

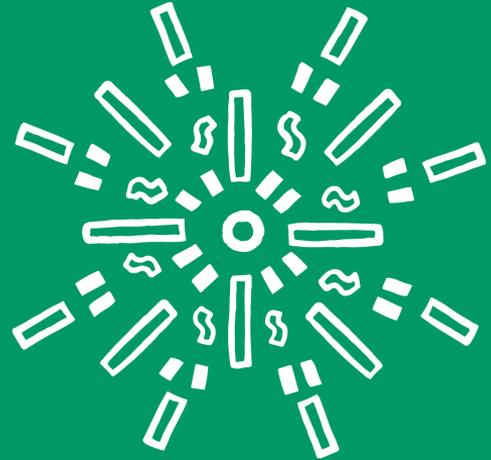


# Chilling Effects of and Plummeting Support for Surveillance

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# STUDIES

(involving thousands  
of Americans)



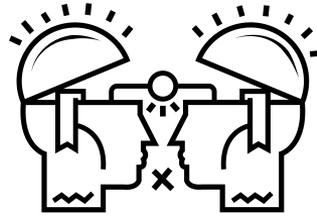
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# PEN America (2013)

Negative impacts of surveillance on their members, namely journalists and other writers:

> 50%

Engaged in **self-censorship** because they knew or suspected that the government monitored their communications and internet browsing activities.



92%

Said personal data collected by U.S. government “will be **vulnerable to abuse** for many years because it may never be completely erased or safeguarded.”



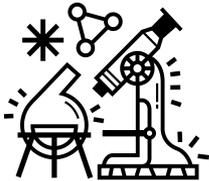
# Types of self-censorship reported:



Curtailed or avoided activities on **social media**;



Reluctance to **communicate** with sources or with friends abroad;



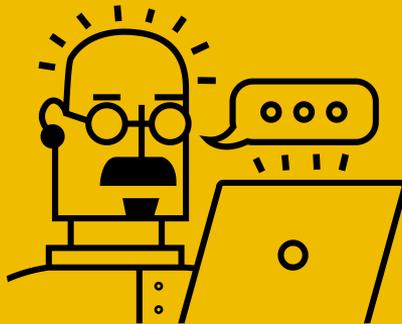
Reluctance to:

- **pursue research,**
- **write,** or
- **speak** about certain subjects.



# “Chilling effects”

A person is “chilled” if they are deterred from speaking or engaging in some *lawful* activity out of fear of a legal threat, privacy harm, or other punishment.



# “Chilling effects” on Wikipedia use (2016)

- Analysis of tens of millions of Wikipedia page views between 2012 and 2014 demonstrated:
  - Traffic to pages related to terms DHS uses for social media monitoring (including “attack,” “nationalism,” and “pirates”) dropped up to **25%** and on average **19.5%** after mass surveillance disclosures in 2013.



# “Chilling effects” on online speech (2017)

- **78%** of American internet users said government surveillance chills their online speech.
- Greater awareness of surveillance news led to more chilled speech.
- In order from greatest chilling effect to least:
  - “Personal legal threat” from a third party (81%)
  - Government surveillance (78%)
  - Corporate surveillance (71%)



# AP-NORC (2011-2021)

Americans' support for warrantless surveillance of communications plummeted.

Phone calls made **outside** the U.S.:

- In 2011, 36% opposed and 49% support.
- In 2021, 44% opposed and 28% support.

Emails sent between people **outside** the U.S.:

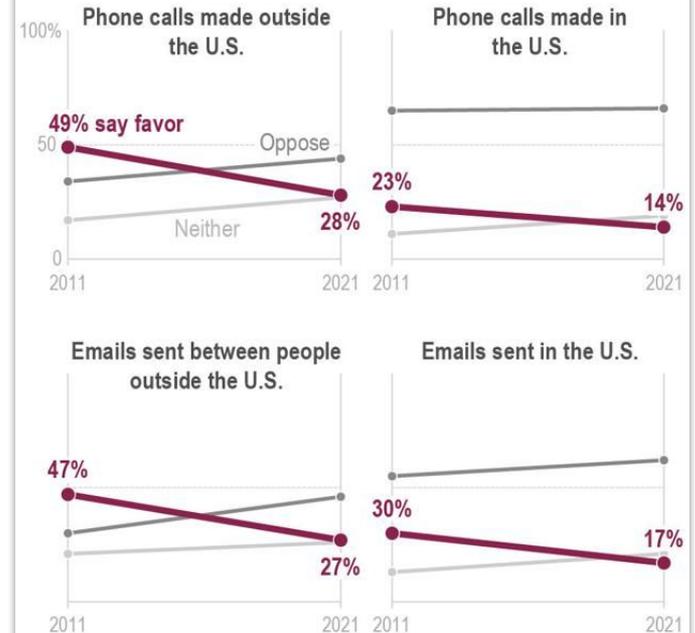
- In 2011, 30% opposed and 47% support.
- In 2021, 46% opposed and 27% support.



## Support for surveillance abroad falls from 2011 to today

A recent AP-NORC poll finds support for surveillance of calls and emails outside the U.S. has dipped since 2011, while Americans remain opposed to the possibility of warrantless internal surveillance.

Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the government surveilling \_\_\_\_ without a warrant?



Results based on interviews with 1,729 U.S. adults conducted Aug. 12–16. The margin of error is  $\pm 3.2$  percentage points for the full sample.

Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research



# AP-NORC (2011-2021)

**Tl;dr:** Within a decade, support for warrantless surveillance has been cut in half across the board, and now most Americans oppose such surveillance — even of *foreigners' communications*.



# Sources:

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