

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Informed Consent

Implied Informed Consent Form for Social Science Research
The Pennsylvania State University

Title of Project: Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

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1. Purpose of the Study: The purpose of this research is to understand the opinions respondents have with regards to (1) the scientific capabilities of a variety of DNA ancestry tests; (2) the legal implications of these DNA ancestry tests; and (3) the social applications of DNA ancestry test results.
2. Procedures to be followed: You will be asked to answer a series of questions on a survey form. For each question, you should select the answer that best describes your answer. Space will be provided for you to share additional information.
3. Duration/Time: This study should take 15-30 minutes to complete.
4. Statement of Confidentiality: This survey is anonymous and does not collect your name or contact information. The limited demographic information that is requested as part of the survey is for study control purposes and will not be used to identify you with your responses. Accordingly, in the event of any publication or presentation resulting from this research, no personally identifiable information will be published. Survey responses are collected, encrypted for security, and stored via www.surveymonkey.com. Your confidentiality will be kept to the degree permitted by the technology used. No guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.
5. Right to Ask Questions: Please contact Jennifer K. Wagner at (814) 863-7654 with questions or concerns about this study.
6. Voluntary Participation: Your decision to be in this research is voluntary. You can stop at any time. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

You must be 18 years of age or older to take part in this research study.

Completion and return of the survey implies that you have read the information in this form and consent to take part in the research. Please print off this form to keep for your records.

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Do you agree to voluntarily participate in this study?

I understand the terms as stated in this informed consent page, and I agree to participate in this survey.

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Demographic Information

The following demographic information is requested for study control purposes.

How old are you?

18-25

26-40

41-65

Older than 65

What is your sex?

Male

Female

Other

How would you identify your ethnicity? Check all that apply.

American Indian or Native Alaskan

Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White or European American

If you would like to clarify your selection(s), please do.

Where do you live?

City/Town:

State:

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How much education have you completed?

- Elementary School
- High School Diploma/GED
- College (B.A. or B.S.)
- Some Professional School (M.S.,M.A., some portion of graduate, law or medical school)
- Professional School (J.D., Ph.D., M.D.)

What is your occupation? Please check the option that most closely describes your occupation.

- Administrative
- Artist
- Business/Marketing
- Journalist/Writer/Reporter/Editor
- Judge
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Lawyer
- Medical Doctor
- Nurse
- Other
- Policymaker/Legislator
- Scientist
- Student
- Teacher/Professor

Other (please specify)

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Familiarity With DNA Ancestry Tests

This page includes questions designed to understand how familiar you are with DNA Ancestry tests.

Do you know what a DNA ancestry test is?

Yes.

No.

I don't know.

I decline to answer this question.

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Did you learn about DNA ancestry tests from any of the following sources?

	Yes	No	I decline to answer.
School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Lecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspaper Advertisement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspaper Article	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Television Advertisement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Television Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet Advertisement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet Website/Blog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A friend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A co-worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify any other sources where you learned about DNA Ancestry tests.

Have you ever taken a DNA ancestry test?

Yes

No

I decline to answer this question.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Were any of the following items reasons or motivations for you getting a DNA ancestry test? Check all that apply.

	Yes	No	I decline to answer this question.
Adoption Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fun/Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genealogical Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Diagnosis/Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mere Curiosity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request from a Friend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request from a Relative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surname Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If any other reasons motivated you, please describe.

WHAT KIND of DNA ancestry test did you take? Check all that apply.

- Y-DNA test
- mtDNA test
- autosomal (proportional ancestry) test
- I took a DNA ancestry test but don't know which kind.
- I decline to answer this question.

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Were any of the following items reasons why you have not gotten a DNA ancestry test?

	Yes	No	I decline to answer this question.
Fear of the results.	jn	jn	jn
Preference to not know the results.	jn	jn	jn
Cost. These tests are too expensive.	jn	jn	jn
Privacy from healthcare providers.	jn	jn	jn
Privacy from insurance providers	jn	jn	jn
Privacy from employers.	jn	jn	jn
Privacy from family.	jn	jn	jn
Privacy from friends.	jn	jn	jn
Unreliability of technology.	jn	jn	jn
Distrust of the companies providing the tests.	jn	jn	jn
Certainty of ancestry.	jn	jn	jn
Influence of family members who oppose the tests.	jn	jn	jn
Influence of friends who oppose the tests.	jn	jn	jn

Please specify any other reasons.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Scientific Capabilities of DNA Ancestry Tests

This section asks you questions regarding what you think about genetics, generally, and DNA ancestry tests, specifically.

We understand that you may not be an expert, and that you may have little or even no familiarity with genetics. That is ok.

Please answer all of the questions. There is no wrong answer. We are interested in what you think.

How many chromosomes are in each person's genome?

How is mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) transmitted from parent to offspring?
Check only one answer.

from both father and mother in equal proportions (50/50) to offspring

from only the father to offspring

from only the mother to offspring

I don't know.

I decline to answer this question.

In your opinion, what is a "gene"?

Y chromosomes are typically found in which of the following? Check only one answer.

both males and females

only males

only females

I don't know.

I decline to answer this question.

In your opinion, what is the difference between a "genotype" and a "phenotype"?

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In your opinion, is a DNA ancestry test able to tell you a person's race or ethnic identity?

- Yes.
- Yes to some extent.
- No.
- I decline to answer this question.

Please specify why or why not.

Which of the following analyses would provide the most information about a person's genome? Check only one answer.

- Minisatellite analysis
- Microsatellite analysis
- Genomic Sequencing
- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Sequencing
- Single locus genotyping
- Multi-locus genotyping
- I don't know.
- I decline to answer this question.

In your opinion, what is an "ancestry informative marker"?

DNA ancestry tests can be performed on which kind of samples? Check all that apply.

- blood
- saliva
- hair
- I don't know.
- I decline to answer this question.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

DNA ancestry tests often provide you with proportions of your ancestry using "maximum likelihood analysis."

How should you interpret the results of DNA ancestry tests? Check only one answer.

- DNA ancestry tests are like all other DNA tests. DNA never lies. You can interpret your results with certainty, even in the absence of any other information (for example, a result that states 0% European ancestry can be interpreted that you have no European ancestry).
- DNA ancestry tests are based on probability and statistics. Therefore, you can interpret your results only if you also are given confidence intervals to accompany the point estimates (for example, a result that states 10% African ancestry can only be interpreted as evidence that you have African ancestry if the confidence interval is provided and does not include zero).
- You can interpret your DNA ancestry test results only if you also have data from non-DNA sources.
- I decline to answer this question.

How would you compare the accuracy of DNA ancestry test results with ancestry information from public records (for example, birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses). Check only one answer.

- DNA Ancestry test results are LESS ACCURATE than Public Records.
- DNA Ancestry test results are EQUALLY ACCURATE than Public Records.
- DNA Ancestry test results are MORE ACCURATE than Public Records.
- I decline to answer this question.

Please explain your answer.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

How frequently do you...

	Never	Sometimes - once a year	Often - once a month	Regularly - once a week	Frequently - once a day	I decline to answer this question
Read scientific news articles	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Read scientific journal articles	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Watch tv programs about forensic science, like "CSI"	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Watch tv programs about law, like "Law & Order"	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Watch documentaries about true crimes	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Watch documentaries about science	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Watch science fiction movies	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Visit scientific websites	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Read blogs	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Legal Implications of DNA Ancestry Tests

The questions in this section are designed to examine your opinion on how DNA ancestry tests might be applied in law enforcement and litigation contexts.

Can DNA ancestry tests prove the race of the person tested?

Yes.

No

Please explain why or why not.

Do you think that an eye-witness description of a criminal suspect is enough, by itself, to justify police getting a warrant to compel a suspect to submit a DNA sample for direct comparison with a crime scene sample?

Yes

No

I don't know

I decline to answer this question.

Why or Why not?

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Consider this hypothetical: A police officer ordered a DNA ancestry test on a sample from a crime scene. The forensic scientists calculated the DNA ancestry results. They also gave the police officer predictions of what the perpetrator might look like, given the suspect's DNA ancestry results and photos of other individuals who have similar DNA ancestry results. The police officer doesn't have any other leads, so the police officer starts asking for a DNA sample from anyone who has similar facial features as the people in the photo array provided by the forensic scientists.

What do you think about this kind of investigation? Check only one response.

This seems like great police work. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty, so there is no harm in the officer asking for individuals to volunteer DNA samples.

This seems like an acceptable investigation, because the officer is asking for individuals to volunteer DNA samples rather than forcing individuals to volunteer samples.

This seems like terrible police work. This is nothing more than racial profiling. The officer should not be allowed to ask for DNA samples given the scarcity of evidence in this case.

I don't know.

I decline to answer this question.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Consider the last hypothetical. However, this time the police officer is seeking a warrant to compel DNA samples from suspects who look like the photos of individuals with DNA ancestry proportions like that found at the crime scene.

Do you think the judge should issue the warrant? Please check only one response.

Yes. If a person looks similar to people shown in the photo array of individuals with DNA ancestry proportions like that found in the crime scene sample, the police officer should be able to get a DNA sample for direct comparison. Allowing warrants this easily would allow police officers to rule out innocent individuals early in investigations.

Maybe. The judge should issue the warrant compelling the DNA sample, but only if there is other information suggesting the suspect was involved.

No. A person's likeness to photos of individuals with dna ancestry proportions similar to the crime scene sample is too circumstantial. This is just high-tech racial profiling.

I decline to answer this question.

Other (please specify)

Is "indirect molecular photofitting" (that is, the technique of, first, obtaining DNA ancestry proportions from a crime scene sample and, second, using the photos of individuals with similar results to predict what the suspect might look like) comparable to a composite sketch from an eye-witness description?

Please explain why you think indirect molecular photofitting is or is not comparable to composite sketches produced from eyewitness descriptions.

Yes.

No.

I don't know.

I decline to answer this question.

Please explain your response.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Should police use DNA ancestry tests to predict the ancestry of ...

	Yes	No	I don't know	I decline to answer this question
unidentified victims of natural disasters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unidentified victims of terrorist attacks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unidentified victims of war	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you believe DNA ancestry testing is sufficiently valid and reliable for use in the courtroom?

Yes

No

I don't know

Why or Why not?

How should a judge weigh DNA ancestry test results in comparison with public records (like birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses).

DNA ancestry information should be given LESS WEIGHT than Public Records

DNA ancestry information should be given EQUAL WEIGHT than Public Records

DNA ancestry information should be given MORE WEIGHT than Public Records

I decline to answer this question.

How should a jury weigh DNA ancestry test results in comparison with public records (like birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses)?

DNA ancestry information should be given LESS WEIGHT than Public records.

DNA ancestry information should be given EQUAL WEIGHT than Public records.

DNA ancestry information should be given MORE WEIGHT than Public records.

I decline to answer this question.

Are you a member of the legal profession?

Yes

No

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Please list the types of legal cases in which DNA ancestry information would be relevant.

When you need a scientific expert to assist with a case (whether as an expert witness or a consultant), do you use any of the following to locate a suitable expert?

	Yes	No	I decline to answer this question.
Seek a referral from a friend/colleague.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Look in the phone book or web-based equivalent.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Look at advertisements in ABA Journal or other magazines.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Use a website like JurisPro.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Use an expert that is on retainer at your law firm.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Use an expert that has handled other cases for your firm.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Research the major scientific organizations and choose a distinguished member.	jñ	jñ	jñ
Research the major publications in the field and choose a leading author who is willing and able.	jñ	jñ	jñ
I decline to answer this question.	jñ	jñ	jñ

If you use any other methods, please describe.

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Are you a judge or magistrate?

Yes

No

If you are a judge and are presiding over a case involving DNA ancestry evidence, how likely are you to...

	not at all likely	not likely	somewhat likely	very likely	definitely	I decline to answer this questions
Appoint an independent expert to help you decide whether DNA ancestry tests are scientifically valid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Admit the evidence because all DNA testing is sufficiently valid under Frye, Daubert or the applicable evidentiary requirements of your jurisdiction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Admit the evidence because DNA ancestry testing, specifically, is sufficiently valid under Frye, Daubert or the evidentiary requirements of your jurisdiction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issue a warrant, solely supported by DNA ancestry tests and predictions of the suspect's appearance, to compel a suspect to give a DNA sample for direct comparison with a crime scene sample.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issue a warrant, solely supported by a composite sketch developed from a single eye-witness, to compel a suspect to give a DNA sample for direct comparison with a crime scene sample.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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When you hear a case involving conflicting scientific experts, upon which resources do you rely on any of the following resources when making your decision?

	Yes	No	I decline to answer this question.
Briefs from the lawyers representing the parties in this dispute	ja	ja	ja
Law Clerk's research on topic	ja	ja	ja
The opinion of an independent, court-appointed expert	ja	ja	ja
Credentials of the parties' expert witnesses	ja	ja	ja
The certainty or confidence with which the expert gave his/her opinion	ja	ja	ja
ABA blawgs	ja	ja	ja
ABA Journal Articles	ja	ja	ja
Informal guidance from professional colleagues/friends	ja	ja	ja
I decline to answer this question.	ja	ja	ja

Other (please specify)

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Social Applications of DNA Ancestry Tests

This is the last section of the survey.

These questions are regarding ethnic identity and how you think DNA ancestry tests could be applied in society.

Should DNA ancestry testing be used or required in the following circumstances?

	Absolutely Not - DNA Ancestry should NOT be used or required in this context.	No	Maybe	Yes	Absolutely Yes. DNA ancestry testing SHOULD be used or required in this context.	I decline to answer this question.
A college determining graduate/law/medical school admissions	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A college determining scholarship eligibility	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A college determining undergraduate admissions	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A college hiring faculty	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A medical doctor prescribing medicine for a patient	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A medical doctor treating a patient	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A person interested in their children's DNA ancestry	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A person interested in their deceased parent's DNA ancestry	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A person interested in their living parent's DNA ancestry	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A person interested in their own DNA ancestry	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A person interested in their romantic partner's DNA ancestry	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A pharmaceutical company designing a prescription	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A pharmacist filling a prescription	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A police officer investigating a crime with eyewitnesses	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
A police officer investigating a crime	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0

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without an eyewitness						
A reporter covering a story	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
American Indian tribes determining tribal membership	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
An agency placing children with adoptive parents	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
An agency placing children with foster parents	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
An employer hiring a job applicant	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
An employer seeking tax benefits for employing minority employees	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Epidemiologists researching disease and health disparities	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Lawyers and Judges determining racial discrimination cases	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Legislators setting policy for minority rights	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Scientists researching common traits	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Scientists researching disease and health disparities	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Sociologists researching wealth disparities	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Given that economic and social benefits may be tied to ethnic identity (for example, through affirmative action programs), should ethnic identity be policed? In other words, should individuals be required to verify their ethnic identity?

Yes

No

I decline to answer this question.

Why or why not?

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Which of the following are acceptable as a means to validate someone's ethnic identity? Check all that apply.

- Surname
- Tribal Membership
- DNA Ancestry Test Results
- Knowledge of ethnocentric information
- Language
- Blood Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Hobbies
- Facial Features
- Skin Color, Eye Color, Hair Color
- Hair Texture
- Community Ties, Social Organizations, Memberships
- Food
- Music
- Clothing
- None of these.
- I decline to answer this question.

Other (please specify)

Has anyone ever asked you to prove your ethnic identity?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to answer this question

If so, please describe how you reacted.

Attitudes on DNA Ancestry Tests

Which of the following information would you use to determine another person's ethnicity?

Check all that apply.

- Facial Features
- Skin Color
- Eye Color
- Hair Color
- Hair Texture
- How that person self-identifies
- How that person's parents identify that person
- How the government identifies that person
- DNA Ancestry tests
- Other (please specify)

How would you identify the ethnicity of a child whose parents are of different ethnicities?

- The person as a member of the majority, if possible.
- The person is a member of a minority, if possible.
- The person is a member of both ethnicities.
- The person is a member of one ethnicity that is defined as a combination of the parents' ethnicities.
- The person is a member of whatever ethnicity he/she chooses.
- I decline to answer this question.
- Other (please specify)

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This question is for reporters, journalists, and writers only. If you are not a reporter, journalist or writer, please skip this question.

If you are covering a story about an issue that affects minorities specifically, how do you locate informants?