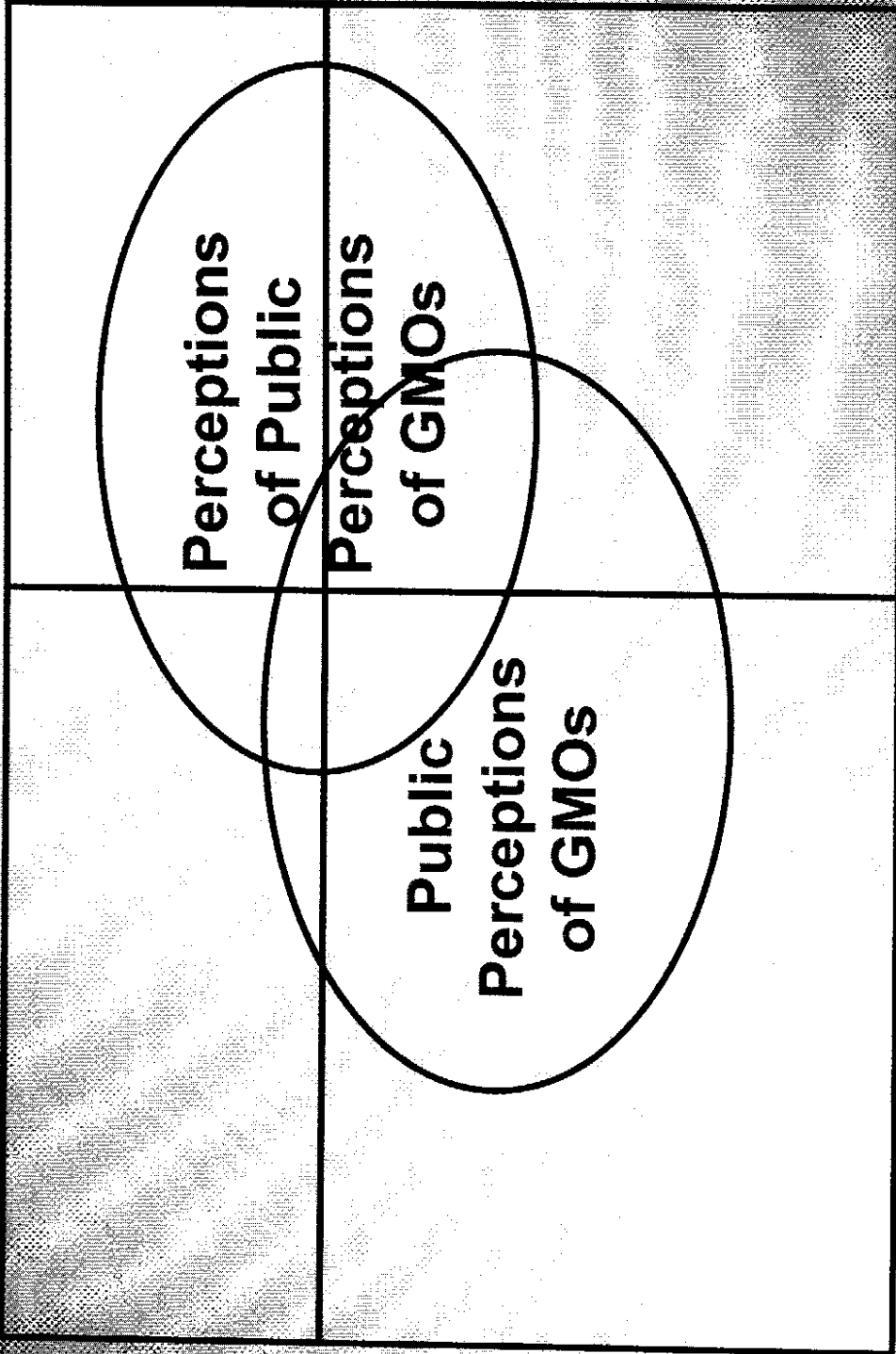


Perspectives of Stem Cell Research and Society's Ethical Values

Attachment
(Refer Q24)

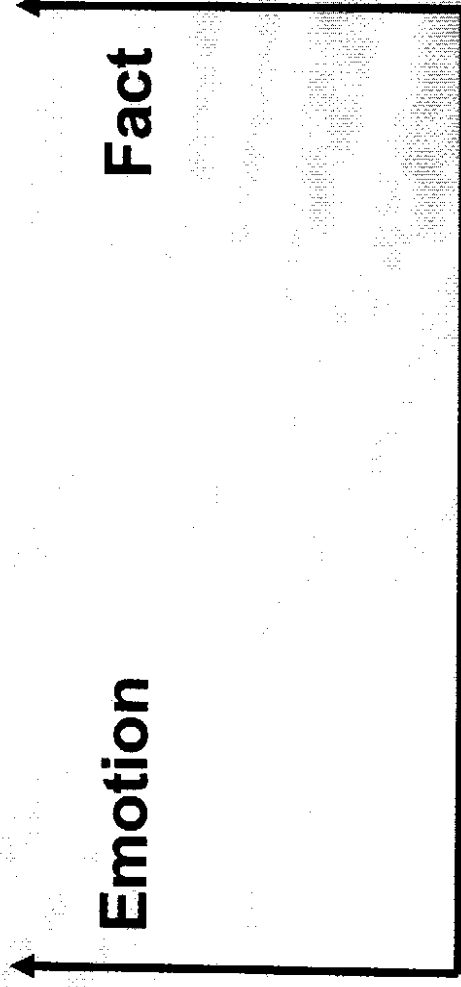
The Problem??? – Is it?

- **Lay people are ignorant about scientific facts**
- **Ethical concerns are often driven by lack of understanding of the issues.**
- **The public demands 'zero risk' - and this is not reasonable**
- **The public is a malleable victim of distorting sensationalist media**
- **More active promotion of the technology is needed**



The Public

The Science



Biotechnology

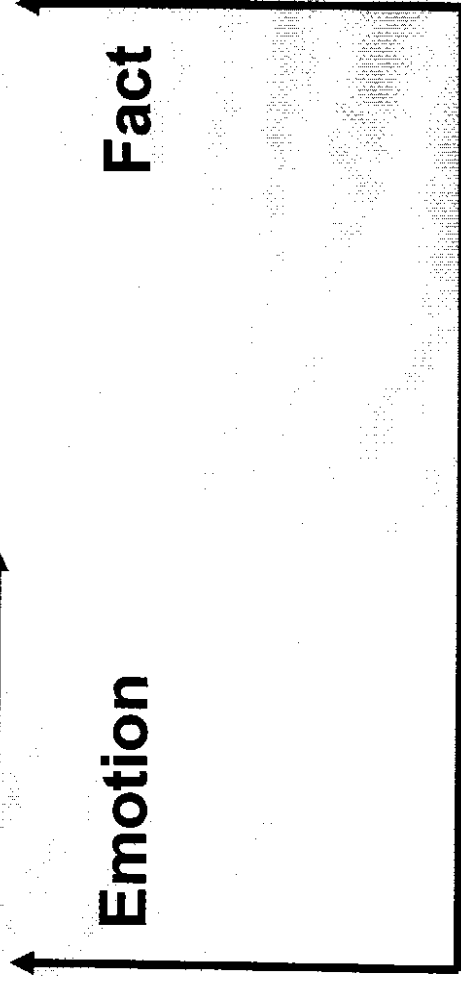
The Public

The Science

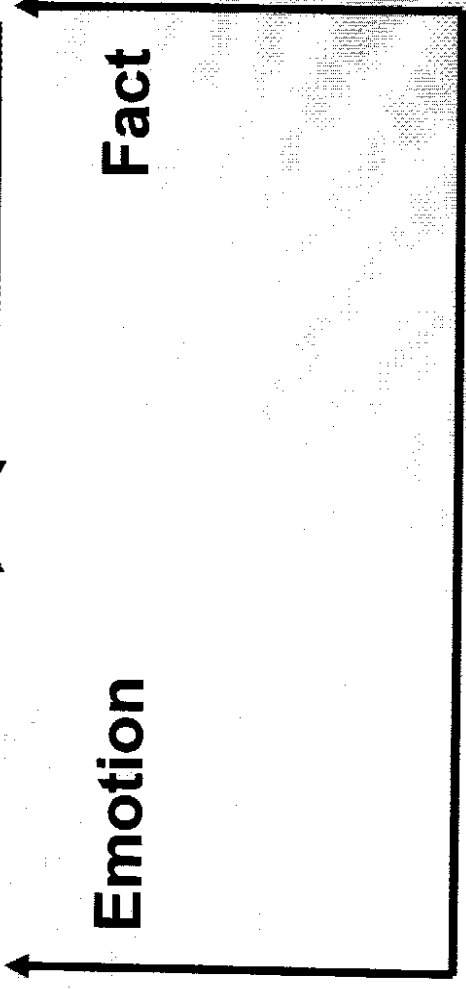
Emotion

Fact

Biotechnology



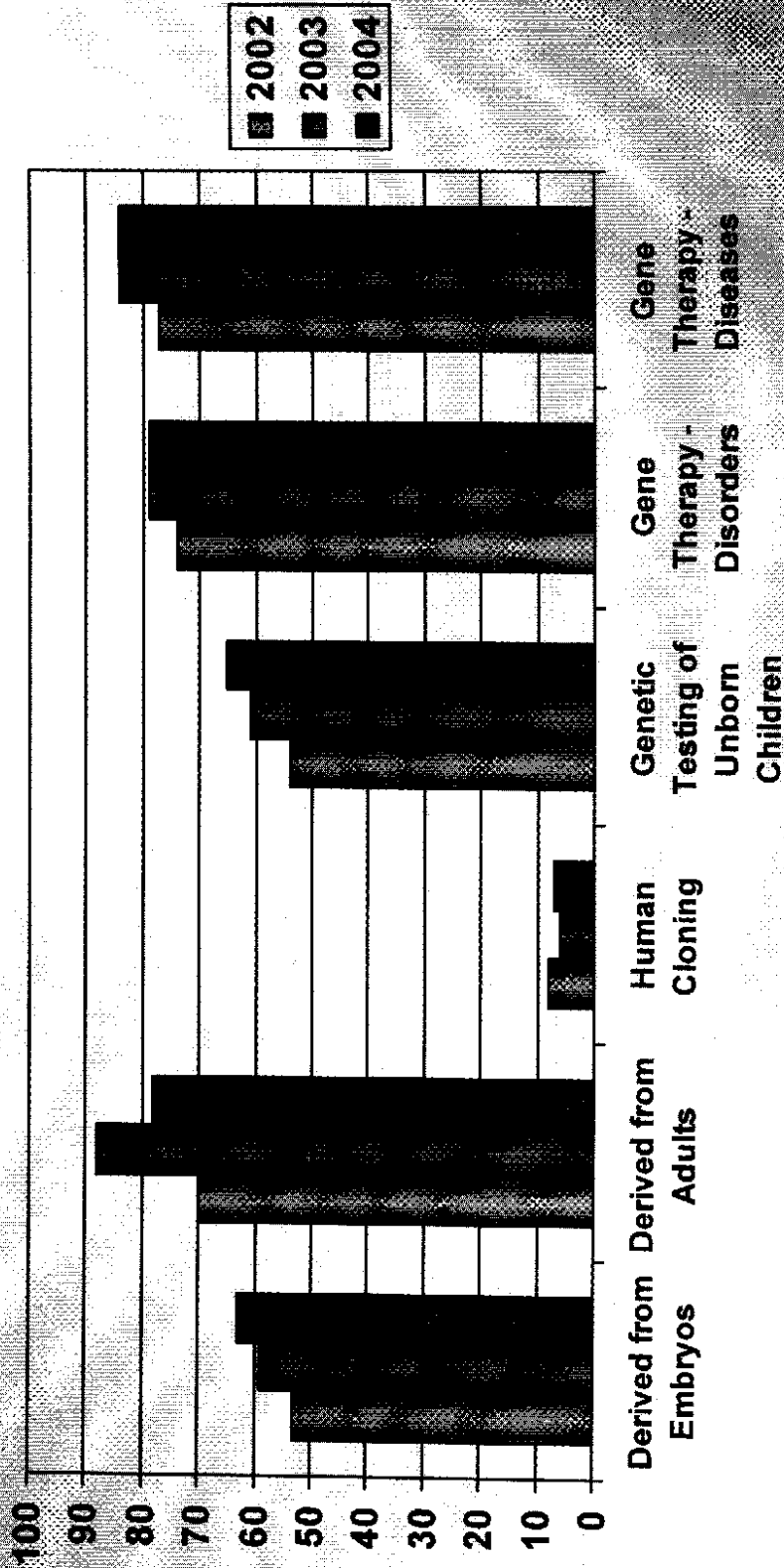
The Public **The Science**



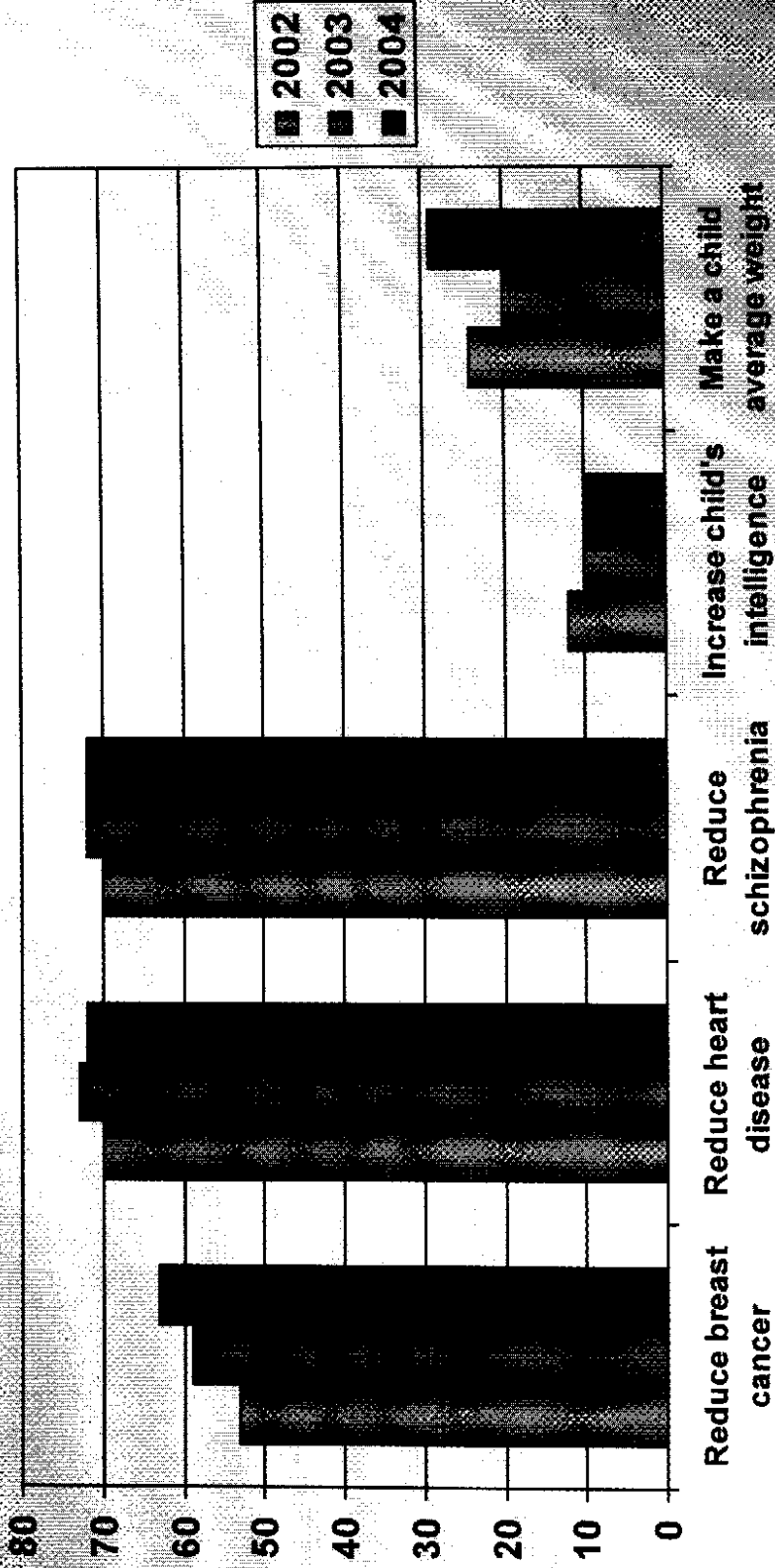
Biotechnology

So what do the public think?

Moral acceptability of Human Stem Cell Situations 2002-04

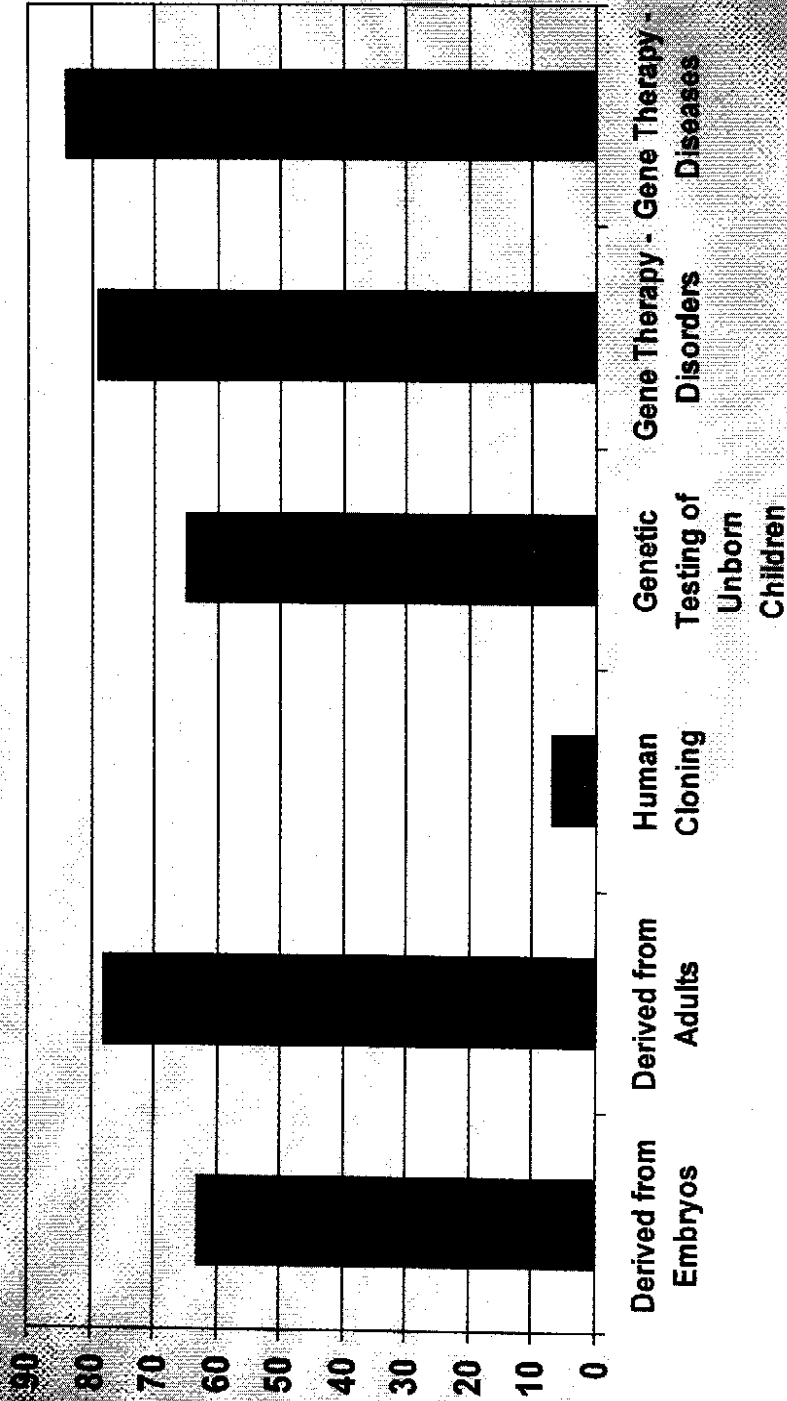


Moral acceptability of Human Stem Cell Situations 2002-04

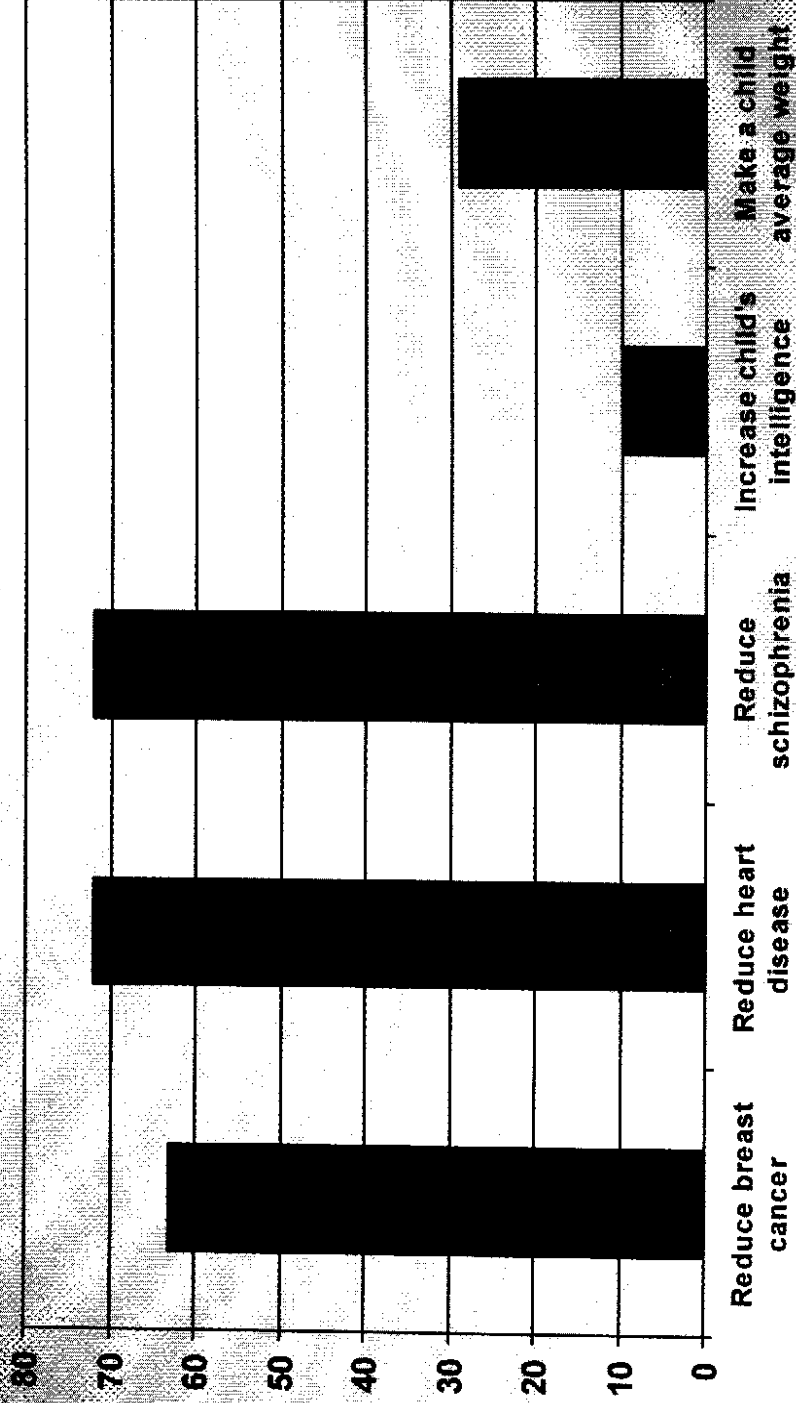


Moral acceptability of Human Stem Cell Situations

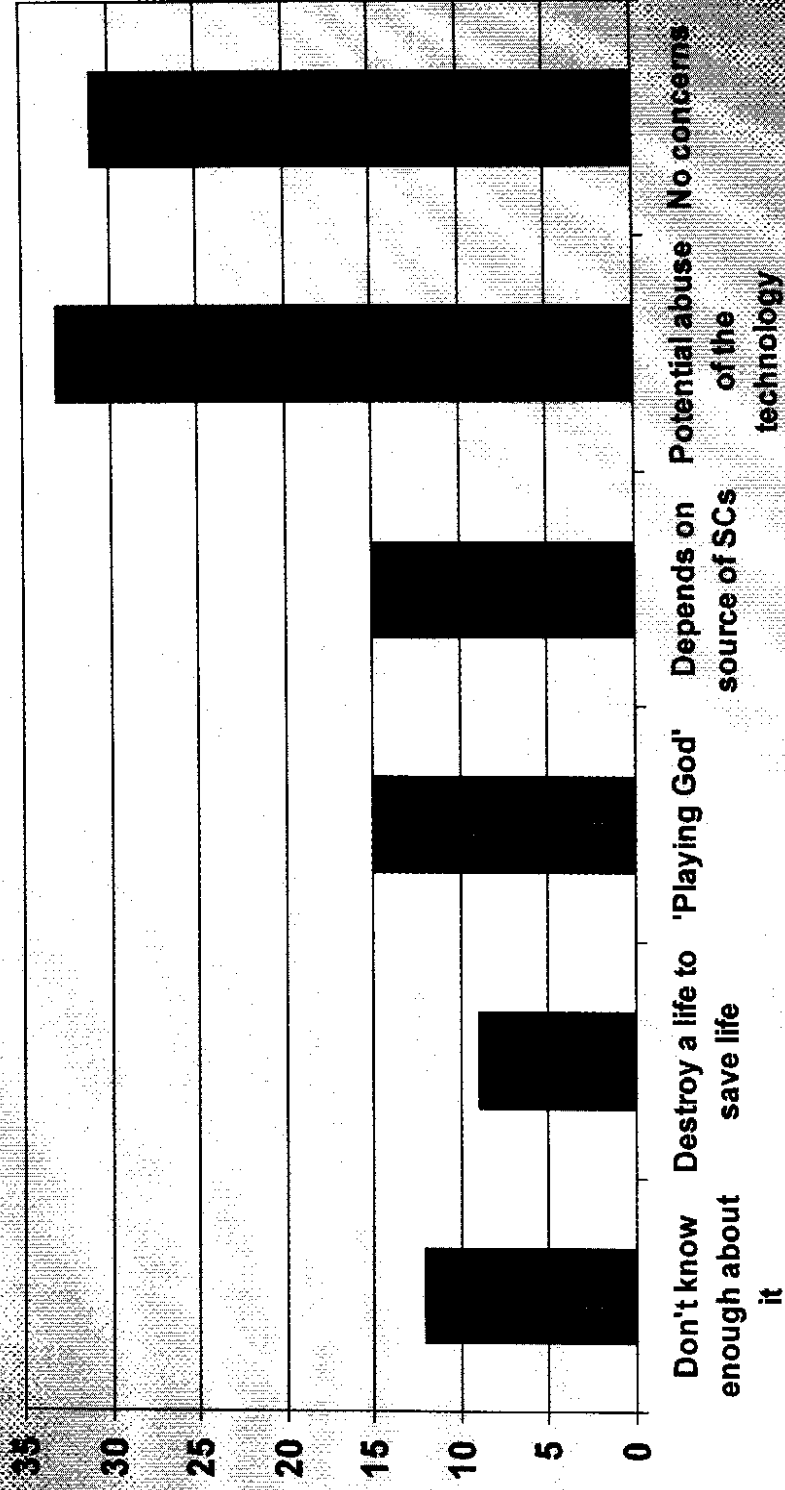
2004



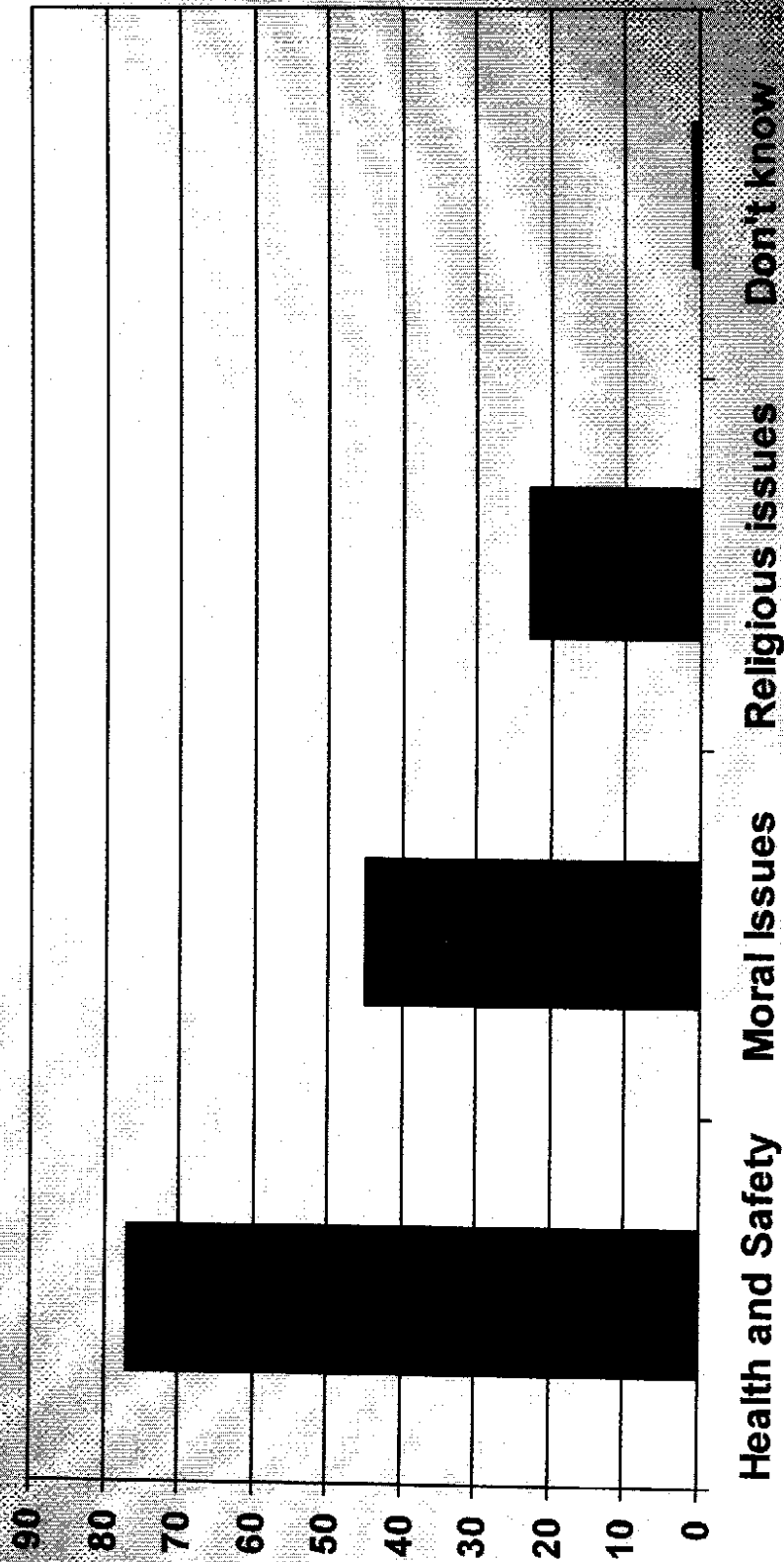
Moral acceptability of Human Stem Cell Situations 2004



Main moral and ethical concerns 2004

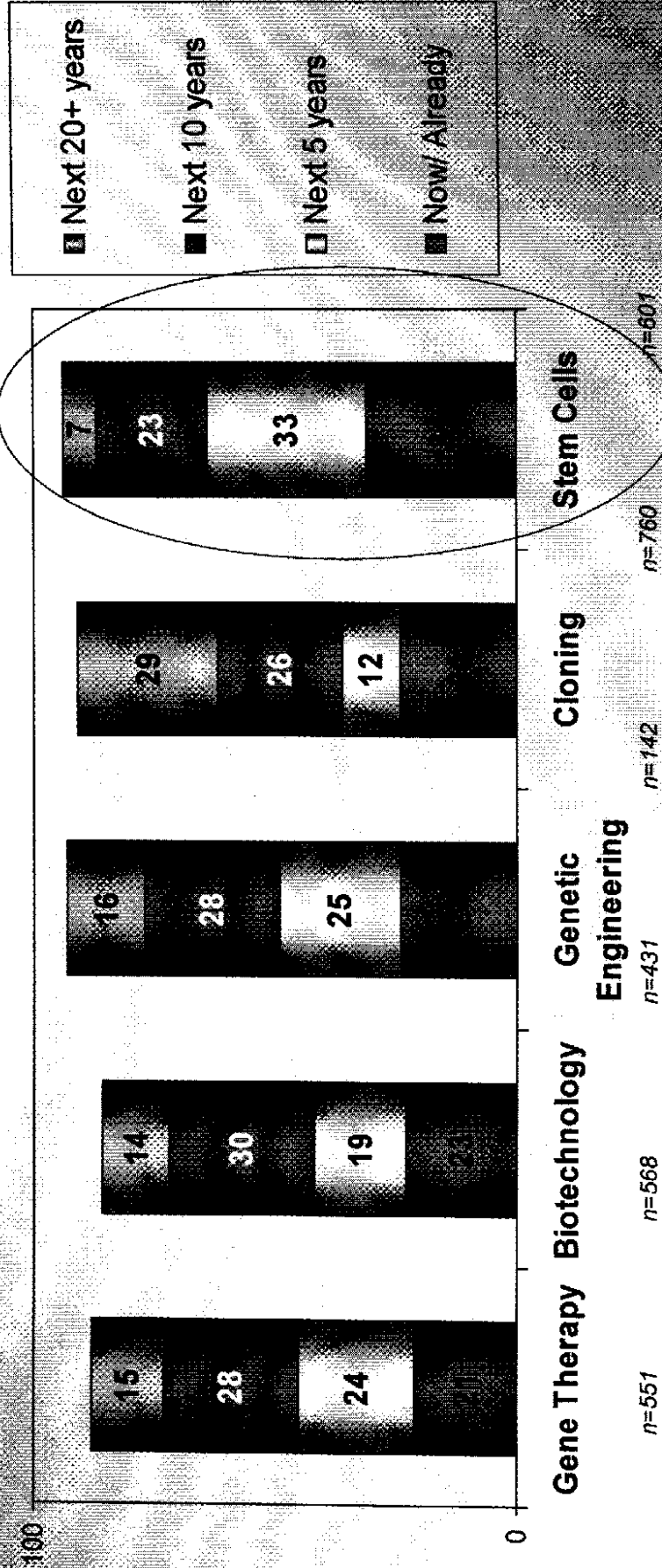


What does ethics in scientific research mean to you?

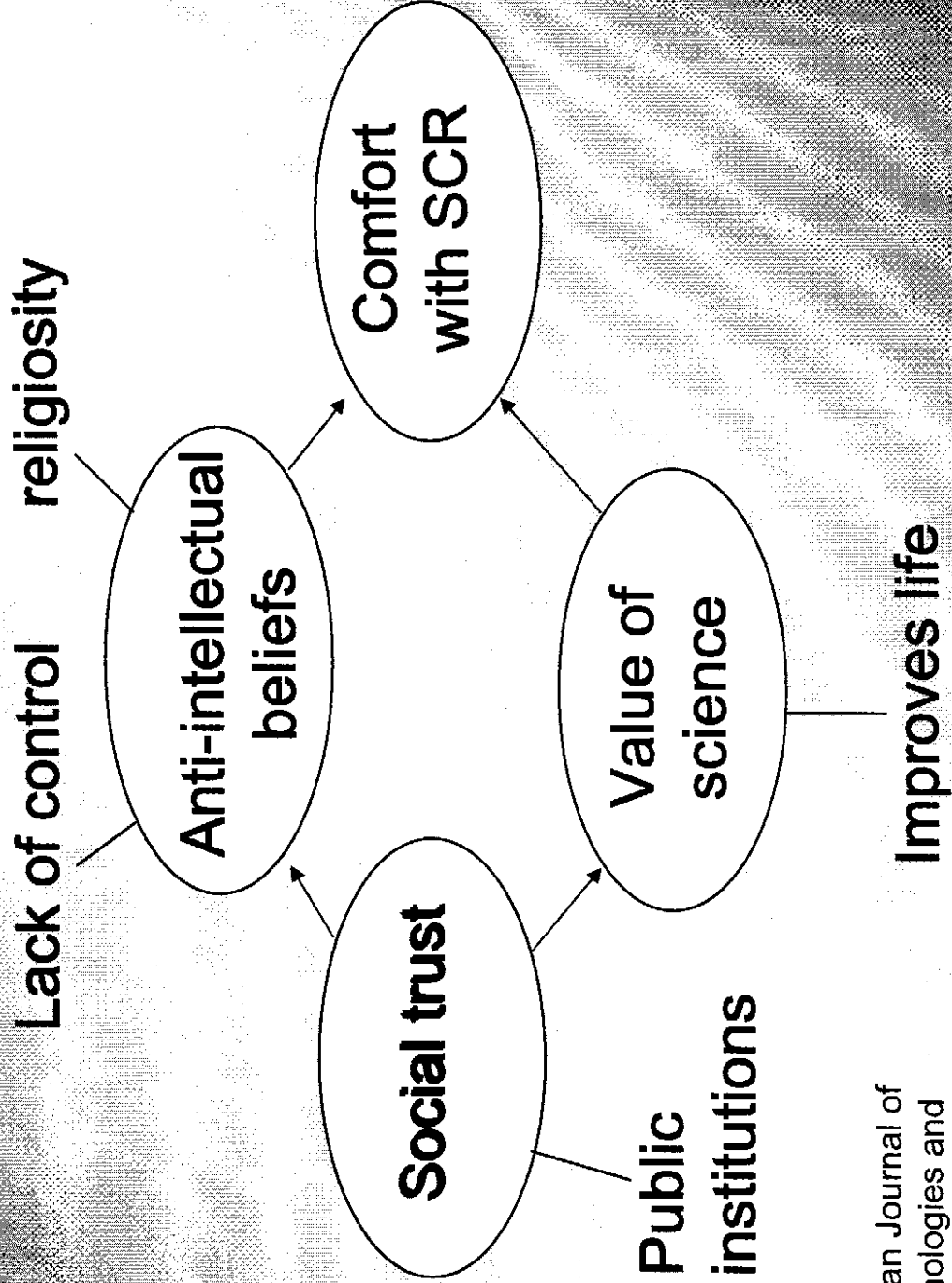


Impact of Scientific Developments – Improving Life

When do you think this will improve our way of life?



Key influences of attitudes



Source: Australian Journal of Emerging Technologies and Society 2004

Focus group study

So what do we now know?

Assumptions

- Embryonic SC have been turned into functional types of cells
- Therapeutic promise = reality of concrete therapeutic outcomes
- Therapeutic benefits in 5-10 years
- Ethical debate is media driven and is causing delays
- Scientific research has secrets
- Cloning is bad = spooky science
- All but one who questioned the validity and credibility of the research

Confusions

- Different types of embryonic stem cells
- Process of derivation
- Difference btw fertilization and conception
- No differentiation btw research and reproductive cloning
- Technology merges into saviour sibs/designer babies and cloning
- Religious standpoints re: soul and moral status
- Funding – little understanding

Omissions

- Politics/legislation
- Funding (did not come from participants)
- Agenda of scientific research/ conduct of research
- No mention of global research prioritisation – eg. clean water, malaria, HIV
- Public involvement in legislation
- Public involvement in prioritising research
- No mention of ‘public good’