

# Stem Cell Research and Conservative Opinion

**Draft:**           **Final**  
**N=**               600 Self-Identified Conservatives Nationally  
**Questions:**   40  
**Purpose:**       To determine attitudes towards stem cell research among conservative voters through a statistically valid vehicle. Provide data to share and/or release.

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I am calling from First Media Services, a national public opinion research company. Your household has been randomly selected as a participant. This is strictly for research purposes. Your answers are completely anonymous. We are not selling anything.

1.     Are you currently registered to vote?

- 100    Yes     **(CONTINUE)**
- No      **(Seek other member of household, if not, terminate)**

2.     In politics today, which ONE of the following best describes your political beliefs?

**(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 100    Conservative       **(CONTINUE)**
- Moderate           **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- Liberal             **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
- All other responses **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

3.     In politics, do you consider yourself closer to (rotate) the Republican party, closer to the Democratic party, or do you consider yourself an independent or closer to some other party?

64	Republican
18	Democrat
17	Independent
2	Don't Know

Thinking about an issue that has been in the news...

4. Have you seen, read, or heard anything recently about embryonic stem cell research?

61	Yes
34	No
5	Unsure
1	Refused

(ASK ONLY IF SEEN, READ, OR HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH)

5. What have you seen, read or heard?  
(PROBE: What else? Anything else?)

(ASK ALL)

6. Based on what you know about embryonic stem cell research, would you say you favor or oppose it?

(If FAVOR or OPPOSE, ask: And is that STRONGLY (choice) or just SOMEWHAT (choice)?)

<b>39</b>	<b>Total Favor</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Total Oppose</b>
18	Strongly Favor
21	Somewhat Favor
11	Somewhat Oppose
22	Strongly Oppose
25	Unsure/Need more info (VOL.)
3	Refused

7. In deciding on whether to vote for a candidate for either the U.S. Senate or Congress, which of the following issues is MOST important to you personally? The candidate's position on...(READ AND ROTATE CHOICES)

23	Taxes and spending
16	Jobs and economy
11	Abortion
10	Military, Defense and Foreign Policy
9	Terrorism and Homeland Security
8	Education
1	Embryonic Stem Cell Research
1	Environment
19	All (DNR)
1	None (DNR)
2	DK/Refused

8. Thinking some more about embryonic stem cell research...

How well do you think you could explain this topic to a family member or friend – very well, somewhat well, not very well, or not at all well?

<b>46</b>	<b>Total Well</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Total Not Well</b>
9	Very Well
37	Somewhat Well
30	Not Very Well
20	Not at All Well
4	Unsure
*	Refused

Now I'm going to give you some more information about embryonic stem cell research. After I do, I am going to ask you some more questions.

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* (in - vee - troh = like flow) 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...

(If SUPPORT or OPPOSE, ask: And is that STRONGLY (choice) or just SOMEWHAT (choice)?)

	Strongly Support 1	Somewhat Support 2	Somewhat Oppose 3	Strongly Oppose 4	Unsure 5		Ref. 6		
<b>(DO NOT RANDOMIZE)</b>	<b>Total Supp</b>	<b>Total Opp</b>	Str Supp	Smw Supp	Smw Opp	Str Opp	Unsu re	Ref	
9. Medical research using stem cells obtained from adults with their permission.	<b>79</b>	<b>16</b>	48	30	6	10	6	*	
10. Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos that have been destroyed in the past.	<b>52</b>	<b>39</b>	28	24	13	26	9	1	
11. Medical research using stem cells obtained from excess human embryos.	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	26	22	13	27	11	1	
12. Medical research using stem cells obtained from excess human embryos that are frozen in fertility clinics five days after an egg has been fertilized.	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	24	22	13	31	10	1	
13. Medical research using stem cells obtained from excess human embryos that are frozen in fertility clinics five days after an egg has been fertilized and have been donated by the parents.	<b>54</b>	<b>37</b>	31	23	9	28	9	1	
14. 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.	<b>56</b>	<b>36</b>	34	22	9	28	8	1	

15. In 2001 President Bush addressed the nation and announced his decision on how federal funds would be used for this research. I'm going to read you his decision, and please tell me if his decision: (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

President Bush announced that federal research funds would be made available for approximately 60 stem cell groups developed from embryos destroyed in the past, that federal research funds would NOT be made available for embryonic stem cell research that required the destruction of human embryos, and that the government would increase federal funding for research into adult stem cells.

What do you think? (READ CHOICES AGAIN IF NEEDED)

15	Went too far in supporting this research
46	Struck the right balance
26	Did not go far enough in supporting this research
12	Unsure (DO NOT READ)
1	Refused (Do Not Read)

16. Two years have passed since President Bush’s decision on this issue. Only 11 stem cell groups have become available for research so far and many scientists say that the research value of such a limited pool of cell groups is hindering progress in the search for cures.

I’m going to read you what some people are saying, and please tell me whom you agree with most: (DO **NOT** ROTATE)

23	<b>Group A</b> says there should be a ban on all embryonic stem cell research and no federal funding. They say research based on destroyed embryos is wrong.
23	<b>Group B</b> says that we should continue to research only those stem cell groups developed from embryos destroyed in the past. They say that destroying human embryos in order to create new stem cell groups is wrong and that the currently available stem cell groups are enough for scientists.
44	<b>Group C</b> says that President Bush’s decision should be broadened to include federal funding for research on stem cells developed from excess embryos frozen in fertility clinics. They say these excess embryos are almost certain to be discarded at the direction of couples that have successfully had children. But with a couple’s consent these frozen embryos could be used in research and bring us closer to important cures for diabetes, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, cancer, heart disease, severe burns and spinal cord injuries.
8	Unsure (DO NOT READ)
3	Refused (Do Not Read)

Survey Respondents Demographic information:

We're just about finished, and have just a few questions for statistical purposes...

- A. Which ONE of the following best describes how often you vote in Republican primary elections?

<b>70</b>	<b>Always/Most</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Some/Rarely</b>
45	Always
24	Most of the time
10	Some of the time
6	Rarely
14	Never
1	Refused

- B. What is your religion?

60	Any Protestant denomination including Baptist, Church of Christ, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.
21	Catholic
2	Mormon / LDS
7	Other Christian
1	Jewish
*	Muslim
1	Other
4	Atheist/Agnostic
4	Refused

(ASK ONLY IF PUNCHES 1, 2, OR 4 ABOVE)

- C. Do you consider yourself an Evangelical or Born-again Christian?

**n=600**

50	Yes
43	No
7	Refused

(ASK ALL)

- D. How often do you attend church or religious services?

<b>59</b>	<b>Once a week/Plus</b>
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13	Few times/Once a month
26	Several times, couple times/yr, Rarely, Never
23	More than once a week
36	Once a week
9	A few times a month
4	About once a month
7	Several times a year
7	A couple of times a year
8	Rarely
5	Never
3	Refused

E. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (Enter 9999 for refused)

14	18-34 years
15	35-44
21	45-54
20	55-64
17	65-74
10	75+
5	Refused

F. What is the last grade of formal education you have completed?

3	Less than high school graduate
25	High school graduate
28	Some college
26	College graduate
16	Post graduate
2	Refused ( <b>Do Not Read</b> )

G. Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic heritage? (Rotate 1-5)

88	White or Caucasian
5	African American or Black
3	Latino or Hispanic
2	Asian American
1	Native American
1	Other (specify) _____
2	DK/Refused (Do Not Read)

H. Gender (by observation)

53	Male
47	Female

I. State (FROM SAMPLE) \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

18	Northeast
25	Midwest
37	South
20	West

**Survey Concludes.**