



ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
& MANAGEMENT

AI Survey Questions and Results

1. Which types of AI tools have you used for your research or policy analysis in the past 12 months?

(Select all that apply):

- General-purpose AI assistants: 84%
- AI coding tools or coding agents: 29%
- Specialized research AI tools: 19%
- I have not used any AI tools: 12%
- AI models I develop, fine-tune, or run locally: 9%
- API access to AI models: 8%
- Other: 4.35%

2. How often do you currently use any AI tools for your research or policy analysis?

- Daily or almost daily: 33%
- At least once a week but not daily: 32%
- Less than once every 3 months: 17%
- 1-3 times a month: 15%
- Once every 2-3 months: 4%

3. How do you access these tools? (Select all that apply)

- University or employer institutional licenses: 48%
- Free accounts: 43%
- Paid accounts (personal funds): 36%
- Paid accounts (research funds, grants, or contracts): 11%
- Other: 5%
- Not sure: 2%

4. How much do you spend monthly on AI tools for work-related purposes?

- Institutional/grant funds \$0: 80%
- \$1-\$20: 10%
- \$21-\$50: 4%
- \$51-\$200: 4%
- \$200+: 2%

5. In the past 12 months, how useful have AI tools been for the following tasks? (Select one response for each task you perform. Select "N/A" if you do not perform this task.)

- Literature review or synthesis
 - Somewhat useful: 28%
 - Have not used AI for this: 27%
 - Very useful: 21%
 - Extremely useful: 13%
 - N/A: 7%
 - Not useful at all: 5%
- Coding or programming)
 - Extremely useful: 26%
 - Have not used AI for this: 25%
 - Very useful: 20%
 - Somewhat useful: 16%
 - N/A: 11%
 - Not useful at all: 2%
- Data analysis, visualization, or econometrics
 - Have not used AI for this: 34%
 - Somewhat useful: 24%
 - Very useful: 15.0%
 - N/A: 10.0%
 - Extremely useful: 9%
 - Not useful at all: 9%
- Qualitative or text analysis
 - Have not used AI for this: 38%
 - Somewhat useful: 17%
 - N/A: 16%
 - Very useful: 13%
 - Extremely useful: 10%
 - Not useful at all: 6%
- Teaching preparation
 - Have not used AI for this: 38%
 - N/A: 22%
 - Somewhat useful: 17%
 - Very useful: 11%
 - Extremely useful: 9%
 - Not useful at all: 3%

6. What are the most important factors that have kept you from adopting or expanding your use of AI tools for research or policy analysis? (Select all that apply)

- Concerns about accuracy, reliability, or usefulness: 80%
- Data privacy, security, or compliance: 61%
- Ethical, equity, or intellectual property concerns: 60%

- Unclear norms around AI use: 41%
- Lack of training or guidance: 27%
- Cost of tools: 24%
- Other: 14%
- None: 3%

7. If you would like to elaborate on any of the above, please do so here (optional):

- Sentiment: Negative (66%), Neutral (25%), Positive (9%)
- Top Themes: Institutional AI Policies, AI for Research and Administrative Tasks, Academic Integrity and AI, AI Ethics and Integrity, AI Accuracy and Reliability, Environmental Impact of AI, Data Privacy and Security, and more.

8. Do you conduct or plan to conduct research where AI itself is the subject of study?

- No: 45%
- No, but interested: 23%
- Yes, currently active: 19%
- Yes, planning to: 14%

9. Which AI-related research areas apply to you? (Select all that apply)

- AI in public service delivery, administration, or performance: 47%
- AI governance, regulation, and policy: 47%
- Health, education, or social policy impacts of AI: 46%
- Methods for evaluating or auditing AI systems: 32%
- Labor markets, automation, and workforce effects: 31%
- Algorithmic bias, fairness, or distributional impacts: 28%
- Misinformation, political communication, or democracy: 26%
- Other: 9%

10. How much training have you had on using AI tools for research or policy analysis?

- Minimal: 43%
- Moderate: 28%
- None: 22%
- Extensive: 7%

11. Where have you learned the most about using AI tools for research or policy analysis? (Select up to 3)

- Self-teaching: 80%
- Colleagues or collaborators: 43%
- University or employer-provided workshops: 16%
- Online courses, MOOCs, or communities: 10%
- Graduate students or postdocs: 9%
- Other: 6%
- I have not learned about AI tools: 5%
- Professional conferences or workshops: 5%

12. How confident do you feel in your ability to use AI tools effectively in your work?

- Somewhat confident: 48%
- Not very confident: 23%
- Very confident: 20%
- Not at all confident: 10%

13. Does your university, agency, or organization currently provide any of the following AI-related resources? (Select all that apply)

- Institutional licenses for AI tools: 65%
- Training workshops: 34%
- Formal guidance: 28%
- Secure computing environment: 28%
- Not sure: 20%
- IT or research computing support: 18%
- None of the above: 11%
- AI-capable high-performance computing: 11%

14. Does your institution or organization have formal rules or policies governing the use of AI tools in research or policy analysis?

- No formal rules: 38%
- Yes, and I am familiar: 30%
- Yes, but not very familiar: 17%
- Not sure: 15%

15. Which policies on student use of AI tools have you adopted in at least one course? (Select all that apply)

- I do not currently teach: 52%
- Allowed for limited purposes with restrictions: 22%
- Allowed broadly with disclosure/attribution: 20%
- Prohibited in all coursework: 13%
- Encouraged or required for some assignments: 12%
- No explicit policy stated: 2%

16. Which AI-relevant skills, if any, did you explicitly teach in at least one course in the most recent academic year? (Select all that apply)

- I did not explicitly teach AI-relevant skills: 49%
- Verification, fact checking, and critical evaluation: 25%
- Citation, attribution, and academic integrity: 22%
- Prompting, workflow design, or iterative use: 20%
- AI for coding, data analysis, or visualization: 18%
- AI for writing, literature review, or research synthesis: 10%
- Other: 8%
- Building, customizing, or fine-tuning AI tools: 3%

17. In the most recent academic year, which teaching tasks did you personally use AI tools for?
(Select all that apply)

- Creating examples, cases, simulations, or practice questions: 48%
- Brainstorming course activities or assignments: 43%
- Drafting or revising lecture notes, slides, or course materials: 42%
- Creating rubrics, grading criteria, or feedback comments: 28%
- I did not use AI for teaching tasks: 26%
- Coding or data help for course materials: 18%
- Summarizing readings or creating study guides: 17%
- Other: 7%

18. Have you changed your class or assessment practices due to concerns about AI availability?

- Yes, major changes: 43%
- Yes, minor changes: 41%
- No changes: 16%

19. Would you find it useful for APPAM to offer programming related to the use of AI tools in public policy and management research and teaching?

- Very useful: 41%
- Somewhat useful: 35%
- Not very useful: 13%
- Not at all useful: 12%

20. What types of support from APPAM on AI tools would be most valuable to you? (Select up to 3)

- Best practice guidelines: 66%
- Hands-on workshops on AI coding tools: 53%
- Workshops on AI for literature review, writing, and data workflows: 46%
- Guidance on data security and compliance: 40%
- Curated recommendations of AI tools: 39%
- Advocacy with journals and funders: 37%
- Training in developing or fine-tuning ML/AI models: 31%
- Guidance in integrating AI tools into teaching: 27%
- Community forum, working group, or case studies: 25%
- A micro credential or certificate: 20%
- Other: 8%

21. If you could request one concrete resource or initiative from APPAM related to AI, what would it be? (Optional)

- Sentiment: Neutral (92.59%), Positive (4%), Negative (4%)
- Top Themes: AI in Academic Research, AI Policy Adoption in Public Sector, AI in Teaching and Assessment, AI Training and Workshops, AI Usage Guidelines and Best Practices, and more.

22. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- AI tools will significantly change how public policy and management research is conducted in the next 5 years
 - Strongly agree: 45%
 - Agree: 36%
 - Neither agree nor disagree: 12%
 - Disagree: 6%
 - Strongly disagree: 2%

- I am concerned that AI tools may reduce the demand for certain research skills I have
 - Agree: 31%
 - Neither agree nor disagree: 21%
 - Disagree: 21%
 - Strongly agree: 21%
 - Strongly disagree: 5%

- The profession needs clearer standards for when and how AI tools should be disclosed in research
 - Strongly agree: 63%
 - Agree: 28%
 - Neither agree nor disagree: 8%
 - Disagree: 1%
 - Strongly disagree: 0%

23. Is there anything else APPAM should know about your experience with AI tools in research or teaching, or any needs not covered above? (Optional)

- Sentiment: Negative (47%), Neutral (43%), Positive (11%)
- Top Themes: AI in Teaching and Learning, AI Ethics and Governance, AI Adoption and Research Impact, Survey and Research Methodology, AI Reliability and Limitations, and more.

24. What is your primary area of research or practice? (Select all that apply)

- Education policy: 37%
- Social policy and income support: 28%
- Public management and governance: 21%
- Health policy: 20%
- Labor and workforce policy: 16%
- Housing and urban policy: 15%
- Environmental and energy policy: 11%
- Nonprofit management and philanthropy: 9%
- Criminal justice and public safety: 8%
- Other: 8%
- Science, technology, and innovation policy: 7%
- Fiscal and budgetary policy: 7%

- International development: 3%

25. What is your primary methodological orientation? (Select all that apply)

- Quantitative/econometric methods: 69%
- Applied policy analysis or evaluation: 46%
- Mixed methods: 38%
- Qualitative methods: 24%
- Computational/data science methods: 13%
- Theoretical or conceptual analysis: 12%
- Other: 1%

26. What is your current position?

- Graduate student: 18%
- Nonprofit or think tank researcher: 13%
- Full professor: 12%
- Assistant professor (tenure track): 10%
- Other: 10%
- Associate professor (tenured or tenure track): 9%
- Research faculty or research scientist: 8%
- Government analyst or researcher: 8%
- Consultant: 5%
- Postdoctoral researcher: 5%
- Lecturer or teaching faculty: 3%
- Prefer not to answer: 0%

27. What type of institution is your primary affiliation?

- R1 research university: 57%
- Non-profit research organization or think tank: 13%
- Other doctoral university: 8%
- Government agency (state or local): 5%
- Consulting firm: 4%
- Private sector: 4%
- Master's granting institution: 3%
- Government agency (federal): 3%
- Other: 2%
- Liberal arts college: 2%
- Prefer not to answer: 1%

28. How many years since you completed your terminal degree?

- 0-5 years: 26%
- 11-20 years: 21%
- Still in graduate school: 20%

- 6 10 years: 17%
- More than 20 years: 15%
- Prefer not to answer: 1%

29. To what extent does your research involve restricted or regulated data?

- Often: 35%
- Sometimes: 29%
- Rarely: 13%
- Always: 10%
- Never: 10%
- Unsure: 3%

Compiled June 2026

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