Appendix table 7-29

Public assessment of degree to which certain fields and work activities are scientific: 2006 and 2012

(Mean scientific score)

Field/work activity	Formal education					Science/mathematics education[a]			Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)[b]			
	< High school	High school diploma	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Graduate/ professional degree	Low	Middle	High	Top	Second	Third	Bottom
Field												
Medicine												
2006 (*n* = 1,829)	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
2012 (*n* = 1,091)	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7
Physics												
2006 (*n* = 1,730)	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.4
2012 (*n* = 1,042)	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.4
Biology												
2006 (*n* = 1,800)	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5
2012 (*n* = 1,069)	3.2	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.5
Engineering												
2006 (*n* = 1,785)	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.9
2012 (*n* = 1,071)	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.1
Economics												
2006 (*n* = 1,769)	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6
2012 (*n* = 1,047)	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.5
Sociology												
2006 (*n* = 1,593)	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6
2012 (*n* = 969)	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.5
History												
2006 (*n* = 1,799)	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.4
2012 (*n* = 1,074)	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3
Accounting												
2006 (*n* = 1,785)	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2
2012 (*n* = 2,152)	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Work activity												
Medical treatment												
2012 (*n* = 1,115)	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6
Engineering												
2012 (*n* = 1,107)	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.2
Computer programming												
2012 (*n* = 1,100)	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Architecture												
2012 (*n* = 1,098)	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.8
Farming												
2012 (*n* = 1,113)	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8
Firefighting												
2012 (*n* = 1,105)	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5

Appendix table 7-29

Public assessment of degree to which certain fields and work activities are scientific: 2006 and 2012

(Mean scientific score)

Field/work activity	Formal education					Science/mathematics education[a]			Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)[b]			
	< High school	High school diploma	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Graduate/ professional degree	Low	Middle	High	Top	Second	Third	Bottom
Law enforcement												
2012 (*n* = 1,104)	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2
Financial counseling												
2012 (*n* = 1,100)	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1
Journalism												
2012 (*n* = 1,086)	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1
Marriage counseling												
2012 (*n* = 1,091)	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Salesmanship												
2012 (*n* = 1,103)	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8

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

[b] See notes to appendix table 7-8 for an explanation of the trend factual knowledge of science scale.

NOTES: Responses to *How scientific are each of the following fields/work activities? If you have not heard of a particular field/work activity, just say you haven't heard of it. Is [field/work activity] very scientific, pretty scientific, not too scientific, or not scientific?* Mean scientific score is based on a 4-point scale, where 4 = very scientific, 3 = pretty scientific, 2 = not too scientific, and 1 = not scientific.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006, 2012).

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