

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



Sample 2,023 Adults in the U.S.
Margin of Error ±2.8 points

6. Do you personally believe that there is intelligent life on other planets, or not?

Yes 63%
No 37%

7. When, if at all, do you think we will have contact with intelligent life from other planets?

In the next 20 years 8%
In the next 50 years 8%
In the next 100 years 7%
Further in the future 23%
Never 33%
Already has been contact 21%

8. If intelligent beings from other planets were on Earth, which best describes how you would personally feel about meeting them? Would you feel... CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Curious 67%
Nervous 47%
Excited 32%
Scared 31%
Vulnerable 21%
Calm 14%

9. Do you think reports of UFOs - or Unidentified Flying Objects..?

Might sometimes be the result of alien spacecrafts visiting Earth 51%
Are always the result of human or natural activity that come from Earth 49%

10. As you may know, the federal government recently released files and videos related to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP), also known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). How much have you heard or read about this?

A lot 13%
Some 44%
Not much 43%

11. Have you seen any of these videos released by the federal government?

Yes, many 6%
Yes, some 35%
No 59%

12. Do you think the U.S. government knows more about UFOs than it is telling the general public, or do you think the U.S. government has told the general public everything it knows about UFOs?

Knows more than it is telling 84%
Has told all it knows 16%

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13. From what you know, do the files and videos released by the federal government make you more or less likely to believe that alien life has visited Earth?

More likely	29%
Less likely	14%
Not impact	57%

14. Have you, yourself, ever seen anything you thought was a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object)?

Yes, I have	17%
No, I have not	83%

* Questions held for future release.

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6. Does Intelligent Life Exist on other Planets

Do you personally believe that there is intelligent life on other planets, or not?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	63%	65%	61%	62%	66%	64%	60%	75%	63%	54%
No	37%	35%	39%	38%	34%	36%	40%	25%	37%	46%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,012)	(977)	(1,036)	(420)	(502)	(662)	(428)	(522)	(656)	(591)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	63%	69%	67%	54%	62%	60%	67%	62%	64%
No	37%	31%	33%	46%	38%	40%	33%	38%	36%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,012)	(587)	(692)	(599)	(1,265)	(253)	(317)	(785)	(480)

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7. When Will We Have Contact with Alien Intelligent Life

When, if at all, do you think we will have contact with intelligent life from other planets?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
In the next 20 years	8%	8%	8%	8%	10%	9%	7%	6%	9%	8%
In the next 50 years	8%	9%	7%	6%	8%	9%	8%	8%	9%	8%
In the next 100 years	7%	7%	7%	11%	6%	6%	5%	12%	7%	5%
Further in the future	23%	24%	22%	31%	23%	19%	20%	28%	26%	14%
Never	33%	32%	34%	29%	32%	33%	38%	27%	29%	44%
Already has been contact	21%	20%	22%	15%	21%	24%	22%	19%	20%	21%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,013)	(978)	(1,035)	(418)	(505)	(661)	(429)	(522)	(655)	(592)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
In the next 20 years	8%	7%	9%	9%	9%	4%	11%	8%	10%
In the next 50 years	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%	7%	10%
In the next 100 years	7%	8%	8%	4%	8%	5%	3%	8%	8%
Further in the future	23%	30%	23%	15%	20%	28%	27%	18%	22%
Never	33%	28%	30%	43%	35%	33%	29%	36%	35%
Already has been contact	21%	18%	22%	21%	20%	21%	21%	23%	15%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,013)	(587)	(691)	(601)	(1,269)	(250)	(317)	(790)	(479)

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8. Feel about Meeting Alien Intelligent Life

If intelligent beings from other planets were on Earth, which best describes how you would personally feel about meeting them? Would you feel... CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Curious	67%	71%	64%	72%	65%	66%	67%	77%	65%	64%
Nervous	47%	43%	50%	52%	47%	46%	42%	52%	46%	42%
Excited	32%	36%	29%	42%	36%	27%	26%	43%	28%	28%
Scared	31%	23%	38%	29%	36%	32%	24%	27%	34%	28%
Vulnerable	21%	20%	22%	22%	23%	20%	20%	23%	21%	20%
Calm	14%	17%	11%	20%	14%	14%	9%	9%	15%	15%
Weighted N	(2,023)	(981)	(1,042)	(423)	(508)	(662)	(430)	(524)	(661)	(593)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Curious	67%	73%	68%	62%	67%	63%	70%	67%	69%
Nervous	47%	52%	47%	42%	47%	45%	48%	47%	47%
Excited	32%	38%	33%	26%	32%	32%	27%	31%	34%
Scared	31%	33%	28%	28%	28%	33%	39%	27%	30%
Vulnerable	21%	23%	21%	19%	22%	20%	22%	19%	26%
Calm	14%	13%	15%	12%	12%	21%	12%	14%	10%
Weighted N	(2,023)	(588)	(696)	(603)	(1,274)	(253)	(320)	(791)	(483)

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9. Reports of UFOs

Do you think reports of UFOs - or Unidentified Flying Objects..?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Might sometimes be the result of alien spacecrafts visiting Earth	51%	51%	52%	38%	52%	56%	56%	52%	51%	50%
Are always the result of human or natural activity that come from Earth	49%	49%	48%	62%	48%	44%	44%	48%	49%	50%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,007)	(975)	(1,033)	(417)	(500)	(662)	(428)	(522)	(655)	(589)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Might sometimes be the result of alien spacecrafts visiting Earth	51%	51%	54%	49%	51%	47%	57%	53%	46%
Are always the result of human or natural activity that come from Earth	49%	49%	46%	51%	49%	53%	43%	47%	54%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,007)	(587)	(687)	(602)	(1,268)	(250)	(317)	(789)	(479)

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10. Heard about Federal Government Releasing UFO Files

As you may know, the federal government recently released files and videos related to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP), also known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). How much have you heard or read about this?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
A lot	13%	18%	8%	15%	14%	13%	9%	12%	12%	15%
Some	44%	49%	39%	41%	40%	45%	50%	49%	43%	45%
Not much	43%	33%	53%	44%	46%	42%	41%	39%	45%	40%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,019)	(979)	(1,040)	(423)	(508)	(661)	(428)	(524)	(659)	(591)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
A lot	13%	11%	15%	14%	12%	17%	13%	12%	13%
Some	44%	45%	43%	44%	46%	28%	45%	44%	50%
Not much	43%	44%	42%	42%	41%	55%	42%	44%	37%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,019)	(588)	(693)	(602)	(1,270)	(253)	(320)	(789)	(482)

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11. Seen Federal Government UFO Videos

Have you seen any of these videos released by the federal government?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes, many	6%	8%	4%	4%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%	7%
Yes, some	35%	42%	28%	40%	29%	36%	37%	36%	36%	37%
No	59%	50%	68%	55%	64%	58%	58%	58%	58%	56%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,019)	(979)	(1,040)	(423)	(507)	(660)	(429)	(523)	(661)	(590)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes, many	6%	4%	7%	6%	7%	7%	3%	6%	7%
Yes, some	35%	35%	36%	36%	36%	32%	34%	36%	37%
No	59%	61%	57%	58%	57%	61%	63%	58%	55%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,019)	(587)	(695)	(601)	(1,270)	(253)	(320)	(789)	(481)

12. Government Know More about UFOs Than It Is Telling?

Do you think the U.S. government knows more about UFOs than it is telling the general public, or do you think the U.S. government has told the general public everything it knows about UFOs?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Knows more than it is telling	84%	83%	86%	78%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	82%
Has told all it knows	16%	17%	14%	22%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	18%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,009)	(974)	(1,035)	(416)	(506)	(660)	(427)	(522)	(653)	(589)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Knows more than it is telling	84%	85%	85%	83%	84%	81%	88%	85%	83%
Has told all it knows	16%	15%	15%	17%	16%	19%	12%	15%	17%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,009)	(585)	(688)	(602)	(1,272)	(248)	(315)	(789)	(483)

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13. Government Videos Make You More Likely to Believe Alien Life Has Visited Earth?

From what you know, do the files and videos released by the federal government make you more or less likely to believe that alien life has visited Earth?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
More likely	29%	27%	30%	25%	28%	30%	30%	27%	28%	31%
Less likely	14%	14%	14%	24%	12%	12%	10%	14%	13%	14%
Not impact	57%	59%	56%	50%	60%	57%	60%	59%	59%	55%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,020)	(981)	(1,039)	(423)	(508)	(659)	(430)	(523)	(659)	(593)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
More likely	29%	28%	25%	34%	27%	29%	36%	28%	25%
Less likely	14%	15%	14%	14%	12%	18%	17%	14%	9%
Not impact	57%	57%	61%	52%	60%	53%	47%	57%	65%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%
Weighted N	(2,020)	(588)	(695)	(601)	(1,271)	(253)	(320)	(789)	(481)

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14. Ever Seen a UFO

Have you, yourself, ever seen anything you thought was a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object)?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes, I have	17%	21%	14%	14%	18%	20%	15%	17%	17%	18%
No, I have not	83%	79%	86%	86%	82%	80%	85%	83%	83%	82%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,021)	(980)	(1,041)	(423)	(508)	(662)	(428)	(523)	(661)	(592)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes, I have	17%	16%	21%	16%	18%	11%	19%	21%	14%
No, I have not	83%	84%	79%	84%	82%	89%	81%	79%	86%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,021)	(588)	(695)	(602)	(1,271)	(253)	(320)	(789)	(482)

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED AND THE MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED

The CBS News/YouGov survey of 2,023 adults in the U.S. was conducted between June 2-4, 2026.

This sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, and education based on the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, and 2024 Presidential vote. Respondents were selected to be representative of adults nationwide. The weights range from 0.1 to 5.0, 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 points. 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.