

Appendix table 7-13

Public assessment of astrology, by respondent characteristic: 1979–2012

(Percent)

| Characteristic | 1979 (n = 1,635) | 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) | 2004 (n = 2,025) | 2006 (n = 1,864) | 2008 (n = 2,021) | 2010 (n = 1,434) | 2012 (n = 2,256) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| All adults | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 8 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 10 |
| Sort of scientific | 34 | 35 | 31 | 31 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 31 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 32 |
| Not at all scientific | 50 | 51 | 57 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 60 | 59 | 59 | 56 | 66 | 65 | 63 | 62 | 55 |
| Don't know | 9 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 7 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Sort of scientific | 30 | 29 | 29 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 24 | 27 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 23 | 28 | 24 | 27 |
| Not at all scientific | 54 | 58 | 60 | 67 | 66 | 66 | 65 | 63 | 63 | 60 | 72 | 68 | 64 | 67 | 60 |
| Don't know | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Female | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 8 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 10 |
| Sort of scientific | 37 | 41 | 32 | 36 | 35 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 32 | 36 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 32 | 36 |
| Not at all scientific | 46 | 44 | 55 | 53 | 55 | 58 | 56 | 55 | 56 | 52 | 61 | 63 | 63 | 58 | 50 |
| Don't know | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Formal education | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| < High school | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 11 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 14 |
| Sort of scientific | 34 | 37 | 38 | 35 | 31 | 34 | 30 | 37 | 34 | 35 | 38 | 41 | 40 | 37 | 42 |
| Not at all scientific | 39 | 40 | 42 | 50 | 49 | 49 | 46 | 42 | 41 | 45 | 50 | 42 | 42 | 48 | 34 |
| Don't know | 16 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 10 |
| High school diploma | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 7 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 11 |
| Sort of scientific | 37 | 38 | 29 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 28 | 30 | 30 | 35 | 29 | 29 | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| Not at all scientific | 50 | 50 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 61 | 60 | 60 | 52 | 62 | 62 | 61 | 58 | 52 |
| Don't know | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Bachelor's degree | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Sort of scientific | 23 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 19 | 19 | 34 | 21 | 20 | 25 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 25 |
| Not at all scientific | 67 | 69 | 68 | 72 | 75 | 76 | 60 | 75 | 76 | 69 | 80 | 78 | 79 | 78 | 69 |
| Don't know | 9 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | * | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Graduate/professional degree | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 5 | 5 | 1 | * | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | * | * | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Sort of scientific | 15 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 17 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 19 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 24 |
| Not at all scientific | 76 | 69 | 74 | 78 | 80 | 82 | 74 | 78 | 77 | 83 | 83 | 84 | 83 | 79 | 72 |
| Don't know | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | * | 2 | 2 | 2 | * | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

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Public assessment of astrology, by respondent characteristic: 1979–2012

(Percent)

| Characteristic | 1979 (n = 1,635) | 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) | 2004 (n = 2,025) | 2006 (n = 1,864) | 2008 (n = 2,021) | 2010 (n = 1,434) | 2012 (n = 2,256) |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Age (years) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18–24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 9 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 17 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 14 |
| Sort of scientific | 40 | 43 | 39 | 36 | 37 | 37 | 33 | 38 | 40 | 39 | 36 | 34 | 38 | 43 | 44 |
| Not at all scientific | 47 | 42 | 51 | 54 | 56 | 49 | 53 | 50 | 50 | 42 | 52 | 56 | 55 | 46 | 42 |
| Don't know | 4 | 3 | * | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 25–34 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Sort of scientific | 36 | 39 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 30 | 32 | 30 | 33 | 33 | 28 | 30 | 33 | 35 |
| Not at all scientific | 52 | 51 | 60 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 59 | 59 | 61 | 54 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 58 | 52 |
| Don't know | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 35–44 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 6 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 10 |
| Sort of scientific | 37 | 32 | 29 | 31 | 26 | 27 | 32 | 26 | 32 | 32 | 24 | 28 | 31 | 27 | 33 |
| Not at all scientific | 53 | 54 | 61 | 60 | 68 | 64 | 61 | 66 | 59 | 58 | 69 | 65 | 61 | 64 | 51 |
| Don't know | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 45–54 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 |
| Sort of scientific | 28 | 40 | 32 | 26 | 25 | 27 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 27 | 18 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 28 |
| Not at all scientific | 54 | 50 | 59 | 66 | 64 | 63 | 67 | 65 | 67 | 66 | 74 | 70 | 68 | 69 | 58 |
| Don't know | 10 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| 55–64 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 10 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| Sort of scientific | 32 | 33 | 24 | 33 | 25 | 18 | 20 | 17 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 24 | 31 |
| Not at all scientific | 44 | 56 | 56 | 56 | 59 | 77 | 66 | 69 | 58 | 62 | 66 | 68 | 67 | 65 | 57 |
| Don't know | 15 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| ≥65 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | 5 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| Sort of scientific | 26 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 29 | 27 | 22 | 31 | 20 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 21 | 24 | 25 |
| Not at all scientific | 50 | 52 | 55 | 60 | 53 | 60 | 55 | 47 | 57 | 54 | 64 | 68 | 65 | 67 | 62 |
| Don't know | 19 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)^a | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Top | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | NA | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Sort of scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 20 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 20 | NA | 14 | 18 | 18 | 19 |
| Not at all scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 76 | 78 | 76 | 75 | 75 | NA | 82 | 78 | 79 | 74 |
| Don't know | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

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(Percent)

| Characteristic | 1979 (n = 1,635) | 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) | 2004 (n = 2,025) | 2006 (n = 1,864) | 2008 (n = 2,021) | 2010 (n = 1,434) | 2012 (n = 2,256) |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Second | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 13 | NA | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| Sort of scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 30 | 28 | 25 | 27 | 31 | NA | 25 | 27 | 30 | 32 |
| Not at all scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 63 | 64 | 66 | 65 | 54 | NA | 66 | 67 | 62 | 57 |
| Don't know | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | NA | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Third | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 8 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 9 | NA | 7 | 6 | 11 | 14 |
| Sort of scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 30 | 30 | 38 | 35 | 38 | NA | 33 | 37 | 33 | 40 |
| Not at all scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 60 | 55 | 50 | 54 | 49 | NA | 55 | 55 | 53 | 44 |
| Don't know | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | NA | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Bottom | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 10 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 10 | NA | 5 | 6 | 9 | 12 |
| Sort of scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 34 | 34 | 31 | 31 | 38 | NA | 36 | 34 | 32 | 39 |
| Not at all scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 50 | 45 | 44 | 38 | 42 | NA | 50 | 47 | 52 | 35 |
| Don't know | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 6 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 10 | NA | 8 | 13 | 6 | 13 |
| Understanding of scientific inquiry^b | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Understands scientific inquiry | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Sort of scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 24 | 26 | 22 | 29 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 24 | 26 |
| Not at all scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 74 | 70 | 73 | 66 | 78 | 75 | 77 | 73 | 68 |
| Don't know | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Doesn't understand scientific inquiry | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 9 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 12 |
| Sort of scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 29 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 31 | 31 | 33 | 32 | 35 |
| Not at all scientific | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 55 | 53 | 53 | 49 | 58 | 58 | 56 | 54 | 48 |
| Don't know | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 |

* = < 0.5% responded; NA = not available, question not asked.

^a Quartiles are based on the percentage of the nine questions in the trend factual knowledge of science scale that were answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for the questions.^b See notes to appendix table 7-11 for an explanation of scientific inquiry. Because 41 survey respondents in 2001 were not asked all of the questions related to understanding scientific inquiry, it is not possible to conclude whether they understood scientific inquiry.NOTES: Responses to *Would you say that astrology is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific?* Table includes all years for which data were collected. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1979–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006–12).