

Appendix P – Attitudes toward Stem Cell Research by Individuals of Religious and other Orientations

Q56: The federal government provides funding to support a variety of medical research. Do you think federal funding for medical research should or should not include funding for stem cell research?

	<i>Support</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Don't Know/ Refused</i>
Total	60	36	3
<i>Denomination:</i>			
Catholics	65	33	2
Protestant, Non-Evangelical	77	19	
Evangelicals	51	40	9
Evangelical White Protestants	47	47	6
<i>Ideology:</i>			
Conservatives	53	42	5
Moderates	64	32	4
Liberals	75	23	2
<i>Party:</i>			
Republicans	60	36	4
Independents	67	29	4
Democrats	60	36	4
<i>Race:</i>			
Whites	65	31	4
Blacks	50	47	3

Washington Post/ABC News, August 2, 2001, N=1352.

Q98: The federal government provides funding to support a variety of medical research. Do you think federal funding for medical research should or should not include funding for stem cell research?

	<i>Support</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>
Total	60	31	9
<i>Denomination:</i>			
Catholics	54	35	11
Protestant, Non-Evangelical	68	19	13
Evangelicals	51	40	9
White Evangelicals	50	40	10
No Religion	63	24	14
<i>Ideology:</i>			
Conservatives	44	44	12
Moderates	63	26	11
Liberals	76	14	10
<i>Party:</i>			
Republicans	49	37	14
Independents	62	26	12
Democrats	65	27	8
<i>Race:</i>			
Whites	60	29	11
Blacks	48	44	8

ABC News/Beliefnet, June 2001, N=1022.

Q49: All in all, which is more important – conducting stem cell research that might result in new medical cures [or] not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research?

	<i>Conduct Research</i>	<i>Not Destroy Embryos</i>	<i>Don't Know/ Refused</i>
Total	43	38	19
<i>Religious Affiliation:</i>			
White Evangelical Protestants	26	55	19
White Non-Evangelical Protestants	51	29	20
White Catholics	43	39	18
Secular	66	17	17
<i>Party affiliation:</i>			
Republicans	38	47	15
Democrats	45	37	18
Independent	49	33	18
<i>Party and Ideology:</i>			
Conservative Republicans	32	54	14
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	48	38	14
Conservative/Moderate Democrats	43	39	18
Liberal Democrats	55	31	14

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press and the Press and Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, March 2002, N=2002.

Q109: All in all, which is more important – conducting stem cell research that might result in new medical cures [or] not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research?

	<i>Conduct Research</i>	<i>Not Destroy Embryo</i>	<i>Don't Know/Refused</i>
Total	52	34	
<i>Religious Affiliation:</i>			
White Evangelical Protestants	33	52	15
White Non-Evangelical Protestants	66	22	12
White Catholic	55	31	14
Secular	68	19	13
<i>Party Affiliation:</i>			
Republican	41	45	14
Democrat	60	26	14
Independent	57	31	12
<i>Party and Ideology:</i>			
Conservative Republicans	35	53	12
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	54	32	14
Conservative/Moderate Democrats	58	29	13
Liberal Democrat	72	19	9

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press and the Press and Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, August 2004, N=1512.

Q89: A stem cell is the basic cell in the body from which all other cells develop. Medical researchers have been able to take stem cells from adults, but they believe stem cells taken from embryos have far greater research potential. Excess human embryos are developed through the process of in vitro fertilization, a process that typically fertilizes more eggs than are needed. These excess embryos are usually frozen at fertility clinics after maturing for five days. There are approximately 400,000 of these frozen embryos at fertility clinics across the United States. Almost all of these excess frozen embryos are discarded after couples have had children and wish to have no more. The process of extracting the stem cells destroys the embryo. Medical researchers believe that embryonic stem cells can be developed into replacement cells to cure diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer, severe burns, and spinal cord injuries. I'm going to read you some scenarios for stem cell research, and please tell me if you support or oppose each of the following.

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>
Medical research using stem cells obtained from adults with their permission:	78	48	30	6	10	16	6
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos that have been destroyed in the past:	52	28	24	13	26	39	9
Medical research using stem cells obtained from excess human embryos:	49	26	22	13	27	41	11
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos that are frozen in fertility clinics five days after an egg has been fertilized, have been donated by the parents, and will be discarded if they are not donated:	56	34	22	9	28	36	8

A: Total support

D: Somewhat oppose

G: Unsure

B: Strongly support

E: Strongly oppose

C: Somewhat support

F: Totally oppose

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, March 2004, N=600 self-identified conservative voters.