

APPENDIX TABLE 7-21

Public opinion on whether the federal government should fund basic scientific research, by respondent characteristic: 2016

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (<i>n</i> = 1,390)	30	54	13	1	2
Sex					
Male (<i>n</i> = 571)	34	49	14	1	1
Female (<i>n</i> = 819)	26	57	13	1	3
Formal education					
Less than high school diploma (<i>n</i> = 169)	17	61	15	2	5
High school diploma (<i>n</i> = 415)	24	53	19	1	3
Some college (<i>n</i> = 388)	31	56	12	0	2
Bachelor's degree (<i>n</i> = 263)	38	50	10	2	0
Graduate or professional degree (<i>n</i> = 151)	43	49	6	1	0
Science and mathematics education ^a					
Low (<i>n</i> = 776)	25	56	15	1	3
Middle (<i>n</i> = 262)	32	52	13	3	*
High (<i>n</i> = 275)	42	48	9	*	*
Family income (quartile) ^b					
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 336)	25	55	17	1	3
Third (<i>n</i> = 281)	29	57	12	1	1
Second (<i>n</i> = 324)	31	56	12	1	1
Top (<i>n</i> = 318)	36	50	12	1	1
Age (years) ^b					
18-24 (<i>n</i> = 115)	33	51	11	1	4
25-34 (<i>n</i> = 269)	34	54	9	1	2
35-44 (<i>n</i> = 206)	26	57	16	*	1
45-54 (<i>n</i> = 223)	30	57	11	1	1



Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
55-64 (<i>n</i> = 264)	31	47	19	1	2
65 or older (<i>n</i> = 310)	24	56	15	2	3
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c					
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 250)	22	53	15	1	8
Third (<i>n</i> = 387)	19	63	17	1	1
Second (<i>n</i> = 437)	32	52	13	1	1
Top (<i>n</i> = 316)	45	45	9	1	*

* = < 0.5% responded.

^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. Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

^b Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

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

Note(s)

Responses to *Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source(s)

NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2016).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018