

YouGov Internal Survey Results

Gene Editing

Sample Size: 4958 GB Adults

Fieldwork dates: 13th - 21st August 2018

	Gender		Age				
	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	
Weighted Sample	4958	2400	2558	555	2092	1175	1135
Unweighted Sample	4958	2155	2803	457	2017	1245	1239
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Gene editing is a form of technology by which scientists can add, remove, or alter a living organism's DNA. It can be used to make changes that are not passed on from one generation to the next, but can also be used to change the genetic makeup of future generations, e.g. by altering genes in egg and sperm cells.

If the technology was available, do you think gene editing should or should not be allowed in order to...

...Prevent people from passing on hereditary genetic disorders, such as cystic fibrosis or Huntington's disease

Should be allowed	76	74	78	74	72	80	82
Should not be allowed	9	10	8	8	11	8	9
Don't know	14	15	13	18	17	12	9

...Make people more intelligent

Should be allowed	12	17	7	15	14	9	9
Should not be allowed	71	63	78	62	67	77	77
Don't know	17	20	15	23	20	13	14

...Change people's appearance

Should be allowed	8	11	6	13	11	5	5
Should not be allowed	76	71	80	68	70	82	83
Don't know	16	18	15	18	20	14	11

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

If the technology was available, would you personally consider using gene editing if...

...you were carrying genes for a genetic disorder and ran the risk of passing them onto future children

Would definitely consider	55	55	55	46	51	61	62
Would possibly consider	28	25	30	33	28	24	26
TOTAL WOULD CONSIDER	83	80	85	79	79	85	88
Would probably not consider	5	5	4	4	5	5	3
Would definitely not consider	6	7	4	5	5	6	6
TOTAL WOULD NOT CONSIDER	11	12	8	9	10	11	9
Don't know	7	9	6	12	10	5	3

...you could make your future children more intelligent

Would definitely consider	10	14	6	10	12	9	6
Would possibly consider	13	16	11	10	15	11	16
TOTAL WOULD CONSIDER	23	30	17	20	27	20	22
Would probably not consider	25	25	24	24	22	26	29
Would definitely not consider	42	33	52	43	39	48	43
TOTAL WOULD NOT CONSIDER	67	58	76	67	61	74	72
Don't know	10	12	8	13	13	7	6

...you could change your future children's appearance

Would definitely consider	4	6	2	5	5	3	2
Would possibly consider	8	9	6	7	10	5	6
TOTAL WOULD CONSIDER	12	15	8	12	15	8	8
Would probably not consider	23	27	19	20	19	26	32
Would definitely not consider	55	47	64	56	53	59	56
TOTAL WOULD NOT CONSIDER	78	74	83	76	72	85	88
Don't know	10	11	8	13	12	7	5

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

You have said gene editing to change people's appearance should be allowed. Which, if any, of the following aspects of someone's appearance do you think it should be permissible to change through gene editing? Please tick all that apply.

[Seen only to respondents who said that gene editing to change people's appearance should be allowed; n=386]

Baldness	63	71	49	70	65	59	53
Build	54	59	44	68	52	58	40
Height	49	53	41	45	51	51	47
Hair colour	43	48	34	46	48	40	23
Eye colour	39	47	26	37	45	39	23
Skin colour	33	42	19	23	37	37	29
None of the above	11	8	17	5	11	16	14
Don't know	10	9	11	9	9	6	16

You have said you would consider changing your future children's appearance through gene editing. Which, if any, of the following aspects of your children's appearance would you consider changing through gene editing? Please tick all that apply.

[Seen only to respondents who said they would consider changing their future children's appearance through gene editing; n=402]

Baldness	47	53	34	50	44	56	42
Build	47	54	34	42	47	49	48
Height	42	50	28	53	39	40	50
Hair colour	25	28	21	24	29	25	10
Eye colour	20	22	16	12	24	15	11
Skin colour	18	21	12	6	21	19	13
None of the above	14	11	21	16	15	13	11
Don't know	10	8	15	4	11	12	14

To what extent do you think choosing a sperm or egg donor based on ethnicity, build, and/or other traits (e.g. intelligence, musical ability), a legal practice, is similar to gene editing for those traits?

Definitely similar	13	14	12	7	12	14	16
Somewhat similar	34	34	35	41	34	34	33
TOTAL SIMILAR	47	48	47	48	46	48	49
Not very similar	21	20	22	24	22	21	18
Not similar at all	11	10	12	9	12	12	10
TOTAL NOT SIMILAR	32	30	34	33	34	33	28
Don't know	21	22	19	19	21	19	23