

USA AI x-risk perception tracker

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We have started tracking changes in public opinion regarding AI x-risk in the USA every two—three months.

Sample is representative of USA general adult population by gender, age groups, and the four macro-regions (South, West, Midwest, and North-East). It is additionally re-weighted for consistency between waves. Each wave will have 500+ responses.

We ask a series of questions (in random order), each starting with “On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you disagree or agree that [...]?” with five options:

- “Strongly disagree” on the left and
- “Strongly agree” on the right.

Movement over time

Below is comparison of the two waves on the metric of % agreement (top 2 box):

	26 to 27 June 2023	27 to 28 August 2023	Significant difference
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	40%	39%	
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	59%	67%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	46%	53%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	64%	63%	
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	47%	44%	
the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	25%	20%	
there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	37%	31%	
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	66%	71%	
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	30%	27%	
N	504	499	

Significant differences were determined on a two-tailed z-test at a 5% significance level.

Results of the second wave: 27 to 28 August 2023

Sample size: 499

	Mean score (1 to 5 scale)	% agreement (top 2 box)
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	3.1	39%
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	3.8	67%
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	3.4	53%
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	3.8	63%
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	3.3	44%
the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	2.6	20%
there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	2.8	31%
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	4	72%
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	2.9	27%

Average margin of error for a 90% confidence interval ± 0.1 for the mean score and ± 4 p.p. for top 2 box (agreement percentage).

Results of the first wave: 26 to 27 June 2023

Sample size: 504

	Mean score (1 to 5 scale)	% agreement (top 2 box)
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	3.0	40%
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	3.6	59%
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	3.3	46%
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	3.8	64%
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	3.4	47%
the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	2.6	25%

there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	2.9	37%
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	3.8	66%
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	2.8	30%

Average margin of error for a 90% confidence interval ± 0.1 for the mean score and ± 4 p.p. for top 2 box (agreement percentage).

Correspondence analysis

Each cell shows the percentage of people who agree with the statement in the column (out of people who agree with the statement in the row).

This analysis is based on top-2-box percentages (unweighted).

	artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy
Percentage of people who think —, out of the people who think ↓									
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	100%	74%	65%	80%	61%	30%	28%	71%	29%
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	50%	100%	58%	76%	59%	28%	34%	71%	33%
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	57%	74%	100%	79%	55%	28%	30%	72%	30%
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	51%	71%	57%	100%	55%	28%	30%	71%	28%
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	53%	75%	54%	75%	100%	37%	39%	75%	43%
the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	49%	66%	53%	72%	69%	100%	65%	75%	64%
there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	31%	57%	39%	54%	51%	45%	100%	72%	50%
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	44%	65%	51%	69%	54%	28%	39%	100%	38%
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	38%	66%	46%	60%	67%	52%	60%	82%	100%

Correlation analysis

This analysis is based on the raw 1-to-5 scores (unweighted).

	artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy
artificial intelligence (AI) poses grave dangers (such as human extinction) in the next few years	1.0								
in a matter of a few years, artificial intelligence (AI) companies can develop capabilities of AI above human level	0.3	1.0							
you cannot simply switch off a sufficiently advanced artificial intelligence (AI) system if it does not want to be switched off	0.4	0.3	1.0						
governments must implement a pause on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, at least until there are solutions to make AI development safe	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0					
an international moratorium on advancing artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities is viable and can be effective	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.0				
the US government is doing enough to regulate the artificial intelligence (AI) industry	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	1.0			
there is no risk of human extinction from artificial intelligence (AI)	-0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.5	1.0		
artists and content creators should be paid if their work is used in training artificial intelligence (AI) models	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.0	
software that uses artificial intelligence (AI) is trustworthy	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.0