

Public Opinion Polls Show Skepticism about Autonomous Vehicles

2018 Reuters/Ipsos Pollⁱ

- 67% of Americans polled said they were uncomfortable with the idea of riding in self-driving cars.

2018 AAA Surveyⁱⁱ

- 63% of U.S. drivers report feeling afraid to ride in a fully self-driving vehicle.

2018 Morning Consult Pollⁱⁱⁱ

- 67% of adults polled were somewhat or very concerned about cyber threats to driverless cars.

2018 CARAVAN Poll^{iv}

- 64% of respondents said they were concerned about sharing the road with driverless cars.
- 63% said they are not comfortable with Congress increasing the number of driverless cars which do not meet existing federal vehicle safety standards and would be available for public sale.
- 75% of Americans said they weren't comfortable with manufacturers being able to disable vehicle controls, such as the steering wheel, and brake and gas pedals, when an AV is being operated by the computer.
- 73% of those polled support the development of U.S. Department of Transportation safety standards for new features related to the operation of driverless cars.
- 81% said they support U.S. Department of Transportation cybersecurity rules to protect against hacking of cars that are being operated by a computer.
- 84% of Americans said they support uniform U.S. Department of Transportation rules to ensure that the human driver is alert in order to safely take control from the computer.
- 80% of respondents support minimum performance requirements for computers that operate driverless cars similar to those for computers that operate commercial airplanes.
- 87% said it would be helpful to have a U.S. Department of Transportation website for consumers to look up information about the safety features of a new or used driverless car which they may be purchasing.

2017 Pew Research Center Survey^v

- 56% of U.S. adults surveyed said they would not ride in a self-driving vehicle.
- Of those who said they wouldn't, 42% of respondents said they didn't trust the technology or feared giving up control and 30% cited safety concerns.
- 30% of respondents think that autonomous vehicles will make roads *less* safe for humans if they become more widespread.
- 87% of respondents said they would favor a requirement that all driverless vehicles have a human in the driver's seat who can take control of the vehicle in case of an emergency.
- 53% of people surveyed said the development of driverless cars makes them feel very or somewhat worried.
- 52% said they would feel not too or not at all safe sharing the road with driverless passenger vehicles.
- 65% said they would feel not too or not at all safe sharing the road with driverless freight trucks.

2017 Morning Consult/POLITICO Poll^{vi}

- 51% of registered voters polled said they were not too likely or not likely at all to ride as a passenger in an AV.
- 61% of respondents said they aren't likely to buy self-driving cars once they become available.
- 35% of those polled said they believe AVs are less safe than the average human driver, compared to 22% who said they were safer than human drivers and 18% who said AVs were about the same level of safety as the average human driver. Over a quarter (26%) said they didn't know or had no opinion.

2017 Deloitte Study^{vii}

- 74% of U.S. consumers polled said they felt that fully autonomous vehicles will not be safe.
- 68% of respondents said an established track record of fully autonomous cars being safely used would make them more likely to ride in one.

2017 MIT AgeLab and New England Motor Press Association Survey^{viii}

- 13% of respondents said they would be comfortable with a fully autonomous car, down from 24% in a similar 2016 survey.
- 48% said they would never purchase a car that completely drives itself when asked about their interest in purchasing a self-driving car.
- Of those who said they wouldn't purchase a completely driverless car, 37% said they feared a loss of control, 29% said they don't trust it, 25% said they believe it will never work perfectly, and 21% said it's unsafe.

2017 AAA Survey^{ix}

- 54% of U.S. drivers polled feel less safe at the prospect of sharing the road with a self-driving vehicle. Moreover, only 10% said they'd actually feel safer sharing the roads with driverless vehicles.
- 78% of Americans surveyed said they were afraid to ride in a self-driving vehicle.

2016 Kelley Blue Book Study^x

- 51% of respondents said they would prefer to have full control of their vehicle, even if it's not as safe for other drivers.
- 64% said they need to be in control of their vehicle.

2016 Morning Consult Poll^{xi}

- 43% of registered voters polled said autonomous cars are not safe. About one-third (32%) said they are safe, but that's not much more than the 25% who said they didn't know or didn't care.
- Majorities of voters found it unacceptable for a rider in a driverless car to text or email, read, watch movies or TV, be drunk or sleep.
- 76% said they were as worried about driverless cars operating on the same roads as cars driven by humans.
- When asked broadly about road safety, 80% said they were concerned. Likewise, 80% of respondents said they were concerned about glitches in an autonomous car's software.

Compiled by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, February 2018

ⁱ Reuters and Ipsos, Reuters and Ipsos Poll poll of 2,592 participants conducted between Jan. 11-18, 2018, January 2018

ⁱⁱ American Automobile Association (AAA), Vehicle Technology Survey – Phase III, January 2018

ⁱⁱⁱ Morning Consult, National Tracking Poll #180108, January 2018

^{iv} ORC International and Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, CARAVAN Public Opinion Poll: Driverless Cars January 2018

^v Smith, A. and Anderson, M., Pew Research Center, Automation in Everyday Life, October 2017

^{vi} Morning Consult and POLITICO, National Tracking Poll #170904, September 2017

^{vii} Deloitte Global Automotive Consumer Study, What's ahead for fully autonomous driving: Consumer opinions on advanced vehicle technology, January 2017

^{viii} Abraham, H., Reimer, B., Seppelt, B., Fitzgerald, C., Mehler, B. and Coughlin, J., MIT AgeLab and New England Motor Press Association (NEMPA), Consumer Interest in Automation: Preliminary Observations Exploring a Year's Change, May 2017

^{ix} American Automobile Association (AAA), Vehicle Technology Survey – Phase II, March 2017

^x Kelley Blue Book and Cox Automotive, Future Autonomous Vehicle Driver Study, September 2016

^{xi} Nasr, A. and Johnson, F., Morning Consult, Voters Aren't Ready for Driverless Cars, Poll Shows, February 8, 2016