



**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**For Release: July 8, 2011**  
**6:30 pm (EDT)**

**THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM**  
 June 17-20, 2011

- Most Americans think the space shuttle has been a worthwhile program and about half are disappointed to see it come to an end.
- Still, 36% think the U.S. space program has fallen short of expectations since the moon landing in 1969.

63% say that given the costs and risks of space exploration, the space shuttle program has been worth it; 31% disagree. Throughout the years, majorities have viewed the program as worthwhile. Interestingly, support has been highest after space shuttle tragedies have occurred. In 2003, shortly after space shuttle Columbia disintegrated returning from its mission, 75% of Americans said the shuttle program was worth continuing. That number was 80% after the Challenger disaster in 1986, the highest percentage in CBS News Polls.

Majorities of Americans across all major demographic groups say the space shuttle has been worth it.

<b>Has the Space Shuttle Program Been Worthwhile?</b>						
	Now	7/2005	2/2003	12/1993	1/1986	
Yes	63%	59%	75%	61%	80%	
No	31	36	19	31	14	

Nearly half of Americans are disappointed that the space shuttle program is coming to an end; just 16% are pleased. A third doesn't care either way. Men are more disappointed than women about the shuttle program ending.

**Feelings about the End of the Space Shuttle Program**

	All	Men	Women
Pleased	16%	14%	19%
Disappointed	48	54	43
Don't care	33	30	35

While Americans have been supportive of the space shuttle program specifically, their evaluations of the U.S. space program overall are mixed. 36% say the nation's space program has accomplished less than they expected since the moon landing more than 40 years ago. A similar number say the program has met their expectations, but only 23% think the program has accomplished more than they expected.

29% of Americans age 65 and over, many of whom were young adults at the time of the moon landing, say the space program has exceeded their expectations – the highest of any age group. That compares to only 17% of those under age 30 who feel that way.

### U.S. Space Program's Accomplishments

		----- Age -----			
	Now	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
More	23%	17%	23%	25%	29%
Less	36	44	35	40	22
About what you expected	35	37	37	30	38

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This poll was conducted by telephone on June 17-20, 2011 among 1,045 adults nationwide. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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**Space Shuttle Program**  
**June 17-20, 2011**

q15 Since the moon landing more than forty years ago, do you think the U.S. space program has accomplished more than you expected, less than you expected, or about what you expected it to accomplish by now?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			Jul09a*
	Total	Men	Women	
	%	%	%	%
More	23	23	24	27
Less	36	42	31	32
About expected	35	31	39	36
DK/NA	6	4	6	5

\*Wording: "Since the moon landing forty years ago..."

q16 As you may know, the U.S. space shuttle program is scheduled to launch its final mission in July 2011. Given the costs and risks involved in space exploration, do you think the Space Shuttle program has been a worthwhile program, or not?

				Jul05b^
Yes	63	64	62	59%
No	31	32	31	36
DK/NA	6	4	7	5

^Wording: "Given the costs and risks involved in space exploration, do you think the Space Shuttle program is worth continuing, or not?"

q17 How do you feel about the U.S. space shuttle program coming to an end - are you pleased, disappointed, or don't you care much one way or the other?

Pleased	16	14	19
Disappointed	48	54	43
Don't care	33	30	35
DK/NA	3	2	3

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1045	
Total Men	430	504
Total Women	615	541