



## 12 Million Americans Believe Lizard People Run Our Country

*By Philip Bump | The Atlantic Wire  
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About 90 million Americans believe aliens exist. Some 66 million of us think aliens landed at Roswell in 1948. These are the things you learn when there's a lull in political news and pollsters get to ask whatever questions they want.

Public Policy Polling has raised weird polls to an art form. During last year's presidential campaign, the firm earned a bit of a reputation for its unorthodox questions; for example, "If God exists, do you approve of its handling of natural disasters?"

Today PPP released the results of a national survey looking at common conspiracy theories. Broken down by topic and cross-referenced by political preference, the results will not inspire a lot of patriotism. If you need to defend your fellow countrymen, be sure to note that the margin of error is 2.8 percent.

We took the findings and arranged them from most- to least-believed. And, just to inspire additional shame, figured out how many actual Americans that meant must believe in things like the danger of fluoride in water. (28 million, if you're wondering.)

<i>Conspiracy</i>	<i>Percent believing</i>	<i>Number believing</i>
<b>JFK was killed by conspiracy</b>	51 percent	160,096,160
<b>Bush intentionally misled on Iraq WMDs</b>	44 percent	138,122,178
<b>Global warming is a hoax</b>	37 percent	116,148,195
<b>Aliens exist</b>	29 percent	91,035,072
<b>New World Order</b>	28 percent	87,895,931
<b>Hussein was involved in 9/11</b>	28 percent	87,895,931
<b>A UFO crashed at Roswell</b>	21 percent	65,921,948
<b>Vaccines are linked to autism</b>	20 percent	62,782,808
<b>The government controls minds with TV</b>	15 percent	47,087,106
<b>Medical industry invents diseases</b>	15 percent	47,087,106
<b>CIA developed crack</b>	14 percent	43,947,966
<b>Bigfoot exists</b>	14 percent	43,947,966
<b>Obama is the Antichrist</b>	13 percent	40,808,825
<b>The government allowed 9/11</b>	11 percent	34,530,544
<b>Fluoride is dangerous</b>	9 percent	28,252,264
<b>The moon landing was faked</b>	7 percent	21,973,983
<b>Bin Laden is alive</b>	6 percent	18,834,842
<b>Airplane contrails are sinister chemicals</b>	5 percent	15,695,702

<b>McCartney died in 1966</b>	5 percent	15,695,702
<b>Lizard people control politics</b>	4 percent	12,556,562

Just to further inspire conversation, PPP broke down belief in each theory by whom the respondent supported in the 2012 election. This yielded some genuinely interesting results.

For example, only two conspiracies were more commonly believed by Obama supporters: that Bush intentionally misled America about Iraq's WMDs (a massive 69 percent of his supporters believe that one) and that the moon landing was faked. There are two theories with equal support among Obama and Romney supporters: that aliens exist and the one about fluoridation. Everything else, from lizard people to vaccines and autism to global warming being a hoax? Believed by more Romney supporters.

No conspiracy was less commonly believed than one suggesting that the government is populated by lizard people. But that's mostly because only 2 percent of Obama supporters believe the theory while 5 percent of Romney supporters do.