

INSIDE

New Practitioners
Expand Dental Care 22

Number of Multiracial
Americans on the Rise 28

Trust

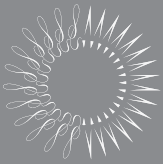
The Pew Charitable Trusts

A photograph of two men, likely fishermen, sitting on a wooden dock. The man on the left is wearing a striped t-shirt and jeans, while the man on the right is wearing a baseball cap, a patterned t-shirt, and a light-colored jacket. In the background, a red boat is visible, and the scene is set against a clear blue sky.

Can These Fishermen Save the Bluefin Tuna?

How a switch to new gear may sustain their livelihoods—and preserve one of the ocean's most valuable fish.

Fall 2015 | Vol. 17, No. 3



TIME CAPSULE

With Germany's U-boats prowling the seas, the Pew family established Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. in Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1916 to ensure that transatlantic shipping would keep supplies flowing to America's allies. The company became a major contributor to the United States' efforts in both world wars, building tankers and minesweepers during World War I and producing 40 percent of all tankers built in World War II. That entrepreneurial spirit and tradition of service to the nation continues to animate the work of The Pew Charitable Trusts today.



CONTENTS

- 2 **Notes From the President:** Innovation for a Changing World
- 4 **The Big Picture:** Philadelphia's Schuylkill River Trail
- 6 **Noteworthy:** That Land is Your Land; Remembering Andrew Kohut; The Mine, the Music, and the Prize; A First for Oceans at the United Nations

- 10 **Catching Just the Right Fish**
Fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico switch to new gear and help save Atlantic bluefin tuna.
By Doug Struck
- 22 **Something to Smile About**
New dental practitioners in Minnesota and elsewhere are expanding care.
By Frank Clancy
- 28 **Multiracial Nation**
The number of Americans with multiracial backgrounds is growing three times as fast as the rest of the population.
By Ashley Halsey III

- 32 **Dispatch:** A fishing law's Cold War roots
- 34 **Q & A:** Jeff Wells on the boreal's birds
- 36 **Lessons Learned:** Should pollsters pay cellphone respondents for the minutes it takes to answer questions?
- 38 **Pew Partners:** The Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project
- 40 **Return on Investment:** Pew improves policy, informs the public, and invigorates civic life



10

Katy Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts



22

Katy Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts

- 45 **On the Record:** Financial reform's legacy depends upon the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau flexing its muscles, from *American Banker*
- 46 **End Note:** American Catholics Today

Cover photograph by Katy Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts

Innovation for a Changing World



Innovation is critical to the values and mission of The Pew Charitable Trusts, predating even our creation in 1948. Two of our founders, J. Howard Pew and J.N. Pew Jr., held several patents as young entrepreneurs in the early 20th century. Years later, in 1945, J.N. was awarded patent number 2,462,670 for a “ship of monolithic structure,” now commonly referred to as a supertanker.

Today we tend to associate innovation with cars that drive themselves, immunotherapy to treat cancer, and satellites that reach Pluto. But innovation does not have to be the next great leap of cutting edge science or engineering. No less of a scientific genius than Albert Einstein said, “When the solution is simple, God is answering.”

This issue of *Trust* highlights relatively simple solutions that can help solve big problems. For example, one of today’s great challenges is overfishing of the world’s oceans, which endangers the marine environment and the economies of coastal communities. Overcoming this threat requires strategies for reducing accidental “bycatch” – the snaring of fish that are not the intended target of fishermen. Often they are threatened species such as the western Atlantic bluefin tuna, magnificent sea creatures that spawn in the Gulf of Mexico but whose numbers began to plummet in the 1950s.

Since 2009, Pew has been working with fishermen in the Gulf on an innovative but straightforward solution called a “green stick.” The idea was borrowed from the Japanese, who made the sticks out of bamboo. Now,

even though they’re made from fiberglass, the keep-it-simple principle is the same: Bolt a 40-foot stick upright to the deck of a boat and run out hundreds of feet of line with hooks disguised as plastic squids that bounce along the surface of the water.

As you’ll read in this issue’s cover story, yellowfin find the plastic squid irresistible. But bluefin, swimming much deeper, stay away—and are no longer being captured as bycatch. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is now considering paying longline fishermen in the southern U.S. to convert from barbed longlines to green sticks—a low-tech solution with a big payoff for our oceans.

Innovative devices are not the only kind of high-impact-but-easy-to-implement solutions to difficult problems. Creative programs can have a similar effect. Today, one aspect of America’s public health challenge is the lack of adequate preventive or early oral health care, especially for more than 18 million low-income children on Medicaid and the almost 48 million Americans live who in areas with a shortage of dentists. But as explained in “Something to Smile About,” midlevel dental providers—often called dental therapists— represent a new approach to provide quality care.

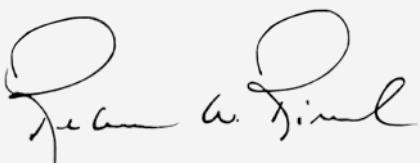
Innovation does not have to be the next great leap of cutting edge science or engineering. No less of a scientific genius than Albert Einstein said, “When the solution is simple, God is answering.”

Similar to physician assistants and working under the supervision of a dentist, these midlevel providers perform routine procedures, such as filling cavities, while allowing dentists to focus on more complex cases. Midlevel providers practice in Alaska and Minnesota, and were recently authorized in Maine. Another 10

states have introduced legislation to create this new category of oral health professional.

This kind of cost-effective innovation drives change. But so do demographics. We see that in a new Pew Research Center report titled “Multiracial in America.” It finds that 6.9 percent of the people in the United States have at least two races in their background; nearly half of all multiracial Americans are younger than 18; and the percentage of multiracial children younger than 12 months old has grown from 1 percent in 1970 to 10 percent in 2013.

The report, which you can read about in this issue of *Trust*, illustrates broader trends in our country’s demographic and social landscape which are almost certain to have a significant effect on our nation’s politics, culture, and ability to think anew and find common ground. Indeed, many multiracial Americans believe they are more open to differing perspectives because of their backgrounds. These are not only ingredients for a more diverse country; they are also healthy signs that innovation will continue to embody the American spirit—and move it forward.



Rebecca W. Rimel, *President and CEO*

Trust

Fall 2015 | Vol. 17, No. 3

Board of Directors

Robert H. Campbell
Susan W. Catherwood
Aristides W. Georgantas
Mary Graham
James S. Pew
J. Howard Pew II
J.N. Pew IV, M.D.
Mary Catharine Pew, M.D.
R. Anderson Pew
Sandy Ford Pew
Rebecca W. Rimel
Doris Pew Scott
Robert G. Williams

President and CEO

Rebecca W. Rimel

Senior Vice President For Communications

Melissa Skolfield

Senior Director, Editorial

Bernard Ohanian

Editor

Daniel LeDuc

Editorial Assistants

Anahi Baca
Eric Wrona

Contributing Writers

John Briley
Michael Crispino
Howard Lavine
Penelope Purdy

Photo Editor

Katy Martens

Creative Director

Dan Benderly

Art Director/Designer

Kate Starr

One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street, Suite 2800
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077

901 E Street NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004-2037

pewtrusts.org





THE BIG PICTURE

The Schuylkill River Trail was named the nation's top urban trail in an August poll of *USA Today* readers. The picturesque trail extends across five counties, and through the heart of Philadelphia. Pew has supported its development since 1992—most recently helping extend it south of Center City.



Cholla cacti greet the sun in the Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, home to rich plant life as well as irreplaceable Native American rock art. *Tyler Roemer*

That Land Is Your Land

BY PENELOPE PURDY

The jagged and imposing Boulder-White Clouds Mountains rise from central Idaho's plains, part of one of the largest expanses of wild lands in the continental United States. For a decade, conservationists worked to preserve this rugged landscape with its conifer forests and clear streams and lakes.

In August, those efforts brought success: Passage of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act means protection of 275,000 acres of habitat for big game species such as the Rocky

Mountain bighorn sheep and rare predators such as the wolverine and lynx. "This is a remarkable area," President Barack Obama said when signing the law. "It is not only beautiful, but it's also an important economic engine for the state—attracting tourism, creating jobs."

The legislation brings the strongest protection available for public lands. And it was only the most recent success in a summer of victories for the nation's open spaces. In July, Obama used his executive authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three national monuments in Nevada, California, and Texas.

"These new protections speak volumes about the power of local citizens who stand up to conserve America's landscape," says Mike Matz, who directs

Pew's U.S. public lands program, which worked with local leaders to seek the conservation measures.

In southeastern Nevada, designation of the 704,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument will safeguard a region rich in human history and natural resources, wildlife habitat, rare and sensitive plants, and irreplaceable Native American rock art.

Less than 100 miles from Sacramento and San Francisco, the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument stretches across 330,000 acres in six Northern California counties and is accessible to millions of people for hiking, rafting, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. Matz calls it "the crown jewel of Northern California's wild Inner Coast Range." For years, residents of nearby communities worked to conserve this

land, but legislation that would have protected it stalled in Congress, prompting the presidential designation.

Similarly, community support proved crucial in Texas, where city officials and private-sector leaders in Waco had worked with federal legislators for the past decade to make the Waco Mammoth archaeological site a part of the National Park System. Discovered by fossil hunters in 1978, the area preserves the story of a herd of Columbian mammoths believed to have been trapped by a flash flood some 68,000 years ago.

"From coast to coast, communities are working to preserve natural, historical, and scenic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations," Matz says. "The summer's success stories are a real testament to those efforts and benefit all Americans."

Remembering Andrew Kohut



In 1995, The Pew Charitable Trusts began supporting the Center for the People & the Press, with Andrew Kohut at the helm. An eminent pollster, he was already recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on public opinion research.

Over two decades, that reputation only grew as he helped establish a home for Pew's information projects: the Pew Research Center, the Washington-based subsidiary of the Trusts, which has become known around the globe for its nonpartisanship and accuracy in gauging public opinion, national and international trends, and demographic evolution.

"We provide information," Kohut once said. "You can't have a conversation about important issues unless there's some foundation of common understanding and some common facts."

Kohut died Sept. 8 in Baltimore, at the age of 73. He had leukemia.

His fierce belief in standing outside the political process to observe neutrally was based in his own deep respect for people.

"Public opinion was something precious to Andy," says Michael Dimock, who worked with Kohut for 15 years and is the center's current president. "He believed that people trust us with their views and that it's our obligation to gather them reliably and respectfully, and to analyze and assess what people tell us with the utmost care."

It is a philosophy that guides how Pew works, notes the institution's president and CEO, Rebecca W. Rimel.

"We are grateful for Andy's remarkable contributions to advancing our founders' credo: Tell the truth and trust the people," she says. "He was an inspiration, a mentor, a friend, and a wonderful colleague."

Kohut reached wide audiences with his reporting and analysis. He was a frequent commentator on NPR and PBS' "NewsHour," and his essays appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and many other publications. Prior to joining Pew, he spent a decade as president of the Gallup Organization and founded the polling firm Princeton Survey Research Associates. He also wrote four books, served as president of the National Council on Public Polls and the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and received the association's highest honor—its Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Achievement.

At the end of 2012, Kohut stepped down as president of the Pew Research Center but stayed on in a new role as founding director, providing counsel on political polling and global attitudes research.

Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. helped mark that occasion with an essay in *Trust*. Dionne had helped establish a Pew project on religion and public life at the research center, and he recalled the "fun" of watching Kohut work.

"You always learn things at Andy's meetings, especially the ones dedicated to putting together a new poll," Dionne wrote. "There is no wasted time, no ego-driven argument, no bureaucratic formality. The purpose is to get the best survey questions, to ask them in the clearest and least loaded way.

"The polling world has produced many giants, but no one like Andy."

—Daniel LeDuc



The Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia performing Julia Wolfe's "Anthracite Fields" at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.
Derek Smythe via the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage

The Mine, the Music, and the Prize



When composer Julia Wolfe, left, was growing up in the 1960s, her family would drive south to Philadelphia from their home in Montgomeryville, Pennsylvania. "We'd come down a long country road to Highway 309 and take a

right," she says. "I always wondered what was to the left."

To the left about an hour's drive away was the town of Lansford, where for more than a century men unearthed anthracite, the most carbon-rich form of coal, from the No. 9 mine. In 2012, Wolfe decided to sate her curiosity about Lansford and mining when the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, with funding from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, commissioned her to compose a new piece of music.

The resulting hourlong oratorio, "Anthracite Fields," was created for the Mendelssohn Club's chorus and Bang on a Can, the New York-based collective that Wolfe co-founded, which creates and promotes innovative music. And it won her the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for distinguished musical composition. In its citation, the Pulitzer board praised the piece's power in "evoking Pennsylvania coal-mining life."

Wolfe has immersed herself in the life of the American worker before; "Steel Hammer," her evening-length art ballad on the legend of John Henry, was a Pulitzer finalist in 2010. (That same year, Pew arts fellow

Jennifer Higdon, a composer at the Curtis Institute of Music, won the prize for her "Violin Concerto.")

For "Anthracite Fields," Wolfe dove deeper into American coal mining and labor history. She went down into mines, interviewed workers and their children, and culled oral histories and a mining accident index.

"My aim was to honor the people who persevered in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal region during a time when that industry fueled the nation, and to honor who we are as American workers," she says. "This was the first commission from my home state, so it was special."

"Anthracite Fields" reimagines the traditional choral mold. Sung by a full choir that blends theatrical movement with vocal work, the piece includes video and photos projected on a giant screen behind the singers, who are backed by Wolfe's band, the Bang on a Can All-Stars. The story is at once heart-wrenching and uplifting, with movements dedicated to the boys who sorted the anthracite and to the Lansford women who cultivated brilliant flower gardens to counter the drab gray dust that coated their lives.

Wolfe says Pew's backing helped her fully develop her research for the piece, which included working with a local host in Lansford. "She took me in," says Wolfe. "I stayed in her house, rode the bus into town with her, and she gave me a whole collection of books" on the region's mining history.

Alan Harler, who commissioned "Anthracite Fields" as artistic director of the Mendelssohn Club, says he wanted Wolfe for the project because "she hasn't written a lot of choral music, and there's a real rock element to much of what she does. I was interested in how that would translate to a large chorus." He says Pew helped support the Bang on a Can musicians

and enabled the Mendelssohn Club to bring Wolfe's text for "Anthracite Fields" to high school students in Philadelphia, through an organization called LiveConnections. The students then wrote their own poetic and musical interpretations of the story.

Paula Marincola, executive director of the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, says the project showcases the

center's support of artists and organizations that "go beyond business as usual, both programmatically and to reach and engage new audiences. It's an informed risk, but you don't know for sure if it will work," she says. "You have to trust the organization, the artist, and the process. In this case, the results speak for themselves."

—John Briley

A First for Oceans at the United Nations

In a historic move, the United Nations General Assembly in June formally committed to negotiate an international agreement to protect ocean life on the high seas, an area that accounts for nearly half the planet.

The decision marks the first time that instead of negotiating a treaty to manage the removal of marine life from the ocean, the United Nations will negotiate ways to protect it and keep it in the water.

The high seas, areas beyond national jurisdiction, make up 64 percent of the ocean and have immense economic and environmental value. Fisheries on the high seas are worth \$16 billion annually, and in a report for the Global Ocean Commission, scientists estimated that the economic value of carbon storage on the high seas ranges from \$74 billion to \$222 billion per year.

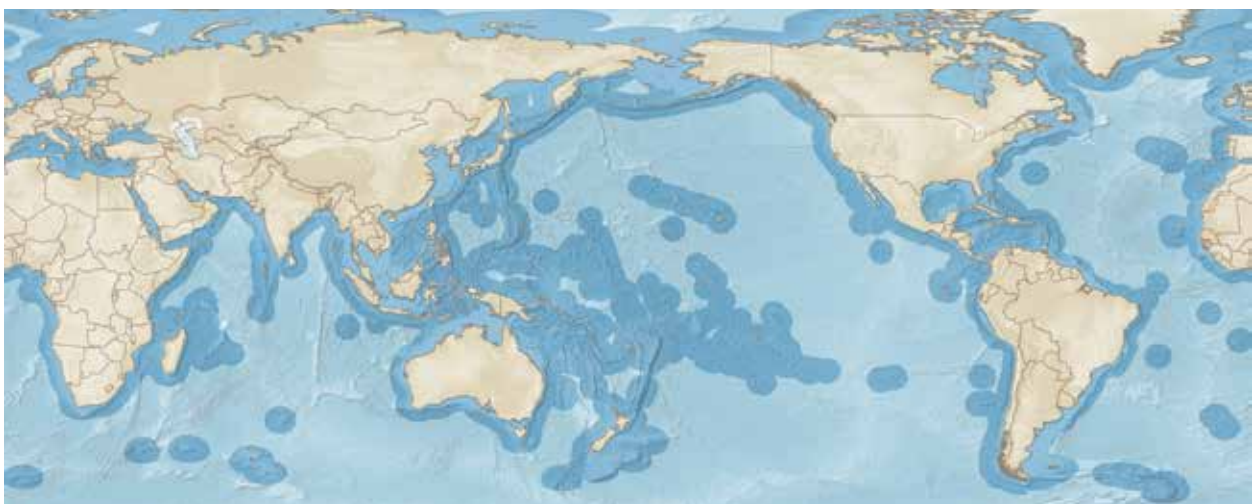
But because the high seas fall outside of national exclusive economic zones, which are the waters extending up to 200 miles from shore, they're "still a bit like the Wild West," says Elizabeth Wilson, who directs Pew's international ocean policy work. "They're governed by a patchwork of international and

regional agreements and organizations, but there's no overarching management system and many gaps exist. This new U.N. agreement could change that by creating a structure for coordinating regulation of activity in the high seas."

Wilson says a high seas treaty also would chart a course toward creating a network of marine protected areas in the open ocean, helping ensure that special places receive the protection they need to remain vibrant, diverse ecosystems. Marine protected areas, which Pew works to encourage around the globe, can safeguard ocean biodiversity, protect top predators, and provide ecological benefits to neighboring ecosystems; existing areas have seen an increase in the diversity of species, and twice as many large fish, compared with places where fishing is allowed. Scientific research has shown that these waters offer even more benefits when they are large, highly protected, isolated, well-enforced, and long-standing.

"The U.N.'s step forward with negotiations represents a great start, but there is still much work to be done," says Wilson. "These complex discussions could take years, and world leaders should negotiate this important treaty quickly."

—Michael Crispino



The high seas, in light blue, are outside of nations' exclusive economic zones (highlighted in dark blue) and are "still a bit like the Wild West," says Pew's Elizabeth Wilson. Ned Drummond/The Pew Charitable Trusts



Using the new technique, Thien Duong Nguyen tugs a baited line to lure yellowfin tuna to his hooks.
Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts

A large blue cable spool is mounted on a metal frame on the deck of a ship. The spool is partially unwound, with the blue cable trailing off to the right. The ship's white railing and a white vertical pipe are visible on the left. The ocean and a blue sky with scattered white clouds are in the background. The text 'CATCHING JUST THE RIGHT FISH' is overlaid in white on three green rectangular backgrounds in the lower right. Below this, 'BY DOUG STRUCK' is written in green on a white rectangular background.

CATCHING JUST THE RIGHT FISH

BY DOUG STRUCK

Twenty-two miles off the coast of Louisiana, Thien Duong Nguyen throttles back the twin diesels of his 80-foot steel fishing boat, the *Queensland*. In years past, he would uncrank the massive spool in the stern, feeding the choppy Gulf of Mexico waters with 35 miles of fishing line bristling with 900 hooks offering frozen squid and sardines.

He and his crew would let the hooks soak 200 feet deep for six hours or more, and then haul up the prey he had been seeking, a few valuable yellowfin tuna and maybe a swordfish. His catch would emerge along with a litter of other creatures he had not sought, known as “bycatch”: wahoo, mahi-mahi, escolar, albacore, small sharks, an occasional endangered sea turtle—and a magnificent and rare ocean speedster, the Atlantic bluefin tuna.

But on this day, Thien does not touch the spool. Instead, he demonstrates a new technique with a 40-foot-long green stick—bamboo in its original form, fiberglass now—bolted upright on his deck. He runs about 800 feet of line from the uppermost tip of the pole out to a wooden sled towed from the stern. From the sloping line hang seven gaily colored plastic squid on hooks.

Thien pushes his engines to a loud growl, pulling the sled like a ski. He grabs the line with a calloused right hand and yanks. The dangling squid bounce over the surface like flying fish fleeing a pursuer. The charade is for yellowfin tuna. If he can make the plastic squid dance just right, Thien has found, the yellowfin tuna—and yellowfin only—cannot resist the chase. They leap from the water for the squid, and are hauled onto Thien’s deck without the bycatch he does not need or want.

“The secret is to keep the squid bouncing,” says Thien, a compact man with a wide smile who left his native Vietnam in 1982 and helped form a community of Vietnamese fishermen in Louisiana.

Aboard the *Queensland*, Thomas Wheatley is watching this new chapter in a long-developing success story. Wheatley, who manages ocean conservation programs in the Gulf of Mexico for The Pew Charitable Trusts, has been working since 2009 to bring the “green stick” fishing technique—borrowed from the Japanese via Hawaiian fishermen—to Gulf longline fishermen, whose barbed hooks rake through the only known spawning grounds of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna. How to protect those beleaguered fish, captured as bycatch as fishermen seek yellowfin and other species, has been a bedeviling challenge for fisheries managers. And now, with Pew’s help, this new, fruitful method is ready for prime time, allowing crews to avoid inadvertently snagging bluefin.

Four fishermen in Louisiana and Florida have tested the gear for two seasons. Thien and his friend, fellow captain Peter T. Nguyen, have proved that with the right boats, the gear can work.

The slender green stick, jutting skyward, anchors a fishing line that stretches more than 500 feet behind the boat. *Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts*



“The bluefin that get to the Gulf have made it for at least eight to 10 years. They’ve run the gantlet of hooks up and down the coast, and they’ve made it here to spawn,” Wheatley says. “So ending the bycatch here is important to help bring these beautiful fish back.”



The population of bluefin found in the western Atlantic is not listed as endangered, but the fish have a precarious hold on their ocean tenure. Their numbers are estimated to be half what they were in the 1970s—and scientists estimate that the fish were already depleted by fishing then. The population started to plummet in the 1950s, when Japanese and American fishermen began to target them on an industrial scale.



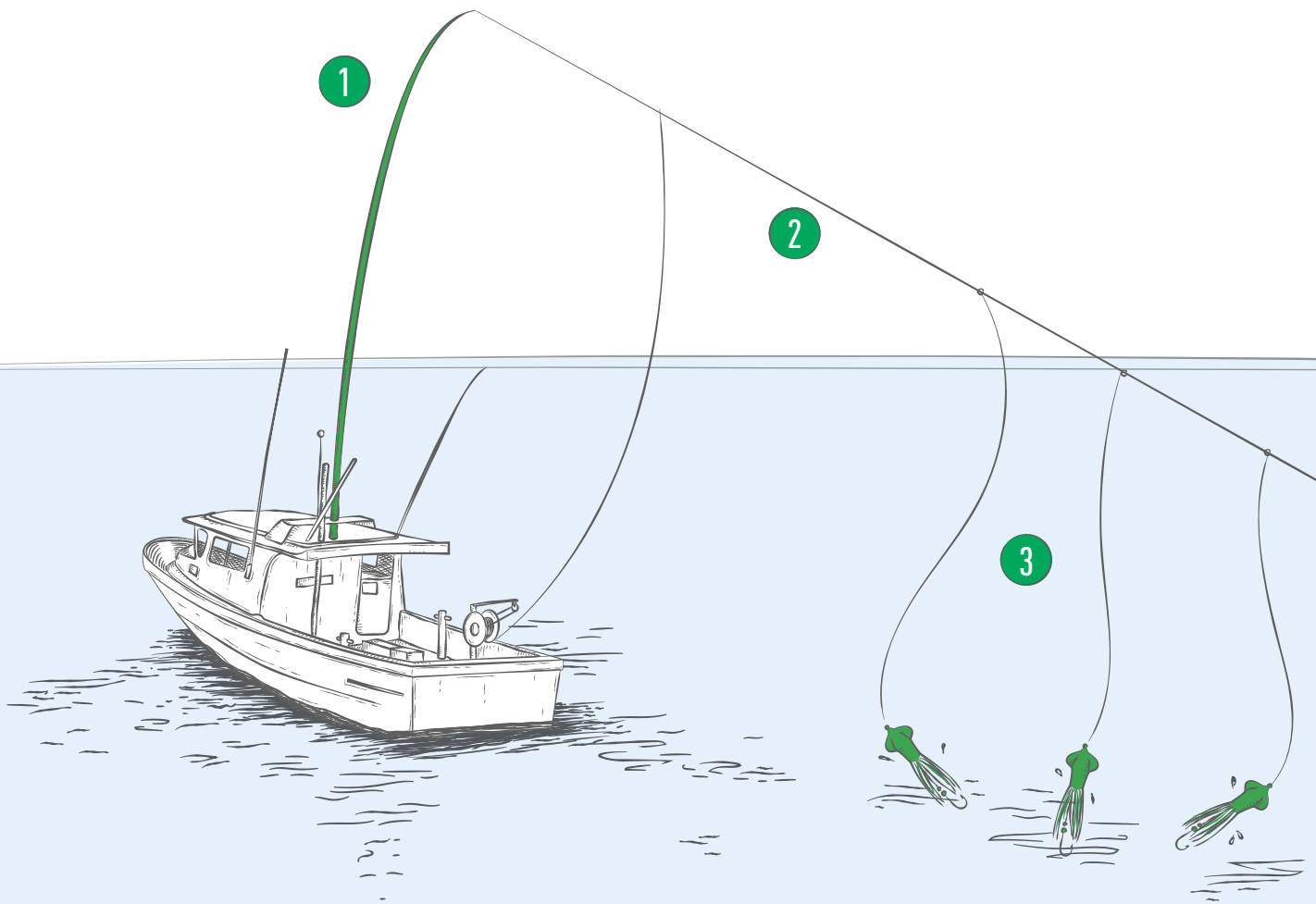
Dead or alive, the bluefin draws admirers, wowing anglers and scientists, chefs, and connoisseurs. It is built for speed, its body an aerodynamic engineer's dream complete with a perfectly balanced shape, a dorsal fin that retracts into a rigid slot like an airplane's landing gear, and a powerful tailfin that propels it forward with none of the inefficient back-and-forth body motion typical of large fish. And it has been clocked at more than 40 miles per hour.

It is warm-blooded, a rarity in fish, and is content cruising in warmer upper waters, often with its dorsal fin cutting what Carl Safina described in *Song for the Blue Ocean* as "a faint chevron bulging ever so slightly from that molten, glassy sea ... a wake without a boat." Yet its circulatory system also allows it to recapture the heat from its muscles and dive deep into frigid canyons in the middle of the ocean.

The bull of tuna, the bluefin can grow to 10 feet and weigh 1,500 pounds. Combined with its speed, its size and strength make it especially attractive for sports fishermen who pay top dollar for charter boats to take them far out to sea in pursuit.

For decades, the Atlantic bluefin's oxygen-rich circulation traditionally made its meat too red and bloody for picky eaters. Successful anglers often left their prize dockside to be turned into cat food after the celebratory photo. New England purse seiners once netted whole schools of the fish, and Japanese longline boats sailed right to the western Atlantic bluefin spawning grounds in the Gulf of Mexico.

Attempts by individual nations to curb Atlantic bluefin fishing have long been ineffective because the fish roam the oceans and swim in so many territorial waters. And efforts at international controls for the eastern Atlantic



and Mediterranean Sea population, by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, were so lax that critics bitterly joked that its acronym stood for the “International Conspiracy to Catch All Tuna.” In 2008, an independent consultant for the commission called its efforts an “international disgrace” and “a travesty of fisheries management.” Two years later, in his book *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*, Paul Greenberg glumly concluded that bluefin was, “in all respects, an unmanageable fish.”

But as outrage grew over the ravaging of the eastern Atlantic population, members of the commission tightened quotas—with encouraging results. There was enough of an uptick in the estimated populations in both the east and west that in November 2014 the commission adopted a 14 percent increase in catch

quotas for 2015 and 2016 for the western Atlantic bluefin and a 20 percent annual increase for three years in the quota for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin. And last April, U.S. fisheries officials removed the western Atlantic bluefin from the list of stocks subject to overfishing (when fish are caught faster than they can reproduce), though western bluefin remain severely depleted. The head of sustainable fisheries for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Fisheries Service, Alan Risenhoover, calls the Atlantic bluefin’s fledgling recovery a “success story.”

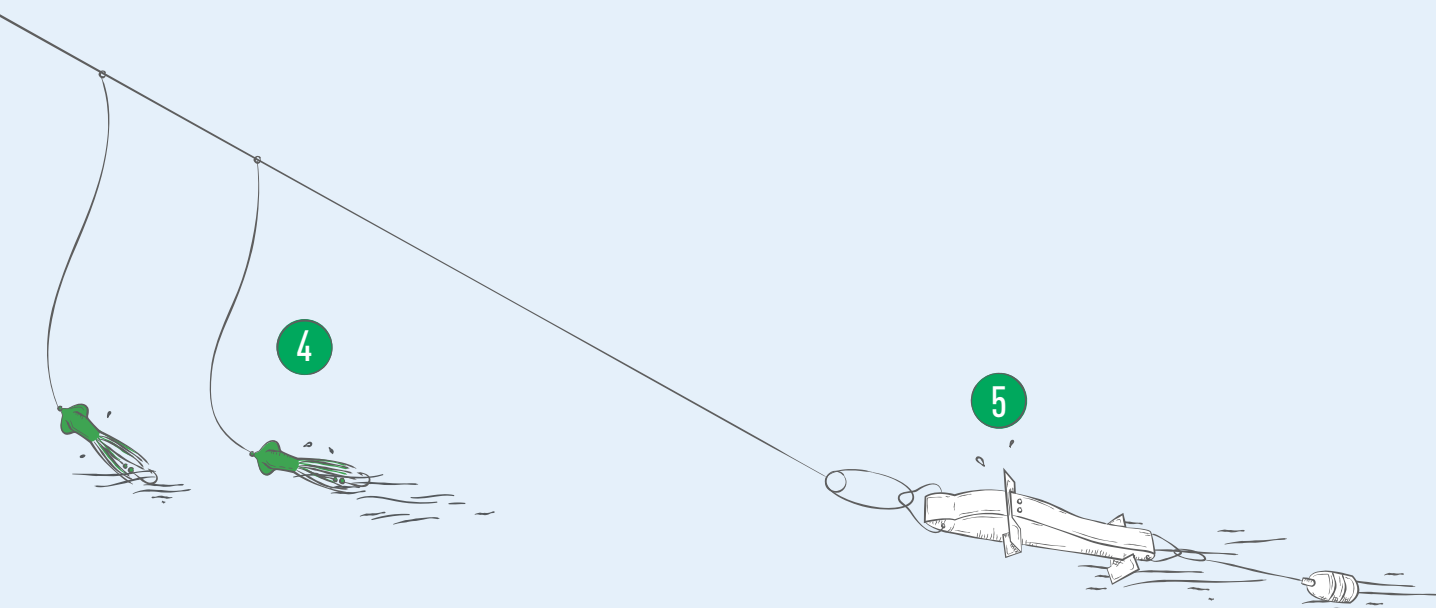
“The good news is we have ended overfishing,” he says. “Now the stock can rebuild.”

But the rush to proclaim victory at the first signs of improvement worries those who see it as premature for the long-range rebuilding of the species.

- 1 GREEN STICK**
A 35- to 45-foot fiberglass pole mounted vertically at or near the middle of the boat
- 2 MAIN LINE**
500 to 800 feet of fishing line attached to the green stick that is towed behind the boat
- 3 DROP LINE**
5 to 10 shorter lines attached to the main line that skip baits across the top of the water

- 4 SQUID BAIT**
vividly colored artificial baits that skip across the water mimicking a flying fish
- 5 BIRD**
a fish-shaped weight found at the end of the main line that holds the line taut while the boat is moving

Bailey Farnsworth/The Pew Charitable Trusts



"There is definitely evidence that the population has grown," says Amanda Nickson, director of Pew's global tuna conservation project. But, she adds, "there's still a sense that the nascent recovery is at risk. I think we're a long way from declaring victory and going home."

Stumped by the long record of inadequate protections for this fish, Pew in 2010 turned to finding new techniques to help fishermen and protect the bluefin. A four-year effort followed to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of the new techniques to federal regulators and fishermen. Starting in April and May of 2015, those federal regulators prohibited longline fishing in large parts of the western bluefin spawning grounds to help the fish recover. At the same time, after years of frustration for environmentalists, U.S. fishing authorities have begun

tightening restrictions on bycatch, vowing to adopt and enforce quotas that include all dead Atlantic bluefin caught at sea, and monitoring compliance through cameras mounted on the fishermen's boats.

The tighter rules are nudging fishermen to think about the new techniques. "I've heard about the green stick, but I've never used it," Dong Tran says as he takes a break from sanding his boat to watch the Queensland tie up in Dulac, the scrubby Louisiana port 14 miles up a canal from the Gulf that's home to the Vietnamese shrimp and longline fishing fleet. But, he acknowledges, "I have seen the other two captains get some fish. Maybe the catch would be less, but the quality of the fish would be better. I'd try it."

The novel fishing technique was introduced to the Gulf in part because of the frustration of Pew and other

groups trying to get U.S. fishing authorities to crack down on bycatch of bluefin in its spawning grounds. The green stick was used by Japanese fishermen, adopted by some fishermen in Hawaii, and tried by a few others, primarily off the coast of North Carolina.

"We wondered if these things would work in the Gulf of Mexico," recalls Lee Crockett, director of Pew's U.S. oceans program. Pew gathered scientists, fishermen, and state and federal officials at a workshop in Galveston, Texas, in 2011 to consider the question. "At the end, it was remarkable. It was unanimous," he says.

But to introduce green stick fishing in Louisiana required navigation of two formidable cultures: fishermen and Vietnamese-Americans. Each has its challenges: Fishermen are loath to change long-tested ways in which they make their living, and those in Dulac are further set apart by their language and shared hardships.

"It's a pretty insular community," Crockett says of Dulac. "We had to find a way in."



Most of the Vietnamese-Americans in Dulac are "boat people" or descendants of those who fled the former South Vietnam in the years after the United States withdrew in 1975. Many of them suffered in the early years of communist rule in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam before escaping. Thien's father, a South Vietnamese soldier, was incarcerated. "We were very, very hungry," recalls Thien. "My brothers and sisters were very small because they had no food." In 1982, Thien agreed to captain a narrow boat packed with 80 people who each had paid three bars of gold to attempt the dangerous trip from Vietnam to Malaysia. Despite a harrowing finish on a storm-tossed coast, where Thien threw infants to waiting arms ashore, all made it alive.

The other fishermen have similar stories. Peter, a former soldier who says he lost the fingers and thumb on his right hand to a small bomb during the war, says fishermen with boats packed their families on board and sailed to Malaysia or farther, then ditched the vessels and left everything else behind.

Many made their way to the United States and wound up in Louisiana, shrimping and longlining to make use of their fishing skills. But life in their new country was not easy; there were territorial and cultural struggles with the local fishermen, says Bobby Nguyen, who was born in the United States and has served as a bridge between Pew and the fishermen. Today, the Vietnamese-American community in Louisiana has grown to nearly 30,000 people.

But Bobby and the others say those earlier tensions have subsided. "Once [Vietnamese fishermen] figured out the fishing in the Gulf, it was 'game on,' " says Bobby, whose father was a shrimper.

There is little dispute that the bluefin ought to be protected during its once-a-year spawning period. Atlantic bluefin have only two known breeding grounds: the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

In the spring, the western Atlantic giants—mature fish often 300 pounds or more and thought to be at least 8 years old—migrate from all corners of the western Atlantic to the Gulf and Florida Straits. There, they swim in tight groups that seek circular eddies in the warm waters to release and fertilize millions of eggs.

"These are the huge fish, the big spawners. They are there to reproduce, and so they are the most valuable fish," says Pew's Crockett.

In 2014, U.S. managers completed regulations that prohibited all commercial surface longline fishing in nearly 27,000 square miles of the Gulf during the peak of the bluefin spawning, each April and May.

For the other months, however, longline fishermen are still on the water, seeking the bluefin's smaller cousin, the yellowfin tuna, as well as swordfish, another long-distance roaming fish. The yellowfin are not endangered, and their firm white flesh goes to sushi or onto plates in seafood restaurants, along with albacore and bigeye and skipjack tuna.

The majority of the bluefin snared as bycatch on the longlines are dead or dying when they are hauled aboard, and Crockett says more than 400 a year are dumped back into the water.

"I don't think anyone was naive to the fact that the bycatch was high and longliners were exceeding the quotas," says Jason Schratwieser, conservation director for the International Game Fish Association, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"We were seeing upward of 100 metric tons a year in discard from the Gulf alone. It's not small. And, really, those numbers are only part of the story. The only reason the tuna are in the Gulf is to spawn. So every individual fish that was caught was special, there for a reason."



This year, in addition to the Gulf spawning closures, NOAA Fisheries put into place hard quotas on the bluefin bycatch. Legal-size bluefin brought up dead—victims of exhaustion, overheating, and other predators from their time on the longlines—must now be kept and counted, and the fishermen must pull in their lines and quit when they reach the quotas. Cameras with wide-angle lenses are bolted onto the boats to record on-deck activities, and authorities will spot-check the videos to see that the rules are being followed.

These are powerful incentives to avoid hooking bluefin. The Deepwater Horizon spill added impetus and money to the effort. "The oil spill changed the landscape here," says Pew's Wheatley. Ironically, the Deepwater oil well



Above: The Queensland crew hauls in the "bird," a fish-shaped weight that stretches the fishing line taut behind the vessel.

Left: These plastic squid, when danced across the water, prove irresistible to yellowfin tuna. *Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts*





Yellowfin tuna, like this one, are easily caught with the green stick, fetching \$600 to \$700 per fish in the Gulf of Mexico. *Max Appelman*

blowout, which covered about 20 percent of the bluefin spawning grounds with oil, helped the protection effort by adding greater urgency and badly needed funding.

BP recovered some of the oil, sold it for \$23 million, and turned the funds over to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. From that came a grant to Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to run the \$700,000 green stick pilot project in 2012 and 2013 that financed Thien and the three other captains.

Their catch was monitored closely. And “of 181 fishing days in which the gear was deployed in the boat, 1,850 animals were caught,” says Tony Chatwin, acting vice president for science and evaluation for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. “Of those, there were zero bluefin tuna.

“Bycatch is a reality in fishing,” he says. But “the numbers that the green stick performance showed were pretty amazing.”

In sun-baked Dulac, though, the fishermen are more interested in what the green stick technique does catch than what it doesn't. There are 35 Louisiana longline permit holders, about 25 of them active, and most of them are Vietnamese-Americans who fish out of Dulac. In the early days of the pilot project, they watched Thien and Peter steam out with the towering green poles jutting from their decks—only to return, days later, with meager catches.

“It took a while to get used to the green stick,” says Thien, sitting in the huge captain's chair of his fishing vessel, steering with a bare foot on the boat's wheel. Off the port side, bottlenose dolphins breach in the distance.



Chefs and consumers looking for sustainably caught local seafood prize the yellowfin tuna. *Max Appelman*

He says he found that if he pulled the green stick sled too fast, the leaping yellowfin missed the bait. Too slow, and the fish weren't interested. Through trial and error, he figured out that yanking repeatedly on the line made the plastic squid "fly" over the water, luring the yellowfin. Then, one day, Thien and Peter returned to dock with five yellowfin and found that the longliners had been shut out, with no tuna in a dozen days at sea. Thien and Peter's catch wasn't huge, but with an average yellowfin fetching \$600 or \$700, it was enough to convince the others.

Tom Huynh, captain of the *Morning Star*, says that when he saw Thien and Peter's catch, he "knew it would work. But having the right boat is the big question."

That is the greatest challenge, the fishermen have discovered. To get to the tuna highways far out in the Gulf requires almost three days of travel each way. To run

the big steel fishing boats takes a crew of four, and the twin diesels gulp fuel—as much as \$7,000 worth per trip.

To make those trips pay, the longliners stay in the Gulf for 10 days to two weeks and set their miles of hooked line more than a dozen times to get enough fish. Using the green stick avoids most of the bycatch but yields fewer yellowfin tuna. The expeditions would be more profitable if the boats equipped with the green sticks were smaller, with more efficient engines and smaller crews, and could get to the tuna grounds and back faster—with fresher catch.

"The gear works," says Wheatley. "Now, it's how to make it more cost-efficient."

The NOAA Restoration Center, which is administering the distribution of the first \$1 billion of BP's payments to aid recovery from the spill, has proposed setting aside



"I don't want the lifestyle of fishing to end," says Thien Duong Nguyen.
Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts

\$20 million to reimburse surface longline fishermen who agree to stop fishing with longlines for six months a year when western Atlantic bluefin are in the Gulf, to allow the species to recover. In addition, NOAA is considering paying longline fishermen to convert to green sticks for yellowfin fishing to further protect bluefin, which could happen beginning in 2017. Pew is hoping the grants will help some of the fishermen replace their hulking steel vessels with more efficient 50-foot fiberglass boats outfitted with green sticks.

The Louisiana captains say they are willing. "You see so much bycatch—what a waste," says Thien. Adds Peter, "The green stick is better for the next generation and the fish itself."



In food-crazy New Orleans, 70 miles from Dulac, some of the top restaurateurs are rooting for the green stick.

"Chefs have two interests. They want the fish now. But they also want the fish for the future," says Harry Lowenburg, an organizer with the Gulf Restoration Network in New Orleans.

"We worked with a tuna they got on a green stick, and it was amazing," chef Nick Lama says as he putters about the tables of his newly opened restaurant, Avo, in West New Orleans. Without the sea-to-plate delay of the longliners' two-week voyages, the green stick tuna "was as fresh as it could be," he says.

"We are very fortunate to be able to have fresh seafood on our doorstep," he adds. "It's our responsibility to make sure it's protected."

Customers now ask questions about the health of fish stocks, adds Patrick Singley, proprietor of the top-rated Gautreau's restaurant. "People are much more aware of natural resources than they were 10 years ago."

Wheatley and other conservationists predict the green stick will be the fisherman's tool of the future, as restrictions on bycatch get tighter. "It's like the saying goes, if you build a better mousetrap, people will want it," Wheatley says. "It's better for the ocean, for the fish, and for the fishermen."

For Thien, the lens of this goal is all too familiar. He and many of the other Vietnamese-Americans in Dulac risked much to make a better future—for themselves and for their children. They understand the importance of investing for future generations.

"I want a more sustainable way of harvesting tuna. I don't want the lifestyle of fishing to end," the captain says as he steers his boat through the flat green water of the Gulf. "The tuna can't be overfished."

Doug Struck is a senior journalist in residence at Emerson College, where he teaches and reports on the environment.



Something to Smile About

Lack of dental treatment can lead to serious health problems. But new practitioners in Minnesota and elsewhere are expanding care.

By Frank Clancy



On a warm August day, a small, red-haired woman climbs slowly into the chair at Apple Tree Dental, a nonprofit clinic in Madelia, Minnesota, 100 miles southwest of Minneapolis.

Life is not easy for Betresse Duggan, who is 44. She has chronic back inflammation and osteoporosis as well as heart problems. She lives on food stamps and \$200 a month general assistance. "Things are pretty tough right now," she says.

A woman wearing a dental smock named Jodi Hager asks Duggan about an upper tooth repaired a month earlier, then reviews the day's plan and begins to fill cavities in two of Duggan's teeth. Numb the gum. A shot of Lidocaine. Wait. Drill. Fix the first cavity. Polish. All the while, Hager and dental assistant Joanna Yanez work together seamlessly, passing instruments back and forth, suctioning, rinsing, draining.

With the first cavity done, Hager turns to the second. She expresses concern about this tooth, closer to the front of Duggan's mouth, because the cavity is deeper than the first. Duggan is worried too, because her insurance won't pay for either a root canal or a crown. "If the tooth can't be saved," she says, "it has to be pulled. I don't have money for a crown." In an effort to save the tooth, Hager applies two protective bases and then fills the tooth.

The appointment lasts 50 minutes. Though complicated by Duggan's health problems, it is in almost every respect an ordinary interaction, played out daily in thousands of dental chairs across the United States.

But Jodi Hager is not a dentist. Rather, she's what's called an "advanced dental therapist." And only in Minnesota, parts of Alaska, and now Maine is it legal for someone like her to treat cavities.

Hager is licensed by the state of Minnesota to provide preventive and routine restorative dental care, with a dentist's supervision. Since 2003, "dental health aide therapists" have been allowed to work among native populations in Alaska, through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Maine authorizes dental hygiene therapists to work under dentists' oversight.

That Duggan found her way to Hager's treatment chair is itself a ringing endorsement of Minnesota's unusual approach to oral health care. Insured through the state's version of Medicaid, Duggan had tried to find a dentist in New Ulm, a town 20 miles to the north that is six times larger than Madelia. "Every dentist I called said the same thing. They either weren't taking new patients or they didn't take my insurance," she says. Finally, she heard about Hager through a social worker. She knows Hager is not a dentist, but she doesn't care. She is grateful to have found a clinic that will treat her. Without dental therapists like Hager, it would be much harder for Duggan to find care.

Dentists who employ dental therapists see them as members of a team of caregivers, able to treat the most common disease in children and the elderly: tooth

decay. Trained to perform less than 20 percent of the procedures that dentists can perform, dental therapists have lower salaries. This can allow the dentists who hire them to serve more underserved patients. Michael Helgeson, the dentist who is executive director of Apple Tree, which employs five dental therapists in six offices across the state, estimates that each therapist saves his organization \$50,000, compared with the cost of hiring a full-time dentist—a savings that he says "allows us to add chairs, reduce waiting lists, and treat thousands of additional patients." Other nonprofit clinics, such as Children's Dental Services in Minneapolis, have seen even higher savings.

Dentists who employ dental therapists see them as members of a team of caregivers.

In 2007, a 12-year-old Maryland boy named Deamonte Driver died after his mother was unable to find a dentist who would treat him and bacteria spread from an infected tooth to his brain. "That was a rallying cry for us," says Jane Koppelman, Pew's research director for children's dental policy. "Something was very wrong with our dental care system." Four years later, an Institute of Medicine report catalogued in detail the failures of this system: One-third of Americans had no dental insurance; many dentists were not accepting the low reimbursement rates Medicaid offered, leaving millions of people to scramble for a limited number of providers; dental care costs were rising and out of reach for many Americans; and dentists were poorly distributed across the country, leaving large swaths of rural and inner-city areas with shortages. Unsurprisingly, these failures were disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable citizens: low-income individuals, children, certain ethnic minorities, and the disabled, who suffer from disproportionately high rates of dental disease. So Pew began work to expand access to dental care, with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supporting research to document the benefits of dental therapists.

There are more than 50 countries around the world—including the United Kingdom, Australia, and other Western democracies—that authorize some type of oral health professional other than a dentist to provide routine care such as filling cavities. More than 1,000 studies of dental therapists working in these countries, as well as in Alaska, share the same findings: that dental therapists provide safe and effective care.

Momentum is building in support of dental therapy as a way to expand access to care in the United States. Pew worked with Minnesota legislators in 2008 to pass the authorizing legislation there. In April 2014, Maine became the second state to create a new type of oral



Each Apple Tree dental therapist saves the organization \$50,000, compared with the cost of hiring a full-time dentist, allowing more chairs, reduced waiting lists, and thousands of additional patients treated. Dawn Vilella for The Pew Charitable Trusts

health practitioner when Governor Paul LePage (R) signed legislation authorizing dental hygiene therapists. Legislatures in Connecticut, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington, among other states, have considered similar legislation.

Mark W. Eves, a Democrat who is speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, sponsored the bipartisan legislation signed by Gov. LePage in response to what both leaders call Maine's "oral health crisis." All but one of the state's 16 counties are federally designated dental health professional shortage areas.

"For me, what stood out was the frustration of people trying to access a dentist—particularly those on Medicaid," says Eves. "You hear stories of parents calling desperately, across a wide region, trying to do the right thing, and dentists say they can't afford to treat Medicaid patients. The step we took last year gives dentists another way to expand their care to those patients." This August, the Commission on Dental Accreditation—the federally sanctioned accreditation agency for dental education programs—issued final standards for dental therapy education programs.

According to the guidelines, an accredited program must include at least three academic years of full-time instruction, with the opportunity to give advanced standing to individuals already trained as dental assistants and dental hygienists. Leon A. Assael, a dentist who is dean of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry—one of the first U.S. schools to develop a dental therapy training program—describes the release of the new standards as "a tremendous achievement. The Commission has now accepted dental therapy as a profession worthy of being accredited."

But many dentists remain unconvinced. The American Dental Association reiterated its opposition earlier this year, saying it "remains firmly opposed to allowing non-dentists to perform surgical procedures" such as treating cavities.

The push to expand access to dental care comes amid increasing recognition that oral health is vital to overall health. "Oral disease is so ubiquitous that people accept it as part of being human," says Assael. "They expect teeth will fail and they will end up with dentures."

But poor oral health, he points out, has cascading effects, on both children and adults. Healthy teeth are

essential to healthy eating, to digestion, to sleep, to breathing, to self-esteem. It's difficult to sleep with a toothache; without sleep, it's hard to concentrate in school or at work. More broadly, research suggests links between poor oral health and diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, as well as poor outcomes in pregnancy.

"People ask, 'Why is my mouth important?' I say to them, 'Why is your arm important?'" says Assael. "The oral cavity is a human organ system, very much like your stomach or intestines. It has profound effects on other organ systems. When the structures of the mouth are destroyed by disease, such as tooth decay, the effects are profound and severe."

Research suggests links between poor oral health and diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, as well as poor outcomes in pregnancy.

Minnesota is, in some respects, an unlikely pioneer. On overall measures of access to dental care, the state does well, ranking 17th nationally in the number of dentists per capita. But a disproportionate number of those dentists work in major cities, and more than 70 percent of the state's 87 counties—including Watonwan County, where

Madelia is located—are partially or entirely designated by the federal government as having a shortage of dentists. In both Minneapolis and St. Paul, the federal government has also identified substantial low-income neighborhoods as having a shortage of dentists.

Minnesota first enacted legislation authorizing two types of dental therapists to work statewide in 2009. Licensed dental therapists are allowed by law to provide preventive and restorative care under the supervision of a dentist. Advanced dental therapists have additional training in dental therapy and 2,000 hours of clinical experience. Advanced therapists are allowed to provide additional services, such as oral assessments, and can practice in sites other than where their supervising dentists are located, though they still must work under a collaborative management agreement with a dentist—who must, for example, review treatment plans.

By Minnesota law, at least 50 percent of dental therapists' caseloads must be underserved patients.

Minnesota's first dental therapists—Hager among them—began practicing in 2011. She qualified as an advanced dental therapist in summer 2013. As of July 2015, the state Board of Dentistry had licensed about 50 dental therapists, including nine advanced therapists, to practice in the state.

On the day that she saw Duggan, Hager did consult a dentist. A 25-year-old woman new to Apple Tree arrived at the clinic at around 1:45 p.m. with an emergency:



At Children's Dental Services in Minneapolis, many patients live in low-income neighborhoods that the federal government has identified as having a shortage of dentists. *Dawn Vilella for The Pew Charitable Trusts*



Children are disproportionately affected by the lack of access to dental care, along with low-income individuals, certain ethnic minorities, and the disabled. Dawn Villella for The Pew Charitable Trusts

She had not been able to open her mouth for nearly 23 hours. She had visited an urgent care clinic, where she was told to see an oral surgeon. But in order to do that, she needed a referral from a dentist. And, like many Apple Tree patients, the woman had state-subsidized insurance—Medicaid, usually not accepted by any oral surgeon closer than the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, more than 100 miles away.

After consulting her supervising dentist, Hager called an oral surgeon in Mankato, about 30 miles away. When he came on the line, Hager briefly explained the situation and began to relay his questions to the young woman, who responded in a barely audible voice. When did the problem begin? Had she eaten anything at all? What had she had to drink? When? Could she get to Mankato by 3? Is there someone who can drive her home?

The conversation lasted a few minutes. After hanging up, Hager told the young woman she had a 3 o'clock appointment with the oral surgeon, who would take her insurance. "That's huge," Hager says, relief in her voice.

Hager quickly gave the woman instructions and advice—don't drink anything, even water; be sure to call the oral surgeon if running late; remember to schedule follow-ups—then sent her off.

Hager left the clinic just before 4, after a nearly eight-hour day. She had seen a total of 15 patients, 11 of them

children, two-thirds of them insured by Medicaid. She treated nine cavities and conducted 11 oral assessments, mostly squeezed between appointments after a hygienist had cleaned the person's teeth.

One of the patients was a young boy from Pipestone, a two-hour drive away. Hager grew up there, near the South Dakota border; she knows on a visceral level that it's a long way to drive for dental care.

Scheduled to repair two cavities, Hager had noticed that the boy badly needed to have his teeth cleaned. Rather than ask the boy's mother to bring him back another day—at least a five-hour task—Hager rearranged the schedule so the youngster could also get a cleaning.

"For low-income people, trying to make multiple trips—taking days off from work, paying for gas, and arranging child care—are huge barriers," says Helgeson, Apple Tree's executive director, who loves the new opportunities for care that his clinics now provide. "A patient who would otherwise wait weeks or months may not wait at all, or wait only an hour or two."

Frank Clancy is a Minneapolis-based writer whose work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine and numerous other publications.



**About 7 percent
of Americans
have a multiracial
background.
Their numbers
are growing three
times as fast
as the overall
population.**

.....
BY ASHLEY HALSEY III



When the U.S. Census Bureau set out to count everyone in the United States 25 years ago, there were 15 options to choose from in the category of race. For good measure, the census included one more: “other.”

“It was quite a bit more inclusive than the first census in 1790, when the choices were free white males, free white females, all other free people, and slaves,” says Kim Parker, director of social trends research at the Pew Research Center.

That 1790 census didn’t fully capture the diversity of our nascent nation—Native Americans were notably absent—but neither did the census taken two centuries later in 1990, even with the inclusion of “other.” Another decade would pass before the government would take note of the ever-evolving complexion of the United States. In 2000, mixed-race Americans were allowed for the first time to check more than one box to better capture their heritage. But the data still begged for a deeper dive.

“The whole ethnic and racial fabric of the population is changing, and we haven’t found a good way to measure mixed-race Americans,” Parker says. “We wanted to explore how to do that and to ask adults with a mixed-racial background what their experience was like and how it might be different from that of other racial groups.”

So with census data from 2000 and 2010 in hand, the center’s researchers conducted a survey, focus groups, and individual interviews to capture the experiences and perspectives of the growing number of people whose background is of more than one race. The center’s report, *Multiracial in America*, was released in June and offers a new view of a nation undergoing significant demographic change—and what that portends politically and culturally in the coming decades.

“The emergence of this multiracial group raises questions about what race means in America,” Parker explains. “We wondered how a growing multiracial population might change—or not change—the black-white racial divide that’s been so relevant in terms of our national history, and continues to be now.”

It wasn’t until 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws banning interracial marriage. That accounts, in part, for the fact that the median age of multiracial Americans is 19, half the median age of single-race Americans.

The 2010 census reported that 2.1 percent of U.S. adults are multiracial and projected that the multiracial population will triple by 2060. The Pew report estimated that 6.9 percent of today’s adults have a multiracial background. Pew’s expanded definition took into account not only the races of respondents but of their parents and grandparents, which the census does not do.

“The reason I think this study was so important was that we were able to get a big enough sample to look at

"My racial background is very important to my overall identity. It has given me a diverse perspective ... so I look at things from both sides. I approach everything in life from both sides. There's not a day that goes by that I'm not thinking about race, thinking about black and white, thinking about all of it."

Christa, *black and white*

"I don't think it's possible to separate one part of your identity from anything else. You know, I'm a man, but I'm not just a man, I'm a Native American man, but I'm also a white man. I'm also gay. ... It's not like a Lego set where you can put pieces of identity on top of each other, but it's much more fluid and complicated, like if you put some dye into a river or something—it becomes something entirely different than just building block pieces."

Roo, *American Indian and white*

"I think people with mixed race see the world differently because I think they see it more openly. Because when you come from two different backgrounds, you have two different perceptions on life."

Danny, *Asian and black*

"Having mixed-race parents, my daughter will be even more mixed up and confused as to how to describe herself. She has a Japanese last name, a Chinese middle name, and a sort of traditional English first name. Even in her own name, you see a lot of that history but also an even more complicated one."

David, *Asian and white*

"It is much more difficult for a mixed race person to be confident in their identity because you're consistently either being pushed away or pulled in ... and questioning ... do I really fit in here or don't I, and if I don't what does that mean, are there people like me?"

Mycal, *black and white*

"I think mixed race people, for the most part, the big common bond, is that everyone wants to know, what are you? ... There's not really an easy way to answer it because when someone says such a general question you could say a variety of things. But we all know that when someone says what are you, that they're really meaning they want to know your racial background."

Grace, *Hispanic and white*



subgroups within the multiracial population,” Parker says. “So we could look at mixed-race Americans who were black and white, and mixed-race Americans who were white and Asian, and mixed-race Americans who were white and American Indian.”

The survey took in 1,555 multiracial adults. In addition, focus group discussions and in depth interviews helped add context beyond the data to paint a portrait of multiracial American life.

“I don’t think it’s possible to separate one part of your identity from anything else.”

Roo, American Indian and white

“In the past I feel like, in the United States in particular, perhaps that it was sort of looked down upon to be mixed race, that there was more value to being sort of just white or just black or just Asian or just Latino,” Mycal, a black and white man, told the researchers.

But several participants also saw that changing. “I think as we see more and more people of different racial backgrounds getting married, then you’re only likely to see this become more common,” said David, an Asian and white man. “As each milestone gets crossed off and doors open, I think it’s going to be easier.”

The interviews and survey research revealed that multiracial individuals are as diverse in their perspectives and opinions as virtually any other racial segment of the population.

Most people with a white and black background say they have more in common with blacks than whites and are more likely to feel accepted by blacks.

The majority of those with a white and Asian background feel they have more in common with whites and are more likely to say they feel accepted by whites than by Asians.

Most multiracial American Indians, whether white or black, say they have stronger ties to the white or black communities than they do to American Indians.

“You can’t really paint this group with a broad brush,” Parker says. “The experiences and attitudes an individual has really differ according to the races that make up his or her background. For example, mixed-race people who have some African-American origin in their background have a much different experience than mixed-race people who are white and Asian, in terms of discrimination or interactions with the police.”

Only about a third of those surveyed said they felt a great deal in common with other adults who share

their racial background. Although about 60 percent expressed pride in their multiracial identity, about the same percentage said they didn’t see themselves as “mixed race or multiracial.”

“So even the labels that we apply to people, they don’t necessarily apply to themselves,” Parker says. “That varied across different groups, too, with the white-Native American adults much less likely to consider themselves mixed race than white and black or white and Asian adults.”

And 21 percent said they felt pressured—by family, friends or “society in general”—to identify as a single race.

“Sometimes I identify as white because it’s easy,” Amy, who is American Indian and white, told the researchers. “Sometimes I just get tired of explaining, like, who I am—and, like, sometimes I just don’t care to.”

Parker says some of those interviewed talked of a “coming of age” moment when people began to identify more strongly with one of the races in their makeup.

“There were different factors that influenced people. But the takeaway there was that race is fluid and that people in different settings or different stages of life might identify themselves differently,” she says.

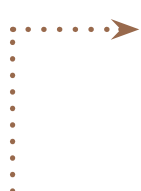
The diversity of viewpoints continued when Pew delved into politics with multiracial people. Party leanings reflected the sentiments of the overall U.S. population, with 57 percent of multiracial people siding with Democrats. But those with a black background were overwhelmingly Democratic, as were the majority with an Asian heritage. Among those who were white and American Indian, 53 percent said they favored the Republican Party.

“That could have implications going forward as this population continues to grow” Parker says. “It will be interesting to see where they fall along party lines.”

If there was a general frustration among multiracial people, it was over the demand that they check boxes on race on forms at all.

“Whether it was registering for school or filling out a job application, it was a common experience for a lot of people,” Parker says. “I think going forward, as this population grows, there probably will be more conversation and pressure for people who measure race to take this frustration into consideration. It’s a very dynamic field of measurement right now, which makes it interesting, and there are important policy implications to all of it.”

Ashley Halsey III has been a writer and editor for The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Washington Post.



Hear more multiracial voices and explore an interactive timeline on how census race categories have changed over the past two centuries at pewresearch.org/multiracial.

America's Fishing Law Has Cold War Roots

As Congress considers reauthorization of the 1970s-era statute, it's time to respond to modern challenges with a big-picture approach to protect the nation's ocean waters.

BY TED MORTON

The United States rightfully boasts many of the best-managed fisheries in the world, thanks to a 1976 ocean fishery management law, which today is known as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Perhaps it's no surprise that the statute, the primary law that governs fishing in U.S. ocean waters, emerged from an era that saw an awakening of environmental consciousness: The Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act all became law after the first Earth Day in 1970.

But Senator Warren Magnuson (D-WA) didn't necessarily share the era's "green" vision when he authored the law, along with Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Representatives Gerry Studds, a Democrat from Massachusetts, and Don Young, a Republican from Alaska. He saw red.

Cold War politics dominated the worldview of Magnuson, a naval veteran during World War II who bristled at the sight of Soviet catcher-processors just off the picturesque coastline of Washington and Oregon. That shore, however, wasn't the only place where foreign fleets took up residence off the U.S. coast, says Oregon State University fisheries historian Carmel Finley. Thousands of foreign boats plundered haddock and other fish stocks off New England, and Stevens himself recalled in 2003 that Japanese trawlers clustered year-round in Alaska waters. But it was the industrial-scale Soviet fleet off the Pacific Northwest that really irked Magnuson.

Bob Hitz, a now-retired marine biologist, wrote about a remarkable daybreak view during a research trip just off the coast of Washington in 1966.

"Everywhere else there were ships," Hitz wrote in Finley's blog in 2012, "a huge fleet of Russian ships and as the sun rose, the red hammer and sickle on the stacks seemed to glow from the reflection."

Finley noted this state-backed industrialized fleet began targeting Pacific Ocean perch in the Bering Sea in the late 1950s, then made its way south down

the Canadian and U.S. coast. "They discovered that, along the whole continental shelf from the Bering Sea down south, is this really rich environment between 90 to 120 fathoms," Finley recounted. "They just moved south and sucked them up."

Magnuson and Stevens, a fellow World War II veteran, agreed it was time for the United States to establish a 200-mile exclusive fisheries zone off the coast. "We set out to address the issue of sustainability in our fisheries," Senator Stevens recalled in a 2003 speech. The bipartisan law that they sponsored called on managers to prevent overfishing and promoted conservation, although Finley noted that at the time "conservation" was defined as maximizing the yield of natural resources for America's benefit.

Scientists and fishery managers have learned a lot since then. For one thing, the "Americanization" of the domestic fleet—spurred by federally backed loans to replace or upgrade fishing vessels—empowered U.S. fishing vessels to deplete many of the same stocks previously targeted by foreign boats. This led to the collapse of important fish populations in New England and the Gulf of Mexico in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Congress, when it reauthorized the Magnuson-Stevens Act in 1996 and again in 2006, improved protection of fish populations by requiring ocean managers to use science to decide the number of fish that commercial and recreational fishermen could catch sustainably each year, and to establish firm timelines to rebuild overfished populations. Even now, these continuing efforts help ensure that marine resources are being managed wisely for current and future generations of fishermen and coastal communities.

Today, however, our oceans face threats even more formidable than foreign fishing fleets.

Climate change makes the seas warmer and more acidic, damaging coral reefs and causing fish to move out of their usual areas, even as coastal development



Today, our oceans face threats even more formidable than foreign fishing fleets.



Above: Russian trawlers, like this one in 1966, routinely fished for hake off the coast of Washington state before the Magnuson-Stevens act was passed four decades ago. *Bob Hitz*

Left: **Senator Warren Magnuson.**
Ralph Morse/Getty Images

Right: **Senator Ted Stevens.**
Seattle Times/JR Partners/Getty Images

degrades natural habitats, and people extract natural resources from ever more remote parts of the globe. Yet, when it comes to sustaining American fisheries, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, after the 1996 and 2006 amendments, has risen to the challenge and helped the nation maintain, even improve, its coastal waters and marine habitats. As Congress debates reauthorizing the law over the coming year, lawmakers should require regional fishery councils to broaden their focus from

managing single species in isolation, to a big-picture approach that looks at protecting ecosystem function and structure. With such an approach, fishery managers could account for what fish eat, what eats them, where they live, and how they're all affected by fishing.

Ted Morton directs U.S. oceans programs for The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Boreal and Its Birds

With a changing climate, Canada's boreal forest has become more essential than ever for the world's songbirds.



Ornithologist Jeff Wells, science director for the Boreal Songbird Initiative and an adviser to Pew, champions efforts to protect Canada's boreal forest. The 1.2 billion-acre boreal is the largest intact forest and wetland

ecosystem in the world, teeming with wildlife—including millions of caribou, tens of millions of ducks and geese, and billions of migratory songbirds.

In March, the songbird initiative and Ducks Unlimited, both partners with Pew in an international boreal conservation project, launched the Boreal Birds Need Half campaign. In a conversation with Trust, Wells—who is also the author of the Birder's Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk—explains why Canada's boreal forest is playing an increasingly important role in sustaining healthy bird populations.

What is the Boreal Birds Need Half campaign, and what does it aim to achieve?

The Boreal Birds Need Half campaign is an effort to enlist average citizens, mainstream conservation organizations, and progressive businesses to recognize and support the modern conservation science principles that show at least 50 percent of the boreal forest region must be maintained free of industrial development. The campaign also advocates for the application of globally leading, responsible development criteria in the other half of the region, where forestry, mining, oil and gas development, agriculture, and hydropower development may occur.

Why is Canada's boreal forest such a vital habitat for North America's migratory birds?

The boreal region of Canada is one of the largest and most ecologically intact areas on the planet and has continued to host robust populations of a great diversity of birds. More than 300 species

The common redpoll, nestled amid the snowflakes, migrates from the boreal as far south as the central United States. Don Johnston/Getty Images

Opposite page: **American white pelicans, like these taking flight from Rocky Lake in Manitoba, summer in the boreal but spend winters in warmer southern climes.** Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts





regularly nest in the region, making up a total breeding population of 1 billion to 3 billion individual birds. It's really astonishing. Most of these birds spend the winter south of the boreal forest region in the United States, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. What many people don't know is that most of the migratory birds that people enjoy seeing in backyards and parks every spring were born and raised in Canada's boreal forest.

How is climate change expected to affect the distribution of bird populations in North America?

Research has documented that many bird populations are already arriving earlier in the boreal and have shifted their distributions northward as a result of climate change. Recent modeling studies indicate a variety of probable responses of bird populations over the next 50 to 100 years, with some bird species losing much of their preferred climate and a great many significantly shifting their ranges north.

Will that make the boreal region an even more significant refuge for birds in the future?

Yes. The region will be one of the most amazing reservoirs of habitat for a huge number of species that will continue shifting their ranges northward. The maintenance of very large intact habitat blocks in the

boreal region will allow healthy, resilient populations to survive and adapt to climate stressors. That will ensure that there are fewer barriers to the shifting distributions of birds and their habitats.

You're an avid birder. Why is this a passion of yours, and how does it inform your work?

I became avidly interested in birds when I was in junior high school, in part because of my parents' and my grandmother's enjoyment of and interest in birds. Birding became a particularly strong passion because it was a way for me to feel connected to the amazing diversity, mystery, and adventure of the natural world.

It was possible for me, as a kid, to see a bird in or near my backyard in winter that had spent time with polar bears in the Arctic, or another bird in the spring that had just arrived from hanging out with macaws and jaguars in South America.

I still never tire of seeing new birds or the first ones arriving back every spring, and I am continually surprised to learn new things about birds and the natural world on a daily basis.

The work that I am engaged in—trying to see large-scale conservation applied to the boreal forest region—is a natural step in ensuring that future generations will also be able to live in a healthy world full of birds and other wildlife that they can enjoy.

Is It Necessary to Reimburse Cellphone Respondents?

The Pew Research Center analyzes whether offering payment for cellphone minutes of those taking its surveys affects polling accuracy.

BY KYLEY McGEENEY

Respondents who take a Pew Research Center survey on a cellphone are currently offered a \$5 reimbursement for their cellphone minutes for completing the survey. This policy is a legacy of the days when cellphone plans included a limited number of monthly voice minutes and charged per minute beyond that. But is it still necessary in the age of unlimited talk and text, even for some prepaid cellphone plans? From the survey sponsor's perspective, the cost of the reimbursement is not limited to the amount actually paid to the respondents, as it also includes the time it takes the interviewer to collect the respondent's name and address, as well as the processing fees from the survey contractor.

The Pew Research Center experimented with not offering the cellphone reimbursement to a random portion of respondents in its February, March, and May 2015 political polls. While the response rate was actually narrowly higher for the group not offered the money, the partisan composition of the sample was affected, with the share of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents ticking upward. Because of the impact on the partisan makeup of the resulting data, we decided to continue offering reimbursements.

Currently, in the standard Pew Research Center survey introduction, all cellphone respondents are told: "If you would like to be reimbursed for your cellphone minutes, we will pay all eligible respondents \$5 for participating in this survey." At the end of the survey, they are told: "If you would like to be reimbursed for your cellphone minutes, we can send you \$5." In a typical monthly political survey, roughly 1 in 5 cellphone respondents take the reimbursement when offered. The introductory language is similar to a typical contingent incentive in soliciting participation, though the description of the \$5 as a "reimbursement" rather than a "gift" or "token of appreciation" is different from the language used in many survey incentives. And the language at the end

of the survey is also phrased less like an incentive, as it tells respondents they may have the money if they want it, rather than attempting to provide it to all cellphone respondents. This, in conjunction with some respondents' reluctance to provide a name and contact information, may be the reason that only 21 percent of cellphone respondents actually give the necessary information to receive the money.

Cellphone respondents who accept the reimbursement differ demographically from those who do not. Using data from the Pew Research Center's February, March, and May 2015 monthly political polls, the analysis suggests those who take the money are more likely to be non-Hispanic black, less educated, of lower income, a Democrat or lean Democratic, and to have a prepaid cellphone number; they are less likely to be senior citizens. However, since those who take the money are, on average, only 21 percent of the cellphone sample, the resulting total sample looks much more like those who do not take the money than those who do.

Not surprisingly, those who are offered and accept the money are also more likely to report being worried about using too many cellphone minutes this month than are those who don't accept the money. (This question was asked in March and May only.)

The analysis suggests, then, that certain demographic groups are more likely to accept the offer of financial reimbursement than are others. It does not automatically follow, however, that without that reimbursement, they would turn into nonresponders. This is obviously a key question for survey researchers, because maintaining a demographic balance in the sample, and maintaining or increasing response rates among hard-to-reach groups, is of paramount concern. This is what we tested in our experiment. In three Pew Research Center surveys, a random 60 percent of the cellphone sample was offered the reimbursement, while the remaining 40 percent was not.

We found that the response rate was slightly higher for the no reimbursement group (10.5 percent)

than for the reimbursement group (9.2 percent). Perhaps framing the offer as a “reimbursement for your cellphone minutes” actually deters some potential respondents because they think the survey must be very long in order to warrant reimbursement.

While 21 percent of cellphone respondents accepted the money when offered, very few respondents asked for money when it was not offered—only 2 percent did so across the three surveys.

Demographically, respondents in the reimbursement and no reimbursement groups were very similar. They did not differ on age, race/ethnicity, education, income, or whether the cellphone used was a prepaid phone. This supports the hypothesis that many of

outnumber Republicans 49 percent to 40 percent in the no reimbursement group. Relatedly, those in the no reimbursement group are less likely to identify as conservative and to disapprove of President Barack Obama’s job performance.

It’s not clear what accounts for this paradoxical result. Democrats are more likely than are Republicans to accept a reimbursement when it is offered, but constitute a larger share of the sample when a reimbursement has not been offered.

It is tempting to drop the \$5 reimbursement, given that this experiment suggests that doing so would result in a small increase in the response rate of the cellphone sample, while at the same time bringing down

Political Differences Exist Between Cellphone Respondents Offered and Not Offered Reimbursement

Political profile of all cellphone respondents, those who were offered reimbursement and those who were not.

*Statistically significant difference between “offered” and “not offered.”

Source:
Pew Research Center

	Total cellphone sample	Reimbursement group	No reimbursement group
Rep./lean Rep.	42	44*	40
Dem./lean Dem.	47	46*	49
Very conservative	7	7	8
Conservative	29	30*	26
Moderate	36	36	36
Liberal	18	17	19
Very liberal	8	8	8
Obama job approval			
Approve	47	46	49
Disapprove	48	49*	45
National satisfaction			
Satisfied	32	31	33
Dissatisfied	64	65	63
Unweighted N	3,255	1,938	1,317

those who accept the money when it’s offered would still respond even when the money is not offered. In other words, while non-Hispanic blacks and lower income and less educated individuals were more likely to accept the money when offered, the resulting sample of respondents in the reimbursement group did not differ from the no reimbursement group. The exception to this finding is that Republicans and Republican-leaning independents made up a slightly higher share of the reimbursement group than the no reimbursement group. There are about equal numbers of Democrats (46 percent) and Republicans (44 percent) in the reimbursement group, while Democrats

its cost. However, the experiment also suggests that removing the reimbursement option might reduce the share of Republicans and conservatives in the sample, and without more extensive testing, we don’t know whether that would make the poll more or less accurate. Accordingly, the center has decided not to drop the reimbursement at this time but will conduct further testing to better understand how the framing of the offer affects a respondent’s decision to participate.

Kyley McGeeney is a research methodologist at the Pew Research Center.

A Partnership Grounded in Faith

For nearly a decade, the Pew Research Center and the John Templeton Foundation have examined religious change around the globe.



The Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project interviewed more than 38,000 Muslims around the globe to provide a deeper understanding of the beliefs and political views of members of the world's second-largest religion. *Fatemeh Bahrami/Getty Images*

BY DANIEL LeDUC

If current trends continue, the world's religious landscape will undergo significant changes by the year 2050: The number of Muslims will nearly equal the number of Christians; Christians will decline from the current three-fourths of the U.S. population to two-thirds; and the number of atheists, agnostics, and people who don't affiliate with any religion will decline as a share of the global population, even though their numbers will increase in the United States. Those are the latest results of an ambitious series

of demographic projections developed by the Pew Research Center that were made possible through an ongoing partnership with the John Templeton Foundation.

For the past 10 years, the research center, a Washington-based subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the foundation have collaborated on studies unmatched in scope and breadth, fulfilling each organization's goals of learning more about how people live their faith and how that faith plays out in

world affairs. The reports of the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project have received coverage around the world in the news media and are used to frame briefings not only for religious leaders but for government leaders in the United States and other nations.

The Templeton Foundation, based in West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia, was founded in 1987 by Sir John Templeton. A visionary investor who created the family of Templeton Funds, he went on to become a distinguished philanthropist who devoted the later years of his life to promoting the discovery of what he called “new spiritual information.” For Templeton, those who knew him recall, that meant seeking progress in understanding not only religious matters but also human nature and the physical world using the tools of modern science.

For the past two decades, Sir John’s son, John M. Templeton Jr., known affectionately as “Jack,” served as the foundation’s president, building on his father’s legacy of making the Templeton Foundation a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries on what scientists and philosophers call the big questions of human purpose and ultimate reality. A respected pediatric surgeon, he passed away in May, and in July, his daughter, Heather Templeton Dill, succeeded him.

In its work with the Pew Research Center begun under Jack Templeton’s leadership, the foundation seeks to learn which religious groups are growing—and shrinking—around the world, whether people are becoming more or less secular, and how competition for adherents among faith groups affects religious commitment. The foundation also wants to know more about religious freedom and whether greater religious diversity leads to greater tolerance.

The partnership’s first collaboration, released in 2006, was a 10-country survey of Pentecostals, who represent one of the fastest-growing segments of Christianity. The report examined the intensity of respondents’ religious beliefs and their views of the role of religion in government affairs. The attention it received from audiences ranging from religious leaders to policymakers suggested there was potential for further exploration of the role of religion in public life around the world.

So Templeton agreed to join the Trusts in supporting what is now the ongoing global religious futures project. Its second report, released in 2010, was based on interviews with 25,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa, where the population of Christians and Muslims has grown dramatically over the past century. Other project reports have surveyed Muslims around the world—some 38,000 interviews—for a groundbreaking view of a religion that is often misunderstood, particularly in the West. Another documented the decline in the number of Catholics in Latin America over the past four decades.

“The most exciting discoveries often come from applying methods developed in one field to an entirely

different one,” says Alan Cooperman, director of the Pew Research Center’s project on religion and public life. “Our partnership with Templeton has allowed us to do innovative, cross-disciplinary research—such as applying state-of-the-art population projection techniques to forecast future growth trajectories of the world’s major religions. No one had previously been able to do it, because no one had collected the necessary data on fertility, mortality, age structures, migration, and religious switching. It took our team five years to gather all those input data, combing through more than 2,500 censuses and surveys.”

The Pew-Templeton project has now polled in more than 80 countries. “The quality of Pew’s surveys is first rate,” says Kimon Sargeant, vice president of Templeton’s human sciences programs. Along with the polling analysis at the Pew Research Center—which is admired as a gold standard of opinion research by most journalists and government officials—he appreciates the way Pew develops strategic plans to ensure that key audiences are exposed to the polls through special briefings and targeted outreach.

For example, U.S. diplomats headed to new postings overseas are frequently briefed on results of the Pew-Templeton surveys. “Pew’s materials on religion are more informative and detailed than anything else available,” says Sargeant.

The surveys also have looked at government and societal restrictions on religious practices around the world. Sargeant says that although other organizations look at those practices, many of them have advocacy goals, and Pew’s emphasis on objective scientific survey research elevates its findings.

The quality of the information, its wide dissemination in the news media, and the eagerness with which it is received by influential audiences make for a strong return on investment for Templeton, Sargeant says.

For its part, Pew has welcomed a partner with a similar perspective on the importance of objective information-gathering. “The leadership team at Templeton shares our commitment to obtaining high-quality data about the role of religion and is interested in public attitudes about science, about democracy, about the economic system,” says Cooperman. “Thanks to this partnership, we’re beginning to be able to see the big picture of religious change worldwide, because we know the size of the groups and their geographic distribution. We know more and more about their beliefs and experiences, and how much they are growing and where.”

For more information about philanthropic partnerships at Pew, please contact Senior Vice President Sally O’Brien at 202-540-6226 or sobrien@pewtrusts.org.

Daniel LeDuc is the editor of Trust.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

*The Pew Charitable Trusts applies a rigorous, analytical approach to **improve public policy**, **inform the public**, and **invigorate civic life**, as these recent accomplishments illustrate.*

IMPROVING PUBLIC POLICY



Australia's spectacular Mitchell Plateau features Mitchell River Falls and a vast savanna of endemic fan palms, which can grow for centuries. Edward Haylan/Shutterstock

New protections approved for Australia's Kimberley wilds

Western Australian Premier Colin James Barnett announced an agreement March 24 to remove mining in the Mitchell Plateau in the Kimberley, an internationally renowned area of the Outback.

The plateau is home to unique Australian plants and animals, as well as 40,000-year-old Indigenous

rock art. For more than a year, Pew's Outback Australia program staff engaged in direct discussions with mining industry leaders and government officials on the agreement. The new protections are a major milestone toward the eventual creation of Kimberley National Park.

Quebec government commits to boreal forest conservation

Philippe Couillard, the premier of Quebec, announced in April a renewed agreement to protect half of the territory north of the 49th parallel—150 million acres of forest and tundra, which is nearly the size of France—from industrial activity. After his announcement, the provincial government finalized the protection of 1.15 million acres in the Kovik River watershed, a victory for Inuit communities with age-old cultural ties to the region. And Quebec added 500,000 acres to the Ulittaniujalik National Park, which buffers the George River, home to one of the province's most threatened caribou herds and one of its important remaining runs of wild Atlantic salmon. Pew's boreal campaign is seeking to preserve 1 billion acres of the forest by 2022.

Mid-Atlantic deep-sea coral protected

On June 10, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council created the largest protected area in U.S. Atlantic waters, banning the use of the most damaging forms of fishing gear at depths greater than 1,450 feet. The designation, which spans more than 38,000 square miles along the coast from Virginia to New York, is intended to protect an abundance of slow-growing deep-sea corals. The corals provide habitat to an extraordinary variety of life and are easily toppled or broken by fishing gear that scrapes along the seafloor, sometimes needing centuries to recover. Pew is working with other regional fisheries councils to secure similar protections for fragile coral systems.

Tighter guidelines proposed for medium- and heavy-duty trucks

On June 19, the Obama administration announced a proposed rule calling for increased fuel efficiency standards and reduced tailpipe emissions for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The proposal covers tractor-trailers, package-delivery vans, transit buses, and other large trucks to be sold between 2021 and 2027. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimate that U.S. oil consumption would be reduced by up to 1.8 billion barrels, and fuel costs would be cut by nearly \$170 billion over the lifetime of the vehicles, and carbon dioxide emissions would be curtailed by approximately 1 billion metric tons by 2027. Pew mobilized more than 300 businesses and organizations to sign a letter of support for the proposed rule, emphasizing how it would lower shipping costs for consumers and businesses.

New ecosystem-based approach adopted for menhaden

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved a new approach for managing menhaden: the use of "ecological reference points" to determine annual catch quotas for the tiny fish. This ecosystem-based approach approved May 5 will account for the needs of predators such as striped bass, osprey, and whales when managers decide how many menhaden fishermen can take from the water each year. The commission will use the reference points, the first of their kind in the United States, to set the quota for the waters off the 15 coastal states it oversees, beginning in 2017. Pew generated public comments, opinion pieces, and technical recommendations by the scientists of the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force to support the approach.

Three Pew priorities advance as House passes health bill

On July 9, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a sweeping health care innovation bill—the 21st Century Cures Act—that takes action on Pew's priorities of meeting the threat of antibiotic resistance, addressing the rise of prescription drug abuse deaths, and improving the safety of medical devices.

- The legislation would create a new pathway to approve antibiotics for patients suffering from drug-resistant infections and who have few or no treatment options.
- It would authorize programs that identify Medicare patients at a high risk for narcotics abuse and limit their access to a single prescribing doctor and pharmacy.
- It urges the inclusion in patients' health records of the unique codes that identify implantable medical devices. Tracking the devices via the codes could foster more efficient recalls of faulty devices and allow doctors to better coordinate care.

Pew worked closely with partner groups and members of Congress to advocate for all three priorities.

Nebraska and Connecticut prepare for a rainy day

Two states passed legislation strengthening their ability to save for future economic downturns using best practices developed from Pew research. On April 13, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts (R) signed into law a requirement that the state's fiscal office conduct a revenue volatility study before each biennial budget cycle. And on June 30, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy (D) signed legislation reforming the state's Budget Reserve Fund, which state officials predicted would reduce the need for future tax increases or crisis-driven budget cuts.

Proposed reimbursement for end-of-life discussions

Medicare officials proposed a plan in July to reimburse doctors, nurse practitioners, and other clinicians for voluntary end-of-life discussions with patients. This Pew priority, which would help patients and their family members plan for health care near the end of life. Patients and families who participate in these discussions are more satisfied with their care, less likely to receive treatments they do not want in their final weeks, and more likely to spend their last days in the setting they prefer.

Minnesota adopts evidence-based policymaking

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton (D) signed bipartisan legislation in May that will allow the state to evaluate the effectiveness of corrections and human services programs using the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative's benefit-cost model. The state will hire two full-time employees dedicated to implementing Results First. Pew worked closely with state policymakers to build support for that investment and to help leaders use the Results First approach to inform policy and budget decisions.

States evaluate economic development tax incentives

Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas passed laws requiring regular evaluation of economic development tax incentives:

- On April 1, North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple (R) signed a bill into law that creates a legislative committee to review the incentives.
- On April 27, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin (R) signed a bill creating an evaluation process for the state's incentives.
- On May 20, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam (R) signed legislation that puts in place a four-year schedule for evaluating tax incentives.
- On May 23, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton (D) signed a bill into law that requires the evaluation of at least one state incentive program each year. A legislative committee also will develop a plan for each evaluation to ensure policymakers receive the information they need to make informed decisions.
- On May 27, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts (R) enacted a law that requires regular evaluations of all major tax incentives.
- On June 18, Texas Governor Greg Abbott (R) signed legislation that establishes a new committee to evaluate tax incentives and determine whether they are achieving their goals.

All of the states worked with Pew staff, who shared

research showing that when policymakers assess evaluations, they use the information to obtain better return on state investments. Ten other states and the District of Columbia, working with Pew, have improved their tax incentive evaluations since 2012.

Jacksonville reforms its pension plan

On June 9 in Florida, the Jacksonville City Council overwhelmingly approved a pension reform package, to which the Police and Fire Pension Fund's board of trustees gave final approval June 19. Jacksonville, like many cities and states, has lagged in its payments to ensure that its public pension funds meet their promises to retirees.

Pew worked with city officials to analyze options and determine the impact of various reform choices. Jacksonville will change new and current employees' pension benefits and will also change how the pension fund is governed. The most significant component is the city's commitment to pay \$350 million toward the fund's debt over the next 13 years, in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars it is required to pay each year.

Two states pass sentencing and corrections reforms

Texas Governor Greg Abbott (R) in June signed juvenile justice bills to decriminalize truancy and send lower level juvenile offenders to regional facilities closer to their homes, which is expected to save more than \$80 million over five years. The governor also approved new reforms that will avert prison growth, including changing penalties for various property crimes and awarding offenders credit for participating in programs.

In Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts (R) in May signed criminal justice legislation to halt prison population growth, support victims of crime, and improve public safety by enhancing parole supervision. The reforms are expected to save more than \$300 million in future corrections costs. Pew provided research and technical assistance in both states.

Florida approves online voter registration

On May 15, Florida Governor Rick Scott (R) signed a bill authorizing online voter registration and requiring its implementation by October 2017.

The system will allow eligible state citizens to submit registration applications or update existing information electronically. Pew staff provided technical support to the state.



Beleaguered Ukrainian troops withdrew from the strategic town of Debaltseve earlier this year after being surrounded by pro-Russian rebels. *Brendan Hoffman/Getty Images*

People in NATO nations blame Russia for the Ukrainian conflict but don't want their countries to send arms

People in key member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization blame Russia for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and many see Russia as a military threat to other neighboring states, according to a survey released in June by the Pew Research Center. Yet few support sending arms to Ukraine. Moreover, at least half of German, French, and Italian respondents say their country should not use military force to defend a NATO ally if attacked by Russia. Pew experts briefed staff at the National Security Council, Pentagon, State Department, National Intelligence Council, and Ukrainian and German embassies. The findings were later cited by Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, Latvian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius, and NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow.

Americans' attitudes about privacy, security, and surveillance

Ninety-three percent of U.S. adults say that being in control of who can access information about them is important, and 90 percent say that controlling what information is being collected is important, according to a study released in May by the Pew Research Center. The survey also found that Americans have little confidence that their data will remain protected and that most want limits on the length of time that records of their activity can be retained. Google cited the study when announcing its decision to allow users greater control over how their data are used, and Pew experts briefed Federal Trade Commission staff on the findings.

The evolving global middle class

The emergence of a global middle class is more promise than reality despite the first decade of this century witnessing a historic reduction in global poverty, according to a Pew Research Center report released in July. A majority of the world's population (56 percent) continued to live a low-income existence in 2011, compared with just 13 percent who could be considered middle income by a global standard. And although the middle-income population nearly doubled from 2001 to 2011, the rise in prosperity was concentrated in certain regions of the globe, namely China, South America, and Eastern Europe. The middle class barely expanded in India, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central America.

INVIGORATING CIVIC LIFE

Workforce development to improve in Philadelphia

Philadelphia Works, the city's workforce development agency and the subject of a 2012 report by Pew's Philadelphia research initiative, announced in April that it was streamlining its operations. The organization had been running two sets of job centers, one for recipients of public assistance and the other for job seekers in general. The centers will now be integrated and serve everyone, with the goal of creating a more employer-friendly system. The Pew report had cited the old arrangement as a source of confusion that deterred employers from working with the agency.

The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage announces 2015 grants

In June, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage announced its 2015 grants in support of the Philadelphia region's cultural organizations and artists. Marking its 10th year of grant-making, the center will fund 12 new Pew arts fellowships, 34 project grants, and three advancement grants—multiyear investments of up to \$500,000 designed to foster bold initiatives led by exemplary organizations in the area. The advancement grants were awarded to the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Curtis Institute of Music.



Pew's study of the Community College of Philadelphia compared it with three sets of similar institutions nationwide based on data from 2008 to 2013.

Katye Martens/The Pew Charitable Trusts

Community College report identifies challenges

The Community College of Philadelphia has had mixed success in helping Philadelphians attain higher education and marketable job skills, according to Pew's June report *Assessing the Community College of Philadelphia: Student Outcomes and Improvement Strategies*. The college's president, Donald General, called the study fair and balanced and acknowledged the need to address the school's challenges, as detailed in the report.

Dodd-Frank's Legacy Depends on CFPB Flexing Its Muscles

BY TRAVIS PLUNKETT

Last summer's five-year anniversary of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law prompted much reflection on the behavior of Wall Street and how much risk remains in our financial markets. But we should also remember that the law was intended to make the consumer financial products people use every day safer and more transparent.

One of Dodd-Frank's key provisions was creation of the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. After getting past a lengthy and sometimes contentious startup period, the agency has acted to fix the mortgage lending problems that fueled the financial crisis. The question now is, can the CFPB move beyond where it was specifically instructed to take action—such as making home mortgages safer—and exercise broader regulatory authority granted to it by Congress to improve the marketplace for products and services like prepaid cards, overdraft policies, and payday loans? The bureau's long-term reputation—and perhaps the overall success of Dodd-Frank—may well be judged on whether the answer is “yes.”

Before Dodd-Frank, protections for consumers who take out a mortgage or student loan, obtain a credit card, open a bank account, transfer money, or use a wide variety of other financial services was divided among seven federal agencies—which all had other primary responsibilities. The CFPB replaced this often ineffective oversight with consistency and uniformity. Its mission is not only to enable consumers to count on similar protections for similar products and services, regardless of the type of company providing them, but also to allow financial services institutions to operate on a level playing field in which no company can gain advantage by exploiting regulatory gaps.

In its first four years, the CFPB has devised mortgage rules that place a greater onus on lenders to ensure that borrowers can repay their loans. The bureau has also begun to enforce federal consumer protection laws that existed before its creation and to supervise large banks and credit unions and some nonbank companies (such as payday lenders, credit reporting agencies, and debt collectors). The CFPB also has set up a process to solicit, analyze, and resolve consumer complaints.

Last year, for example, the agency proposed strong new safeguards and disclosures for general purpose

reloadable prepaid cards, a product that a growing number of consumers are embracing, particularly the millions of Americans without a traditional bank account. Research by Pew shows that usage of these cards jumped more than 50 percent from 2012 to 2014.

The CFPB is likely to soon propose new rules for checking account overdraft practices. Many observers anticipate that these rules will rein in transaction reordering, a tactic some financial institutions use to maximize overdraft fees by processing a customer's largest transactions first instead of following the order in which the transactions occurred.

This is a good start, but the CFPB also needs to address other high overdraft costs. The median overdraft fee is about \$35 for a \$24 transaction, and the consumer typically pays it in three days. By the bureau's estimate, that charge is tantamount to a loan with an annual percentage rate of more than 17,000 percent. To further protect the financial health of families, new rules are also in the pipeline for payday and other high-cost, small-dollar loans. The CFPB has proposed a regulatory framework that would tackle the problem of these unaffordable small-dollar loan payments while preserving access to credit. Pew polling shows Americans strongly favor such reforms.

But there is room for improvement. Stronger limits on loan terms are needed to prevent payments from rising over time to excessive levels. A two-week loan with a one-time fee can take the average borrower—typically with a damaged credit history and living paycheck-to-paycheck—about half the year to repay. So fees will far outstrip the original loan amount.

Richard Cordray, the CFPB's director, has said that his agency will seek to balance its “dual responsibility” of stopping unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices while ensuring that consumers have access to beneficial financial services. As the Dodd-Frank Act reaches the five-year mark, this important—and defining—goal is a key benchmark by which the act's success will be judged.

Travis Plunkett is senior director of the family economic stability portfolio at The Pew Charitable Trusts. A version of this column originally appeared in American Banker.

Nearly Half of Americans Are Catholic or Have a Connection to Catholicism

Catholicism runs deep and broad in the United States with 45 percent of Americans connected to the faith in some way, including one-fifth who claim it as their current religion. Catholics are also very loyal with 70 percent saying they could never leave the church, according to a Pew Research Center survey which paints a new and textured portrait of American Catholicism.

Prepared to coincide with Pope Francis's September visit to Washington; New York, and Philadelphia, where a World Meeting of Families was held, the report focused on opinions about family life and what Catholics view as essential to their faith.



Weekly Mass-Goers Are Less Accepting of Homosexual Behavior, Divorce, Cohabitation

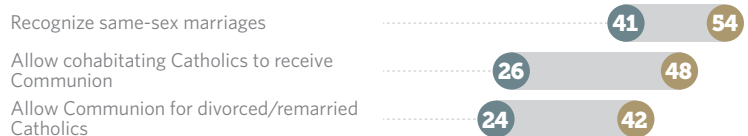
Catholics who attend Mass regularly are more inclined to hew to the church's traditional teachings, with, for example, 6 in 10 saying that a gay or lesbian couple raising children is either unacceptable or not as good as some other arrangements. Differences between regular Mass-goers and other Catholics also are evident in other areas.

Sara Flood/The Pew Charitable Trusts

Percentage who say it is a sin to...



Percentage who say the Catholic Church should not...



● Percentage of Catholics who attend Mass less often

● Percentage of Catholics who attend Mass weekly or more

What Being Catholic Means

Percentage of Catholics who say _____ is essential to what being Catholic means to them personally.

*The survey was conducted prior to release of "Laudato Si," the pope's encyclical addressing the environment.

68%
Having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

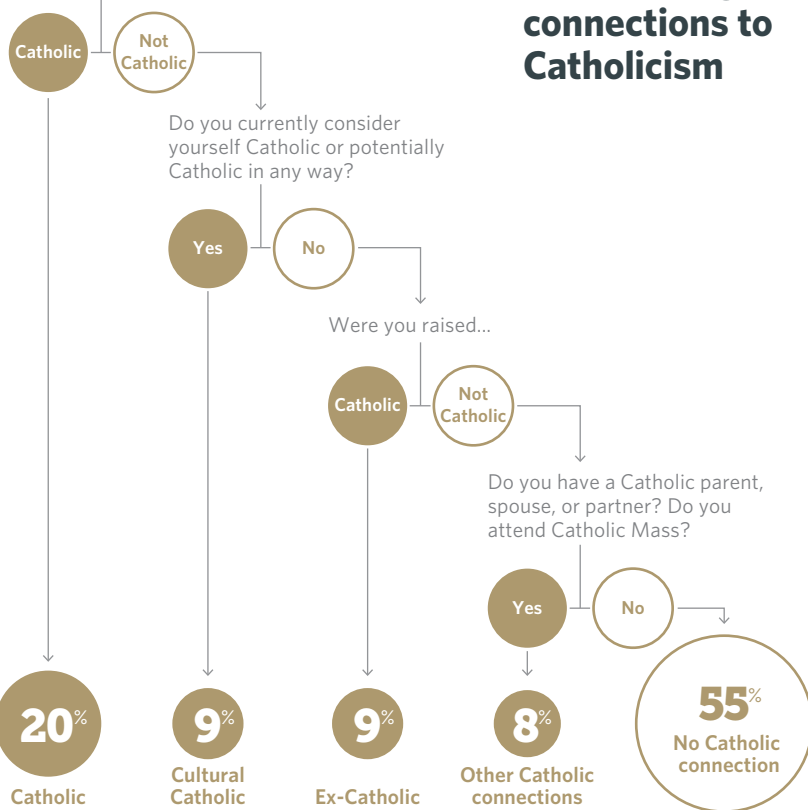
67%
Belief in Jesus' actual resurrection from the dead

62%
Working to help the poor and needy



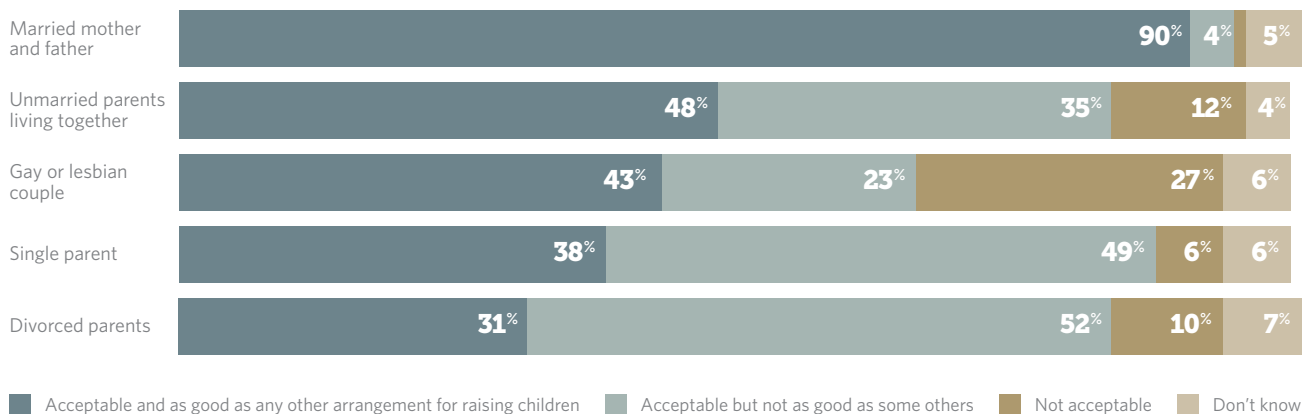
Vincenzo Pinto/Getty Images

What is your present religion, if any?



Traditional Families Are Ideal; Other Family Arrangements Acceptable

What is your opinion about children being raised by...



54%

Devotion to Mary as the virgin mother of God

54%

Receiving the sacraments

42%

Being part of a Catholic parish

41%

Being open to having children

34%

Celebrating feast days or festivals

33%

Opposing abortion

29%

Working to address climate change*



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street, Suite 2800
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CINNAMINSON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 579



The Basin and Range National Monument will safeguard a region rich in human history and natural resources.

That Land Is Your Land, Page 6
