

Trust in scientists nosedives post pandemic with deeper slide among Republicans

Overall, 57% of Americans say science has had a mostly positive effect on society. This share is down 8 percentage points since November 2021 and down 16 points since before the start of the coronavirus outbreak.

About a third (34%) now say the impact of science on society has been equally positive as negative. A small share (8%) think science has had a mostly negative impact on society.

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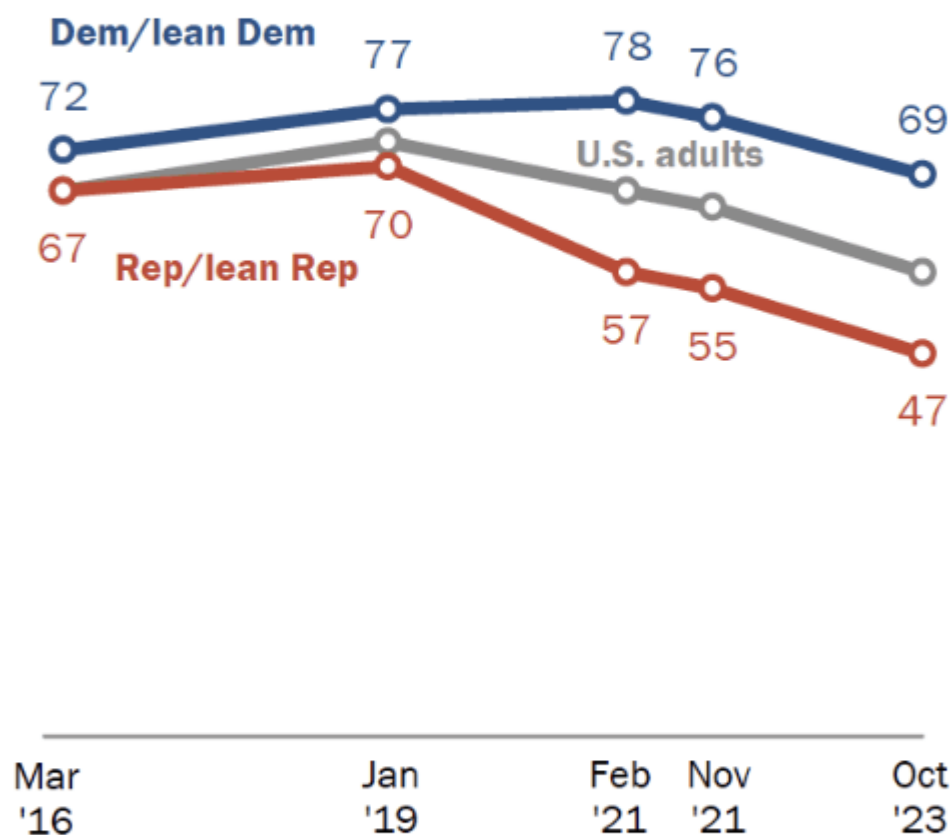
One of the starkest illustrations of polarization in views of science is the drop in the share of Republicans who view the societal impact of science positively.

Fewer than half of Republicans (47%) now say that science has had a mostly positive effect on society. In 2019, 70% of Republicans said that science has had a mostly positive effect.

A majority of Democrats (69%) continue to say science has had a mostly positive effect on society, though this share is 8 points lower than it was in 2019.

Republicans turn much less positive on science's impact on society

% of U.S. adults who say science has had a **mostly positive** effect on society



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 2023. "Americans' Trust in Scientists, Positive Views of Science Continue to Decline"

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