christopher Baxter, the editor and executive director.

Spotlight PA offers its content at no charge to 80 news partners, including most of the state's newspapers—which sign an agreement to run the material in full and without added editing. Stories are also available free to the public on Spotlight PA's website, and in its daily and weekly newsletters.

"All of the content is watchdog, accountability journalism," says Jim Friedlich, executive director of the Lenfest Institute for Journalism, which he says "lit the spark" for Spotlight PA by providing initial funding and other assistance.

"Spotlight covers both the statehouse and statewide issues," Friedlich says. "It covers not so much the tick-tock of legislative reporting as it does important statewide issues, such as the Keystone gas pipeline, conflicts of interest and expense account abuse by legislators, election integrity and redistricting, the opioid crisis, health care, and the legalization of marijuana."

Newspapers traditionally have been funded largely by advertising, with additional revenue coming from paid subscriptions; online newspaper sites rely somewhat on advertising, but more so on subscriptions. As a nonprofit enterprise, Spotlight PA's funding model is different: It's financed in large part by 18 Pennsylvania foundations, led by Lenfest, which is based in Philadelphia and owns the *Inquirer* while also working to strengthen local journalism around the nation. Spotlight PA readers provided \$330,000 in added support in 2021 by joining as members through an online "donate" button.

Friedlich says that what's different about Spotlight PA from many nonprofit newsrooms is its effort to "marry" a digital news platform with the distribution networks of legacy news providers, such as print newspapers and public radio stations.

He adds that foundations and wealthy individuals from across the U.S. have asked him how they might use the Spotlight PA model in their own states. "We're getting more and more requests for advice and assistance," he says.

One thing the interested parties have in common, Friedlich says, is that "they understand that a lot of what affects people's lives" is being decided not only in Washington, D.C., but in Harrisburg and 49 other state capitols.

"The battle for American democracy," he says, "is being fought at the state level."



*Tom Infield is a longtime Philadelphia journalist and frequent contributor to Trust.*

# Tracking Marine Megafauna to Guide Ocean Conservation

*Pew marine fellow's U.N.-endorsed project looks to unify the research community through a global lens*



Courtesy of Ana M.M. Sequeira

Some of the ocean's most widely known creatures are also the most vulnerable to humans' impact on the environment. Ranging from seabirds, sea turtles, and sharks to whales the length of commercial airplanes, these charismatic species—known as marine megafauna—are typically highly mobile top predators with critical roles in marine food webs. And they face growing threats from ship strikes, fishing and bycatch, pollution, coastal development, and climate change.

As development and use of the ocean intensifies, scientists are working to understand the extent to which human activities are affecting megafauna on a global scale. These efforts rely on a clear picture of where

in the ocean megafauna live and travel—knowledge that has historically been both incomplete and elusive.

MegaMove, a project created by 2020 Pew marine fellow Ana M.M. Sequeira, seeks to fill in this picture by bringing together an international network of researchers to share data and improve understanding of marine megafauna movements, habitat use, and threats. Because of its potential to guide evidence-based conservation, MegaMove was recently endorsed by the United Nations as a project under the current Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.



Ana M.M. Sequeira swims alongside a whale shark, inspecting its skin for parasites in the waters off Australia's Ningaloo Reef.  
*Australian Institute of Marine Science*

## **Q: Why are marine megafauna so important to ocean ecosystems?**

Marine megafauna have a key role to play in keeping the oceans healthy. For example, most are top predators, so they help keep ecosystems in balance by controlling populations of smaller predators and herbivores. They tend to perform long migrations, linking ecosystems that would otherwise never be connected. As they move through ecosystems, they transport nutrients from one area to another; their waste is an important fertilizer for phytoplankton—tiny marine plants and bacteria that absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide and form the base of marine food webs. When they die, megafauna can also serve as carbon sinks by transporting large amounts of organic material to the deep ocean, where it can be sequestered. Generally, they provide us with a good idea of whether an ecosystem is doing well, and it's a good sign if they're present.

## **Q: What threats do they face?**

Marine megafauna populations are affected by many of the human activities that are escalating in the ocean now: fishing, shipping routes, plastic and noise pollution, and climate change. And because this all happens in open ocean, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, the full extent of these effects is actually unknown.

## **Q: What drove you to create MegaMove?**

These animals move thousands of miles—sometimes between entire ocean basins—but most studies on these species tend to be regional or local. But all these threats are happening at a global scale, and they are dynamic, meaning they change in space and time. The ocean itself is also a dynamic environment, and the animals are moving between locations. That led me to ask the question: How do these dynamic threats impact migratory animals that travel in a dynamic ocean? Answering these questions is what drove me to create MegaMove.

## **Q: How does MegaMove work?**

MegaMove brings the marine movement ecology community together. This is a community of researchers who study the movements of marine organisms, the drivers of movement patterns like migration and dispersal, and how movement patterns affect ocean ecosystems. We need to work together to gather information at a global scale and to address these global challenges. Our main aspiration is to create a unified perspective of what the solution might look like.

## **Q: Why is tracking marine animals' movements so critical to conservation efforts?**

Marine megafauna spend most of their lives underwater, so it's hard for us to understand what they're doing and where they go. By meeting animals in a particular location and putting tracking devices on them, we can then let

them go about their lives while we receive information about their movements. So tracking them means we learn more about how we can protect them.

Tracking megafauna can also help us collect oceanographic information, such as ocean salinity and temperature, including in areas that are difficult for scientists to reach. This data is important to our understanding of the ocean.

## **Q: How has your Pew marine fellowship affected your work?**

Pew's support came at just the right time, as I was starting to develop MegaMove. It provided the means to advance the project and the opportunity to further grow the engagement among marine researchers. It was a starting point that has led to different kinds of support for MegaMove, including from the U.N.

## **Q: How will the U.N.'s Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development intersect with your work on the project?**

Getting an endorsement from the U.N. in the context of the Ocean Decade is absolutely fantastic. Not only does the endorsement draw attention to the questions we're trying to answer with MegaMove—gaining a better understanding of what these animals are doing at a global scale, and the threats and impact of our own activities in the ocean—it also shows how important it is that the marine movement ecology community comes together to address these challenges. And then, of course, it's a decade, so MegaMove has now become a 10-year project.

## **Q: What do you hope MegaMove's impact will be?**

We ultimately want to overhaul marine megafauna conservation at a global scale. We need to think through the process of conserving these animals and how that works together with allowing the activities that we humans need for our own well-being. For example, maybe a slight change in a shipping route could bring benefits to some marine megafauna populations; perhaps changing fishing gear at a larger scale can address the problem of bycatch of nontarget species.

In the more immediate term, we're focusing on engagement with the research community and on creating the first research outputs at a global scale addressing pressing conservation concerns. MegaMove serves as a forum for the marine movement ecology community to come together and address those concerns. I think that's the first step; then, together, our community can work to translate our results and better inform ocean management at a global scale.

*The Fact Tank is analysis and news about data from the writers and social scientists at the Pew Research Center. More is available at [pewresearch.org/fact-tank](http://pewresearch.org/fact-tank)*

# More than half of Americans in their 40s are ‘sandwiched’ between an aging parent and their own children

BY JULIANA MENASCE HOROWITZ

As people are living longer and many young adults are struggling to gain financial independence, about a quarter of U.S. adults (23%) are now part of the so-called “sandwich generation,” according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in October 2021. These are adults who have a parent age 65 or older and are either raising at least one child younger than 18 or providing financial support to an adult child.

Americans in their 40s are the most likely to be sandwiched between their children and an aging parent. More than half in this age group (54%) have a living parent age 65 or older and are either raising a child younger than 18 or have an adult child they helped financially in the past year. By comparison, 36% of those in their 50s, 27% of those in their 30s, and fewer than 1 in 10 of those younger than 30 (6%) or 60 and older (7%) are in this situation.

Men and women, as well as adults across racial and ethnic groups, are about equally likely to be in the sandwich generation, but there are some differences by educational attainment, income, and marital status. About a third of married adults (32%) are in the sandwich generation, compared with 23% of those who are divorced or separated, 20% of those who are living with a partner, and just 7% each of those who are widowed or have never been married.

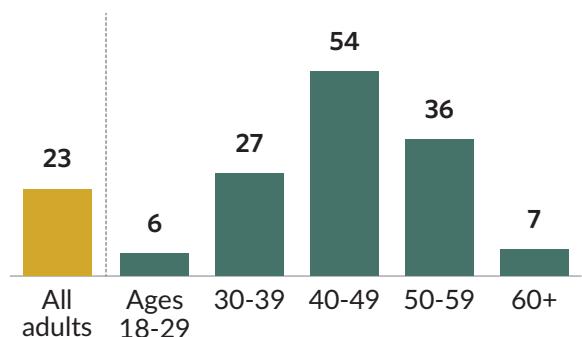
Adults with at least a bachelor’s degree (30%) are more likely than those with some college or less education (20%) to be in the sandwich generation. And while 27% of those with upper incomes are sandwiched between an aging parent and their own children, a smaller share of those with lower incomes (21%) are in this situation. About a quarter of adults with middle incomes (24%) are part of the sandwich generation.

The family circumstances of sandwiched adults vary considerably by age. In their 30s and 40s, most have an aging parent and at least one child younger than 18, but no adult children they’ve supported financially. This is the case for nearly all sandwiched adults in their 30s (95%) and 65% of those in their 40s.

By the time they’re in their 50s, far smaller shares of sandwiched adults are raising children who are minors. Instead, a majority of those in their 50s (59%) and those 60 and older (83%) are sandwiched between an aging parent and an adult child they’ve helped financially.

### Adults in their 40s are the most likely to be in the ‘sandwich generation’

% who have a parent 65+ and have a child younger than 18 or have provided financial support to an adult child in the year prior to the survey



Source: Pew Research Center

Among those in their 40s and 50s, the two age groups most likely to be in the sandwich generation, about 1 in 5 have both a child younger than 18 and an adult child they've helped financially, in addition to having an aging parent. There aren't enough sandwiched adults younger than 30 to analyze separately.

Adults who are sandwiched between an aging parent and a minor child or an adult child they've helped financially are more likely than those who are not in this situation to say they are very satisfied with their family life (48% vs. 43%, respectively). This difference is particularly pronounced among those in their 40s: About half of sandwiched adults in this age group (49%) say they are very satisfied with their family life, compared with 38% of other adults in the same age group.

When it comes to assessments of some other aspects of life, adults who are and are not sandwiched give similar answers. About a quarter in each group say they are very satisfied with their social life and with the quality of life in their local community, and 17% in each express high levels of satisfaction with their personal financial situation.

Adults who are sandwiched between an aging parent and their own children are about as likely as other adults to live in a multigenerational household, though they may not be living with the family members they are sandwiched between. About 1 in 5 in each group live with multiple adult generations under the same roof (19% of those in the sandwich generation vs. 18% of other adults).

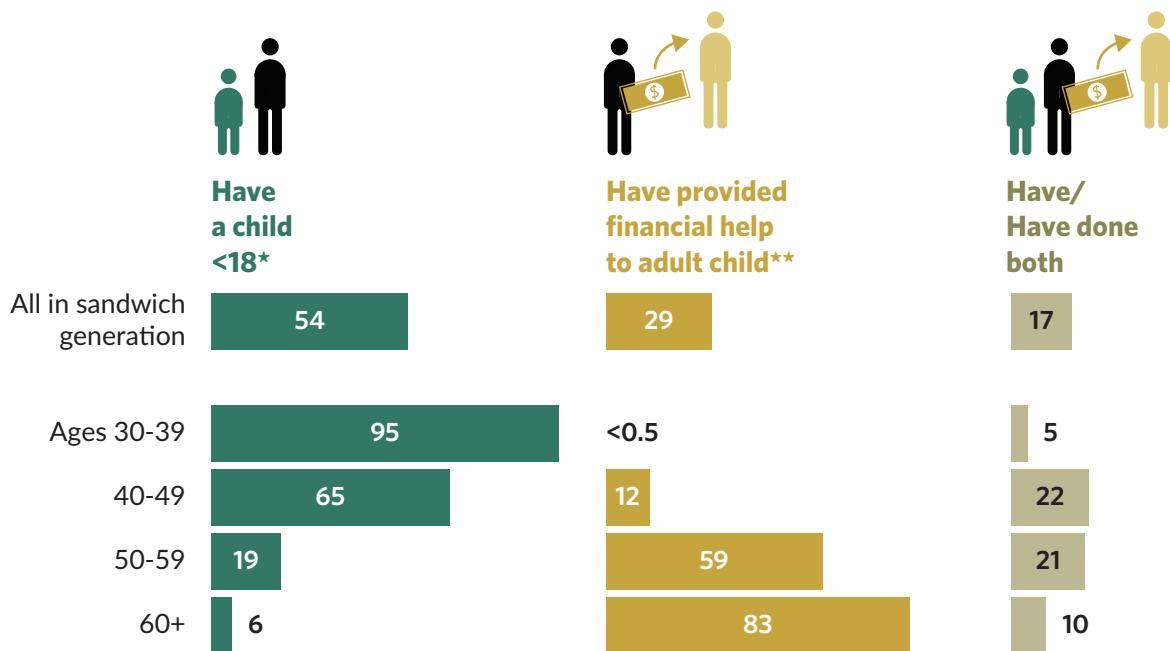
A Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2014 also found that 23% of U.S. adults were in the sandwich generation. However, the 2014 survey was conducted by phone rather than the Center's online American Trends Panel, so these results aren't directly comparable.



*Juliana Menasce Horowitz is an associate director of research at Pew Research Center.*

## About 1 in 5 'sandwiched' adults in their 40s and 50s have both a minor child and an adult child they've helped financially

Among those in the 'sandwich generation,' % who have a living parent age 65 or older and ...



\* And have not provided financial help to an adult child

\*\* And do not have a child younger than 18

Source: Pew Research Center

# The FDA needs more information on supplements. Consumers' safety is at risk.

BY LIZ RICHARDSON



Multivitamins (above), fish oil, herbs, and similar products are consumed by nearly three-quarters of Americans on a regular basis. According to a national survey, many consumers say they want the Food and Drug Administration to exert more oversight on dietary supplements. Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press via AP Images

The COVID-19 quarantine changed everyday life for Americans, including many aspects of our diet, health, and exercise regimens. One change that has not received enough scrutiny is that during the pandemic, millions of Americans turned to dietary supplements. In 2020, sales of dietary supplements were 14.5% higher than the previous year—the largest growth spurt since 1997, according to the *Nutrition Business Journal's* 2021 report on supplement sales.

Today, nearly three-quarters of U.S. consumers take regular doses of vitamins, fish oil, herbs, and similar products, the Council for Responsible Nutrition reports. The Food and Drug Administration is tasked with overseeing the booming supplement industry, but the agency has less insight and exerts far less oversight than many Americans say they want and expect.

A national survey conducted for The Pew Charitable Trusts showed about half of adults overestimate the regulatory scrutiny that dietary supplements receive. The reality is that the FDA doesn't know for certain what products are on the market or what's in them. This is a serious challenge—one that Congress can address by passing Senate Bill 4090, known as the Dietary Supplement Listing Act of 2022, a bill recently introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and co-sponsored by Senator Mike Braun (R-IN).

The FDA's lack of insight stems from a gap in a 1994 law that put the agency in charge of, and in a reactive stance on, supplement safety. The agency scans the internet and evaluates reports from consumers, doctors, and companies for signs of products that put people's health at risk or have already done them harm. However, for such post-market oversight to work, regulators need accurate, timely data about the products being sold. They don't have that data now because current law doesn't require supplement manufacturers to provide the FDA with even the most basic information, including product names, ingredients, and directions for use.

The potential risks have grown exponentially over the past 25 years. When Congress first gave the FDA responsibility for supplements, there were about 4,000 on the market, generating about \$4 billion a year in sales. Now, the FDA believes that the total could be as many as 80,000 products, bringing in more than \$40 billion annually.

Many, if not most, supplements are well known to consumers and have a well-documented safety record. However, from 2007 to 2019, the FDA found almost 1,000 products masquerading as dietary supplements that actually contained active and potentially harmful pharmaceutical compounds from prescription drugs, most commonly erectile dysfunction treatments,

steroids, and weight loss drugs—including one that was removed from the market in 2010 because it significantly increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

The FDA cautioned that in the 12 years of data it studied, the agency had likely identified only "a small fraction of the potentially hazardous products with hidden ingredients." Durbin and Braun's legislation would require supplement manufacturers to provide the agency with a comprehensive list of each product's ingredients, the amount of each ingredient, warnings and precautions about the product, and allergen statements, among other information. These lists would help the agency quickly and efficiently identify potentially dangerous products and remove them from the market. The FDA would also provide the data in a searchable public database for consumers and others to use to make more informed decisions about the dietary supplements they consume.

Industry leaders, medical societies, and public health and consumer advocates strongly support the legislation and have worked together to help policymakers develop an effective and pragmatic proposal. There is bipartisan support on Capitol Hill, and the public wants action. In Pew's survey, when consumers were informed that the FDA did not review or approve dietary supplements before they hit the market, 71% of respondents said they believed the agency was unable to keep consumers safe. Nearly all—95%—supported requiring manufacturers to report their products and ingredients to the FDA.

The FDA is tasked with stopping dangerous supplements marketed by unscrupulous companies, but it doesn't have the information and resources it needs to fully protect the public. The Dietary Supplement Listing Act would allow the FDA to shine a light on dietary supplements and empower the agency to act quickly to protect consumers when threats arise. It would help consumers make informed decisions about how to stay well. And it would help the supplement industry by leveling the playing field for responsible manufacturers and preserving consumer confidence.

Congress should pass this important legislation quickly to ensure that the FDA has the tools to fully protect consumers who use dietary supplements.

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Liz Richardson is the former director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' health care products project. A version of this article appeared in the Chicago Tribune on May 17, 2022.

Pew experts explore innovative ideas on the most critical subjects facing our world.

# Land and River Conservation Can Be a Rallying Point for Our Divided Nation

BY MARCIA ARGUST



Mario Tama/Getty Images

Few issues draw broad support across the American electorate these days. But one stands out as both popular among voters and ripe for action by Congress: enhancing the protection of our country's lands and rivers.

Regional polling shows strong support for such conservation, and a 2017 summary of prior national polling—the most recent broad look at this issue—found that a majority believe that investing in

conservation is important, regardless of their political affiliation or the state of the economy.

Public land visitor records show that, after an initial drop-off early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people seeking recreation and education outdoors has risen steadily, a trend that's also reflected in sales of gear for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, backcountry and cross-country skiing, and much more. That's a boost to states and communities that

depend on visitors and their spending at restaurants, hotels, gas stations, grocery stores, and souvenir shops, and on tours and guides.

Nationwide, outdoor recreation generated \$689 billion in national economic output and 4.3 million jobs, according to 2020 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

These are among the key factors, along with broad bipartisan support, that motivated lawmakers to seek to protect treasured public areas with several bills now before Congress, including measures to safeguard remarkable landscapes and waterways from the Pacific Northwest to Southern California, and from the Rocky Mountains and desert Southwest to Florida, Virginia, and Maine.

Among the pending bills is the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act, which would safeguard and secure public access to more than 1 million acres of existing public lands and some 500 miles of rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains near Los Angeles, the Los Padres National Forest, and Carrizo Plain National Monument along California's Central Coast, and national forests in northwestern California. The House of Representatives passed the bill in 2021 and it is awaiting action in the Senate.

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, introduced by Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO), also passed the House last year and is awaiting action in the Senate. The measure would add or expand protections across 400,000 acres of critical public lands in the Centennial State, including 73,000 acres of new wilderness—the highest level of federal public land protection—and 80,000 acres of recreation and conservation management areas. The bill would also create the country's first national historic landscape: Camp Hale, the original home of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, which used the rugged terrain of the Rockies to train thousands of soldiers in the 1940s.

Some 1,700 miles east, the Virginia Wilderness Amendment would expand two existing wilderness areas—Rich Hole and Rough Mountain—by a combined 5,600 acres in the George Washington National Forest, an increasingly popular outdoor recreation destination 75 miles west of Washington, D.C. This legislation has also passed the House and has been introduced in the Senate.

And a bill to designate Maine's York River as wild and scenic passed the House with bipartisan support and has been marked up in the Senate. Led by the entire Maine congressional delegation—Senators Angus King (I) and Susan Collins (R) and Representatives Chellie Pingree (D) and Jared Golden (D)—and supported by

local stakeholders, the legislation would help sustain vital natural habitat, commercial fishing, drinking water supplies, and numerous archaeological sites within the York River watershed.

And separate bipartisan bills to study the suitability of the Kissimmee and Little Manatee rivers in Florida for wild and scenic status have been approved by a key House committee.

These bills are just some of more than a dozen conservation measures that have been introduced in at least one chamber and seen initial movement; it seems logical that lawmakers can find agreement on several and pass them this year.

And that would please the U.S. public. The push to better safeguard America's waterways is in line with 2021 polling, commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts, which shows that majorities of voters in the West from all political parties support stronger conservation for rivers nationwide because of myriad benefits that clean, healthy rivers and streams bring to people and nature. In another poll released in February, 86% of Western voters said issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife, and public lands are important in their decision to support an elected official, up from 80% in 2020 and 75% in 2016.

Economic benefits and bipartisan support aren't the only important reasons for Congress to pass conservation legislation. First, spending time in nature has been shown to have physical and mental health benefits for people. Further, more Americans than ever want to ensure equitable access to outdoor recreation for people across all racial and socioeconomic strata. And finally, safeguarding habitat not only helps wildlife but also has been shown to limit the effects of climate change.

Our country's public landscapes are among our greatest shared assets. They conserve critical ecosystems, improve resilience to climate change, document the nation's evolving history, and promote equitable access to nature's grandeur, all while supporting local economies and communities, a vital benefit during the pandemic recovery.

By moving forward with these conservation and economic proposals, Congress can show that it hears what voters are saying and can come together to pass legislation that benefits all Americans—now and for generations to come.

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Marcia Argust leads The Pew Charitable Trusts' U.S. public lands and rivers conservation project.

# From Research Comes Change

*The William T. Grant Foundation, Pew's partner in connecting evidence to policy and practice, has a long history of supporting science that addresses societal needs.*

BY DEMETRA APOSOPROS



With its initial funding by a national chain of stores, the William T. Grant Foundation has long supported research into the needs and well-being of children. This has included funding day care centers and supporting the research of Dr. Benjamin Spock and the work of the Children's Defense Fund.

For many decades of the 20th century, W.T. Grant Co. stores were common across America. The chain, which called itself “4-stores-in-one,” specialized in clothing, dry goods, home hardware, and variety items and was named for founder William Thomas Grant, an entrepreneur born in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, who spent his childhood in Massachusetts. It was the great success of these stores—at the chain’s peak it had nearly 1,100 locations—that led Grant to establish a foundation in 1936.

“What I have in mind,” Grant said the year he launched the Grant Foundation, “is to assist, by some means, in helping people or peoples to live more contentedly and peacefully and well in body and mind through a better knowledge of how to use and enjoy all the good things that the world has to offer them.”

From its inception, the Foundation has supported research in the social sciences—its first grant went to Harvard University for a groundbreaking longitudinal study of human development that’s lasted nearly 80 years. The study has been noteworthy for its finding that the strength and happiness of people’s relationships had a positive effect on both their health and longevity—with good relationships deemed a better predictor of long lives than IQ, social class, or even genes—and that participants with a strong social support network experienced less mental deterioration as they got older.

The Foundation continued to invest in research focused on human development, education, child care, and poverty. In the 1940s, it supported efforts to improve outcomes for Black students through

the United Negro College Fund and National Medical Fellowships; in the 1950s, it supported work on child mental health, development, and attachment theory, as well as Dr. Benjamin Spock's child-rearing studies. During the 1960s, the Foundation funded research on day care and preschool in response to an increase in mothers working outside the home.

By the time of Grant's death in 1972 (the last remaining W.T. Grant store would close a few years later), the Foundation was investing in advocacy for children and youth and had a major hand in the creation of the Children's Defense Fund. During the 1980s and '90s, it explored the challenges faced by teenagers who don't attend college—at the time some 50% of children—through its support for the Commission on Youth and America's Future. This effort spotlighted struggles experienced by the non-college-bound population in a report that became widely known as *The Forgotten Half*, with findings that included the need for additional government funding and connections such as Job Corps, local youth camps, and lifelong learning programs to provide additional work opportunities.

In the 21st century, the William T. Grant Foundation has focused on two main goals, with its mission statement noting that the Foundation "invests in high-quality research focused on reducing inequality in youth outcomes and improving the use of research evidence in decisions that affect young people in the United States."

To the William T. Grant Foundation, research evidence refers to "a type of evidence derived from studies that apply systematic methods and analyses to address predefined questions or hypotheses." Although numerous studies point to specific conditions that support the use of research evidence in public policy or organizational decision-making, less is known about strategies to create or support those conditions. The Foundation believes that new research in this area can create avenues for engagement between researchers and decision-makers in ways that bolster research use and improve youth outcomes. Although achieving this goal is more complicated than it sounds, the William T. Grant Foundation has become known for its leadership on the topic.

"It's one thing to know how research is used in policy and practice—to understand the conditions that enable thoughtful deliberation and sense-making of the evidence and the infrastructure that supports those conditions," explained Vivian Tseng, the Foundation's then-senior vice president, in a recent Foundation message. "It's another thing altogether to create those conditions and the supporting infrastructure so that research routinely serves the public interest."

One way the Foundation has worked to create these conditions is by nurturing a cross-pollination of research and policymaking—getting stakeholders involved in the

research process earlier on and building partnerships that can integrate multiple perspectives and sources of knowledge. Another is through using key individuals and organizations as intermediaries to help nurture the engagement and relationships between researchers, policymakers, and communities. The Foundation has also funded studies of research use in policymaking to better understand how it can promote youth outcomes.

This lens on using research to create evidence-informed change is where the William T. Grant Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts intersect, with Pew also committed to applying a rigorous analytic approach to improving policy. In a new initiative, the two organizations are working together to promote and facilitate new ways to help research be more relevant to policymaking. The project has gathered and mobilized experts from around the world to identify, implement, and scale promising innovations in increasing the usefulness, inclusivity, and use of research evidence.

Launched in the fall of 2020, the project expanded the Transforming Evidence Funders Network, which connects public and private funders who are interested in supporting a closer connection between research, policy, and practice. The project also convenes the broader Transforming Evidence Network (TEN), a cross-sector community of researchers, decision-makers, and other stakeholders that works to generate and curate knowledge of effective connections between research evidence and policymaking. Of equal importance, TEN intends to build more useful research evidence for policymaking to foster greater equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The evidence project builds off the collective strengths of both organizations.

"Like the William T. Grant Foundation, Pew believes that evidence makes a difference in expanding an approach to scientific research that is inclusive of and relevant to the rest of society," says Adam Gamoran, the Foundation's president. "Together we convene government, civil society, and communities to shape research agendas for their needs as well as to foster the use of research to inform policy and practice to benefit society."

Molly Irwin, Pew's vice president of research and science, expressed a deep appreciation for the Foundation's long history in the field. "The William T. Grant Foundation has been on the vanguard of thinking through and supporting the evidence base on how research shapes policy and government programs, and how we can do a better job of making sure that research evidence shapes policy," she says. "It's important work, and our evidence project partnership has benefited from all the scholarship and knowledge they bring to the table."

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Demetra Aposporos is senior editor of Trust.

# How to Translate Questions for International Surveys

Pew Research Center staff explain how they conduct surveys around the world in a variety of languages.

BY ARIANA MONIQUE SALAZAR, JONATHAN EVANS, AND NEHA SAHGAL

**Q12. How much influence should pol. प्रभाव होना चाहए?**

A large influence यादा प्रभाव  
 Some influence इत प्रभाव  
 Not too much नदा प्रभाव नहीं [या]  
 No influence अ भी प्रभाव नहीं

The Pew Research Center

The Pew Research Center conducts surveys around the world on a variety of topics, including politics, science, and gender. The source questionnaires for these surveys are developed in English and then translated into target languages. A 2014 survey about religion in Latin America, for instance, was translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Guarani.

Other projects require more translations. For example, between 2019 and 2020, we fielded a large national survey in India on religion and national identity, as well as gender roles, with interviews conducted in 17 languages.

In this essay, we'll explain current best practices in survey questionnaire translation, based on academic literature, and discuss how the Center has applied these approaches to our international work.

### Best practices in questionnaire translation

Best practices for translating multilingual surveys have evolved considerably over time. An approach called "back translation" was once the standard quality control procedure in survey research, but the "team approach," also known as the "committee approach," is now more widely accepted.

Back translation involves the following process:

First, a translator translates the source language questionnaire into the target language. Next, a different translator translates the target language questionnaire back into the source language (hence the term "back translation").

Researchers then check how well the back translation aligns with the source language questionnaire.

And finally, researchers use the comparison

between the two documents to draw conclusions about potential errors in the target language translation that need to be remedied.

The back translation technique is meant to assure researchers that translations into a target language are asking the same questions as the original questionnaire. Back translations can identify mistranslations and be time—and resource—efficient. Researchers often use back translations to make a list of potential issues for translators to investigate.

Yet research has shown that this technique only detects *some* translation flaws. For example, a poor initial translation—one that uses awkward sentence structure and literal language—could be accompanied by a good back translation into the source language. The back translation might smooth out the poor translation choices made by the initial translator, making it unlikely that the first bad translation would be detected.

On the flip side, a poor back translation may produce false alarms about the initial translation, adding time and cost to the process. Back translation is further faulted for not identifying how translators should fix problems.

Today, many researchers prefer the team approach to survey questionnaire translation. The team approach generally requires translators, reviewers, and adjudicators who bring different kinds of expertise to the translation process, like best practices in translation techniques, native mastery over the target language, research methods expertise and insight on the specific study design and topic. This approach has the advantages of being more reliable in diagnosing multiple kinds of translation issues and identifying how to fix them. One application of this approach is called the TRAPD method:

- Translation: Two or more native speakers of the target language each produce unique translation drafts.
- Review: The original translators and other bilingual experts in survey research next critique and compare the translations, and together they agree on a final version.
- Adjudication: A fluent adjudicator, who understands the research design and the subject matter, then signs off on the final translation.
- Pretest: The questionnaire next is tested in the target language in a small-scale study to verify or refine the translation.
- Documentation: All translations, edits, and commentary are documented to support decision making. Documentation also helps streamline future translation work in the same language by reusing text that has already been translated, reviewed, and tested.

## Pew Research Center's team approach for international surveys

The Pew Research Center does not have a team of trained linguists on staff, so in each project we collaborate with two external agencies to translate our international questionnaires. The initial translation is done by a local team contracted to conduct the survey in a given country. That translation is later reviewed for accuracy and consistency by a separate verification firm. (The verification firm also reviews issues that arise across languages within the same survey project to make sure we make translation decisions consistently.)

Our team approach, which includes extensive documentation about why individual decisions are made throughout the process, allows the survey and subject matter experts at the Center to serve as adjudicators when disagreements arise between translators and verifiers.

Here's a closer look at our translation process:

### Step 1: Translation assessment

International survey research at the Center tends to be interviewer-administered—that is, questionnaires are read aloud to respondents either in person or over the phone—as opposed to the self-administered web questionnaires we typically field in the United States. We design our interviewer-administered English questionnaires to be conversational, and we want that to come through in other languages and cultures, too.

A conversational tone, though, can sometimes introduce phrasing that is difficult to translate. In drafting questions, the team pays special attention to American English idioms and colloquialisms that need to be clarified at the outset. In such instances, we provide instructions to translators on how best to convey our meaning. For example, we asked people in India which of two statements was “closer to” their opinion. Since we did not mean physical proximity, we provided alternative phrases as examples: “most similar to” and “most agrees with.” In this way, we hopefully preempted some translation issues.

Members of the translation teams at both external agencies also do initial reviews of the questionnaire to see if other idioms, complex sentence structures, or ambiguous phrasings need to be adjusted in the source questionnaire, or whether translation notes should be provided to the translation team.

### Step 2: Translation

The local field agency carefully reviews and translates the full English questionnaire into the local language(s).

### Step 3: Verification and discussion

The verifying agency evaluates the questionnaire translation line by line, noting translations with which they agree or disagree. Verifiers leave comments

explaining any disagreements and offer alternate translations. The annotated translation is then sent back to the field agency's translators, who comment on each item and sometimes propose alternate translations.

Many translation issues are easily resolved. For example, a verifier may catch spelling, typographic, or grammatical errors in the translation. But in other cases, the verifier may disagree with the translator on how a particular word or phrase should be translated at the level of meaning, and there could be more than one valid way to translate the text, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. In such cases, the translator and verifier typically correspond until consensus is reached. They can also ask Center researchers to clarify the intent of a question or word. This process typically involves at least two rounds of back-and-forth discussion to reach agreement on all final translations.

In our survey of India, for example, we sought to ask the following question: "Do your children ever read scripture?" The question was initially translated into Hindi in a way that specifically referred to *Hindu* scriptures, even though the question was asked of all respondents, including Muslims and Christians. The verifier suggested a more general term, which improved the accuracy of the translation.

#### Step 4: Testing translations

The Center tests survey question translations before they are fielded in order to refine our questionnaires. In India, we conducted 100 pretest interviews across six states and union territories—including participants speaking 16 different local languages—to assess and improve how respondents comprehended the words and concepts we used

in our questions. This process involved feedback from our interviewer field staff, who assessed how respondents understood the questions and how easy or awkward it was for the interviewers to read the questions aloud.

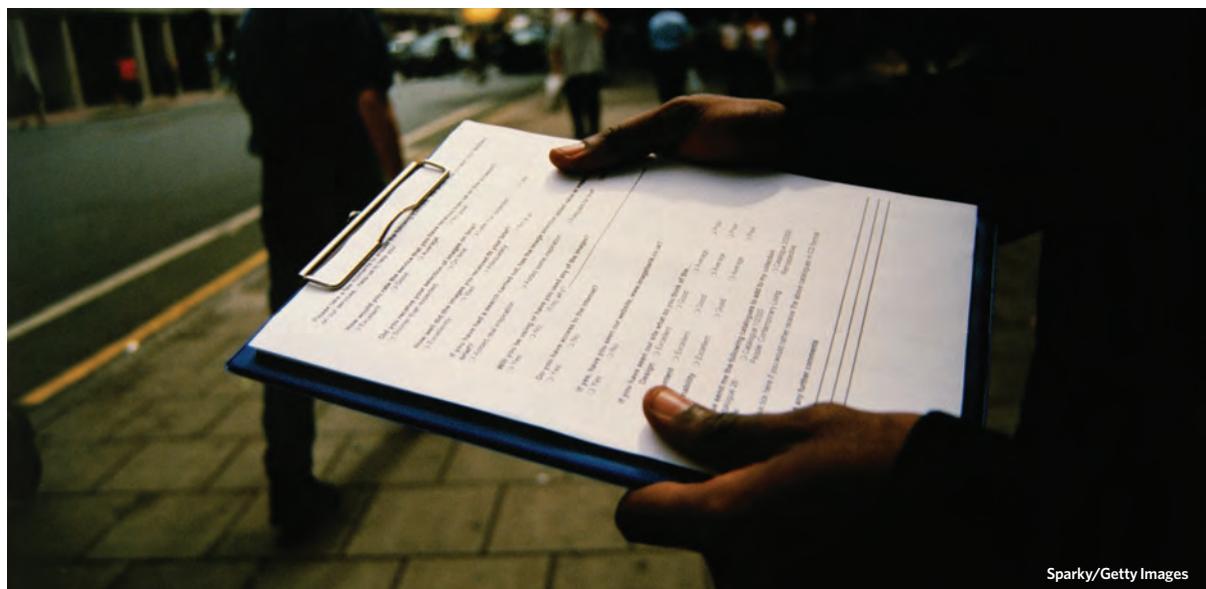
#### Choosing into which language(s) to translate

The Center generally translates international questionnaires into languages that enhance the national representativeness of our survey sample. We always include the national or dominant language(s) in a country. To determine which, if any, additional languages to use, we look at the share of the population who speak other languages and their geographic distribution. We also consult our local partners about the languages that may be a primary language of an important subgroup of interest, such as an ethnic or religious minority group.

Our 2019-2020 survey of India, for instance, included an oversample in the country's least-populated Northeast region to ensure we could robustly analyze the attitudes and behaviors of Hindus, Muslims, and Christians living there. This oversampling led us to translate our questionnaire into languages only spoken by small segments of the national population. One such language was Mizo, an official language of the state of Mizoram—even though Mizoram accounts for less than 0.1% of the Indian population.



Ariana Monique Salazar and Jonathan Evans are research analysts focusing on religion and Neha Sahgal is an associate director of religion research at the Pew Research Center.



Sparky/Getty Images

*Stateline, an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a team of veteran journalists who report and analyze trends in state policy with a focus on fiscal and economic issues, health care, demographics, and the business of government.*

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# Private Lands Are the Next Battleground in State Conservation Policy

BY ALEX BROWN



**Farmer Sherwin Leep protects his family's farm in Montana with a conservation easement, which prevents his nearly 850 acres in Gallatin County from being developed or broken into smaller segments—ever. Acquiring privately owned land and negotiating conservation easements are two methods lawmakers and environmental groups are increasingly using to meet a national goal of conserving 30% of U.S. land and water by 2030.** Rachel Leathee/Bozeman Daily Chronicle via AP

Since last year, staff members at the Land Trust of Virginia have fielded phone call after phone call from landowners seeking to set aside their property for conservation.

"We're getting calls like crazy," said Sally Price, executive director of the nonprofit, which works with private landowners to preserve farms and natural landscapes. "We're doubling our staff for easement intake because we're getting so many calls."

The land trust expects to complete as many as 30 conservation easements this year, double the number

it sees in a typical year, and it's recorded a fourfold increase in inquiries.

The Virginia group is one of many conservation land trusts that have seen a spike in interest over the past few years. More than 1,000 such groups operate across the country, seeking to save land from development by acquiring it or negotiating conservation easements with property owners to limit the use of the land.

Environmental groups and lawmakers are placing an increased focus on private lands in national conservation strategies. The "30x30" campaign—which

has been adopted by the Biden administration—aims to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, a goal that relies heavily on voluntary conservation efforts from private landowners.

But the growing interest in preserving privately held land has sparked a fierce debate between supporters who say such efforts guarantee environmental protections and critics who say they take away individual property rights.

A handful of states are considering expanding their conservation easement programs, which offer tax breaks to landowners in exchange for giving up development rights to their farms and natural lands. In many cases, those easements last in perpetuity, offering durable protection even when the property changes ownership.

"We've seen a greater emphasis on the value of private land conservation," said Lori Faeth, senior government relations director with the Land Trust Alliance, a national group that convenes and advocates for local land trusts. "There's a great opportunity for that to grow over the next several years."

Lawmakers elsewhere have considered providing direct support for land trusts, giving them access to loans so they can acquire high-priority properties when they are for sale. Proponents say such efforts are critical to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, and for maintaining clean water and air.

But other state leaders are attacking the easement model. Lawmakers in several states have pushed to give officials veto power over conservation easements or to require expiration dates for the agreements. They argue that the contracts block future generations from making their own decisions about the land.

"The landowner needs to have a little bit more say about what can be done," said Steven McCleerey, a former Democratic state representative in South Dakota who put land into an easement in the 1990s. He sponsored legislation in 2016 that would have put a 100-year limit on such easements, and sponsored a bill in 2020 that would have allowed conservation easements to be modified after the death of the grantor. Both failed to advance.

"When you try and sell a piece of land that has a perpetual easement on it," he said, "nobody wants it."

Other opponents argue that public money should not be used to fund conservation on private land. They claim that efforts to protect natural spaces will cause housing shortages in fast-growing communities and limit tax revenues for local governments.

Both sides see the others' efforts as something of a land grab. How states respond could determine the fate of tens of millions of acres.

## The Land Trust Model

Land trust organizations, mostly nonprofits, have conserved 61 million acres across the country through a mix of easements, outright purchases, and transfers to state agencies, according to the Land Trust Alliance. That's greater than the combined area of every national park in the United States. A quarter of that total has been added since 2010.

Roughly 40 million acres nationwide are protected by conservation easements, with about half of that under the stewardship of land trusts. Reaching the goals outlined in the 30x30 conservation plan would require another 440 million acres to come under protected status.

"The thing about land is we're not creating any more of it," said Meredith Hendricks, executive director of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. "It's important to protect private land, because the pressure to develop in California is so high, these places will vanish if we don't do something right now."

The Santa Barbara group conserved more than 4,000 acres in 2021, a two-decade high, and it has added staff to handle the surge in interest.

Land trust leaders say their recent success likely stems from several factors—a boomlet of older residents conducting estate planning, many landowners struggling with the tax burden of family farms and ranches, a spike in outdoor recreation during the pandemic, and a growing appreciation for natural climate solutions.

Some lawmakers think states should be bolstering the work of local land trusts. Maryland state Delegate Eric Luedtke, a Democrat, proposed a bill this year to provide \$10 million in revolving loans to land trusts in the state.

"Sometimes property comes on the market, but land trusts don't have the capital on hand [to acquire it]," Luedtke said. "This is essentially a way to allow the trusts to quickly respond to market forces."

Because Maryland has little public land, nonprofit trusts are essential for conserving natural spaces, Luedtke said. While the bill failed to make it out of committee this year, he expressed optimism that the proposal will gain more momentum next session, informed by details worked out during this year's effort. He's also supportive of state efforts to increase funding for conservation easements.

Further south, the North Florida Land Trust is seeking to scale up its conservation efforts from the nearly 28,000 acres it has protected. The group saw a record number of monetary donations and donors last year.

"Sea level rise is going to push our population inland, and that's where our wildlife is," said Jim McCarthy, the trust's president. "There's going to

be increased pressure on development of those inland portions, and that's what we're trying to save."

## Conservation Easements

Because conservation easements typically lower the market value of the land, the federal government offers income tax breaks for property owners who put land into easement. Many states also offer property or income tax reductions. Proponents of easements say they allow farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to hold onto their land, even when development pressure sends property values skyrocketing.

"With land valuations being what they are, it's getting more and more difficult for working farms and ranches to remain profitable," said David Weinstein, western conservation finance director with The Trust for Public Land, a Washington, D.C.-based conservation nonprofit. "Private land conservation is seeing a boom because people are really concerned about land conversion from working lands into development."

In Colorado, lawmakers passed a law in 2021 to increase tax credit incentives for conservation easements. Landowners now receive an income tax credit of 90% of the donated value of the easement, up to \$5 million. Following the bill's passage, the state has seen an uptick in landowners granting conservation easements, said Melissa Daruna, executive director of Keep It Colorado, a nonprofit coalition made up of land trusts and other conservation organizations.

"We knew that there was an opportunity to increase private land conservation and work with more landowners if we could make the numbers pencil out better," she said. "We simply will not get to the climate goals we need without engaging in private land conservation, and it needs to be done in a way that's voluntary and supportive."

Florida lawmakers, meanwhile, earmarked \$400 million in 2021 to preserve a statewide wildlife corridor. Most of the funding is expected to be used for conservation easements. State Senator Jason Brodeur, a Republican who sponsored the bill, said it will allow animals such as black bears and Florida panthers to access habitat and retain their genetic diversity. The bill passed unanimously.

"If you pave over that land, you don't allow water to percolate down to recharge the aquifer," Brodeur said. "We will run out of freshwater in Florida before we run out of land to sell people. At 22 million people, we've got to start being real mindful of where that tipping point is."

But some other states see the growing interest in conservation easements as a threat. Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican, supports a bill that would limit easements to 99 years and give local governments

greater ability to reject such agreements.

"To me, a perpetual easement is a tool for taking away property rights from future generations," said Republican state Senator Dave Murman, the bill's sponsor, according to the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Conservation leaders counter that putting an expiration date on easements would fail to protect critical habitat and farms from ongoing development pressure. Neither Murman nor Ricketts responded to requests for comment.

Nebraska's push follows a new law enacted in Montana in 2021 that gives the State Board of Land Commissioners authority to deny conservation easements. Former state Representative Kerry White, a Republican who sponsored a similar bill that was vetoed in 2019, said governments should have more say about which lands are set aside for conservation. The contracts, he said, can block public necessities such as housing, power lines, water and sewer pipes.

"When you restrict development, you increase the cost of infrastructure as you have to move around that property with a conservation easement in order for a piece of property on the other side of it to build homes," he said. "If you want affordable housing, then you don't want to create additional costs for infrastructure."

Environmental leaders counter that the lands preserved for habitat and farming are far more likely to be targeted for expensive subdivisions or mansions.

"Affordable housing isn't at odds with conservation," Weinstein said.

McCleerey, the South Dakota Democrat who was defeated in the 2020 election, is running again in 2022, and says he will continue his push to limit conservation easements.

Although any changes likely would not apply retroactively to the easement on McCleerey's property, he said he now regrets placing 52 acres into an agreement for wetland protection. The easement has blocked him from planting crops on the land or changing the landscape to improve hunting conditions.

"Why can't it be 25 or 50 years, instead of perpetual, forever?" he said. "The next generation may have a different view of what they can do with that land."



Alex Brown is a staff writer for Stateline.

# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

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*The Pew Charitable Trusts applies a rigorous, analytical approach to **improve public policy**, **inform the public**, and **invigorate civic life**, as these recent accomplishments illustrate.*

## IMPROVING PUBLIC POLICY



Flood waters inundated the Old Town neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia, in October 2021. Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

### Historic new risk rating system for federal flood insurance takes effect

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's new model for pricing flood risk went into effect in April for the federal government's National Flood Insurance Program, which has more than 5 million policyholders. The Pew-supported approach, called Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action, represents the most significant change to the program's rating system in 50 years. Under the new pricing methodology, insurance premiums will be based on a more precise and accurate analysis of flood risk—a revision that planners say will discourage development in flood zones by making insurance costlier in the most at-risk areas.

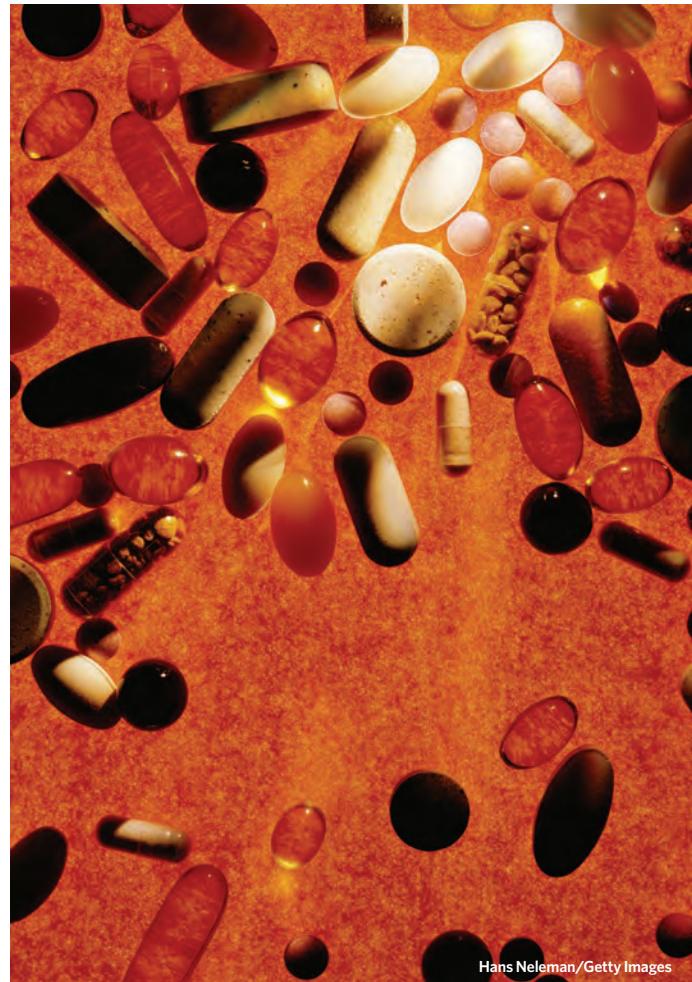
## **NOAA approves ropeless fishing gear permit in closed area**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration approved a permit in April for three vessels to ropelessly fish in waters off the Massachusetts coast, an area currently closed to traditional fishing gear because vertical lines used in traditional fishing can seriously injure and lethally harm the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. The agency's new rule, issued in September 2021, included new seasonal closures to persistent vertical fishing lines, opening a pathway to potentially use ropeless gear with a special fishing permit. The decision represents an important milestone for Pew's efforts to protect the right whale while allowing lobster fishing to continue.

## **Major reforms in the Indian Ocean tuna fishery**

In May, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)—a group of 30 governments responsible for managing and conserving fish stocks in the region—agreed to implement for the first time a full harvest strategy for the Indian Ocean's billion-dollar bigeye tuna fishery. This is also the first harvest strategy for any tropical tuna species globally. Harvest strategies mean that these governments have now agreed to a long-term vision for sustainable management of the bigeye fishery and commit to using science instead of politics to set future catch limits and keep bigeye at a healthy level. The measure, which will serve as a model for better policies worldwide, will make management more predictable, transparent, and inclusive, and fisheries will be more profitable over the long term. Pew and its strategic partner, The Ocean Foundation, played a pivotal role by engaging Australia as champion, and getting other countries to strengthen and back Australia's proposal.

IOTC also adopted a measure to improve oversight of transshipment—the movement of fish from a fishing vessel to a large carrier vessel, allowing fishing to continue while the carrier vessel takes the catch to port. This measure will help keep illegally caught fish from making it to market. Significantly, this reform was championed by Japan, a country whose fleets rely heavily on transshipment activity. Pew played a key role in pushing other governments to strengthen Japan's original proposal.



Hans Neleman/Getty Images

## **Congress moves to strengthen consumer protections for dietary supplements**

In April, Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Mike Braun (R-IN) introduced the Dietary Supplement Listing Act of 2022, which would improve the Food and Drug Administration's ability to ensure supplement safety by requiring that companies tell the agency what products they manufacture and the ingredients they contain. The proposal has bipartisan support in Congress, and the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has included key provisions from the Durbin-Braun bill with the underlying legislation that reauthorizes major FDA drug and device review programs expected to pass this fall. The Dietary Supplement Listing Act is partly the result of Pew's health care products team's advocacy efforts in collaboration with both public health and industry stakeholder groups, including the American Medical Association and the Council for Responsible Nutrition, the leading trade association representing supplement manufacturers and ingredient suppliers.

## **Alabama passes legislation that invests in high-value programs**

In April, the Alabama Legislature passed three bills aimed at reforming the state's medical scholarships loans programs, as well as teacher scholarships, based on recommendations made by a Pew partner, the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services. Two of the bills changed a program model to include developing geographically based "needs assessments" to prioritize placing medical practitioners in areas of high need and developing better incentives for providers. The third bill will better market an underutilized loan forgiveness program to hire teachers in areas with shortages. Pew's Results First initiative has partnered with the commission and its predecessor since 2017. These bills further the Results First initiative's goal of helping states continue to demonstrate results, meet the goals in their state plans, and sustain their work by investing in programs that achieve results.



**Red crabs skitter across the sands of Christmas Island, one of two territories where the Australian government has established new marine parks.** Colin Marshall/Alamy

## **Australia declares Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) islands marine parks**

In March, the Australian government announced the establishment of two marine parks covering 287,000 square miles of Indian Ocean waters surrounding its external territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Roughly 99% of the new marine protected areas will be off-limits to commercial fishing and other extractive activities, providing strong safeguards for an ocean area larger than Texas and twice the size of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Project and Pew's Outback to Oceans Australia teams worked closely with the Australian government and local island communities, which collaborated to co-design the parks and the protections they will provide for unique underwater reefs, rare aquatic species, and a significant portion of the world's only known spawning area for critically endangered southern bluefin tuna. The government also created community-led fisheries regulations tailored to the islands' unique cultural and environmental needs. Pew and its partners worked closely with the island communities and government to develop a community-led model for fisheries management that recognizes the creation of on-island fisheries advisory committees that must be consulted on all future fisheries management issues.

## **Major gains for people and nature in Chilean Patagonia**

Pew's Chilean Patagonia project and its partners recently garnered a set of significant conservation gains. The governors of the Magallanes and Los Lagos regions, five local mayors representing 24 of the 26 municipalities of Patagonia, the Universidad Austral de Chile, and Pew signed an agreement to increase participation in park oversight and infrastructure development by neighboring gateway communities, which benefit economically from tourism when protected areas are well run and accessible. And the Chilean Council of Ministers for Sustainability announced the creation of the 183,000-acre Olivares and Colorado Glaciers National Park. The new park features high peaks, valleys, and 368 glaciers that provide fresh water for one-half of the capital's population. A Pew-backed citizens campaign, "Queremos Parque" or "We Want the Park," generated support for the designation from an unprecedented 200,000 individuals, and the incoming government has already committed to extending the protected area by 168,000 acres within a year. In April the Chilean government passed a law, advanced by Pew and numerous local partners, that for the first time will allow contributions to nongovernmental organizations engaged in environmental, health, equity, and human rights issues to be treated as charitable for tax purposes, similar to donations made to arts and cultural entities.

And in late June, the Chilean government designated the Tictoc Golfo Corcovado Marine Park, a 251,800-acre area with unique ecological value in the least protected and most threatened area of Chilean Patagonia. Numerous species feed and breed in the area, including blue, humpback, and pilot whales; Chilean dolphins; and several species of marine birds.



Visitors trek through Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia, Chile, where local leaders have agreed to increase park oversight and infrastructure development. *sharptoyou/Shutterstock*

## **CMS wants hospitals to report antibiotic use and resistance data to the CDC**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a rule that would require all hospitals that participate in Medicare and Medicaid to report antibiotic use and resistance (AUR) data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its surveillance system, the National Healthcare Safety Network. The new requirement would provide data to public health agencies to help inform stewardship strategies at the state, regional, and national levels, as well as allow antibiotic stewardship programs in hospitals to compare their prescribing patterns with those of other facilities to identify areas in need of improvement. This rule would help slow the growth of drug-resistant "superbugs" and improve patient care throughout the country. Since 2015, Pew's antibiotic resistance project has met with CDC regularly, providing research and hosting convenings to prioritize the importance of AUR reporting, submitted comments to CMS, and coordinated comments supporting this change with the Infectious Diseases Society of America and 48 other organizations.

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## INVIGORATING CIVIC LIFE

### Pew Fellow in the Arts named Philadelphia's poet laureate

Airea D. Matthews, a 2020 Pew Fellow in the Arts, is Philadelphia's poet laureate for 2022-23. The position recognizes exceptional poets who also demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement. In a January announcement, the Free Library of Philadelphia, which runs the city's poet laureate program, described Matthews as embodying "the collaborative and maverick spirit of Philadelphia's literary community." Matthews is an assistant professor and codirector of the creative writing program at Bryn Mawr College. Her first collection of poems, *Simulacra*, won the 2016 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. Her work has also appeared in *Best American Poets 2015*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Harvard Review*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and elsewhere. Of the city's six poet laureates selected since the program began in 2012, five have been Pew Fellows in the Arts.



**Airea D. Matthews, reading during the 2017 Vulture Festival at Milk Studios in New York City, is Philadelphia's new poet laureate.** Dia Dipasupil/Getty Images for Vulture Festival

### 'Benjamin Franklin: A Film by Ken Burns' airs on PBS

Filmmaker Ken Burns' two-part, four-hour documentary on Benjamin Franklin, one of Philadelphia's most consequential historical figures, aired nationally on PBS stations in April. The film, partially funded by Pew, spans a period of momentous change in science, technology, literature, politics, and government—fields Franklin advanced through a lifelong commitment to societal and self-improvement. The documentary also does not shy away from exploring his faults, including the fact that although he would later speak out against slavery, he owned enslaved people in his middle age.

### Pew co-hosts event with Philadelphia Fed on racial disparities in homeownership

In March, Pew and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia jointly hosted a virtual convening to explore policy solutions to the Black-White homeownership gap in Philadelphia. Researchers examined the current state of these racial homeownership disparities in the city and what factors perpetuate inequities. Pew presented recent research on housing affordability and the impact of tangled titles on homeowners. Panelists included Philadelphia Councilwoman Cherelle Parker (D); state Senator Nikil Saval (D); Robin Weissman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; and Kevin Moran, director of the Urban Land Institute of Philadelphia. Approximately 200 attendees participated from Philadelphia's government, civic, nonprofit, and housing advocacy organizations.

### Pew Fellows in the Arts receive major awards

Several Pew Fellows in the Arts are being honored for their work. Composer Jennifer Higdon, a 1999 fellow, is among the 18 new members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Among the highest artistic honors in the United States, membership is limited to 300 of the country's leading architects, artists, composers, and writers at a given time. Poet and educator Sonia Sanchez (1993 fellow) has been awarded the Edward MacDowell Medal, an honor previously given to Robert Frost, Toni Morrison, and Stephen Sondheim, among others. Playwright James Ijames (2015 fellow) and composer and sound artist Raven Chacon (2020 fellow) both received 2022 Pulitzer Prizes. Ijames won the Pulitzer Prize for drama for the play "Fat Ham," and the prize for music went to Chacon's "Voiceless Mass," a 16-minute work for ensemble and pipe organ "inspired by the silence of days spent in lockdown," according to *The New York Times*.

## INFORMING THE PUBLIC

### 'The Great Resignation': Why workers say they quit jobs in 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic set off nearly unprecedented churn in the U.S. labor market: The share of Americans who quit their jobs reached a 20-year high in 2021. A Pew Research Center survey released in March found that low pay, a lack of opportunities for advancement, and feeling disrespected at work were the top reasons why Americans quit their jobs last year in what has become known as "the Great Resignation." The survey also found that those who quit and are now employed elsewhere are more likely than not to say that their current job has better pay, more opportunities for advancement, and more work-life balance and flexibility.

### Americans' views of government

The Pew Research Center released a detailed report in June on Americans' views of government, finding that Americans remain deeply distrustful of and dissatisfied with their government: Just 20% say they trust the government in Washington to do the right thing just about always or most of the time. Trust in government is relatively low among members of both parties. Yet Americans' unhappiness with government has long coexisted with their continued support for government having a substantial role in many realms. Clear majorities of Americans (60% or more) say the government should have a major role in 11 of 12 issues included in the survey—including terrorism, immigration, and the economy, as well as ensuring access to health care and protecting the environment.

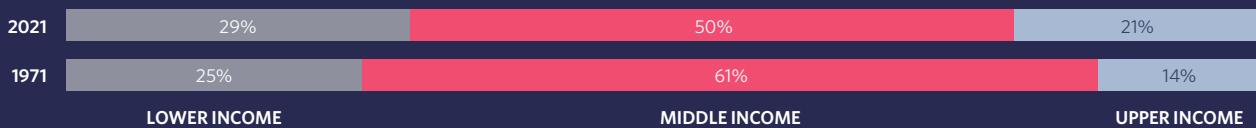
### How teens navigate school during COVID-19

A Pew Research Center report released in June examined how teenagers navigated school during the COVID-19 pandemic, finding that 65% of teens said they would prefer school to be completely in person after the COVID-19 outbreak is over, while a much smaller share (9%) would opt for a completely online environment. When asked about the effect that COVID-19 may have had on their schooling, a majority of teens expressed little to no concern about falling behind in school due to disruptions caused by the outbreak. Worries about falling behind in school due to COVID-19 disruptions were more common among Hispanic and lower-income teens, and parents tended to express more concern than their children.



The hallways of Brockton High School in Brockton, Massachusetts, are usually packed with students, but few were there in March 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic altered school schedules. A Pew Research Center survey found that nearly two-thirds of teens would prefer to return to in-person classes after the pandemic. David L. Ryan/The Boston Globe via Getty Images

## HOW THE AMERICAN MIDDLE CLASS HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST FIVE DECADES

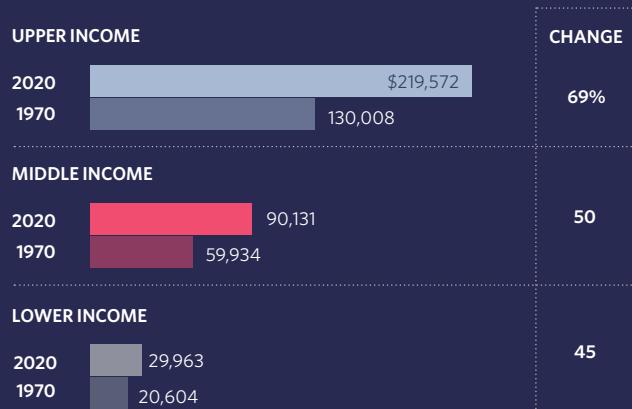


HERE ARE THREE KEY FACTS ABOUT HOW THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS HAS CHANGED SINCE 1971:

1

**Household incomes have risen considerably since 1970, but those of middle-class households have not climbed nearly as much as those of upper-income households.**

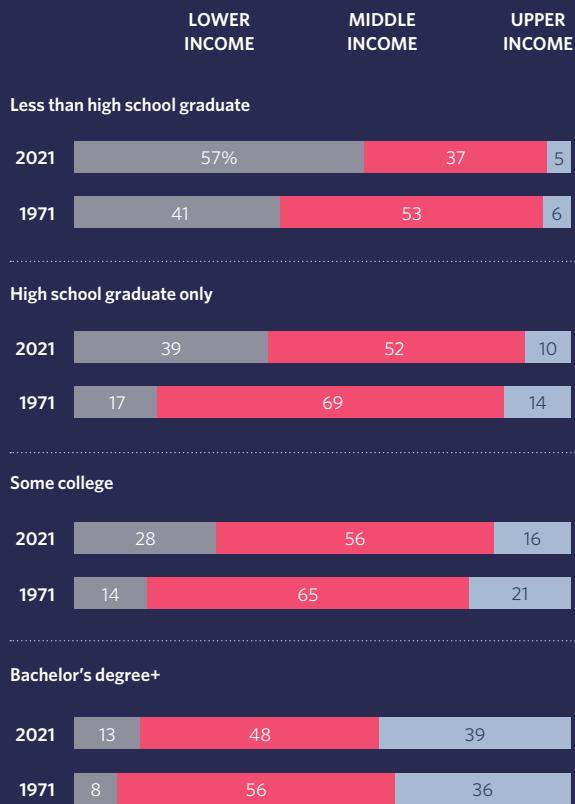
*Median income, in 2020 dollars and scaled to reflect a three-person household*



3

**There is a sizable and growing income gap between adults with a bachelor's degree and those with lower levels of education.**

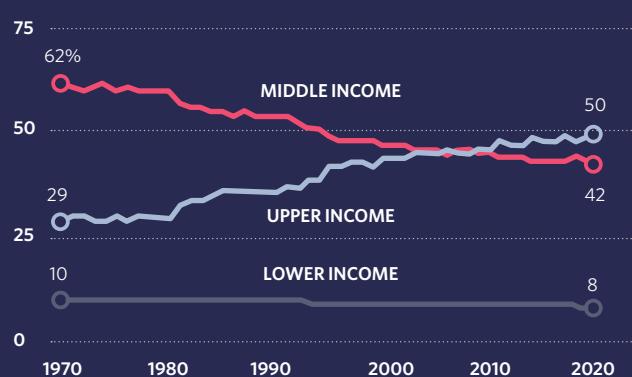
*% of adults in each income tier*



2

**The share of aggregate U.S. household income held by the middle class has fallen steadily since 1970.**

*% of U.S. aggregate household income held by lower-, middle- and upper-income households*



Note: Shares may not add to 100% due to rounding.

The middle class, once the economic stratum of a clear majority of American adults, has steadily contracted in the past five decades. The share of adults who live in middle-class households fell from 61% in 1971 to 50% in 2021, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of government data.

Note: Adults are assigned to income tiers based on their size-adjusted household incomes in the calendar year prior to the survey year. "High school graduate" refers to those who have a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate, and those who had completed 12th grade, but their diploma status was unclear. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. Shares may not add to 100% due to rounding.



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**The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is a critical waterfowl sanctuary along the Atlantic Flyway on Maryland's Eastern Shore—and rising waters are engulfing it.**

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When the Water Rises, Page 24

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