

APPENDIX TABLE 7-31 
Public perception of scientists, by respondent characteristic: 2016

(Percent)

| Characteristic | Scientists work for the good of humanity | Scientists help to solve problems | Scientists want to make life better for the average person | Scientists are odd and peculiar |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| All adults (<i>n</i> = 1,390) | 89 | 94 | 88 | 52 |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male (<i>n</i> = 571) | 89 | 95 | 87 | 57 |
| Female (<i>n</i> = 819) | 88 | 93 | 89 | 48 |
| Formal education | | | | |
| Less than high school diploma (<i>n</i> = 169) | 86 | 87 | 87 | 58 |
| High school diploma (<i>n</i> = 415) | 87 | 93 | 87 | 58 |
| Some college (<i>n</i> = 388) | 90 | 95 | 89 | 53 |
| Bachelor's degree (<i>n</i> = 263) | 89 | 97 | 88 | 44 |
| Graduate or professional degree (<i>n</i> = 151) | 93 | 99 | 95 | 37 |
| Science and mathematics education ^a | | | | |
| Low (<i>n</i> = 776) | 88 | 92 | 88 | 56 |
| Middle (<i>n</i> = 262) | 86 | 95 | 88 | 53 |
| High (<i>n</i> = 275) | 94 | 99 | 92 | 39 |
| Family income (quartile) ^b | | | | |
| Bottom (<i>n</i> = 336) | 87 | 91 | 88 | 55 |
| Third (<i>n</i> = 281) | 88 | 95 | 90 | 54 |
| Second (<i>n</i> = 324) | 89 | 97 | 89 | 56 |
| Top (<i>n</i> = 318) | 92 | 97 | 89 | 44 |
| Age (years) ^b | | | | |
| 18–24 (<i>n</i> = 115) | 88 | 93 | 92 | 49 |



| Characteristic | Scientists work for the good of humanity | Scientists help to solve problems | Scientists want to make life better for the average person | Scientists are odd and peculiar |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 25-34 (<i>n</i> = 269) | 88 | 97 | 89 | 53 |
| 35-44 (<i>n</i> = 206) | 90 | 94 | 91 | 55 |
| 45-54 (<i>n</i> = 223) | 91 | 93 | 88 | 56 |
| 55-64 (<i>n</i> = 264) | 88 | 96 | 88 | 53 |
| 65 or older (<i>n</i> = 310) | 88 | 91 | 85 | 45 |
| Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c | | | | |
| Bottom (<i>n</i> = 250) | 83 | 86 | 83 | 55 |
| Third (<i>n</i> = 387) | 90 | 93 | 90 | 58 |
| Second (<i>n</i> = 437) | 90 | 96 | 90 | 54 |
| Top (<i>n</i> = 316) | 88 | 98 | 88 | 39 |

^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)

Respondents who "strongly agree" and "agree" with the statements *Scientific researchers are dedicated people who work for the good of humanity; Scientists are helping to solve challenging problems; Most scientists want to work on things that will make life better for the average person; and Scientists are apt to be odd and peculiar people.*

Source(s)

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

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018