

**EPA Scientific Integrity Survey Highlights**  
**November 2021**  
**Key Questions and Results**

**Assessing the State of Scientific Integrity**

“In our work culture, people felt free to raise dissenting opinions without it having a negative impact on their careers” **31.4% disagree or strongly disagree; 14.0% NA**

“Scientific findings, products, and conclusions were generated, reviewed, and shared in a timely and transparent manner” **27.1 disagree or strongly disagree; 20.9% NA**

“Scientists were able to do their work knowing they are protected from intimidation or coercion to alter scientific data or findings” **56.0% disagree or strongly disagree**

“Decision- makers made the scientific and/or non-scientific basis for policy decisions accessible/transparent” **61.6 disagree or strongly disagree**

“Decision-makers maintained high standards of honesty and integrity” **59.9 disagree or strongly disagree**

“I could openly express my scientific opinions about the Agency’s scientific work without fear of retaliation” **48.7% disagree or strongly disagree**

“My scientific findings, products, or conclusions were not altered or suppressed” **36.1% disagreed or strongly disagreed**

“Since the reorganization of Program Office has your level of satisfaction with the culture of scientific integrity changed?” **65.3% said their level of satisfaction has gotten worse or stayed the same.**

**Experience Reporting Scientific Misconduct**

“Were the individuals/groups you contacted about your allegation helpful?”

SI Official/SI Program      **yes 51.0%; no 49.0%**

Inspector General      **yes 55.9%; no 44.1%**

Union      **yes 59.3%; no 40.7**

Other/Outside      **yes 61.9%; no 38.1%**

“In the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), were you ever pressured to misrepresent or inappropriately alter, without scientific justification –

“Scientific conclusions or research findings in scientific products” **137 scientists said yes (nearly one in ten respondents [non-NA])**

“Scientific conclusions or research findings in policy documents” **182 scientists said yes (approximately one in eight respondents [non-NA])**

“Have you ever experienced retaliation for an issue related to scientific integrity?” **209 scientists said yes (7.9% of respondents)**

“Reasons you may feel discomfort with reporting allegations relating to a potential lapse in scientific integrity:

“I am concerned that my confidentiality will not be protected” **70.7%**

“I think nothing will change” **66.8**

“I fear retaliation by senior Agency leadership” **58.6**

“I do not want to be considered a troublemaker” **58.5%**

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