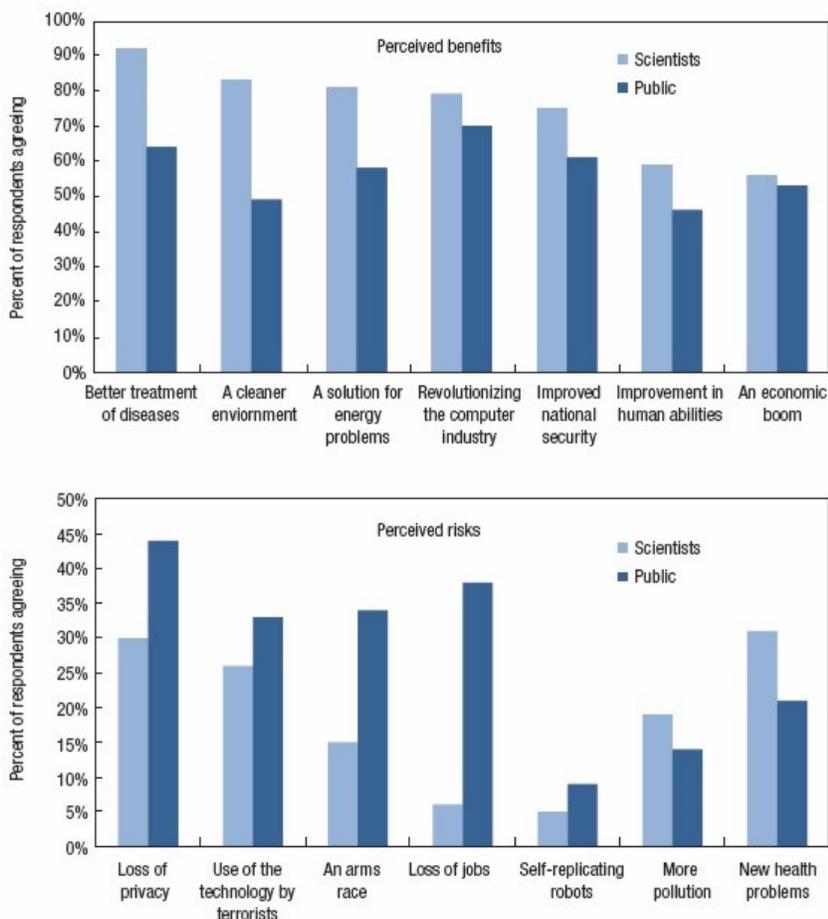


## Public and Researchers Hold Different Views of Risks and Benefits of Nanotechnology

Researchers associated with the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University surveyed a random national sample of American households and more than 360 leading nanoscale science and engineering (NSE) researchers in the United States. As is typical for emerging technologies, the public perceives higher risks in many areas than do experts, and NSE researchers perceive higher benefits from nanotechnology than the public across all categories. However, in a noteworthy reversal, NSE researchers perceive higher risks than the public from nanotechnology in categories of health and environment. The largest differences between the two groups in perceived benefits are in better treatment of diseases, a cleaner environment, and a solution to energy problems, areas in which NSE researchers feel much more strongly than the public that nanotechnologies will be beneficial. Although “nanobots” are perceived to be the lowest risk from nanotechnology, approximately one-in-ten members of the public and one-in-twenty NSE researchers polled still found them to be a risk.



Scheufele, D.A., E.A. Corley, S. Dunwoody, T.-J. Shih, E. Hillback, and D.H. Guston. 2007. “Nanotechnology Scientists Worry about Some Risks More than the General Public” *Nature Nanotechnology* 2(12): 732–734.

Patents or other steps toward commercialization:

**Contributing Agency: NSF**