

# Workshop on Risks of Unconventional Shale Gas Development

National Research Council

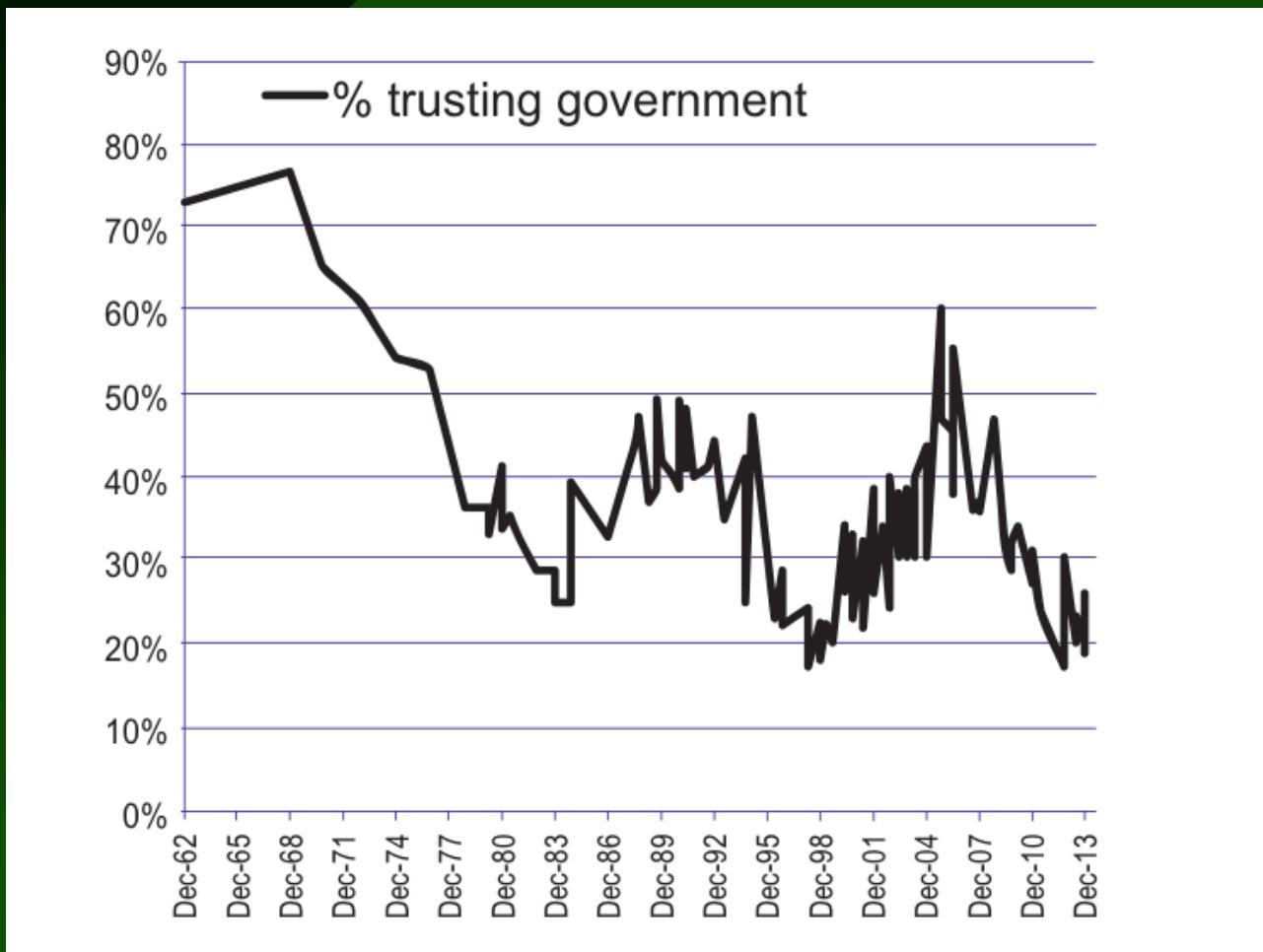
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# How Much Of The Time Do You Think You Can Trust The Government In Washington To Do What Is Right?



**Sources:** Trend in Percentages shown for summed values of “just about always” and “most of the time” (other categories: Chart from: “some of the time,” “never,” “don’t know” or “refused”). Data from: <http://people-press.org/trust/>. Data compiled by: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN Polls. From 1976-2010 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.



Figure 12. Differential impact of trust-increasing and trust-decreasing events. Note: only percentages of Category 7 ratings (very powerful impact) are shown here. Source: Slovic (1993).

# SOCIAL TRUST— A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

- Over The Past 25 Years, Federal Agencies, Congress, and Corporations Have Lost The Trust of the Principal Stakeholders and Publics
- Social Trust Once Lost Is Not Easily Regained and So Any New Program Must Proceed Under Conditions of High Social Distrust
- The Loss of Trust is Systemic Across Social Institutions in The U.S.

# SOCIAL TRUST— A PRECIOUS RESOURCE (cont.)

- Where Those Bearing Risks Lack Trust In Those Making Decisions, They Demand A Greater Role In Decision Making.
- The Interaction Among A Highly Dreaded Hazard, Large Uncertainties, And Low Social Trust Creates Unusually Difficult Management And Regulatory Challenges.