What does the public think about AI risk? A data snapshot

Starter · 1–3 hours · Free · Step-by-step guide

Online version: https://ai-safety-sandbox.vercel.app/projects/public-opinion-snapshot/

Summary

Pull together public survey data on AI from Pew Research and Our World in Data, and present the three charts that best show how people feel about AI risk.

Why it matters

Policymakers respond to public opinion, so it helps to know what people actually think rather than what commentators say they think.

What you will have at the end

Three charts and a short commentary.

Steps (tick each box as you go)

- [ ] **1. Find the surveys (30 min)**
  Browse Pew Research's AI topic page and Our World in Data's AI section. Note survey dates and sample sizes.
- [ ] **2. Choose three questions (20 min)**
  Pick three survey questions that together tell a story (for example, concern, trust, and support for regulation).
- [ ] **3. Make the charts (40 min)**
  Chart them clearly, with sources and dates on each chart.
- [ ] **4. Write the story (30 min)**
  Explain what the data shows, what it cannot show, and one question you would want a new survey to ask.

What you need

- A spreadsheet or charting tool
- About two hours

What you will learn

- Reading survey data critically
- Data storytelling
- Public attitudes to AI

Source and links

Pew Research Center — Artificial intelligence
https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/internet-technology/emerging-technology/artificial-intelligence/

Our World in Data — Artificial intelligence
https://ourworldindata.org/artificial-intelligence

When you have finished

Write a few paragraphs on what you did, what you found and what you would try next, and share it with a friend, your society or online.

Courses, mentors, small grants and communities:
https://ai-safety-sandbox.vercel.app/next-steps/

Questions? Ask in AI Safety Cardiff University (AISCU): https://aiscu.org/

Notes