

FSS Public Opinion Survey
Round 2 Pretest

READ: Now I have some questions on a different topic. At a few points throughout this next series, I will ask you to tell me why you chose your answer to that question. This will be helpful information as we try to understand how different people interpret our questions.

First I will ask you about six different numbers that you may have heard of or read about on the radio, TV, newspapers, the Internet, or somewhere else.

1. Do you happen to know who measures the unemployment rate in the U.S.? (DO NOT READ)

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Labor
- Census Bureau
- Department of Commerce
- Unemployment Bureau/Department
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Media/TV/News
- Gallup
- Other

2. Do you happen to know who measures the total number of people in the U.S., or the population count? (DO NOT READ)

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Labor
- Census Bureau
- Department of Commerce
- Unemployment Bureau/Department
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Media/TV/News
- Gallup
- Other

3.. Do you happen to know who measures the poverty rate in the U.S.? (DO NOT READ)

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Labor
- Census Bureau
- Department of Commerce
- Health and Human Services
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Media/TV/News
- Gallup
- Other

4. Do you happen to know who **measures** the number of deaths in the U.S. caused by different diseases? (DO NOT READ)

- National Center for Health Statistics
- Health and Human Services
- Centers for Diseases Control
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Media/TV/News
- Gallup
- Hospitals/Doctors
- Other

5. Do you happen to know who measures the crime rate in the U.S.? (DO NOT READ)

- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Department of Justice
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Media/TV/News
- Gallup
- Police
- Other

6. Do you happen to know who measures the U.S. Consumer Price Index **or CPI**? (DO NOT READ)

- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Department of Labor
- Census Bureau
- Department of Commerce
- Federal Government
- State Government
- Media/TV/News
- Gallup
- Private Company
- Other

7. Numbers like the ones I just mentioned are federal statistics produced by federal statistical agencies that are part of the federal government. Have you ever *used* federal statistics for study or work?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 (DK)
- 4 (Refused)

8. When important decisions need to be made based on statistics, which of the following sources is the most believable to you: (Read and rotate 1-5)

- 1 A University
- 2 An agency of the Federal government

- 3 A private company
- 4 A political party
- 5 The Media
- 6 (None)
- 7 (DK)
- 8 (Refused)

9. Personally, how much trust do you have in the federal statistics in the United States? Would you say that you tend to trust federal statistics or tend not to trust them?
- 1 Tend to trust them
 - 2 Tend not to trust them
 - 3 (DK)
 - 4 (Refused)

Please tell me whether you Strongly agree, Somewhat agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat disagree, or Strongly disagree with the following statements:

- 5 Strongly agree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 3 Neither agree nor disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 1 Strongly disagree
- 6 (DK)
- 7 (Refused)

10. Policy makers need federal statistics to make good decisions about things like federal funding.
11. State and local government officials need federal statistics to make good decisions about things like where to locate hospitals and schools.
12. Statistics provided by federal agencies are generally accurate.
13. The unemployment rate gives a true picture of what is happening to unemployment.
14. Statistics provided by federal agencies are often biased.
15. Elected officials interfere with the production of statistics by federal agencies.
16. Federal statistics are made public only if approved by the president or congress.

17. People can trust federal statistical agencies to keep information about them confidential.

18. Federal statistical agencies give personal information about people to the IRS.

19. Federal statistical agencies give personal information about people to marketing firms.

20. People can easily find out exactly how federal statistics are produced.

21. Federal statistical agencies are honest.

22. Federal statistical agencies have the experts they need to produce high quality statistics.

23. Private companies could produce more accurate statistics than Federal statistical agencies.

Now I'm going to read you a list of organizations in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one – a great deal, quite a lot, some or very little? (Read and rotate Q24-Q27)

- 4 A great deal
- 3 Quite a lot
- 2 Some
- 1 Very little
- 5 (DK)
- 6 (Refused)

24. Newspapers

25. The military

26. Federal statistical agencies

27. Congress

In order to produce statistics, federal agencies can ask people for information in a survey or get it from another source. If you knew your name and other information would never be singled out and would only be used for statistics, would you prefer that federal statistical agencies:

29. Ask you for your employment information in a survey -- or ask a state agency, like the employment or workforce office for it?

- 1 Ask me in a survey
- 2 Ask a state agency
- 3 (Neither)
- 4 (DK)
- 5 (Refused)

30. Ask you for information on your use of healthcare services in a survey -- or ask your insurance company for it?

- 1 Ask me in a survey
- 2 Ask my insurance company
- 3 (Neither)
- 4 (DK)
- 5 (Refused)

31. Ask you for information on your purchases in a survey -- or use commercial records, like grocery store loyalty cards?]

- 1 Ask me in a survey
- 2 Use commercial records
- 3 (Neither)
- 4 (DK)
- 5 (Refused)