

French-American  
Foundation

US • France



**2010 FRENCH-AMERICAN OPINION POLL:  
REGARDS CROISÉS**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
CHAPTER 1: GENERAL ATTITUDES AMONG FRENCH AND AMERICAN ADULTS	5
CHAPTER 2: AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS OF FRANCE	11
CHAPTER 3: COMPARING FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES	15
CHAPTER 4: FUTURE PREDICTIONS	23
CHAPTER 5: IMMIGRATION	26
CHAPTER 6: THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE	35
CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL THOUGHTS	37
METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW	39

*French-American Foundation*  
*2010 Survey of French and American adults*

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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**Overview**

*The French-American Foundation* has been conducting research on the opinions, attitudes and concerns of adults in France and the United States for more than ten years. Many of the questions included in this report were repeated from earlier studies, previously asked in 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2007, specifically. This new research serves to evaluate feelings between the two nations, as well as explore current issues and perceived threats, facing each country.

Overall, the findings suggest that the attitudes of adults in both France and the United States regarding each other have improved in recent years. The data also indicates that adults in both countries may worry about similar issues and perceived threats to their nation, albeit possibly for different reasons and at different levels of importance.

Highlights of the *2010 French-American Foundation* study include:

- Greater numbers of adults in France and the United States say that they generally like the other nation than have said so for eight or more years (65% in France, 48% in the U.S.);
- Seven in ten adults in both France (71%) and the United States (70%) say the two countries are “somewhat partners”, which is higher than the number that have said so any other time this question was asked in the past ten years;
- Similarly, the greatest number of American and French adults say that given the opportunity, they would like (or would have liked) to work, live or study in the other country, than ever before in the past ten years (between 30% and 48% currently saying so);
- Large majorities of Americans say France is a world leader in various artistic and cultural pursuits (between 68% and 85%); less say so about technology and scientific pursuits (between 12% and 34%);
- Most Americans say France is between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> economic power in the world (55%);

- Americans say immigrants are integrated into their society well (50%); fewer French say the same about immigrants in their country (71% say not well);
- Large numbers in both countries say immigration is a problem in their country (56% say so in both the U.S. and France);
- French and U.S. adults think a variety of threats are important, but Americans are more likely than the French to say each threat is extremely important.

## CHAPTER 1: GENERAL ATTITUDES AMONG FRENCH AND AMERICAN ADULTS

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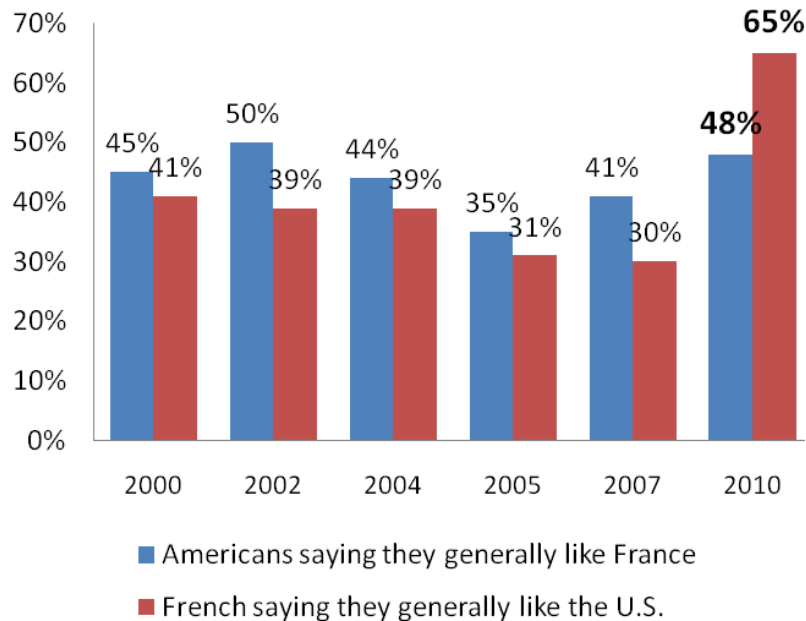
When asked if they generally like, generally dislike, or neither like nor dislike the other country, almost half of American adults said that they generally like France (48%), while greater numbers of French - two-thirds - said the same about the United States (65%). This marks the largest number of Americans who have said that they generally like France since 2002, when fully half responded that they do (50%). More interestingly, this year also marks the greatest number of French who say they like the United States. In the past, the number of French adults who say they like the U.S. had been declining (from 41% in 2000, to 30% in 2007), yet that number jumped dramatically this year, to 65% of French who currently say they generally like the United States.

**TABLE 1A: GENERAL FEELINGS ABOUT FRANCE/U.S.**

**Q1.** Asked of U.S. respondents: How do you feel about France, would you say you generally like, generally dislike or neither like nor dislike France?

**Q1.** Asked of French respondents: Diriez-vous que ressentiez... plutôt de la sympathie, plutôt de l'antipathie... envers les États-Unis?

Base: All adults



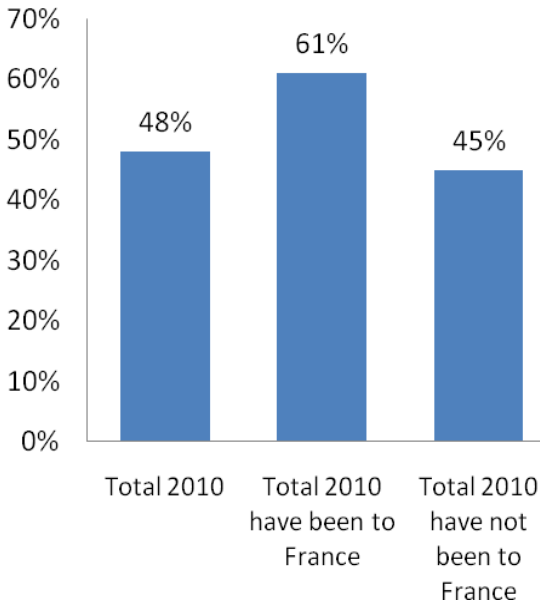
Perhaps not surprisingly, Americans who have traveled to France are much more likely to say they generally like France than do all Americans, and in particular those who have not traveled to France (61% of those who have been to France say that they generally like it, compared to less than half of those who have not been (45%)).

**TABLE 1B: GENERAL FEELINGS ABOUT FRANCE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN**

**Q1.** Asked of U.S. respondents: How do you feel about France, would you say you generally like, generally dislike or neither like nor dislike France?

*Summary of Americans who say they “generally like” France*

Base: All U.S. adults  
(n=184, have been to France; n=825, have not been to France)



Possibly correlated, as more adults in each country acknowledge warming feelings toward one another, greater numbers also describe the other nation as a partner. This year, fully seven in ten adults in each nation (70% in the U.S. and 71% in France) say that France and the United States are “somewhat partners.” This is the highest percentage of Americans that has said so since the question was first asked in 2000, when two-thirds said the countries were “somewhat partners” (64%). This year less than one-quarter in each nation say the countries are “somewhat

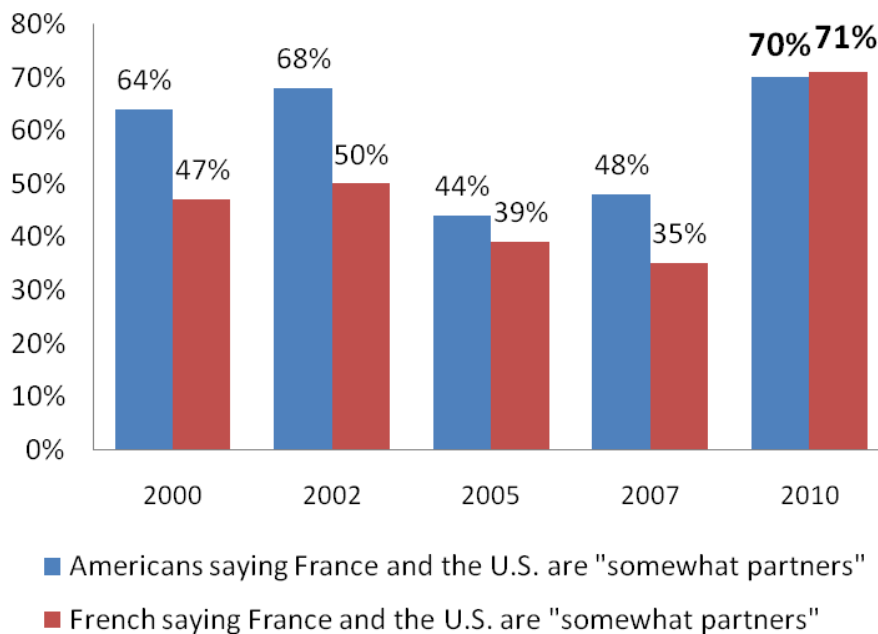
opponents” (22% in the U.S., 20% in France). Previously, between 2005 and 2007 higher percentages of Americans have called France an opponent (33% in 2007 and 45% in 2005)<sup>1</sup>.

**TABLE 1C: PARTNERSHIP**

**Q6.** Asked of U.S. respondents: Generally speaking, would you say that France and the U.S.A. are somewhat partners or somewhat opponents?

**Q6.** Asked of French respondents: D’une manière générale, avez-vous le sentiment que la France et les États-Unis sont... plutôt des partenaires, plutôt des adversaires?

Base: All adults



Despite strong majorities in both countries saying that France and the United States are “somewhat partners”, approximately just two in five in each country call the other a loyal ally. Rather, almost half of Americans say that France is a “sometimes *unloyal* ally” (46%), and over half of French say the same about the United States (55%). Although this may seem discouraging at first, the trend here shows positive improvement as well.

<sup>1</sup> Prior to 2010 French respondents were offered a third response choice of “both a partner and an opponent”. Because this response was not offered to U.S. respondents, the questionnaire was updated this year so that the data from both countries could be more accurately compared. Because of the change in the response choices offered to French respondents, the French data trend can not be as accurately reported.

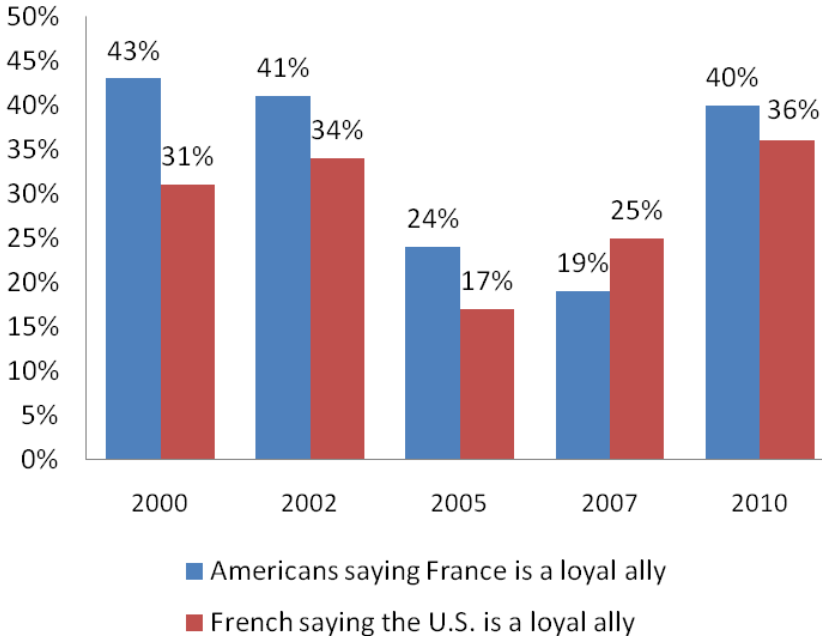
The numbers of Americans and French who call the other a loyal ally has increased by more than ten percentage points in both nations this year. In 2007 just 19% of Americans called France a loyal ally; this year 40% do. Similarly, in 2007 one-quarter of French said the U.S. was a loyal ally, a number which has risen to 36% who say so this year. The numbers of both American and French adults who call the other nation a “sometimes unloyal ally” have dropped this year, as well.

**TABLE 1D: ALLY OR UNLOYAL ALLY**

**Q7.** Asked of U.S. respondents: Would you say that today, France acts as a loyal ally to the U.S., as a sometimes unloyal ally or as an opponent?

**Q7.** Asked of French respondents: Aujourd’hui, diriez-vous que la France se comporte vis-à-vis des États-Unis comme... un allié fidèle, un allié pas toujours fidèle, un adversaire?

Base: All adults



Lastly, a positive indicator of the changing feelings among French and American adults regarding one another is the number of adults in each country who say that they would like (or would have liked) to live, work and study in the other country. This year the numbers of those saying yes to each question has risen from what they previously were in every instance. For

example, this year three in ten American (31%) and French (30%) adults say that they would like to live in the other country; previously between 16% and 26% said this. The same pattern is seen when asked if adults would like to work in France or the United States—31% of Americans now say yes, compared to between 22% and 25% who said so in previous years, and 37% of French now say yes, which shows a jump from 2007 when 28% said yes and 2002 and 2005 when just 22% said so. This year the highest percentages recorded since this question has been asked also say that they would like to study in France or the U.S.—40% and 48%, respectively.

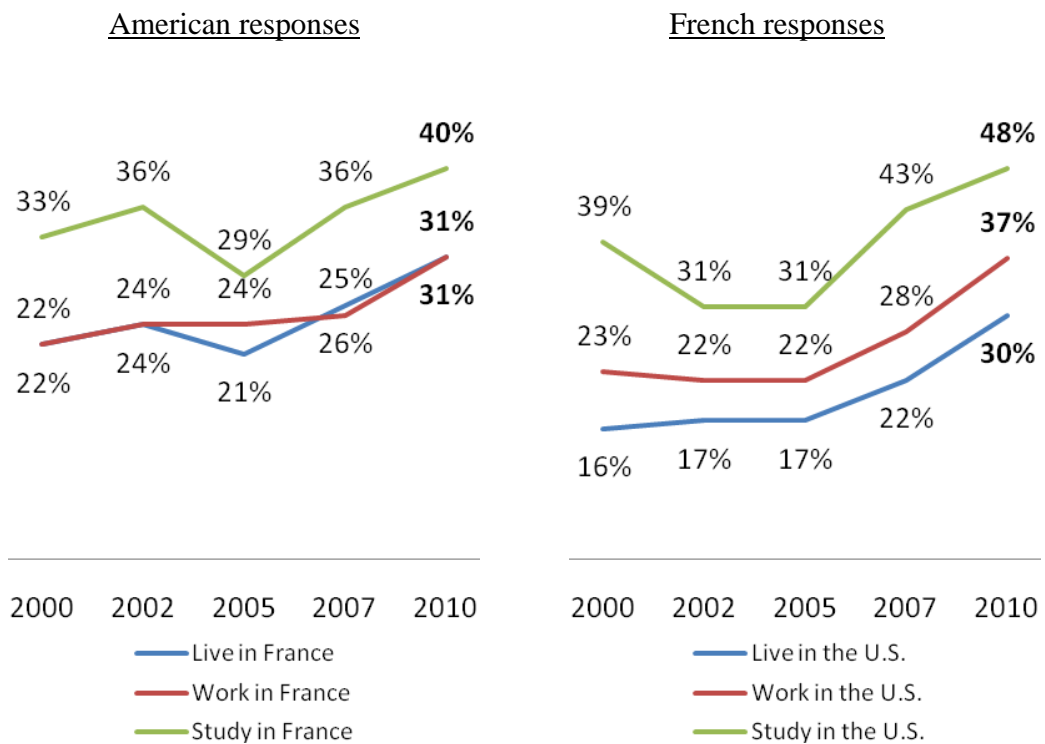
**TABLE 1E: LIVE, WORK & STUDY IN OTHER COUNTRY**

**Q2.** Asked of U.S. respondents: Personally, given the opportunity, would you like (or would you have liked) to... live in France? Work in France? Study in France?

**Q2.** Asked of French respondents: Personnellement, si vous en aviez l'opportunité, aimeriez-vous ou auriez-vous aimé... vivre aux États-Unis? Travailler aux États-Unis? Etudier aux États-Unis?

*Summary of those who say "yes" to each statement below*

Base: All adults



## CHAPTER 2: AMERICAN PERCEPTIONS OF FRANCE

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While the research focused mostly on the comparison of both French and American attitudes, a few questions were asked only of Americans. This data helps to paint a more complete picture of American attitudes towards France.

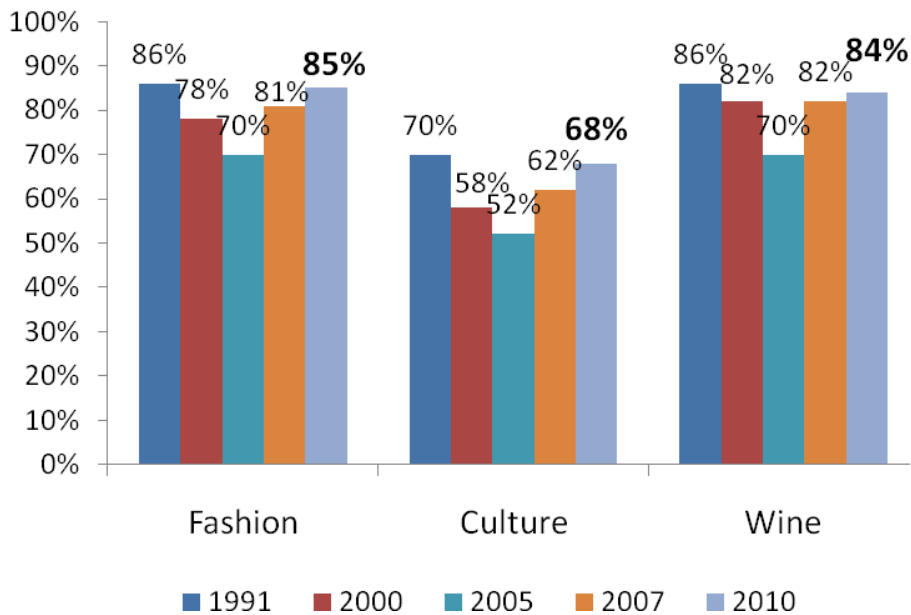
When Americans were asked about various professional fields and areas of influence in France, it becomes clear that the U.S. population respects France as a world leader more so in the arts and culture than they do in technology and the sciences. For example, majorities of U.S. adults say that they consider France to be a world leader in fashion (85%), culture, such as music, books and movies (68%), and wine (84%). Interestingly, not only do strong majorities of Americans agree that France is a world leader in these areas, the numbers of Americans who say so has increased over the past several years, and now appears very closely in line with the high percentages recorded when this question was first asked in 1991.

**TABLE 2A: FRANCE AS WORLD LEADER – ART AND CULTURE**

**Q4.** Asked only of U.S. respondents: Now I am going to read you a list of some subject areas, for each please tell if you consider France to be a world leader in that area or not. Do you consider France to be a world leader in...?

Base: All U.S. adults

*Summary of Americans who have said  
“France is a world leader” in the following areas  
between 1991 and 2010*



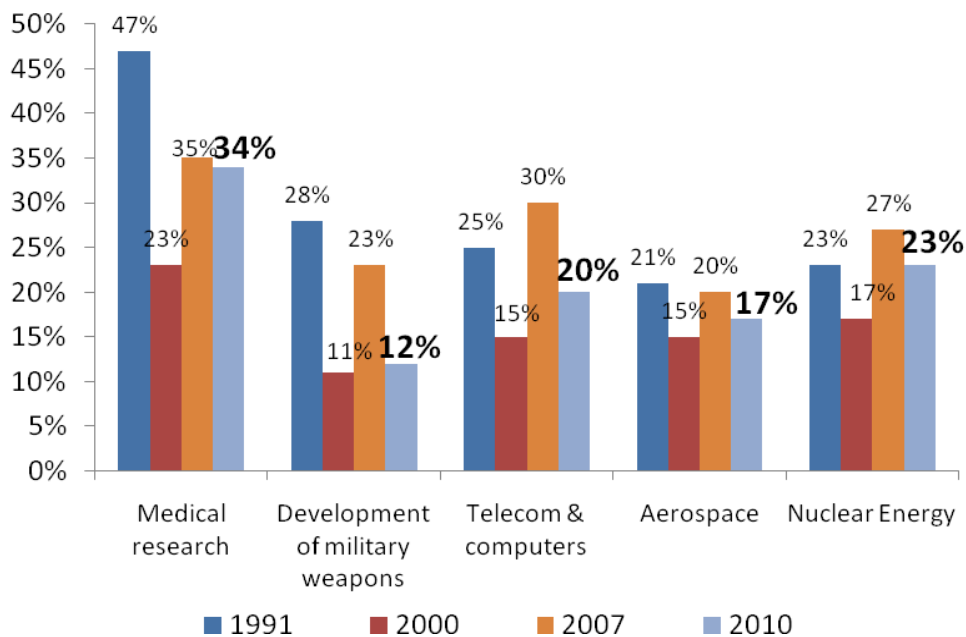
Although majorities of Americans say France is a world leader in these artistic and cultural pursuits, approximately one-third say France is a world leader in the more scientific and technological areas of medical research (34%), and less than one-quarter say so about nuclear energy (23%), telecommunications and computers (20%), aerospace (17%), and the development of military weapons (12%). While the number of Americans who say France is a leader in the various artistic areas has increased in the past several years, conversely fewer Americans say France is a leader in the various scientific areas. A decrease of between 1 and 11 percentage points is evident in each scientific and technological area measured compared to the last time the question was asked, in 2007.

**TABLE 2B: FRANCE AS WORLD LEADER – SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Q4.** Asked only of U.S. respondents: Now I am going to read you a list of some subject areas, for each please tell if you consider France to be a world leader in that area or not. Do you consider France to be a world leader in...?

Base: All U.S. adults

*Summary of Americans who have said  
“France is a world leader” in the following areas  
between 1991 and 2010*



While the link between a country’s economic power and its perceived scientific strength and/or technological advancement is not necessarily linked, in the case of American perceptions of France, there seems to be some correlation. As 2010 marks the lowest year in American attitudes about France being a world leader in all of the scientific areas listed, 2010 also marks a drop in Americans’ perception of France’s economic strength. When asked how Americans would rank France as an economic power, just 12% of U.S. adults say that France is one of the top five economic powers in the world—the lowest percentage who have said this since the question was first asked in 2000, and a significant drop from the 20% who said so in 2007. A majority of Americans (55%), rather, say that France is between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the world, which is the highest percentage that has said so since this question was first asked in 2000. One in five

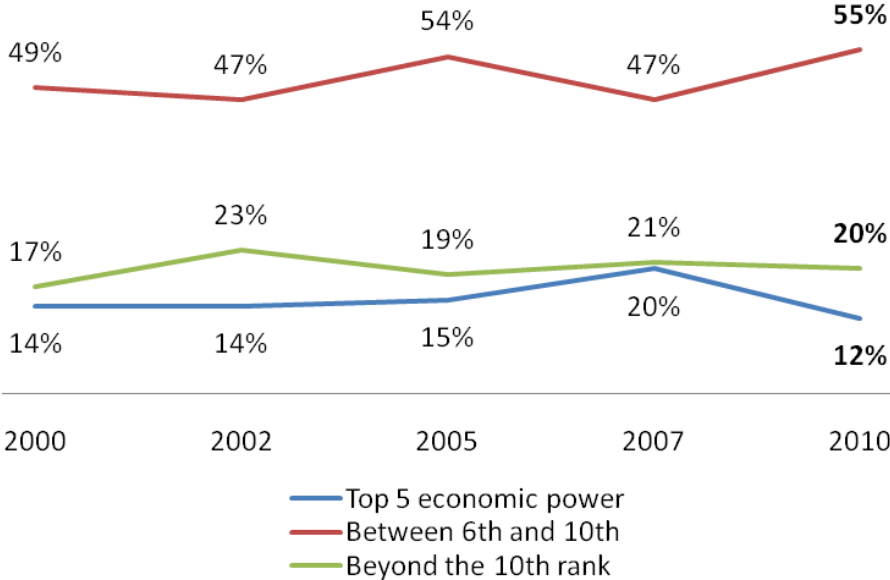
say that France is beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> rank in the world (20%) and smaller percentages say that they do not know, or refused to answer (13%).

**TABLE 2C: FRANCE AS AN ECONOMIC POWER**

**Q4.** Asked only of U.S. respondents: How would you rank France as an economic power? Would you say it is...?

Base: All U.S. adults

*Summary of Americans who have described France's economic standing between 2000 and 2010*



### CHAPTER 3: COMPARING FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES

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In order to better understand how French and American adults see themselves, we explored if people in each country feel things are better or worse in the other nation, compared to in their own<sup>2</sup>. The survey asked specifically about the areas of education, unemployment and other social services, public transportation, the development of new technologies, the fight against crime, immigrant integration and the coexistence of various cultural groups. Adults in the U.S. were also asked about health care.

There are interesting differences between subjects on which adults in each country have opinions. While Americans show some lack of knowledge about the quality of social programs in France, such as the Social Security system, (29% say these systems are better in France, and 24% say they are worse, with 24% not sure), the French seem to have fairly strong opinions regarding these systems in the U.S. Very few French say that these types of social programs are better, or even of equal quality in the U.S. (3% and 4%, respectively), while 89% say they are worse and just 4% are not sure. While the majorities of French say that social programs are worse in the U.S. have always been strong (between 80% in 2000 and 2002 up to 86% in 2007), this year marks the largest majority saying so, with almost nine in ten agreeing.

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<sup>2</sup> This question was asked by telephone between September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 among 1,010 adults (aged 18 and over) in the United States, and between October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 among 1,011 adults (aged 18 and over) in France.

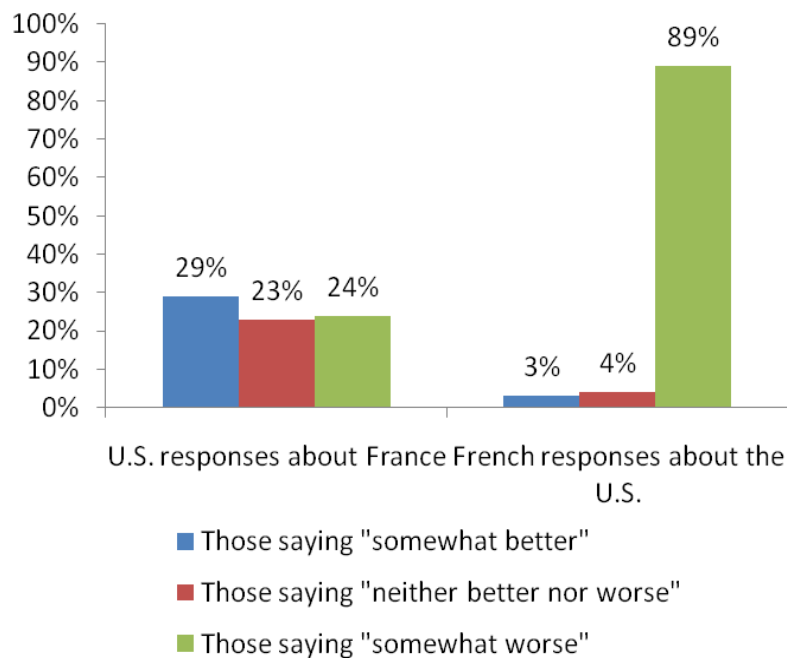
**TABLE 3A: BETTER OR WORSE – SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about Social Programs in 2010*

Base: All adults



The only area in which a majority of French say that Americans are better is the development of new technologies—63% of French say this is somewhat better in the U.S., compared to less than two in five who say that it's equal to that in France (17%) and just about one in ten who say it's worse than in France (12%). Interestingly, while Americans seem to agree that the development of new technologies is in fact worse in France than it is at home in the U.S. (34% versus 17% who say it's better), the numbers of Americans saying this are less dramatic than the French, with over one-third of Americans saying that the development of new technologies is equal, or neither better nor worse in France than the U.S. (37%).

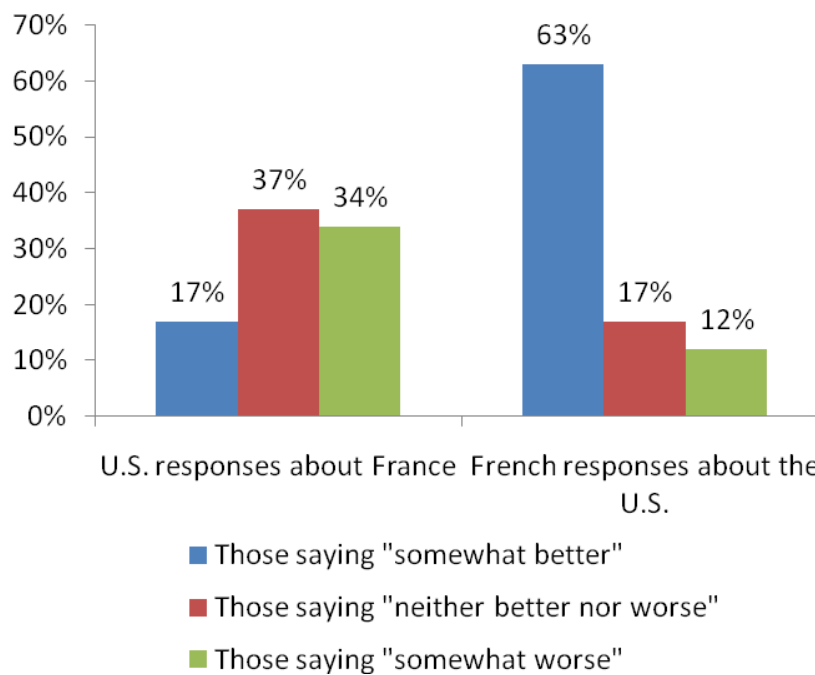
**TABLE 3B: BETTER OR WORSE – DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about Development of new Technologies in 2010*

Base: All adults



Conversely, there are two areas that Americans seem to think are better in France than they are at home in the States. Over half of Americans (52%) say that they think public transportation is better in France than in the U.S. and just 12% say it's worse. The French seem to agree, although in lower numbers—41% say that public transportation is worse in the U.S., and 14% say that it's better. Possibly more telling about American views regarding the state of things at home is the American assessment of the United States' system of education. While not a majority, 40% of Americans say that the education system is better in France than it is in the U.S., more than three in ten say it's the same (32%), and only 16% say it's worse. The French agree that their education system is better than that in the United States, although they say so more broadly than Americans either believe or admit: just under half of French adults say that

education is worse in the U.S. than it is in France (46%), just one in five say it's the same (22%), and less yet say it's better (17%).

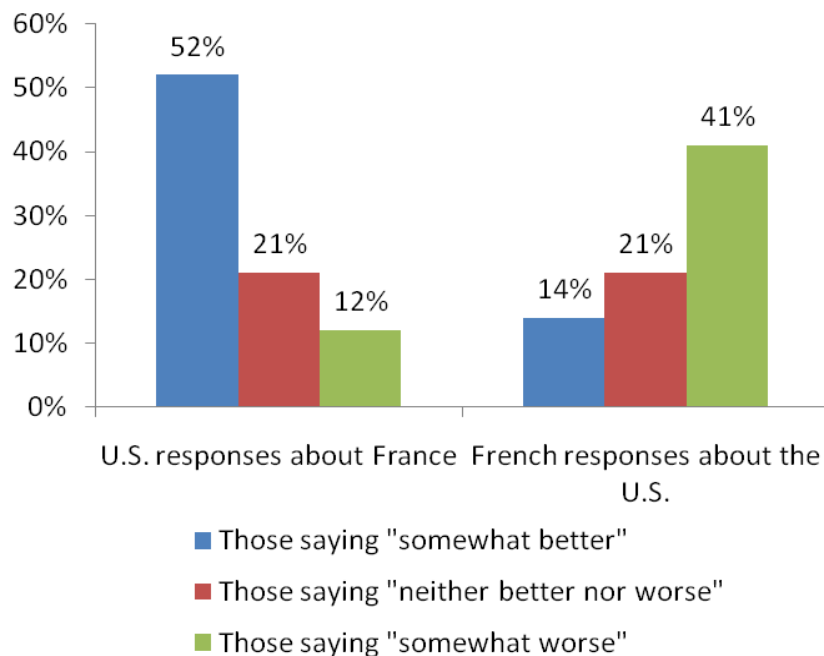
**TABLE 3C: BETTER OR WORSE – PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about Public Transportation in 2010*

Base: All adults



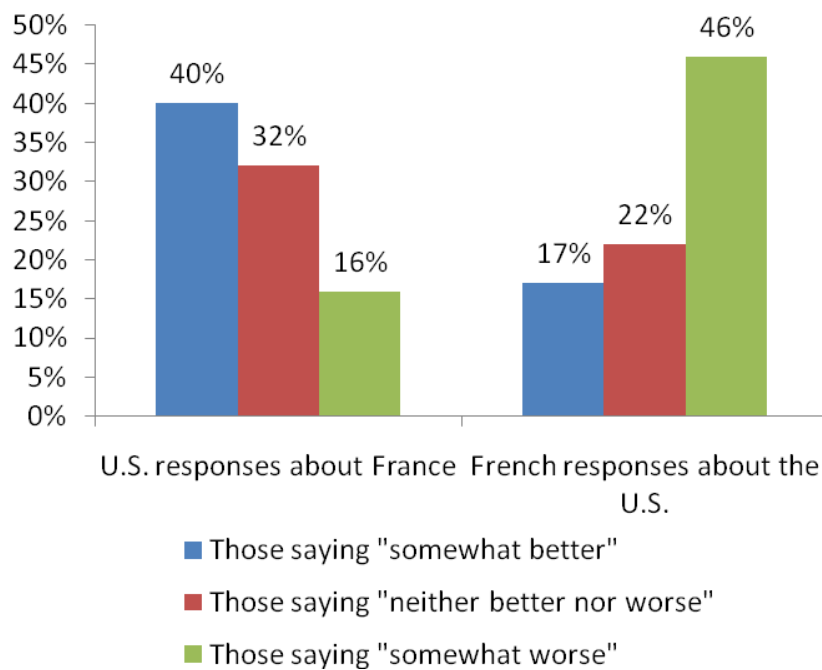
**TABLE 3D: BETTER OR WORSE – SYSTEM OF EDUCATION**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about the System of Education in 2010*

Base: All adults



Although with regard to social programs, education, and new technology there are notable opinions, in other areas measured there isn't a great deal of difference seen, with roughly equal numbers saying things in the other country are better, worse, or neither better nor worse than in their own country. Further, significant numbers in both nations also acknowledged that they are not sure what the situation is in the other country.

For example, Americans and French seem unsure about the fight against crime in the other country, as well as reducing unemployment. One-quarter of Americans think reducing unemployment is better in France than it is in the U.S., one-quarter say it's worse (24%), with 19% not sure. Similarly, 15% of French say reducing unemployment is better in the U.S., nearly one-third say it's worse (32%), with 18% not sure. Less than three in ten of both French

and Americans think that the fight against crime is better in the other country (27% of Americans think it's better in France, and 20% of French think it's better in the U.S.).

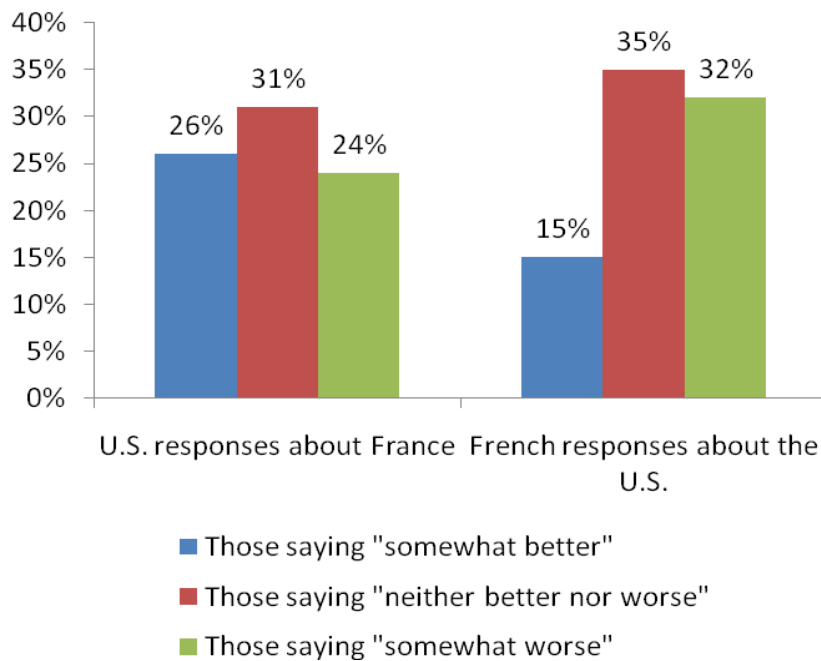
**TABLE 3E: BETTER OR WORSE – REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about Reducing Unemployment in 2010*

Base: All adults



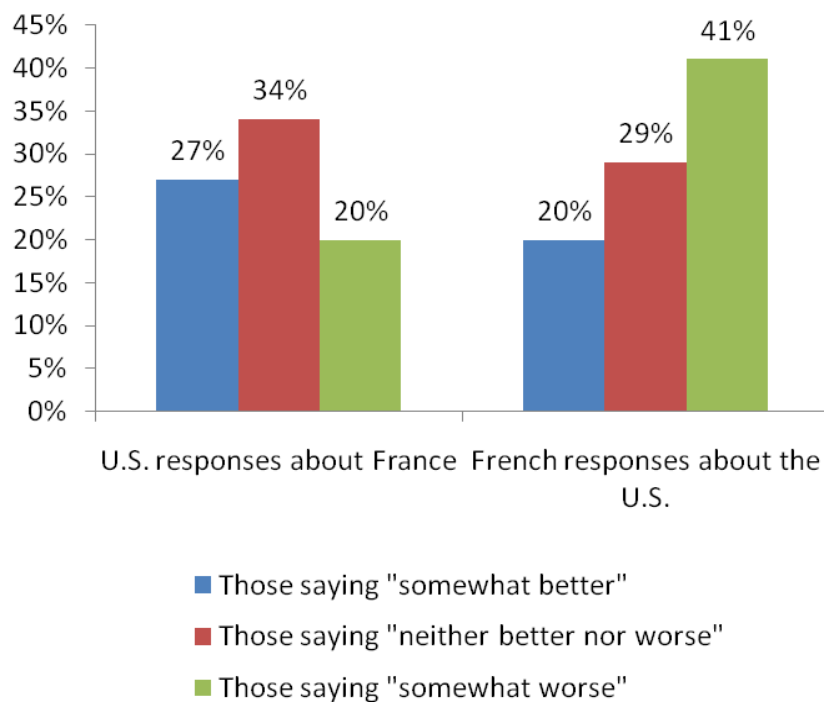
**TABLE 3F: BETTER OR WORSE – THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about the Fight Against Crime in 2010*

Base: All adults



The last area studied was only asked to U.S. adults, so it's more difficult to draw a comparison. However, when discussing the health care system almost two in five Americans say it's better in France (39%), just over one quarter say it's worse (26%), and one in five think it's neither better nor worse (22%).

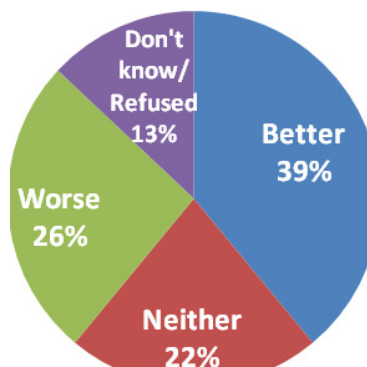
**TABLE 3G: BETTER OR WORSE – HEALTH CARE**

**Q8.** Asked only of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

*Summary responses about Health Care in 2010*

Base: All U.S. adults

**U.S. responses about France  
2010**



## CHAPTER 4: FUTURE PREDICTIONS

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In addition to asking French and U.S. adults about how they view systems in the other country compared to their own, we also asked them to think about the future and try to predict the strength of the United States, as compared to the European Union, in twenty years. In all areas discussed—the economy, international relationships, and the military—both French and American adults indicate that in twenty years they think that the U.S. will be more powerful than the European Union. Despite the United States' current economic issues, over two in five adults in both France and the U.S. (49% and 42%, respectively) say that in twenty years the European Union will be less powerful than the United States in terms of the economy. Approximately one-third in both countries say the two will be equally powerful (32% of U.S. adults say this, as do 33% of French), and fewer numbers in both countries say the European Union will be more powerful economically (20% in the U.S., 13% in France). Americans thought more highly of the European Union in 2005, while for French adults, this is the highest level of confidence they have displayed in the strength of the U.S. economy since the question was first asked in 2000.

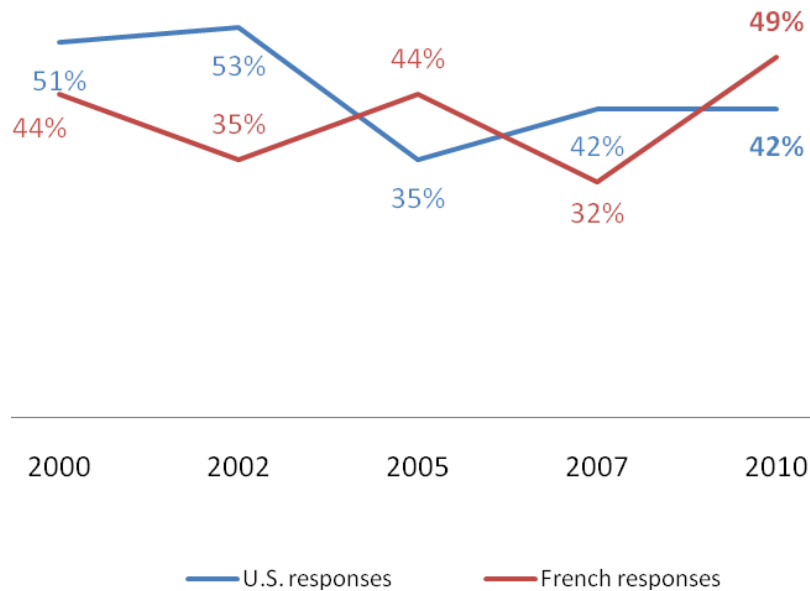
**TABLE 4A: EU VS. U.S. – THE ECONOMY**

**Q5.** Asked of U.S. respondents: With regard to the European Union, do you think that 20 years from now, it will be more powerful than the U.S., as powerful as the U.S., or less powerful than the U.S. in each of the following areas?

**Q5.** Asked of French respondents: Concernant l'Union Européenne, avez-vous le sentiment que d'ici une vingtaine d'années, elle sera devenue plus puissante, aussi puissante ou moins puissante que les États-Unis dans chacun des domaines suivants?

*Summary of those who have said “less powerful” about the economy  
Between 2000 and 2010*

Base: All adults



Strong majorities in both France and the U.S. predict that in twenty years the European Union will be less powerful than the U.S. in the military area (70% of Americans say this, as do 63% of French). And, while it’s not a majority, almost two in five of both French and American adults also say that in twenty years the European Union will be less strong than the U.S. in terms of international relationships (39% in both France and the U.S.).

This trend of both Americans and French saying that with time the European Union will be, to varying degrees, less powerful than the United States in terms of the military and international

relations has been growing: more adults in both countries say so each year this question has been asked since 2000, with the largest numbers in both countries this year.

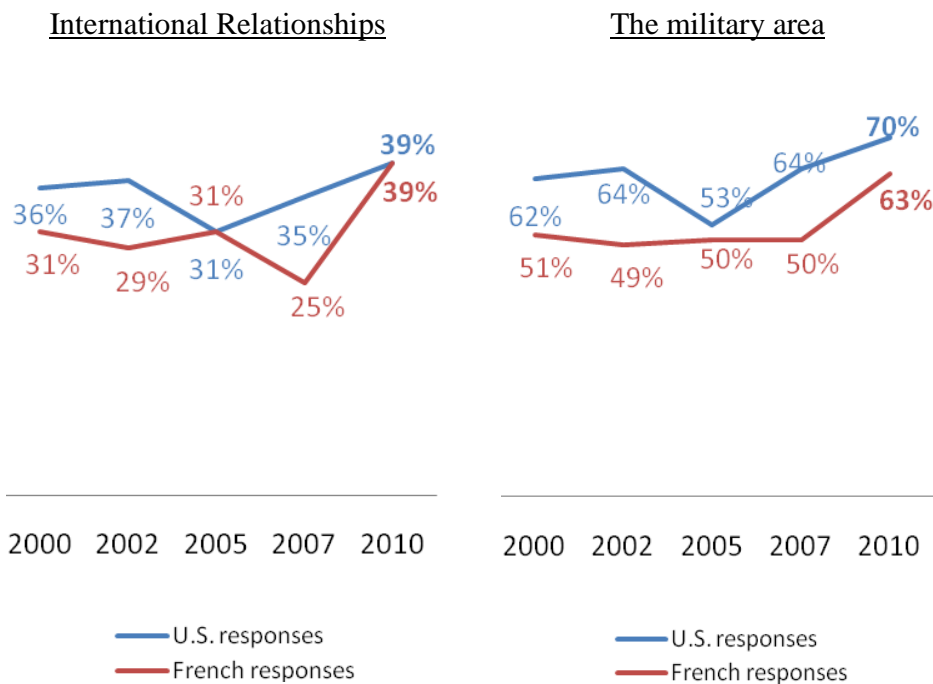
**TABLE 4B: EU VS. U.S. – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

**Q5.** Asked of U.S. respondents: With regard to the European Union, do you think that 20 years from now, it will be more powerful than the U.S., as powerful as the U.S., or less powerful than the U.S. in each of the following areas?

**Q5.** Asked of French respondents: Concernant l'Union Européenne, avez-vous le sentiment que d'ici une vingtaine d'années, elle sera devenue plus puissante, aussi puissante ou moins puissante que les États-Unis dans chacun des domaines suivants?

*Summary of those who have said "less powerful"  
about international relationships and the military area  
Between 2000 and 2010*

Base: All adults



## CHAPTER 5: IMMIGRATION

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For the first time this year the survey asked people in both countries several specific questions about their feelings on immigration. Immigration is an important and timely topic in both countries, and while there are similarities between the countries, there are also interesting differences. Overall, identical majorities—56% in both France and the U.S.—say immigration is a problem in their country. However, Americans are more split with one-third saying immigration is a large problem (32%), and less than one-quarter just describing it as a problem (24%). The French feel somewhat differently, with only 16% saying it's a large problem and a much larger number (40%) saying it's just a problem.

Although majorities in both countries seem to think immigration is a problem of varying degree, two in five in each country also say it is an opportunity (40% of Americans say this, as do 38% of French). Further, similar numbers in each country say immigration is a large opportunity (12% and 7%, respectively), and another three in ten indicate it is just an opportunity (28% in the U.S. and 31% in France).

**TABLE 5A: IMMIGRATION – PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY**

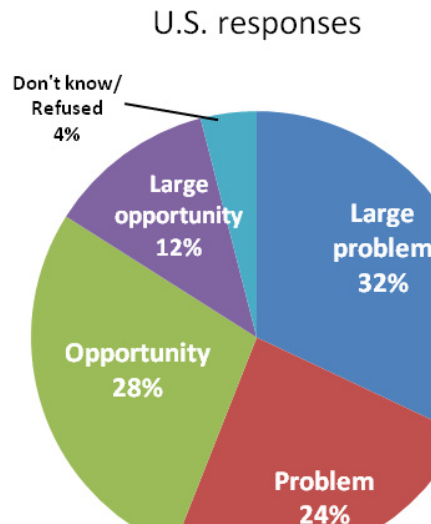
**Q11.** Asked of U.S. respondents: Which of these statements is closest to your opinion?

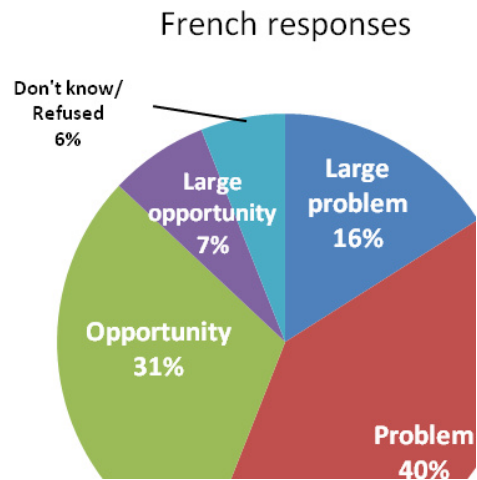
- Immigration is a large problem in our country
- Immigration is a problem in our country
- Immigration is an opportunity for our country
- Immigration is a large opportunity for our country

**Q11.** Asked of French respondents: Parmi les phrases suivantes, de laquelle vous sentez-vous la plus proche?

- L'immigration est un réel problème en France
- L'immigration est un problème en France
- L'immigration est une opportunité pour la France
- L'immigration est une grosse opportunité pour la France

Base: All adults





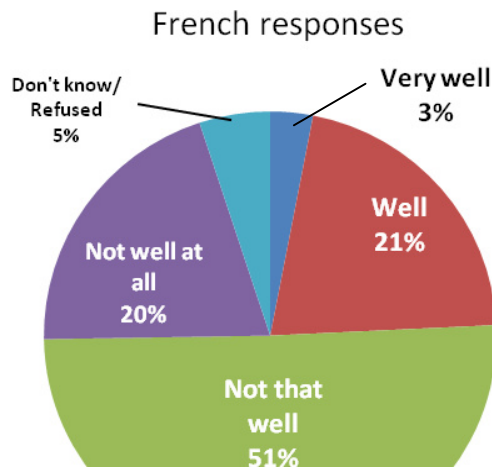
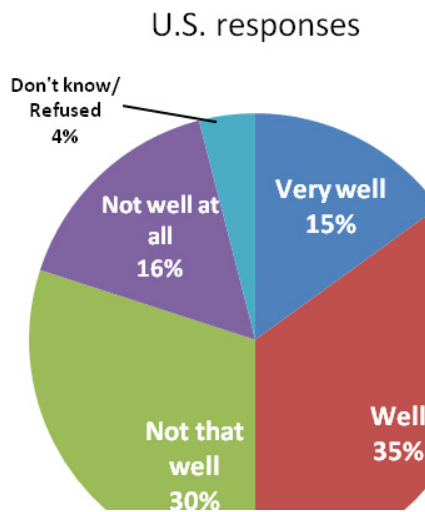
The attitudes on the issue of how to integrate immigrants may help explain some of the negative feelings among the French about immigration (the majority calling it a problem in their country), but it does less to explain the similar majority of Americans who say it's a problem in the U.S. When asked how well people have integrated the immigrants that have arrived in their country over the last few years, a strong majority of French say either "not that well" or "not well at all" (70%). However, in the U.S. Americans split almost evenly between saying that people have integrated newly arrived immigrants well (50%) and not well (46%).

**TABLE 5B: IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION**

**Q12.** Asked of U.S. respondents: How well do you think people have integrated immigrants that have arrived in the U.S. over the last few years?

**Q12.** Asked of French respondents: Que pensez-vous de l'intégration des immigrants qui arrivent ou sont arrivés en France ces dernières années? Vous pensez qu'ils sont...

Base: All adults



There are many ways that immigrants can be integrated into society, including through the social programs and rights offered to them, regardless of their citizen status. On this question, of what should be provided to illegal immigrants in their country, the French and Americans show very different points of view. While Americans are somewhat evenly divided between those who say illegal immigrants should be provided with education (51%), and those who say they should not (47%), fully three-quarters of French adults say that illegal immigrants should be provided with education (75%).

Although the French are fairly decisive in their perspective on education, there are other areas where they show more uncertainty, while Americans express a majority perspective. For example, the French are fairly evenly split between whether illegal immigrants should or should not receive welfare (46% versus 48%). However, a strong majority of Americans say that illegal immigrants should not be given welfare (76% compared to only 23% who say they should). Similarly, while the French show uncertainty on whether or not illegal immigrants should be given an opportunity for citizenship (46% say yes, 45% say no), Americans say that they should (67%).

Health care is the only broad social program measured that French and American adults seem to have completely opposite views on. While two-thirds of French adults say that health care should be provided to illegal immigrants (67%), almost the same number of American adults say that it should not (62%). This difference, and the American preference to deny health care coverage to illegal immigrants, may be a reaction to the recent overhaul of the health care system in the United States, which has been the cause of much confusion among Americans regarding what is included in the bill, what is not included in the bill, and who will pay for all of it<sup>3</sup>.

Although French and American adults seem to have opposing views on many of the rights that they think should or should not be afforded to illegal immigrants, they do share one similar opinion regarding victim's rights. Three in five adults in both countries say that victim's rights

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<sup>3</sup> Health Day, *Harris Poll*, July 2010 (n=2,104), <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/vault/Hi-Harris-Poll-HealthDay-Reform-2010-07-29.pdf>

should be provided to illegal immigrants in their country (63% of Americans say this, as do 60% of French).

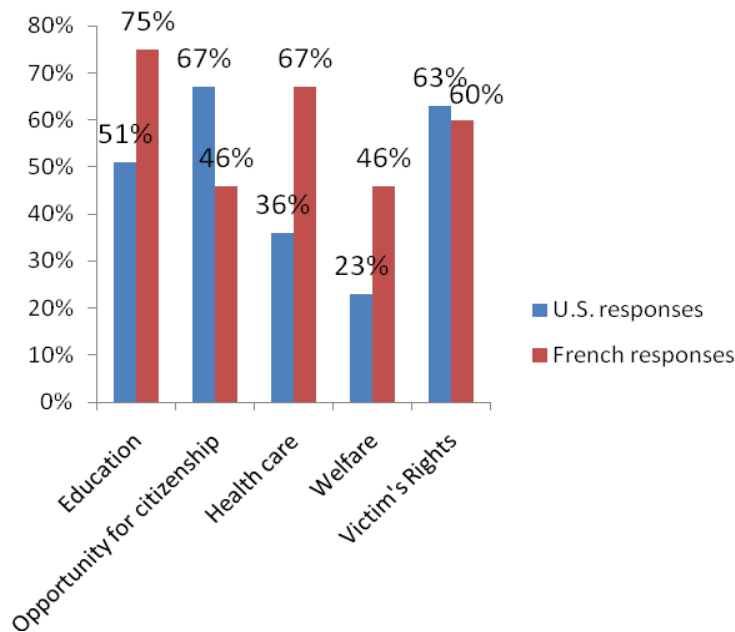
**TABLE 5C: RIGHTS PROVIDED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**Q13.** Asked of U.S. respondents: Do you believe the following services should be provided to illegal immigrants in the U.S.?

**Q13.** Asked of French respondents: En France, pensez-vous que les immigrés clandestins/sans-papiers devraient bénéficier des services suivants?

Base: All adults

*Summary of those who say the following services “should be provided” to illegal immigrants in their country*



Lastly, it’s interesting to note that while American and French adults both display strong opinions regarding the state of immigration in their own country, there seems to be a great amount of uncertainty when thinking about these issues in the other country. When asked to draw a comparison, it’s clear that neither French nor American adults are very aware of the conditions surrounding newly arrived immigrants or other cultural groups in the other society. Between one quarter and one-third of both French and American adults say that immigrants have been integrated into the other society better than in their own country with similar numbers

also saying worse than in their own country and neither better nor worse; one in six in each country also say that they do not know (14% and 16%, respectively).

**TABLE 5D: BETTER OR WORSE – IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION**

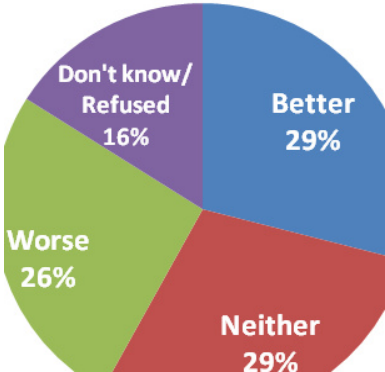
**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

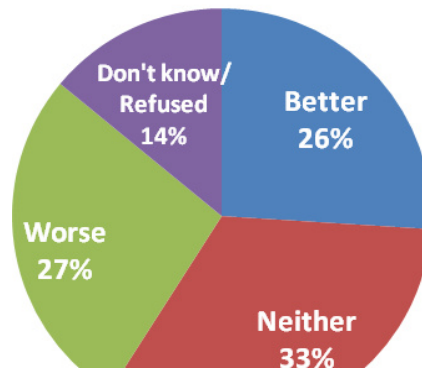
*Summary responses about Immigrant Integration in 2010*

Base: All adults

**U.S. responses about France  
2010**



**French responses about the U.S.  
2010**



Similarly, when asked about the coexistence of groups of various cultures and ethnic origins in the other country, one-third of Americans say that they are somewhat better in France (33%), the same number say they are neither better nor worse in France (33%) and just under one-quarter say they are somewhat worse in France (23%). French adults display a similar split when thinking about the U.S.—28% say better in the U.S. while 31% say neither better nor worse in the U.S. and 30% say worse.

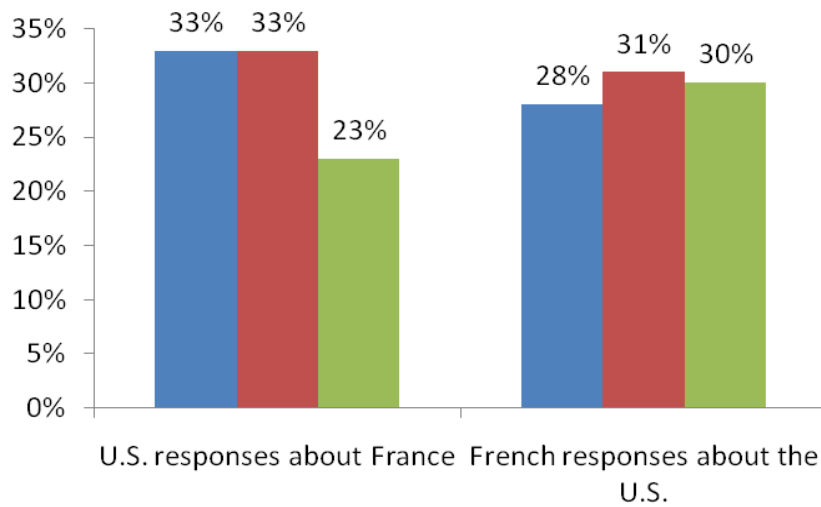
**TABLE 5E: BETTER OR WORSE – CO-EXISTENCE OF CULTURAL GROUPS**

**Q8.** Asked of U.S. respondents: In each of the following areas, do you feel things are somewhat better, somewhat worse or neither better nor worse in France, than in the U.S.?

**Q8.** Asked of French respondents: Pour chacun des domaines suivants, diriez-vous que cela fonctionne plutôt mieux ou plutôt moins bien aux États-Unis qu'en France?

*Summary responses about the Coexistence of Various Cultural and Ethnic Groups in 2010*

Base: All adults



- Those saying "somewhat better"
- Those saying "neither better nor worse"
- Those saying "somewhat worse"

## CHAPTER 6: THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

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Adults in France and the United States were asked to think about certain potential threats either facing the U.S. (for American adults) or facing Europe (for French adults). While the French are not indifferent to the threats—strong majorities in both countries call each threat important—Americans are more likely than the French to say that the threats are extremely important.

Although similar numbers say that a major economic downturn is an important threat facing them in the next ten years (88% in the U.S., 90% in France), Americans are more likely to say this is an extremely important threat (47%) than the French are (34%). Similarly, while over eight in ten (82% in the U.S., 84% in France) and nine in ten in both countries (94% and 92%) respectively say that Islamic fundamentalism and international terrorism are important threats facing them in the next ten years, Americans are again more likely than the French to say these threats are extremely important (42% compared to 39% for Islamic fundamentalism, and 56% compared to 43% for international terrorism).

Similar to the other threats measured, Americans perceive military conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors as more important than the French do (85% compared to 79%). Americans also think that the threat of a terrorist attack in their country using weapons of mass destruction is more important than the French say it is (90% of Americans say this is an important threat, with over half (56%) saying it's an extremely important threat, compared to 74% of French who say it's important, just 38% of whom say it's extremely important). Again, Americans also say they think that the global spread of disease (84% vs. 73%) and large numbers of immigrants and refugees coming into their country (75% vs. 65%) are important threats facing them, greater than the number of French that say the same.

**TABLE 6: PERCEIVED THREATS**

**Q9.** Asked of U.S. respondents: I am going to read you a list of possible international threats to the United States in the next 10 years. Please tell me if you think each one on the list is an extremely important threat, an important threat, or not an important threat at all.

**Q9.** Asked of French respondents: Je vais vous lire une liste de menaces internationales potentielles qui pourraient toucher l'Europe au cours des 10 prochaines années. Dites-moi si vous considérez chacune de ces menaces comme extrêmement importante, importante ou pas importante du tout?

Base: All adults

	U.S. responses about U.S.				French responses about France			
	Extremely important threat	Important threat	Not important	Don't know/Refused	Extremely important threat	Important threat	Not important	Don't know/Refused
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Islamic fundamentalism (the more radical stream of Islam)	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	13	5	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	11	5
Large numbers of immigrants and refugees coming into Europe/U.S.	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	23	1	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>	31	4
International terrorism	<b>56</b>	<b>38</b>	5	2	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>	6	2
Military conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	11	4	<b>27</b>	<b>52</b>	16	5
The global spread of disease	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	14	3	<b>26</b>	<b>47</b>	25	2
A major economic downturn	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	10	3	<b>34</b>	<b>56</b>	8	2
A terrorist attack in [the U.S./France] using weapons of mass destruction	<b>56</b>	<b>34</b>	7	3	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	23	3

## CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL THOUGHTS

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Overall, this year's *French-American Foundation* study on American and French attitudes, opinions and concerns presents encouraging data supporting the improving relations between the two countries. As noted in the report, more American and French adults say they would like to live, work and/or study in the other country, than have ever said so before. Similarly, high percentages in both countries say they like the other and increasing numbers of people call the two nations partners. However, there is also some ambiguity in some of the other areas measured, which may indicate places where further work is needed.

When asked to compare various systems, services and industries in the two countries, Americans in particular showed some uncertainty or lack of knowledge about circumstances in France. While the French showed a similar uncertainty in a few areas, by and large the French seem better acquainted with American society and culture than the Americans did with France. One way to increase not only awareness of the other country, but also opinions regarding it, might be a push for more travel. Currently only a minority of Americans have ever traveled to France, yet those that have hold far superior opinions of France, than do the Americans who have not personally experienced what the country has to offer.

One area of comparison that both French and American adults had strong opinions on, however, is that of the European Union and how they predict its strength will compare to that of the United States in twenty years. While Americans and French agreed on all counts that the European Union will be less strong than the United States, understanding the significance here is complicated. What is not entirely clear is the extent to which French and American adults think that the United States will be particularly strong in twenty years, or rather if the European Union will weaken.

This year the study looked at attitudes about immigration for the first time, with very interesting results. While similar numbers in both countries say immigration is a problem, Americans are more likely to call it a large problem. However, the French are more likely than the Americans

to say that immigrants have not been integrated well into their society, and that immigrants should not be given the opportunity for citizenship. Americans, on the other hand, do believe immigrants should be given the opportunity for citizenship, which might help explain why immigrants are reportedly better integrated into society in the U.S. The reasons for this difference in opinion may be an interesting area for further exploration in both countries.

Lastly, this year's survey measured perceived threats to both countries for the first time. While French adults seem to be concerned about the same threats as the Americans are, the French's perceived importance of each threat is less than that of the Americans. This may be, in part, because of America's recent history of not only being victims of a massive terrorist attack, but also falling victim to a deeply damaging financial crisis, and being closely involved in many developments in the Middle East between Israel and its neighbors. While the French seem concerned about these things, their personal and recent memory may not illicit as strong of a reaction as it does in America. Therefore, while the United States has not been devastated by all of the other threats listed—a disease or epidemic, for example—it is possible that due to the other problems Americans have recently faced, they are more sensitive than the French overall in their thinking about possible external threats.

In conclusion, this study provides valuable information which furthers research begun over ten years ago. However, as with many good studies, the information learned here raises several more questions and highlights possible areas for additional study. Feelings between French and American adults are definitely improving and it might be interesting to further explore why these changes are taking place. A deeper understanding could, in turn, suggest best practices or recommendations to advance the warming atmosphere even further.

## METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

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This survey was designed to be as similar as possible as the previous surveys asked of French and American adults in earlier *French-American Foundation* projects. This year marks the first time Harris Interactive has led the study. The survey was conducted in two simultaneous parts—one in the United States and the other in France.

In the United States we used the Harris Poll National Quorum® survey. This survey was conducted by telephone between September 22 and 26, 2010 among 1,010 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region, number of adults in the household, and number of phone lines in the household were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population.

In France we used CSA’s PASSTEL survey. This survey was conducted by telephone among 1,016 adults (aged 18 and over) in France between September 22 and 23, 2010<sup>4</sup>.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with non-response, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words “margin of error” as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

### **Public Release of Survey Findings**

All Harris Interactive, Inc., surveys are designed to adhere to the code of conduct of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) and the code of the National Council of Public Polls (NCPD). Because data from this survey will be released to the public, any release must stipulate that the complete report is also available through the French-American Foundation.

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<sup>4</sup> Question 8 was asked among 1,011 adults (aged 18 and over) in France, between October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## **Obtaining Copies of the Report**

Copies of the report and additional information may be acquired through the French-American Foundation.

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## **Project Responsibility and Acknowledgements**

The Harris Interactive team responsible for the design of the new questions in this questionnaire, management of the polling in both countries and analysis of the data included: Regina Corso, Senior Vice President; David Krane, Vice President; and Samantha Braverman, Project Researcher.

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Harris Interactive maintains full responsibility for the survey questions, data collection, and analysis and interpretations of the findings.