



Badger Poll™ #22, Release #5  
University of Wisconsin Survey Center  
University of Wisconsin Madison  
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NOTE: When using material from this release please cite the Badger Poll™ conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Poll results compiled by Danna Basson, Project Director, UW Survey Center. [dbasson@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:dbasson@ssc.wisc.edu) (phone: (608) 265-9886)

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## **STEM CELL RESEARCH AND IMMIGRATION**

### **IMMIGRATION**

11% of Wisconsinites say they are an immigrant or child of an immigrant.

Two-thirds of Wisconsinites favor the Senate bill that would create a temporary worker program for immigrants.

- There are no differences by gender, age, or whether the person is an immigrant or is a child of an immigrant.
- There are some differences between partisans. 73% of Democrats favor the Senate bill compared to two-thirds of Republicans and Independents. However more people favor it than oppose it among all three partisan groups.

Over two-thirds of Wisconsinites (67%) believe that immigrants tend to take jobs that other people don't want and 23% say they take jobs that other people want.

- Republicans are more likely than Democrats and Independents to say that immigrants take jobs that people want.
- 10% of people do not have an opinion on this issue or refuse to answer the question.
- Personal experience is related to responses. Among people who say they are immigrants or a child of an immigrant, only 5% say that immigrants take jobs that other people want, compared to 25% of non-immigrants who believe the same.

When asked if immigrants who live and work in Wisconsin contribute or don't contribute to the economy in the state, 69% of people said they contribute.

- Democrats were more likely than other groups to say this, with over three-quarters of Democrats saying immigrants contribute to the economy, and two-thirds of other groups saying so.
- Younger people – those under age 30 – are more likely to say immigrants contribute to the economy. 85% of them say this, compared to 67% of those between age 30-60, and 56% of those over age 60.
- Personal experience is related to responses. Among people who say they are immigrants or a child of an immigrant, only 7% say that immigrants don't contribute to the economy, compared to 26% of non-immigrants who believe the same.

When asked about the impact of immigrants from different cultures on society, 40% of people said they make a positive impact, 23% said negative impact, and about one-third of people said it makes no difference.

- Non-immigrants are twice as likely as immigrants to say that immigrants have a negative impact on society.
- Over half of immigrants say they have a positive impact on society, while just over a third of non-immigrants say the same.

#### **Immigrants Impact on Society**

	Immigrant or From Immigrant Family	Is Not An Immigrant or From Immigrant Family	Total
POSITIVE	56.1	38.4	40.4
NEGATIVE	12.3	24.2	22.8
NO DIFFERENCE	28.1	33.1	32.7
Total	100	100	100

## **STEM CELL RESEARCH**

The Co-Principal Investigators on this portion of the Badger Poll are Dominique Brossard, Albert C. Gunther, and Dietram A. Scheufele. Please see their contact information at the beginning of this release.

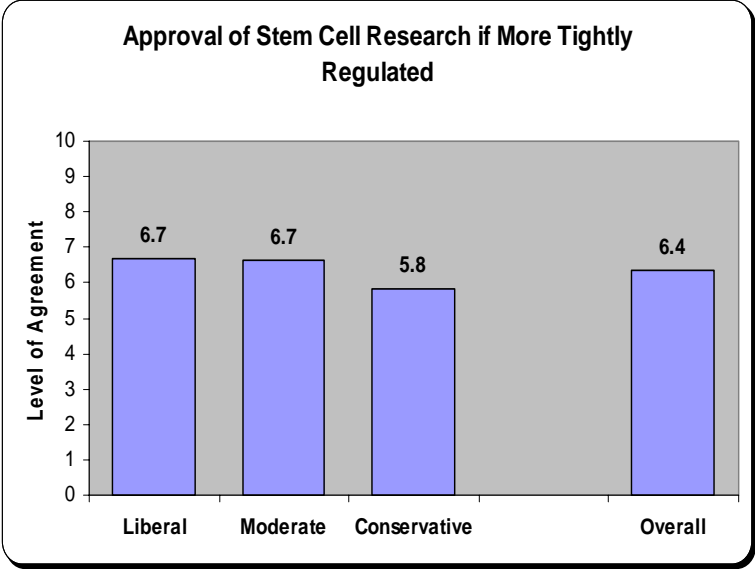
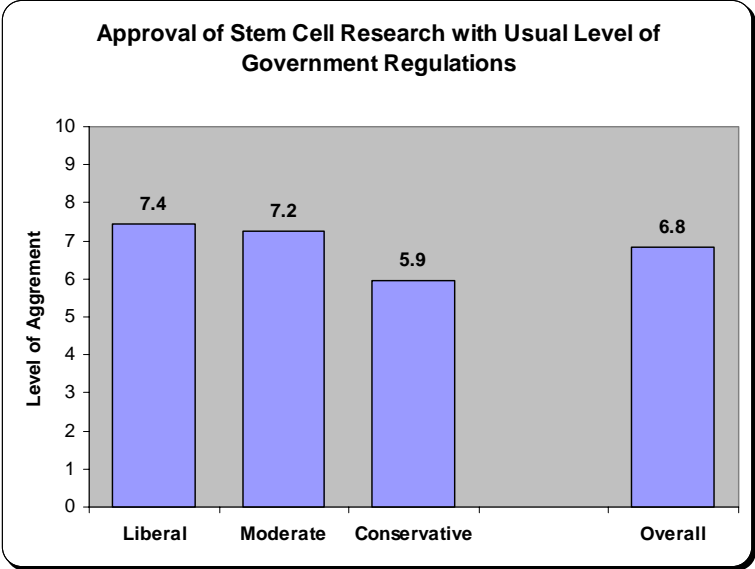
Respondents were asked to indicate how much they agree with a series of statements about stem cell research. They indicated their agreement on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is "completely disagree" and 10 is "completely agree."

The main findings:

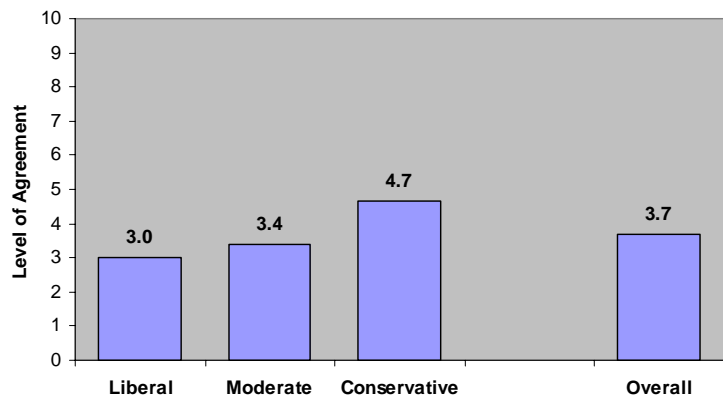
- Overall, the public generally approves of stem cell research if the "usual level of government regulation" applies.
- Overall, there is slightly lower approval for stem cell research with tighter regulation.
- When asked if it is ethically wrong to use embryos for medical research even if it might offer promising new treatments, people tended to disagree.
- Women are slightly more in favor of stem cell research than men.
- Democrats are more in favor of stem cell research than Republicans.
- Older respondents are slightly more in favor of stem cell research than younger respondents.

In general, people who identify as liberal on social issues were more likely to approve of stem cell research and less likely to agree that it is ethically wrong to use embryos for medical research. Responses among moderates tended to be more similar to liberals than to conservatives.

Conservatives were more likely to agree that it is ethically wrong to use embryos for research, but they still tend to disagree with this statement more than they agree with it.



**It is Ethically Wrong to Use Human Embryos in  
Medical Research**



**APPENDIX: Question Text and Statewide Percentages for Key Groups**

IM\_02 The Senate is currently considering a bill that would create a temporary worker program for immigrants. Those participating in the program would eventually be able to attain citizenship by meeting a number of requirements, including paying fines, learning English, and proving their work history. [This policy is supported by many business leaders/ labor unions]. Do you favor or oppose such a program?

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+
FAVOR	66.4	66.3	66.5	73.3	66.4	66.4	61.9	65.8	65.2	70.6	63.2
OPPOSE	26.3	28.5	24.2	13.3	29.1	31.2	32.1	22.5	29.7	23.1	29.1
DON'T KNOW	6.9	4.8	8.8	13.3	4.5	1.6	4.8	11.7	4.3	5.6	7.7
REFUSED	0.4	0.4	0.4			0.8	1.2		0.7	0.7	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.000).

IM\_18 Overall do you think illegal immigrants take jobs that other people [want/ don't want], or take jobs that other people [don't want /want]?

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+
JOBS PEOPLE WANT	22.6	22.1	23.2	21.2	28.1	17.7	21.2	16.2	25.4	21.1	26.7
JOBS PEOPLE DON'T WANT	67.1	67.1	67.2	70.9	60.7	73.4	67.1	71.2	66.7	68.3	62.9
DON'T KNOW	8.1	8.4	7.7	6.6	8.9	5.6	9.4	12.6	5.1	9.2	6.0
REFUSED	2.2	2.4	1.9	1.3	2.2	3.2	2.4	--	2.9	1.4	4.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.08).

IM\_19 Overall do you think immigrants who live and work in Wisconsin [contribute /don't contribute], or [don't contribute/ contribute] to the economy in the state?

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+
CONTRIBUTE	68.8	69.8	68.0	76.2	66.7	67.2	67.1	84.7	67.2	67.8	56.4
DON'T CONTRIBUTE	24.3	23.4	25.1	17.2	25.2	25.6	29.4	11.7	27.0	27.3	29.1
DON'T KNOW	5.9	5.6	6.2	6.0	7.4	4.0	3.5	3.6	5.1	4.2	12.0
REFUSED	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	3.2			0.7	0.7	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.003) and by age (p<0.001)

IM\_16 Overall, do you think immigrants who live in Wisconsin that come from different cultures have a positive impact on society, a negative impact, or does it make no difference?

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+
POSITIVE	40.3	42.3	38.3	39.7	41.8	39.5	43.5	46.8	35.3	45.5	33.6
NEGATIVE	22.8	19.0	26.4	18.5	24.6	21.0	24.7	19.8	24.5	18.9	28.4
NO DIFFERENCE	32.6	35.1	30.3	35.1	29.1	37.1	29.4	30.6	36.7	30.8	31.9
DON'T KNOW	3.9	3.2	4.6	6.6	4.5	1.6	1.2	2.7	3.6	3.5	6.0
REFUSED	0.4	0.4	0.4			0.8	1.2			1.4	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\* Differences are not statistically significant by these groups.

AG11\_1 (For each statement, tell me how much you agree on a ten-point scale where 1 means you do not agree at all and 10 means you completely agree.) I approve the use of stem cell research, as long as the usual levels of government regulation are in place.

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+	Lib	Mod	Cons
APPROVE STEM CELLS WITH USUAL LEVEL	6.8	6.5	7.0	7.4	6.2	7.1	6.5	6.2	7.1	6.7	7.1	7.4	7.2	5.9

\* Values are mean ratings on the 1 to 10 scale. Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.006), gender (p<0.07), and age (p<0.08), and ideology (p<0.000)

AG11\_2 (For each statement, tell me how much you agree on a ten-point scale where 1 means you do not agree at all and 10 means you completely agree.) I approve of stem cell research if it is more tightly regulated

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+	Lib	Mod	Cons
APPROVE STEM CELLS WHILE TIGHTLY REGULATED	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.7	6.1	6.4	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.7	6.7	5.8

\* Values are mean ratings on the 1 to 10 scale. Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.000), age (p<0.02), and ideology (p<0.01)

AG11\_8 (For each statement, tell me how much you agree on a ten-point scale where 1 means you do not agree at all and 10 means you completely agree.) It is ethically wrong to use human embryos in medical research even if it might offer promising new treatments

	Tot	M	W	DEM	REP	IND	OTHER	<30	<45	<60	60+	Lib	Mod	Cons
ETHICALLY WRONG TO USE EMBRYOS	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.2	4.6	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.0	3.7	4.5	3.0	3.4	4.7

\* Values are mean ratings on the 1 to 10 scale. Differences are statistically significant by party ID (p<0.001), age (p<0.002), and ideology (p<0.000)

#### HOW THE POLL WAS DONE

This BADGER POLL™ was conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center as part of its ongoing program of research designed to benefit the research community and the people of Wisconsin. The Director of the poll operations is Danna Basson, UW Survey Center. The Faculty Director of the Poll content is Professor Katherine Cramer Walsh, Department of Political Science, UW-Madison. The BADGER POLL™ is intended to be a "poll of record" for the state, investigating matters of concern to Wisconsinites including politics, culture, and their daily lives, adhering to the highest standards of polling methodology and rigorous independence.

Results shown here are based on 508 persons who were randomly chosen within households with working telephone numbers and interviewed between June 23 and July 2, 2006. Telephone numbers were generated by computer. Theoretically, results from this survey have a "margin of error" of a little over +/- 4%. This means that, had we asked every potential voter in Wisconsin, exactly these questions at the time the survey was conducted, there is only a one in twenty chance that the answers would differ by more than that in either direction from what we report here. There could be differences because of changes in question wording, events occurring in the meantime, or any of the practical difficulties involved in taking a scientific survey. Results based on subgroups are subject to a larger "margin of error". Results reported here are based on weighted data.