



APPENDIX TABLE 7-8

Correct answers to trend factual knowledge of science questions, by respondent characteristic: 1992–2016

(Percent)

Characteristic	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2006 (n = 1,864)	2008 (n = 2,021)	2010 (n = 1,932)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)	2016 (n = 1,390)
All adults	59	60	60	61	64	64	64	63	65	65	63
Sex											
Male	64	65	66	66	69	69	68	67	70	69	67
Female	55	55	55	57	59	60	60	59	60	61	60
Formal education											
Less than high school diploma	44	44	43	44	45	44	43	42	45	47	43
High school diploma	59	59	60	62	62	62	63	60	62	62	61
Bachelor's degree	73	68	75	77	80	74	77	78	78	77	74
Graduate or professional degree	80	77	80	83	80	82	81	80	81	81	75
Science and mathematics education ^a											
Low	52	52	51	53	55	56	57	54	56	57	55
Middle	66	68	66	71	72	69	70	68	70	72	70
High	79	80	83	82	84	82	82	83	83	82	80
Family income (quartile)											



Characteristic	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2006 (n = 1,864)	2008 (n = 2,021)	2010 (n = 1,932)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)	2016 (n = 1,390)
Bottom	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	56	56	54	55	54	57
Third	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65	63	63	63	62	58
Second	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	69	69	69	69	67	64
Top	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	71	74	73	76	76	73
Age (years)											
18–24	59	63	64	65	66	68	67	64	67	61	61
25–34	64	64	63	65	68	64	67	67	67	66	67
35–44	65	64	66	66	66	67	63	63	67	65	64
45–54	61	62	61	64	68	68	67	65	64	67	65
55–64	53	51	57	58	61	64	65	63	64	68	62
65 or older	47	47	45	46	49	53	54	54	61	59	55
Verbal ability ^b											
0–4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	48	47	46	46	50	46
5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	60	58	55	59	61	57
6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	66	63	63	66	65	62
7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	70	73	67	73	70	68
8–10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	77	80	80	81	80	79

NA = not available; question was not asked.



^a For science and mathematics education, "low" equates to five or fewer high school and college science or mathematics courses, "middle" is six through eight courses, and "high" means nine or more courses.

^b Measure is based on correct responses to a 10-item, multiple-choice test of vocabulary knowledge. Categories represent the number of correct responses.

Note(s)

See notes to Appendix Table 7-2 for an explanation of the trend factual knowledge of science scale.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1992–2001); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2006–16).

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