Welcome Screen

This research study is being conducted by Professor Darren Hawkins at Brigham Young University to examine public opinion in the United States. You were invited to participate because you are a U.S. resident and over 18 years of age.

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

This survey has minimal risks, as most questions are basic questions about yourself or your opinions. As a result, these questions do not have a right or wrong answer. If you are not sure of an answer, please make your best guess.

The researcher hopes to learn more about public opinion in the United States.

Upon completion of the survey, you will be compensated $0.75 for your time.

Participation in this research study is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw at any time or refuse to participate entirely. Your participation will be entirely anonymous; we will not collect any personally identifiable information. We will store the data that we do collect both on the survey's website, which is password-protected, and in password-protected files on a server to which only our research personnel are given access. We plan to maintain these files indefinitely once the study is completed.

If you have questions regarding this study, you may contact Professor Darren Hawkins at darren_hawkins@byu.edu for further information.

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant contact IRB Administrator at (801) 422-1461; A-285 ASB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602; irb@byu.edu.

I have read and understood the above consent and desire of my own free will to participate in this study.

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Captcha

Click to write the question text

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Basic Demographics

Please select your age.

▼

What is your sex?

- Male
- Female

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Less than high school degree
- High school/GED
- Some college
- 2-year college degree (Associate's)
- 4-year college degree (BA, BS)
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Professional Degree (JD, MD)

Where would you place yourself on this scale of political views?

- Extremely liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly liberal
- Moderate; middle of the road
- Slightly conservative
- Conservative
- Extremely conservative

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Attention Check attempt 1

We are interested in what sections people like to read in the newspaper. What people read in the paper might affect their opinions on current issues. We also want to see if people are reading the questions carefully. To show that you've read this

much, please mark both the style and sports boxes below. That's right, just select these two options only.

Regardless of how frequently you read the newspaper, what would you say are your favorite newspaper sections to read? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ National
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Comics
- ☐ Classified
- ☐ Style
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Science and Technology
- ☐ Opinion
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ None of the above

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Attention Check attempt 2

Please attempt the following question again.

We are interested in what sections people like to read in the newspaper. What people read in the paper might affect their opinions on current issues. We also want to see if people are reading the questions carefully. To show that you've read this much, please mark both the style and sports boxes below. That's right, just select these two options only.

Regardless of how frequently you read the newspaper, what would you say are your favorite newspaper sections to read? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ National
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Comics
- ☐ Classified
- ☐ Style
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Science and Technology
- ☐ Opinion
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ None of the above

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Attention Check attempt 3

Please attempt the following question again.

We are interested in what sections people like to read in the newspaper. What people read in the paper might affect their opinions on current issues. We also want to see if people are reading the questions carefully. To show that you've read this much, please mark both the style and sports boxes below. That's right, just select these two options only.

Regardless of how frequently you read the newspaper, what would you say are your favorite newspaper sections to read? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ National
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Comics
- ☐ Classified
- ☐ Style
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Science and Technology
- ☐ Opinion
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ None of the above

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T1 Need both

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

Global poverty, disease and illiteracy create a huge need for U.S. foreign aid.

1. 101 million primary-age children do not attend school.
2. About 3.4 billion people – half of the world's population – are at risk of contracting malaria. In 2012, there were about 207 million malaria cases and an estimated 627,000 malaria deaths.
3. Nearly 800 million people lack dependable access to clean water, and about 2.5 billion lack access to modern sanitation.
4. 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty. In other words, they live on less than $1.25 a day.
5. Every year, chronic malnutrition leaves around 170 million children vulnerable to disease and permanently impaired. This results in impoverished families and struggling communities.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- Too big
- Too small
- About right

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#QuestionText, TimingPageSubmit#: *0 seconds*

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You saw some facts and an opinion on your screen about U.S. foreign aid. Were they:

- in favor of U.S. foreign aid
- against U.S. foreign aid
- the definition of U.S. foreign aid

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T2 Cost+ both

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Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid to developing countries is not as expensive as many Americans think.

1. The average American believes the foreign aid budget is 25% of the total federal government budget.
2. The U.S. foreign aid budget is less than 1% of the total budget.
3. Only 1% of the U.S. foreign aid budget goes to operating costs of U.S. government agencies.
4. The United States provides $30 billion for programs that assist the needy around the world. Around $663 billion goes to military spending.
5. In 1970, the world's rich countries agreed to give 0.7% of their gross national income as foreign aid. Although most countries have not reached this goal, five have exceeded it. At 0.2%, the United States is far behind.

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T3 Corruption both

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid is often funneled to corrupt officials and organizations who waste it.

1. One study estimates that 25% ($130 billion) of $525 billion given in foreign aid loans since 1946 has been misused by corrupt leaders.
2. Of the $1.5 billion Zambia received in aid, its president allegedly stole $80 million.
3. Since 2002, the United States has given $100 billion in economic aid to Afghanistan even though it is the third most corrupt country in the world.
4. A 2006 audit found that most of the $74 million given to Cuba was wasted. Large quantities were used to buy Sony PlayStations, leather coats, and expensive chocolates.
5. Malawi's former President was charged with embezzling $12 million in foreign aid.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- ○ Too big
- ○ Too small
- ○ About right

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You saw some facts and an opinion on your screen about U.S. foreign aid. Were they:

- ○ in favor of U.S. foreign aid
- ○ against U.S. foreign aid
- ○

- the definition of U.S. foreign aid

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T4 Cost- both

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid is expensive and would be better spent at home.

1. The United States spends 66% more on foreign aid each year than it does on school breakfast programs for underprivileged children.
2. Nigeria has received $400 billion in foreign aid, which is more than the United States spent to rebuild Western Europe after World War II.
3. Even though foreign aid is only 1% of the US federal budget, these funds ($30 billion a year) could be spent domestically on important needs.
4. The United States spends $411 billion a year on debt interest.
5. The United States spends more on foreign aid than on child nutrition programs, veterans' education benefits, and Head Start preschool programs combined.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- Too big
- Too small
- About right

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T5 Need opinion

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument:

Global poverty, disease and illiteracy create a huge need for U.S. foreign aid.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- Too big
- Too small

- About right

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You saw an opinion on your screen about U.S. foreign aid. Was it:

- in favor of U.S. foreign aid
- against U.S. foreign aid
- the definition of U.S. foreign aid

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T6 Cost+ opinion

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument:

U.S. foreign aid to developing countries is not as expensive as many Americans think.

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T7 Corruption opinion

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument:

U.S. foreign aid is often funneled to corrupt officials and organizations who waste it.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- Too big
- Too small
- About right

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You saw an opinion on your screen about U.S. foreign aid. Was it:

- in favor of U.S. foreign aid
- against U.S. foreign aid
- the definition of U.S. foreign aid

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T8 Cost- opinion

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument:

U.S. foreign aid is expensive and would be better spent at home.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

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- Too small
- About right

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T9 Cost+ & Cost- intro

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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T9 Cost+ & Cost- part 1

Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid to developing countries is not as expensive as many Americans think.

1. The average American believes the foreign aid budget is 25% of the total federal government budget.
2. The U.S. foreign aid budget is less than 1% of the total budget.
3. Only 1% of the U.S. foreign aid budget goes to operating costs of U.S. government agencies.
4. The United States provides $30 billion for programs that assist the needy around the world. Around $663 billion goes to military spending.
5. In 1970, the world's rich countries agreed to give 0.7% of their gross national income as foreign aid. Although most countries have not reached this goal, five have exceeded it. At 0.2%, the United States is far behind.

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T9 Cost+ & Cost- part 2

Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid is expensive and would be better spent at home.

1. The United States spends 66% more on foreign aid each year than it does on school breakfast programs for underprivileged children.
2. Nigeria has received $400 billion in foreign aid, which is more than the United States spent to rebuild Western Europe after World War II.
3. Even though foreign aid is only 1% of the US federal budget, these funds ($30 billion a year) could be spent domestically on important needs.
4. The United States spends $411 billion a year on debt interest.
5. The United States spends more on foreign aid than on child nutrition programs, veterans' education benefits, and Head Start preschool programs combined.

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T9 Cost+ & Cost- DV

Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- ○ Too big
- ○ Too small

- About right

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You saw some facts & opinions on your screen about U.S. foreign aid. Were they:

- in favor of U.S. foreign aid
- against U.S. foreign aid
- the definition of U.S. foreign aid
- both in favor & against U.S. foreign aid

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T10 Cost+ & Corruption intro

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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T10 Cost+ & Corruption part 1

Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

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T10 Cost+ & Corruption part 2

Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid is often funneled to corrupt officials and organizations who waste it.

1. One study estimates that 25% ($130 billion) of $525 billion given in foreign aid loans since 1946 has been misused by corrupt leaders.
2. Of the $1.5 billion Zambia received in aid, its president allegedly stole $80 million.
3. Since 2002, the United States has given $100 billion in economic aid to Afghanistan even though it is the third most corrupt country in the world.
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T10 Cost+ & Corruption DV

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- ○ Too big
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T11 Need & Cost- intro

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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T11 Need & Cost- part 1

Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

Global poverty, disease and illiteracy create a huge need for U.S. foreign aid.

1. 101 million primary-age children do not attend school.
2. About 3.4 billion people – half of the world's population – are at risk of contracting malaria. In 2012, there were about 207 million malaria cases and an estimated 627,000 malaria deaths.
3. Nearly 800 million people lack dependable access to clean water, and about 2.5 billion lack access to modern sanitation.
4. 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty. In other words, they live on less than $1.25 a day.
5. Every year, chronic malnutrition leaves around 170 million children vulnerable to disease and permanently impaired. This results in impoverished families and struggling communities.

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T11 Need & Cost- part 2

Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid is expensive and would be better spent at home.

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3. Even though foreign aid is only 1% of the US federal budget, these funds ($30 billion a year) could be spent domestically on important needs.
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- ○ against U.S. foreign aid
- ○ the definition of U.S. foreign aid
- ○ both in favor & against U.S. foreign aid

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T12 Need & Corruption intro

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T12 Need & Corruption part 1

Supporters of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

Global poverty, disease and illiteracy create a huge need for U.S. foreign aid.

1. 101 million primary-age children do not attend school.
2. About 3.4 billion people – half of the world's population – are at risk of contracting malaria. In 2012, there were about 207 million malaria cases and an estimated 627,000 malaria deaths.
3. Nearly 800 million people lack dependable access to clean water, and about 2.5 billion lack access to modern sanitation.
4. 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty. In other words, they live on less than $1.25 a day.
5. Every year, chronic malnutrition leaves around 170 million children vulnerable to disease and permanently impaired. This results in impoverished families and struggling communities.

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T12 Need & Corruption part 2

Opponents of U.S. foreign aid make the following argument and point to the following facts, which we have independently verified:

U.S. foreign aid is often funneled to corrupt officials and organizations who waste it.

1. One study estimates that 25% ($130 billion) of $525 billion given in foreign aid loans since 1946 has been misused by corrupt leaders.

2. Of the $1.5 billion Zambia received in aid, its president allegedly stole $80 million.
3. Since 2002, the United States has given $100 billion in economic aid to Afghanistan even though it is the third most corrupt country in the world.
4. A 2006 audit found that most of the $74 million given to Cuba was wasted. Large quantities were used to buy Sony PlayStations, leather coats, and expensive chocolates.
5. Malawi's former President was charged with embezzling $12 million in foreign aid.

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T12 Need & Corruption DV

Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- ○ Too big
- ○ Too small
- ○ About right

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You saw some facts & opinions on your screen about U.S. foreign aid. Were they:

- ○ in favor of U.S. foreign aid
- ○ against U.S. foreign aid
- ○ the definition of U.S. foreign aid
- ○ both in favor & against U.S. foreign aid

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Control

There is debate in the United States regarding the government's spending on foreign economic aid for poor countries.

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Would you say the current level of the United States' foreign economic aid is too big, too small, or about right?

- Too big
- Too small
- About right

Full Demographics

Which category best describes the total income of all members of your family living in your house last year before taxes? This figure could include salaries, wages, pensions, dividends, interest, and all other income.

- Less than $21,000
- Between $21,000 and $40,000
- Between $40,000 and $65,000
- Between $65,000 and $105,000
- $105,000 or more

Apart from weddings, funerals, and christenings, about how often do you attend religious services these days?

- More than once a week
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Only on special holy days
- Once a year
- Less often
- Never, practically never

Have you lived somewhere other than the United States for over 6 months at one time?

- Yes
- No

To which of these geographical groups would you say you belong first of all?

- Locality or town where you live
- State or region of country where you live
- The U.S. as a whole
- North America
- The world as a whole

Why, in your opinion, are there people in this country who live in need? Here are two opinions:

- They are poor because of laziness and lack of will power
- They are poor because society treats them unfairly

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