



# Portraits of American Life Survey (PALS)

## Main Respondent Survey

Thank you for your help with the PALS survey! Your participation has been very helpful to us. We will bring your answers together with those of other Americans to understand everyday life for people living in the United States.

Please help us by filling out this short, written survey. This survey is sponsored by the University of Notre Dame.

This survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you may choose to skip any question you do not want to answer.

When you finish, please return it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will be sending you summary results after the study is completed.

### Section A: Schools and Education

		<i>Circle one for each question.</i>					
A1.	Overall, what grade would you give public schools in the US these days?	A	B	C	D	F	Don't Know
A2.	Overall, what grade would you give your <b>local</b> public schools these days?	A	B	C	D	F	Don't Know

A3. Are your **local** public schools hostile to your moral and spiritual values, or are they supportive of your moral and spiritual values? Would you say they are...

- <sub>1</sub> Very hostile
- <sub>2</sub> Somewhat hostile
- <sub>3</sub> Neither hostile nor supportive
- <sub>4</sub> Somewhat supportive
- <sub>5</sub> Very supportive
- <sub>6</sub> Don't know

A4. Do you favor or oppose a school voucher program that would allow parents to use tax funds to send their children to the school of their choice, even if it were a private school? Do you...

- <sub>1</sub> Strongly favor
- <sub>2</sub> Somewhat favor
- <sub>3</sub> Neither favor nor oppose
- <sub>4</sub> Somewhat oppose
- <sub>5</sub> Strongly oppose
- <sub>6</sub> Don't know

A5. For the questions on this page, if you don't have children under 18 years, please think about how you would answer if you did have children under 18.

a. How far in school do/would you want your children to go? Please mark only the *highest level that applies*.

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- 1 Less than high school graduation
- 2 High school graduation or GED only
- 3 Attend or complete a 2-year school course in a community or vocational school
- 4 Attend college, but not complete a 4-year degree
- 5 Graduate from college
- 6 Obtain a Master's degree or equivalent
- 7 Obtain a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced degree
- 8 Don't know/Not sure

b. You reported how far in school you would want your children to go. For this question, please indicate how far in school you **expect** your children will go. Please mark only the *highest level that applies*.

(MARK ONE RESPONSE)

- 1 Less than high school graduation
- 2 High school graduation or GED only
- 3 Attend or complete a 2-year school course in a community or vocational school
- 4 Attend college, but not complete a 4-year degree
- 5 Graduate from college
- 6 Obtain a Master's degree or equivalent
- 7 Obtain a Ph.D., M.D., or other advanced degree
- 8 Don't know/Not sure

		<i>Circle one for each question.</i>					
c.	Would you want your children to attend a religious college or university?	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably not	Definitely not	Not sure	Depends
d.	Would you want your children to attend a religious school for elementary or high school?	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably not	Definitely not	Not sure	Depends

**Section B: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES**

B1. For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Issue		How much do you agree or disagree? <i>(Circle one in each row)</i>					
<b>a.</b>	I favor more environmental regulation even if it slows economic growth.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>b.</b>	Marriage is a lifetime relationship and should never be ended except under extreme circumstances.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>c.</b>	The husband should be the spiritual leader of the family.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>d.</b>	There are no definite rights and wrongs for everybody.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>e.</b>	The world is always changing and we should adjust our views of what is morally right and wrong to reflect those changes.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>f.</b>	The U.S. would be a better country if religion had less influence in public affairs.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>g.</b>	Religion is a private matter that should be kept out of politics.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>h.</b>	Religion is one of the primary causes of violence in today's world.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>i.</b>	I am very interested in politics or government affairs.	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

B2. Over the last three years, are there any specific political issues or political causes that you have been involved in—by trying to change government policy, contacting elected officials, going to meetings, participating in a protest or boycott, and so on?

<sub>1</sub> No → **SKIP TO Next Page (Section on Time Use)**

<sub>2</sub> Yes

B3. What was the political issue or cause you were involved in? Please describe below.

First political issue/cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Second political issue/cause (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Third political issue/cause (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

## Section C: Time Use

In the <b>last 12 months</b> , about how often did you...		<i>Circle one for each question.</i>							
C1.	Get 8 hours of sleep or more?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C2.	Listen to the radio?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C3.	Listen to religious radio stations or religious programs?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C4.	Watch television?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C5.	Watch religious shows on television?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C6.	Use the Internet?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C7.	View Internet sites on religion or spirituality?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C8.	Pay attention to national and world politics and public affairs?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C9.	Pay attention to <b>local politics</b> and community affairs?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C10.	Read a newspaper or read the news?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day
C11.	How often have you distorted the truth or falsely represented something to get something you couldn't otherwise obtain?	Never	A few times	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	A few times a week	Once a day	More than once a day

## Section D: Employment

D1. Have you done any work for pay in the past 12 months?

1. YES



2. NO



**Skip to Next Page** (Section on Donations to Charity)

a. Are you self-employed or do you work for somebody else?

<sub>1</sub> Self-employed

<sub>2</sub> Work for someone else

<sub>3</sub> Other (*please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

b. Is your employer, company, or the organization you work for a for-profit organization or business, or a not-for-profit organization?

<sub>1</sub> For profit

<sub>2</sub> Not-for-profit

<sub>3</sub> Other (*please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

c. Are you a direct employee of the government—whether national, state, or local?

<sub>1</sub> Yes

<sub>2</sub> No

<sub>3</sub> Not sure

d. Do you work for a religious or faith-based organization or business?

<sub>1</sub> Yes

<sub>2</sub> No

<sub>3</sub> Not sure

e. Does your employer, company or business do or organize any charitable or volunteer work?

<sub>1</sub> Yes

<sub>2</sub> No → SKIP TO Next Page, Section E

<sub>3</sub> Don't know → SKIP TO Next Page, Section E

f. In the past 12 months, about how many hours, if any, did you participate in this charitable work?

<sub>1</sub> Number of hours: \_\_\_\_\_

<sub>2</sub> Don't know

## Section E: Donations to Charity

This page is about donations of time and money to charitable organizations. We are interested in the types of organizations, if any, that you support through donations. (Since we already asked you about giving to churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples, do not include that giving here.)

**Charitable organizations** include religious or non-profit organizations that help those in need or serve and support the public interests. They range in size from national organizations like the United Way and the American Red Cross to local community organizations. Our definition does **not** include political contributions.

**Donations** include any gifts of money, assets, or property made directly to the organization, through payroll deduction, or collected by other means on behalf of the charity.

E1. **During the calendar year 2005**, did you or anyone in your family **donate** money, assets, or property/goods, with a combined value of **more than \$25** to religious or charitable organizations?

1. YES		2. NO	→	Skip to Next Page (Section on Wealth)
--------	--	-------	---	---------------------------------------

E2. Please report the total dollar value of your **2005 donations** in each of the following categories:

	Organizations that...	Examples/Notes	Total dollar value of donations <i>(i.e., gifts of money, assets, or property)</i>	Were any religious organizations?	Percent of total donations given to religious organizations
a.	...serve multiple or a <b>combination of purposes?</b>	United Way, the United Jewish Appeal, the Catholic Charities, or your local community foundation	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
b.	...help people in need of <b>food, shelter, or other basic necessities?</b>	American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, local soup kitchen, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
c.	...are in <b>health care</b> or medical research?	Hospitals, nursing homes, mental health facilities, cancer, heart and lung associations, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
d.	...serve <b>educational purposes?</b> (Not including tuition payments for you or other family members.)	Colleges, grade schools, parent-teacher associations, libraries, scholarship funds, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
e.	...provide <b>youth or family services?</b>	Scouting, boys' and girls' clubs, sports leagues, Big Brothers or Sisters, foster care, family counseling, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
f.	...involve the <b>arts, culture, or ethnic awareness?</b>	Museum, theatre, orchestra, public broadcasting, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
g.	...improve <b>neighborhoods and communities</b>	Community associations, service clubs, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
h.	...preserve the <b>environment</b>	Conservation efforts, animal protection, parks, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
i.	...provide <b>international aid</b> or promote world peace	International children's funds, disaster relief, human rights, etc.	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%
j.	...work for <b>economic development</b> in areas of poverty	Help to find or provide jobs for the poor or long-term unemployed	_____.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	_____%

## Section F: Wealth Section

The next questions will be used to estimate the wealth of families in the United States. In these questions, “family” means *your family living with you*.

F1. Please tell us if you or any family member living with you has any of the assets listed below. If you or your family member has the listed asset, please tell us how much it is worth and then how much you owe on the asset, if any. (It is fine to use your best guess.)

	Do you or anyone in your family own...	(Mark one in each row.)	What is its value in dollars? (How much is it worth if sold/cashed in?)	How much do you currently owe on this asset? (If none, enter 0)
	<b>EXAMPLE: Cars or trucks</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<b>9,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>
		In this example, the person's family has two vehicles	The two vehicles together would sell for a total of \$9,500	The \$10,500 is the total amount owed on the two vehicles.
a.	Cars or trucks	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
b.	A house or condominium	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
c.	A second home, vacation home, or rental real estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
d.	A business or farm	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
e.	Land or acreage (not included above)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
f.	Rights in a trust or estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
g.	Recreational vehicles, such as boat, motor home, trailer, motor bike, or snowmobile	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	AMOUNT OWED?
h.	Pension or Retirement Accounts (IRAs, 401Ks, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	<del>AMOUNT OWED?</del>
i.	Other stocks, bonds, or savings bonds	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	<del>AMOUNT OWED?</del>
j.	Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and savings accounts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	<del>AMOUNT OWED?</del>
k.	Other assets (such as checking account balances; life insurance cash value; valuable collections; gold, silver, diamonds, rare coins, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	<del>AMOUNT OWED?</del>
l.	Any money owed to you	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="margin-left: 20px;">→</span> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	VALUE?	<del>AMOUNT OWED?</del>

F2. Below are 6 other types of debts that you may or may not have. Please tell us if you have any of these debts. If you do, please give us your best estimate of how much you owe.

	Do you or anyone in your family have the following?	Mark the appropriate box.	What do you owe in dollars?
a.	Home equity loans (if not included on the previous page)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	AMOUNT OWED?
b.	Credit card charges	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	AMOUNT OWED?
c.	Medical or legal bills	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	AMOUNT OWED?
d.	Other debts or money owed not yet mentioned (for example, student loans, loans from relatives or friends, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	AMOUNT OWED?



## Section G: Involvement in Organizations or Groups

G1. Here is a list of types of organizations or groups that some people are involved in. Please indicate which of these organizations or groups, if any, you have been involved in (e.g., volunteered or worked for, attended meetings, participated in events, etc.) over the past three years. Your involvement may have been for as little as an hour, or as often as daily.

		In the last 3 years, have you...			
Type of Organization		Been involved in or volunteered for?	Attended a meeting?	Held a leadership position? <i>(Including serving on a committee, organizing an event, etc.)</i>	Number of hours volunteered or participated in a typical month <i>(best estimate)</i>
a.	Social service organizations, such as the Red Cross or United Way	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
b.	Sports clubs or teams	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
c.	Parent-teacher organization or other school group	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
d.	Youth religious ministries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
e.	Other youth organizations, including camps and sports organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
f.	Missionary organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
g.	Political groups or parties	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
h.	Environmental groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
i.	Economic development organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
j.	Labor unions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
k.	Professional organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
l.	Hobby clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
m.	Arts or cultural groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
n.	Self-help groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
o.	Book clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
p.	Neighborhood organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
q.	Community organizations or service clubs (not included above)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month
r.	Any other organizations not yet mentioned (other than your congregation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hours per Month

---

Thank you for your time!

Please put this survey in the envelope provided and send it to us.

If you have any questions, please call 1-866-611-9952.

---

Portraits of American Life Study (PALS)  
810 Flanner Hall  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Email: [pals@nd.edu](mailto:pals@nd.edu)  
Website: [www.pals.info](http://www.pals.info)