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In spring 2007, two surveys compared the public's and scientists' perceptions of the risks and benefits of nanotechnology.

■ Scientists ■ Public Percent of respondents agreeing that there is a potential risk 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 Self-Loss of Use of More Lead to Loss of privacy pollution U.S. jobs Replicating problems technology arms race By terrorists robots

Scientists Worry about Nanotechnology's Health & Environmental Impacts

The results indicate that scientists are more optimistic about the potential benefits of nanotechnology than is the public; however, the unknown human health and environmental impacts are a bigger worry for scientists than for the public. The study reveals that those scientists with the most insight into nanotechnology's potential are nevertheless unsure what health and environmental problems it might pose.



Finally, less than ten percent of either group was concerned about the risks associated with "self-replicating robots," a suggested outcome of nanotechnology that has received media attention in the past.

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