

Appendix table 7-27

## Public opinion on science and engineering careers for one's children, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic	How would you feel if your <i>daughter</i> wanted to be a <i>scientist</i> ?				How would you feel if your <i>son</i> wanted to be a <i>scientist</i> ?			
	Wouldn't care				Wouldn't care			
	Happy	either way	Unhappy	Don't know	Happy	either way	Unhappy	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,152)	80	18	1	1	80	18	1	1
Sex								
Male (n = 521)	81	17	1	*	82	17	1	1
Female (n = 631)	80	19	1	1	79	20	*	1
Formal education								
< High school (n = 162)	71	26	1	2	72	25	1	2
High school diploma (n = 346)	84	15	1	*	84	15	1	*
Some college (n = 304)	82	16	2	0	82	17	1	0
Bachelor's degree (n = 224)	80	19	0	1	80	19	0	1
Graduate/professional degree (n = 116)	80	17	2	0	80	20	0	0
Science/mathematics education <sup>a</sup>								
Low (n = 626)	81	18	1	1	81	18	1	1
Middle (n = 207)	79	18	2	*	78	21	*	1
High (n = 251)	80	19	1	0	80	20	0	*
Family income (quartile) <sup>b</sup>								
Top (n = 240)	80	17	2	*	80	19	*	1
Second (n = 239)	77	23	*	0	76	23	*	0
Third (n = 281)	81	18	1	1	81	17	1	1
Bottom (n = 288)	86	14	*	*	86	13	*	*
Age (years) <sup>b</sup>								
18–24 (n = 76)	75	21	3	0	75	25	0	0
25–34 (n = 174)	79	19	1	1	79	20	0	1
35–44 (n = 201)	88	12	*	0	87	13	*	0
45–54 (n = 221)	78	21	*	1	76	21	1	2
55–64 (n = 229)	79	19	2	0	79	19	2	0
≥ 65 (n = 239)	83	15	1	2	84	13	1	2
Minor children at home <sup>b</sup>								
Yes (n = 344)	83	15	1	1	82	17	*	1
No (n = 787)	79	19	1	1	79	19	1	1
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) <sup>c</sup>								
Top (n = 333)	81	17	2	*	81	18	*	*
Second (n = 329)	82	18	1	0	83	17	1	0
Third (n = 298)	80	20	1	0	79	20	1	0
Bottom (n = 192)	78	18	1	3	77	18	1	4

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## Public opinion on science and engineering careers for one's children, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic	How would you feel if your <i>daughter</i> wanted to be an <i>engineer</i> ?				How would you feel if your <i>son</i> wanted to be an <i>engineer</i> ?			
	Happy	Wouldn't care either way	Unhappy	Don't know	Happy	Wouldn't care either way	Unhappy	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,104)	84	15	*	1	85	14	*	1
Sex								
Male (n = 490)	86	13	1	*	88	12	*	*
Female (n = 614)	82	17	*	2	83	16	*	1
Formal education								
< High school (n = 146)	83	11	2	5	87	8	0	5
High school diploma (n = 325)	78	21	*	1	80	19	*	*
Some college (n = 304)	88	11	0	1	89	10	1	1
Bachelor's degree (n = 205)	84	15	0	*	84	16	0	0
Graduate/professional degree (n = 124)	87	12	1	0	86	14	0	0
Science/mathematics education <sup>a</sup>								
Low (n = 622)	84	15	1	1	85	14	*	1
Middle (n = 191)	87	11	0	3	87	10	0	3
High (n = 233)	85	15	*	0	88	12	0	0
Family income (quartile) <sup>b</sup>								
Top (n = 206)	87	10	0	2	87	11	0	2
Second (n = 255)	84	15	*	1	84	15	0	1
Third (n = 240)	84	14	1	*	88	12	0	0
Bottom (n = 275)	83	16	*	1	85	13	1	1
Age (years) <sup>b</sup>								
18–24 (n = 64)	58	37	0	5	65	30	0	5
25–34 (n = 183)	87	13	1	*	87	12	1	*
35–44 (n = 184)	88	12	0	0	89	11	*	0
45–54 (n = 202)	90	9	*	1	90	9	0	1
55–64 (n = 191)	84	15	*	1	85	14	0	1
≥ 65 (n = 265)	84	14	1	1	86	14	0	*
Minor children at home <sup>b</sup>								
Yes (n = 339)	89	10	0	2	90	8	0	2
No (n = 752)	81	18	1	1	83	16	*	*
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) <sup>c</sup>								
Top (n = 283)	88	11	0	1	88	12	0	1
Second (n = 326)	85	13	1	2	86	12	1	2
Third (n = 285)	82	17	*	*	85	15	0	0
Bottom (n = 210)	77	21	*	2	79	19	*	2

\* = &lt; 0.5% responded.

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> Categories do not add to total n because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

<sup>c</sup> See notes to appendix table 7-8 for an explanation of the trend factual knowledge of science scale.

NOTES: Responses to *If you had a daughter/son, how would you feel if she/he wanted to be a scientist/engineer—would you feel happy, unhappy, or would you not care one way or the other?* Sample was split for this question: 1,152 survey respondents were asked about scientists, and 1,104 respondents were asked about engineers. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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

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