Appendix table 7-2

Public interest in selected issues, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic	New medical discoveries			Local school issues			Economic issues/business conditions			Environmental pollution			Use of new inventions/technologies		
	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested
All adults (*n* = 2,256)	58	36	5	51	37	11	49	40	10	45	45	9	42	46	11
Sex															
Male (*n* = 1,011)	56	39	5	44	41	15	55	37	7	45	46	9	51	41	7
Female (*n* = 1,245)	60	34	4	58	33	8	44	43	13	45	44	10	35	50	14
Formal education															
< High school (*n* = 308)	57	32	9	50	35	12	32	38	26	40	43	13	36	39	22
High school diploma (*n* = 671)	58	36	5	50	39	10	43	45	11	43	45	11	39	47	14
Some college (*n* = 608)	59	38	4	52	37	12	53	39	7	46	45	9	46	46	8
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 429)	56	40	4	50	39	11	56	40	4	42	50	8	43	51	7
Graduate/professional degree (*n* = 240)	64	33	3	58	31	12	65	33	3	57	40	2	50	44	5
Science/mathematics education[a]															
Low (*n* = 1,248)	59	35	5	52	36	11	45	41	13	44	45	10	39	46	13
Middle (*n* = 398)	60	37	3	51	39	10	53	41	6	49	41	10	47	46	7
High (*n* = 484)	55	41	4	51	37	12	59	37	4	45	49	6	48	47	6
Family income (quartile)[b]															
Top (*n* = 446)	61	36	3	47	42	11	58	40	2	46	46	8	48	46	6
Second (*n* = 494)	52	45	4	53	35	12	53	39	8	40	51	9	44	49	7
Third (*n* = 521)	59	35	5	53	36	10	52	39	9	46	44	9	39	49	11
Bottom (*n* = 563)	64	31	5	56	32	11	35	46	18	49	42	8	38	43	18
Age (years)[b]															
18–24 (*n* = 140)	58	38	5	46	45	9	38	49	12	47	45	8	48	42	10
25–34 (*n* = 357)	52	42	6	54	35	11	44	45	11	38	52	9	40	47	12
35–44 (*n* = 385)	51	41	8	67	27	5	53	38	8	45	41	13	41	49	10
45–54 (*n* = 423)	59	36	5	52	33	14	50	40	9	44	46	10	42	46	10
55–64 (*n* = 420)	60	34	5	47	39	13	52	37	9	48	43	8	42	46	11
≥ 65 (*n* = 504)	68	29	2	41	45	13	53	35	12	48	44	8	42	45	12

Appendix table 7-2

Public interest in selected issues, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic	New scientific discoveries			Military/defense policy			Space exploration			Agricultural/farm issues			International/foreign policy issues		
	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested
All adults (*n* = 2,256)	40	45	14	37	47	15	23	44	32	22	49	28	21	47	31
Sex															
Male (*n* = 1,011)	44	44	11	47	43	10	32	43	25	24	50	25	27	47	25
Female (*n* = 1,245)	37	45	17	29	50	19	16	45	38	20	48	31	16	47	36
Formal education															
< High school (*n* = 308)	32	37	28	35	41	21	19	36	41	31	39	26	11	40	46
High school diploma (*n* = 671)	34	49	16	37	48	14	20	43	36	24	52	23	13	48	39
Some college (*n* = 608)	41	46	13	39	48	14	26	43	31	19	50	31	20	49	31
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 429)	47	45	8	36	49	15	27	48	26	18	46	36	33	47	20
Graduate/professional degree (*n* = 240)	56	39	4	40	49	11	27	52	21	17	56	27	42	48	10
Science/mathematics education[a]															
Low (*n* = 1,248)	35	45	19	38	45	16	20	43	36	24	51	24	15	47	37
Middle (*n* = 398)	42	50	8	41	48	11	27	46	28	21	45	34	24	53	23
High (*n* = 484)	54	39	7	37	50	13	32	46	23	18	50	32	36	44	20
Family income (quartile)[b]															
Top (*n* = 446)	47	45	8	38	49	12	25	50	25	19	52	29	28	51	21
Second (*n* = 494)	40	48	12	42	46	12	25	47	29	21	51	28	25	50	25
Third (*n* = 521)	40	45	15	36	47	16	24	39	36	23	50	27	18	49	32
Bottom (*n* = 563)	36	44	19	34	47	17	21	43	34	26	44	30	13	42	43
Age (years)[b]															
18–24 (*n* = 140)	48	40	11	29	53	18	32	39	29	15	48	37	8	46	45
25–34 (*n* = 357)	38	45	16	28	52	20	20	48	32	17	48	35	13	48	39
35–44 (*n* = 385)	38	46	15	33	46	20	23	42	34	19	52	29	20	43	36
45–54 (*n* = 423)	41	43	15	36	52	11	22	44	34	27	46	27	26	47	27
55–64 (*n* = 420)	37	48	14	44	44	11	24	41	34	26	48	25	24	49	26
≥ 65 (*n* = 504)	43	44	11	50	38	11	24	46	29	24	54	21	30	49	21

[a] Low = ≤ 5 high school and college science/mathematics courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥ 9 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.

NOTES: Responses to *There are a lot of issues in the news, and it is hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a short list of issues, and for each one I would like you to tell me if you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested.* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding and because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2012).

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