

CBS News Poll – April 13-16, 2021

Adults in the U.S.



Sample 2,003 Adults in the U.S.
 Margin of Error ±2.8%

12. As you may know, some major car makers are announcing they will make fewer gas-powered cars in the next ten to fifteen years, and make mostly electric cars instead. Do you think this is a...

Good idea 64%
 Bad idea 36%

13. If you were in the market for a new car right now, which would you consider or not consider buying...

	Would consider	Might consider	Would not consider
A traditional gas-powered car	58%	28%	14%
A hybrid gas-electric car	39%	40%	21%
An electric car	30%	33%	37%

14. Why would you not consider an electric car? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who would not consider buying an electric car

They cost too much 63%
 I don't need/don't want a car 15%
 There aren't enough charging stations on the road 61%
 The cars can't go far enough on a charge 60%
 There are no models I like 17%
 I don't know much about them 19%
 They just aren't what people like me drive 25%
 They're Un-American 11%

25. In general, what should U.S. policy be toward electric cars? Should it have policies that encourage people to...

Buy electric cars 41%
 Buy conventional gasoline cars 11%
 Neither, not take a position on which kinds of cars people buy 48%

Questions held for future release

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12. Electric Cars Good Idea

As you may know, some major car makers are announcing they will make fewer gas-powered cars in the next ten to fifteen years, and make mostly electric cars instead. Do you think this is a...

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Ideology (3 categories)		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Good idea	64%	62%	65%	77%	71%	58%	52%	87%	71%	37%
Bad idea	36%	38%	35%	23%	29%	42%	48%	13%	29%	63%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,984)	(961)	(1,023)	(392)	(507)	(657)	(428)	(593)	(512)	(650)

	2020 Vote			Party ID			Race/Ethnicity			White by Education	
	Total	Biden	Trump	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Good idea	64%	89%	34%	88%	63%	37%	61%	66%	73%	58%	67%
Bad idea	36%	11%	66%	12%	37%	63%	39%	34%	27%	42%	33%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,984)	(610)	(573)	(643)	(659)	(549)	(1,267)	(249)	(291)	(800)	(467)

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13A. Consider Buying Cars — A traditional gas-powered car

If you were in the market for a new car right now, which would you consider or not consider buying...

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Ideology (3 categories)		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Would consider	58%	62%	55%	42%	53%	65%	68%	40%	58%	78%
Might consider	28%	26%	30%	44%	28%	25%	19%	40%	31%	14%
Would not consider	14%	12%	15%	14%	18%	10%	13%	20%	11%	7%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(1,969)	(951)	(1,018)	(384)	(505)	(656)	(424)	(585)	(509)	(648)

	2020 Vote			Party ID			Race/Ethnicity			White by Education	
	Total	Biden	Trump	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Would consider	58%	43%	83%	45%	60%	76%	63%	52%	45%	65%	61%
Might consider	28%	39%	13%	39%	27%	15%	24%	32%	41%	24%	23%
Would not consider	14%	18%	4%	16%	13%	9%	13%	15%	14%	11%	16%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,969)	(609)	(566)	(643)	(653)	(541)	(1,263)	(244)	(287)	(800)	(463)

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13B. Consider Buying Cars — A hybrid gas-electric car

If you were in the market for a new car right now, which would you consider or not consider buying...

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Ideology (3 categories)		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Would consider	39%	37%	41%	39%	47%	36%	34%	60%	37%	26%
Might consider	40%	43%	38%	49%	37%	40%	36%	33%	45%	41%
Would not consider	21%	20%	21%	12%	15%	24%	30%	7%	18%	33%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,981)	(957)	(1,024)	(389)	(505)	(663)	(424)	(590)	(511)	(648)

	2020 Vote			Party ID			Race/Ethnicity			White by Education	
	Total	Biden	Trump	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Would consider	39%	59%	22%	53%	41%	23%	38%	40%	39%	31%	50%
Might consider	40%	34%	43%	37%	39%	44%	39%	38%	49%	42%	34%
Would not consider	21%	7%	34%	10%	20%	33%	23%	22%	12%	27%	16%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,981)	(610)	(563)	(644)	(659)	(541)	(1,262)	(249)	(294)	(798)	(464)

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13C. Consider Buying Cars — An electric car

If you were in the market for a new car right now, which would you consider or not consider buying...

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Ideology (3 categories)		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Would consider	30%	34%	26%	43%	37%	24%	19%	50%	30%	14%
Might consider	33%	31%	35%	42%	34%	32%	24%	34%	35%	28%
Would not consider	37%	35%	39%	15%	29%	44%	56%	16%	35%	58%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,975)	(950)	(1,025)	(388)	(503)	(661)	(423)	(586)	(508)	(647)

	2020 Vote			Party ID			Race/Ethnicity			White by Education	
	Total	Biden	Trump	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Would consider	30%	50%	13%	46%	28%	15%	29%	28%	34%	27%	33%
Might consider	33%	32%	25%	34%	34%	28%	30%	35%	43%	31%	28%
Would not consider	37%	18%	62%	20%	38%	57%	41%	37%	22%	42%	39%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,975)	(609)	(562)	(644)	(652)	(541)	(1,263)	(243)	(294)	(802)	(462)

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14. Reasons for not Considering an Electric Car

Why would you not consider an electric car? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who would not consider buying an electric car

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Ideology (3 categories)		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
They cost too much	63%	67%	59%	*	54%	63%	71%	*	59%	71%
I don't need/don't want a car	15%	18%	13%	*	18%	14%	15%	*	19%	10%
There aren't enough charging stations on the road	61%	66%	57%	*	48%	64%	71%	*	57%	68%
The cars can't go far enough on a charge	60%	69%	54%	*	39%	69%	65%	*	57%	70%
There are no models I like	17%	21%	14%	*	19%	12%	19%	*	15%	21%
I don't know much about them	19%	15%	21%	*	24%	18%	15%	*	18%	17%
They just aren't what people like me drive	25%	25%	25%	*	31%	21%	25%	*	19%	29%
They're Un-American	11%	10%	13%	*	21%	8%	9%	*	11%	13%
Weighted N	(732)	(331)	(400)	(59)	(144)	(291)	(237)	(93)	(178)	(375)

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	2020 Vote			Party ID			Race/Ethnicity			White by Education	
	Total	Biden	Trump	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
They cost too much	63%	52%	70%	50%	68%	68%	66%	*	*	65%	67%
I don't need/don't want a car	15%	19%	11%	16%	17%	12%	13%	*	*	16%	7%
There aren't enough charging stations on the road	61%	66%	71%	57%	64%	67%	67%	*	*	63%	73%
The cars can't go far enough on a charge	60%	60%	74%	52%	65%	67%	67%	*	*	65%	71%
There are no models I like	17%	11%	22%	10%	17%	22%	17%	*	*	18%	14%
I don't know much about them	19%	28%	13%	29%	14%	17%	18%	*	*	22%	11%
They just aren't what people like me drive	25%	15%	28%	27%	18%	29%	27%	*	*	29%	23%
They're Un-American	11%	3%	12%	13%	7%	15%	12%	*	*	12%	13%
Weighted N	(732)	(107)	(351)	(130)	(245)	(307)	(519)	(91)	(66)	(340)	(178)

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25. U.S. Electric Car Policy

In general, what should U.S. policy be toward electric cars? Should it have policies that encourage people to...

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Ideology (3 categories)		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Buy electric cars	41%	41%	41%	44%	47%	39%	34%	73%	40%	17%
Buy conventional gasoline cars	11%	11%	11%	17%	19%	5%	7%	8%	12%	13%
Neither, not take a position on which kinds of cars people buy	48%	47%	48%	39%	34%	56%	59%	19%	48%	70%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,975)	(952)	(1,023)	(392)	(502)	(655)	(426)	(589)	(515)	(648)

	2020 Vote			Party ID			Race/Ethnicity			White by Education	
	Total	Biden	Trump	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Buy electric cars	41%	73%	12%	66%	38%	17%	41%	38%	46%	36%	48%
Buy conventional gasoline cars	11%	6%	13%	11%	9%	15%	9%	16%	15%	12%	5%
Neither, not take a position on which kinds of cars people buy	48%	21%	75%	23%	53%	68%	50%	46%	39%	52%	47%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,975)	(611)	(570)	(640)	(657)	(545)	(1,264)	(248)	(289)	(798)	(466)

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED AND THE MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED

The CBS News survey of 2,003 adults in the U.S. was conducted by YouGov between April 13-16, 2021.

This sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, and education based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote. Respondents were selected to be representative of adults nationwide. The weights range from 0.1 to 5.1, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.8.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based upon the entire sample is approximately 2.8%. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and n is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.