

# Five Americas of AI Concern

## Topline Questionnaire and Survey Results

Justin Miller, MATS 9.0 Fellow · Mentor: David Krueger · RM: Elise Racine  
 Fielded February 2026 via Prolific · N=2,735 U.S. adults  
 fiveamericas.ai

**Survey flow:** 2,735 U.S. adults recruited via Prolific → Q1 screener on 8 national issues → 735 screened out (not sufficiently concerned about AI) → N=2,000 analytical sample → Q2–Q12A (attitudes) → 9 message framings presented → Q12B (safety/speed re-ask) → Q13–Q16 (persuadability, barriers, AI literacy) → Q17 (open-ended) → Q18 (focus group interest)

### SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS (FULL SAMPLE, N=2,735)

Gender		
Female	52%	(1,410)
Male	48%	(1,322)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
Political Affiliation		
Democrat	42%	(1,124)
Independent	28%	(734)
Republican	26%	(698)
Other	3%	(70)
Prefer not to say	1%	(23)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,649)</b>
Education		
Undergraduate degree (BA/BSc/other)	35%	(952)
High school diploma/A-levels	25%	(691)
Technical/community college	20%	(545)
Graduate degree (MA/MSc/MPhil/other)	14%	(379)
Doctorate degree (PhD/other)	3%	(90)
Secondary education (e.g. GED/GCSE)	2%	(53)
No formal qualifications	1%	(20)
Don't know / not applicable	0%	(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
Has Children		
Yes	54%	(1,471)
No	46%	(1,261)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
Age		
18-29	16%	(437)
30-44	33%	(907)

45-59	<b>21%</b>	(583)
60+	<b>29%</b>	(805)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>

**Race/Ethnicity**

White	<b>78%</b>	(2,138)
Black	<b>9%</b>	(259)
Mixed	<b>5%</b>	(148)
Asian	<b>5%</b>	(125)
Other	<b>2%</b>	(53)
Prefer not to say	<b>0%</b>	(11)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,734)</b>

**Region**

South	<b>40%</b>	(1,104)
Midwest	<b>22%</b>	(595)
West	<b>21%</b>	(582)
Northeast	<b>17%</b>	(451)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>

**Employment Status**

Full-time	<b>46%</b>	(1,213)
Not in paid work (homemaker, retired, or disabled)	<b>22%</b>	(574)
Part-time	<b>16%</b>	(420)
Unemployed (and job seeking)	<b>10%</b>	(274)
Other	<b>6%</b>	(155)
Due to start a new job within the next month	<b>1%</b>	(21)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,657)</b>

**AI Use at Work**

*Prolific platform prescreener. Not available for all respondents.*

Never	<b>39%</b>	(866)
2-6 times a week	<b>21%</b>	(463)
Once a week	<b>17%</b>	(369)
Multiple times every day	<b>12%</b>	(260)
Every day	<b>11%</b>	(241)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,199)</b>

**Q1: NATIONAL CONCERN (FULL SAMPLE, N=2,735)**

*ASK ALL: "How concerned are you about each of the following national issues?"*

**The economy and jobs**

Extremely concerned	<b>38%</b>	(1,040)
Very concerned	<b>36%</b>	(980)
Somewhat concerned	<b>20%</b>	(545)
Not too concerned	<b>5%</b>	(134)
Not at all concerned	<b>1%</b>	(29)
Not sure	<b>0%</b>	(4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>

<b>Healthcare</b>		
Extremely concerned	<b>42%</b>	(1,148)
Very concerned	<b>32%</b>	(871)
Somewhat concerned	<b>19%</b>	(524)
Not too concerned	<b>5%</b>	(135)
Not at all concerned	<b>2%</b>	(48)
Not sure	<b>0%</b>	(6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
<b>Immigration</b>		
Somewhat concerned	<b>24%</b>	(652)
Very concerned	<b>21%</b>	(578)
Not too concerned	<b>21%</b>	(576)
Extremely concerned	<b>20%</b>	(554)
Not at all concerned	<b>13%</b>	(352)
Not sure	<b>1%</b>	(20)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
<b>Crime and public safety</b>		
Somewhat concerned	<b>32%</b>	(870)
Very concerned	<b>29%</b>	(793)
Extremely concerned	<b>21%</b>	(564)
Not too concerned	<b>15%</b>	(407)
Not at all concerned	<b>3%</b>	(92)
Not sure	<b>0%</b>	(6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
<b>Climate change</b>		
Extremely concerned	<b>31%</b>	(836)
Very concerned	<b>24%</b>	(661)
Somewhat concerned	<b>20%</b>	(546)
Not at all concerned	<b>13%</b>	(352)
Not too concerned	<b>12%</b>	(327)
Not sure	<b>0%</b>	(10)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
<b>Artificial intelligence</b>		
Somewhat concerned	<b>31%</b>	(853)
Very concerned	<b>22%</b>	(596)
Extremely concerned	<b>20%</b>	(557)
Not too concerned	<b>19%</b>	(531)
Not at all concerned	<b>7%</b>	(186)
Not sure	<b>0%</b>	(9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>
<b>Terrorism and national security</b>		
Somewhat concerned	<b>32%</b>	(887)
Very concerned	<b>27%</b>	(751)
Extremely concerned	<b>21%</b>	(563)
Not too concerned	<b>15%</b>	(404)

Not at all concerned	4%	(113)
Not sure	1%	(14)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>

**Housing costs**

Extremely concerned	38%	(1,036)
Very concerned	33%	(892)
Somewhat concerned	20%	(555)
Not too concerned	7%	(189)
Not at all concerned	2%	(55)
Not sure	0%	(5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>

**Q2: Issue Priority — Ranked #1**

*"Please rank these issues from most to least important."*

The economy and jobs	29%	(794)
Healthcare	23%	(616)
Climate change	13%	(366)
Housing costs	9%	(256)
Immigration	9%	(239)
Crime and public safety	6%	(177)
Terrorism and War	6%	(169)
Artificial intelligence	4%	(115)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,732)</b>

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**Q3A: AI CONCERN AWARENESS (CONCERNED SAMPLE, N=2,000)**

"Are you concerned about each of the following potential effects of AI?" Sorted by % Yes.

**% selecting Yes**

Misinformation and deepfakes	<b>82%</b>	(1,650)
Job losses and economic disruption	<b>76%</b>	(1,520)
Privacy and surveillance	<b>72%</b>	(1,440)
Cybercrime, scams and fraud	<b>71%</b>	(1,415)
Large-scale harm (bioweapons, cyberattacks)	<b>64%</b>	(1,280)
Impact on children and development	<b>63%</b>	(1,269)
AI mistakes in important decisions	<b>62%</b>	(1,246)
Stealing creative works	<b>58%</b>	(1,153)
Environmental impact of data centers	<b>58%</b>	(1,153)
AI in weapons and warfare	<b>57%</b>	(1,141)
Bias and discrimination	<b>47%</b>	(940)
Concentration of power	<b>47%</b>	(939)
AI developing conflicting goals	<b>39%</b>	(784)
Human extinction or mass casualties	<b>28%</b>	(570)

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**Q3B: TOP 3 AI CONCERNS (CONCERNED SAMPLE, N=2,000)**

"Which three of these concern you the most?" Sorted by % selected.

**% selecting as top 3**

Misinformation and deepfakes	<b>47%</b>	(935)
Job losses and economic disruption	<b>46%</b>	(929)
Privacy and surveillance	<b>29%</b>	(589)
Environmental impact of data centers	<b>24%</b>	(478)
Impact on children and development	<b>24%</b>	(471)
Cybercrime, scams and fraud	<b>22%</b>	(430)
Large-scale harm (bioweapons, cyberattacks)	<b>20%</b>	(410)
AI in weapons and warfare	<b>15%</b>	(306)
Concentration of power	<b>15%</b>	(296)
AI mistakes in important decisions	<b>13%</b>	(256)
Stealing creative works	<b>10%</b>	(207)
Human extinction or mass casualties	<b>8%</b>	(166)
AI developing conflicting goals	<b>8%</b>	(157)
Bias and discrimination	<b>7%</b>	(132)

**Q4-Q12A: AI ATTITUDES, PRE-MESSAGES (CONCERNED SAMPLE, N=2,000)**

**Q4: How concerned are you about the potential negative effects of AI on society?**

Very concerned	<b>39%</b>	(779)
Somewhat concerned	<b>33%</b>	(665)
Extremely concerned	<b>26%</b>	(513)
Not too concerned	<b>2%</b>	(39)
Not at all concerned	<b>0%</b>	(2)
Not sure	<b>0%</b>	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q5: Does the increased use of AI in daily life make you feel...**

More concerned than excited	<b>54%</b>	(1,078)
Equally concerned and excited	<b>34%</b>	(681)
More excited than concerned	<b>9%</b>	(188)
Not sure	<b>3%</b>	(52)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q6: How much will AI negatively affect you personally in the coming years?**

Some	<b>35%</b>	(692)
A moderate amount	<b>26%</b>	(515)
Not too much	<b>23%</b>	(458)
A great deal	<b>11%</b>	(217)
Not sure	<b>3%</b>	(68)
Not at all	<b>2%</b>	(49)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q7: How much will AI negatively affect future generations?**

A great deal	<b>51%</b>	(1,018)
A moderate amount	<b>29%</b>	(570)
Some	<b>15%</b>	(296)
Not too much	<b>3%</b>	(60)
Not sure	<b>2%</b>	(46)
Not at all	<b>0%</b>	(9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q8: How much would a candidate's AI regulation position affect your vote?**

It would be a significant factor among several	<b>52%</b>	(1,041)
It would be a minor factor	<b>32%</b>	(630)
It would be one of the most important factors	<b>6%</b>	(129)
It would not affect my vote at all	<b>5%</b>	(109)
Not sure	<b>5%</b>	(90)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q9: Which comes closest to your view on AI development?**

AI development should continue but with much stronger government oversight and regulation	<b>53%</b>	(1,059)
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AI development should be paused or slowed down significantly until we know it is safe.	<b>33%</b>	(656)
I don't know enough to have an opinion	<b>7%</b>	(133)
Current levels of oversight are about right	<b>6%</b>	(121)
There is too much regulation of AI already; development should be less restricted	<b>2%</b>	(30)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q10: How much do you trust AI companies to develop AI responsibly?**

Not at all	<b>37%</b>	(741)
Not very much	<b>36%</b>	(720)
Somewhat	<b>23%</b>	(454)
A great deal	<b>3%</b>	(55)
Not sure	<b>1%</b>	(29)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q11: How much do you trust the government to regulate AI effectively?**

Not very much	<b>39%</b>	(777)
Not at all	<b>35%</b>	(690)
Somewhat	<b>22%</b>	(442)
A great deal	<b>3%</b>	(56)
Not sure	<b>2%</b>	(34)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

**Q12A: Safety vs. Speed (pre-messages)**

*"When it comes to the U.S. government's approach to AI, which of the following statements comes closer to your personal view?" Random half-sample asked before messages.*

The government should prioritize creating safety rules for AI, even if that means the U.S. develops AI more slowly than countries like China	<b>80%</b>	(809)
Not sure	<b>10%</b>	(105)
The government should prioritize developing AI as fast as possible to compete with countries like China, even if that means fewer safety rules for now	<b>10%</b>	(98)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,012)</b>

## MESSAGE EXPERIMENT: 9 POLICY ARGUMENT FRAMINGS (CONCERNED SAMPLE)

All respondents read all 9 messages in randomized order. Each rated on convincingness, worry change, and perceived tone.

### Message A: Light Touch Transparency

"AI technology is advancing rapidly and affecting more areas of our lives—from hiring decisions to medical diagnoses to what we see online. Like other powerful technologies, AI needs clear rules and oversight to make sure it's developed safely and benefits everyone, not just tech companies. We need commonsense regulations that protect people while allowing innovation to continue."

#### Convincingness

Very convincing	<b>46%</b>	(925)
Somewhat convincing	<b>42%</b>	(834)
Not very convincing	<b>11%</b>	(213)
Not at all convincing	<b>1%</b>	(27)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

#### Worry change

No change	<b>73%</b>	(1,451)
More worried about AI	<b>20%</b>	(400)
Less worried about AI	<b>7%</b>	(148)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

#### Perceived tone

Realistic	<b>78%</b>	(1,558)
Not Sure	<b>9%</b>	(177)
Dismissive	<b>6%</b>	(118)
Alarmist	<b>4%</b>	(76)
Exaggerated	<b>4%</b>	(70)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

### Message B: Consumer Protection

"AI companies are rushing products to market without adequate testing. AI systems are already making mistakes that affect real people—wrongly denying loans, making errors in medical settings, and spreading false information. Just as we require safety testing for cars and drugs, we need independent testing and safety standards for AI before these systems are used in high-stakes decisions about people's lives."

#### Convincingness

Very convincing	<b>47%</b>	(944)
Somewhat convincing	<b>37%</b>	(733)
Not very convincing	<b>13%</b>	(263)
Not at all convincing	<b>3%</b>	(58)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>

#### Worry change

More Worried about AI	<b>54%</b>	(1,087)
No Change	<b>44%</b>	(887)
Less Worried about AI	<b>1%</b>	(25)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

#### Perceived tone

Realistic	<b>57%</b>	(1,132)
Alarmist	<b>23%</b>	(451)
Exaggerated	<b>16%</b>	(310)
Not Sure	<b>4%</b>	(80)
Dismissive	<b>1%</b>	(26)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

### Message C: Jobs & Economic

"AI is projected to affect millions of jobs in the coming years. Without proper planning, this could devastate communities across America. We need policies that ensure AI benefits workers, not just shareholders—including job transition programs, education investments, and rules that prevent AI from being used to exploit workers or drive down wages."

*Convincingness*

Very convincing	<b>52%</b>	(1,044)
Somewhat convincing	<b>38%</b>	(755)
Not very convincing	<b>9%</b>	(173)
Not at all convincing	<b>1%</b>	(26)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>

*Worry change*

No change	<b>51%</b>	(1,028)
More worried about AI	<b>46%</b>	(921)
Less worried about AI	<b>2%</b>	(49)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>

*Perceived tone*

Realistic	<b>75%</b>	(1,493)
Alarmist	<b>10%</b>	(191)
Exaggerated	<b>9%</b>	(182)
Not Sure	<b>5%</b>	(91)
Dismissive	<b>2%</b>	(41)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>

### Message D: Technical Safety

"Leading AI researchers, including many who built these systems, are warning that current AI development practices are inadequate. These systems are becoming more powerful but we don't fully understand how they work or how to ensure they behave as intended. Before deploying AI in critical areas, we need better testing methods and safety standards—the same way we'd want safety testing before a new aircraft carries passengers."

*Convincingness*

Very convincing	<b>55%</b>	(1,105)
Somewhat convincing	<b>38%</b>	(756)
Not very convincing	<b>6%</b>	(125)
Not at all convincing	<b>1%</b>	(13)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

*Worry change*

No Change	<b>55%</b>	(1,106)
More Worried	<b>40%</b>	(809)
Less Worried	<b>4%</b>	(84)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

*Perceived tone*

Realistic	<b>78%</b>	(1,569)
Alarmist	<b>9%</b>	(187)
Exaggerated	<b>6%</b>	(111)
Not Sure	<b>5%</b>	(102)
Dismissive	<b>2%</b>	(30)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

### Message E: Democratic Control

"Decisions about AI's role in society shouldn't be made by a handful of tech executives in Silicon Valley. AI affects all of us, so the public should have a voice in how it's developed and deployed. We need democratic oversight—not just industry self-regulation—to ensure AI serves the common good and doesn't concentrate power in the hands of a few corporations."

*Convincingness*

Very convincing	<b>52%</b>	(1,046)
Somewhat convincing	<b>37%</b>	(733)
Not very convincing	<b>9%</b>	(177)
Not at all convincing	<b>2%</b>	(43)

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**Total** **100%** (n=1,999)

*Worry change*

No change	<b>66%</b>	(1,325)
More worried about AI	<b>29%</b>	(583)
Less worried about AI	<b>5%</b>	(91)

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**Total** **100%** (n=1,999)

*Perceived tone*

Realistic	<b>78%</b>	(1,561)
Not Sure	<b>8%</b>	(152)
Alarmist	<b>6%</b>	(113)
Exaggerated	<b>5%</b>	(107)
Dismissive	<b>3%</b>	(66)

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**Total** **100%** (n=1,999)

**Message F: Existential Risk (International Treaty)**

"Many leading AI scientists believe advanced AI could pose catastrophic risks to humanity if developed without adequate safeguards. Some compare it to nuclear weapons—a technology so powerful that getting it wrong could be irreversible. We may only have a few years to establish effective global safety measures before AI systems become too powerful to control. The stakes couldn't be higher."

*Convincingness*

Somewhat convincing	<b>43%</b>	(866)
Very convincing	<b>30%</b>	(599)
Not very convincing	<b>22%</b>	(443)
Not at all convincing	<b>5%</b>	(91)

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**Total** **100%** (n=1,999)

*Worry change*

No change	<b>53%</b>	(1,065)
More worried about AI	<b>44%</b>	(879)
Less worried about AI	<b>3%</b>	(55)

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**Total** **100%** (n=1,999)

*Perceived tone*

Realistic	<b>41%</b>	(815)
Alarmist	<b>31%</b>	(622)
Exaggerated	<b>21%</b>	(422)
Not Sure	<b>5%</b>	(108)
Dismissive	<b>2%</b>	(32)

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**Total** **100%** (n=1,999)

**Message G: Children & Family**

"AI is already affecting our children—through social media algorithms, AI tutors, chatbots they interact with, and decisions that affect their futures. Kids are particularly vulnerable to manipulation and harms from these systems. Parents deserve the right to know how AI is being used with their children, and we need strong protections to keep young people safe from AI-related harms."

*Convincingness*

Very convincing	<b>59%</b>	(1,189)
Somewhat convincing	<b>34%</b>	(676)
Not very convincing	<b>5%</b>	(109)
Not at all convincing	<b>1%</b>	(25)

<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>
<i>Worry change</i>		
More worried about AI	<b>58%</b>	(1,166)
No change	<b>41%</b>	(810)
Less worried about AI	<b>1%</b>	(23)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>
<i>Perceived tone</i>		
Realistic	<b>77%</b>	(1,534)
Alarmist	<b>13%</b>	(255)
Exaggerated	<b>6%</b>	(129)
Not Sure	<b>3%</b>	(61)
Dismissive	<b>1%</b>	(20)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

### Message H: Existential Risk (Pause)

"We are facing a potential extinction-level threat. Advanced AI systems could, within our lifetimes, become impossible for humans to control. If we don't act immediately and dramatically—including halting the most dangerous AI research—we risk the end of human civilization. This is not science fiction; many of the world's top AI researchers are sounding the alarm. We need emergency action now."

#### *Convincingness*

Somewhat convincing	<b>36%</b>	(710)
Not very convincing	<b>33%</b>	(655)
Very convincing	<b>20%</b>	(402)
Not at all convincing	<b>12%</b>	(232)

<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>
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#### *Worry change*

No change	<b>58%</b>	(1,156)
More worried about AI	<b>39%</b>	(784)
Less worried about AI	<b>3%</b>	(59)

<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>
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#### *Perceived tone*

Alarmist	<b>43%</b>	(858)
Exaggerated	<b>30%</b>	(599)
Realistic	<b>22%</b>	(449)
Not Sure	<b>4%</b>	(76)
Dismissive	<b>1%</b>	(17)

<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>
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### Message I: US Competitiveness (Counter)

"If the United States slows down AI development with heavy regulations, China will race ahead and dominate this critical technology. American AI companies need the freedom to innovate and compete. Excessive regulation would hand our greatest technological advantage to our rivals and threaten our national security."

#### *Convincingness*

Somewhat convincing	<b>41%</b>	(817)
Very convincing	<b>29%</b>	(570)
Not very convincing	<b>23%</b>	(452)
Not at all convincing	<b>8%</b>	(159)

<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>
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#### *Worry change*

No change	<b>54%</b>	(1,084)
More worried about AI	<b>43%</b>	(852)

Less worried about AI	<b>3%</b>	(62)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>
<i>Perceived tone</i>		
Realistic	<b>44%</b>	(879)
Alarmist	<b>21%</b>	(417)
Exaggerated	<b>19%</b>	(381)
Not Sure	<b>11%</b>	(217)
Dismissive	<b>5%</b>	(104)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,998)</b>

## POST-MESSAGE QUESTIONS (CONCERNED SAMPLE, N=2,000)

### Q12B: Safety vs. Speed (post-messages)

"When it comes to the U.S. government's approach to AI, which of the following statements comes closer to your personal view?" Random half-sample asked after messages. Allows pre/post comparison with Q12A.

The government should prioritize creating safety rules for AI, even if that means the U.S. develops AI more slowly than countries like China	<b>78%</b>	(766)
Not sure	<b>9%</b>	(92)
The government should prioritize developing AI as fast as possible to compete with countries like China, even if that means fewer safety rules for now	<b>8%</b>	(79)
Other	<b>5%</b>	(50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=987)</b>

### Q13: "I could easily change my mind about AI issues"

5-point agreement scale

Somewhat disagree	<b>29%</b>	(573)
Somewhat agree	<b>28%</b>	(554)
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>25%</b>	(495)
Strongly disagree	<b>13%</b>	(264)
Strongly agree	<b>6%</b>	(113)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

### Q14: "I have all the information I need to form an opinion about AI"

5-point agreement scale

Somewhat disagree	<b>34%</b>	(674)
Somewhat agree	<b>27%</b>	(539)
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>16%</b>	(313)
Strongly disagree	<b>12%</b>	(246)
Strongly agree	<b>11%</b>	(227)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,999)</b>

### Q15: Barriers to Action

"Which of the following, if any, prevent you from taking more action on AI issues?" % selecting Yes, sorted by prevalence.

AI is moving too fast for meaningful regulation	<b>56%</b>	(1,130)
I have other more pressing priorities	<b>46%</b>	(913)
I don't feel I know enough about AI to speak up	<b>43%</b>	(853)
I don't think my actions would make a difference	<b>38%</b>	(761)
The US regulating alone won't work if other countries don't	<b>35%</b>	(698)
I'm uncomfortable with political activism in general	<b>22%</b>	(449)

### Q16: AI Understanding

"Which best describes how AI chatbots like ChatGPT work?" Single correct answer: "A system predicting text based on patterns in data."

A system predicting text based on patterns in data	<b>56%</b>	(1,124)
A rule-based system following explicit instructions	<b>13%</b>	(259)
I'm not sure	<b>12%</b>	(244)
A search engine looking up answers	<b>10%</b>	(201)
A thinking agent that understands meaning like a human	<b>8%</b>	(169)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=1,997)</b>

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## LATENT CLASS SEGMENTS (CONCERNED SAMPLE, N=2,000)

*K=5, 25 indicators, 500 random starts, 95.6% stability, entropy=0.833, AvePP 0.86–0.93.*

Progressive Alarmed	<b>19%</b>	(378)
Alarm Maximalists	<b>20%</b>	(400)
X-Risk Literate	<b>16%</b>	(328)
Cautious Moderate	<b>22%</b>	(436)
Trusting Pragmatists	<b>23%</b>	(458)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(n=2,000)</b>

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Survey conducted via Prolific, February 2026. Demographic quotas for age, sex, education, and political affiliation. Screened out: 732 insufficient AI concern + 3 incomplete = 735 excluded. Latent class analysis: finite mixture model, EM algorithm, 25 indicators, convergence  $|\Delta \log L| < 10^{-6}$ .

Model selection: BIC, classification stability, BLRT, substantive interpretability.

Full interactive results: [fiveamericas.ai](https://fiveamericas.ai) · Research supported by MATS (ML Alignment Theory Scholars).