



APPENDIX TABLE 7-6

Public interest in selected issues: 1981–2016

(Percent)

Institution	1981 (n=1,235)	1983 (n=1,615)	1985 (n=1,986)	1988 (n=2,041)	1990 (n=2,005)	1992 (n=1,995)	1995 (n=2,006)	1997 (n=2,000)	1999 (n=1,882)	2001 (n=1,574)	2008 (n=2,021)	2012 (n=2,256)	2016 (n=1,390)
Informal science institution													
Zoo or aquarium	64	49	48	51	51	54	52	51	51	58	52	47	48
Natural history museum	37	29	29	30	30	31	29	30	27	30	28	28	30
Science or technology museum	39	26	24	26	25	21	28	27	30	30	27	25	26
Any informal science institution ^a	72	61	58	59	59	62	61	60	61	66	61	58	58
Public library	NA	NA	67	68	65	69	69	70	72	75	64	60	NA
Art museum	43	32	31	33	31	29	31	30	30	32	34	33	NA

NA = not available; question was not asked.

^a Visited zoo or aquarium, natural history museum, or science or technology museum at least once.

Note(s)



Responses to *I am going to read you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months.* Percentages indicate individuals who visited an institution at least once. Percentages are based on total in the sample, including those who responded "don't know" or refused to respond.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1981–2001); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2008–16).

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