

Appendix table 7-25

Public opinion on whether federal government should fund basic research, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,434)	23	59	12	2	4
Sex					
Male (n = 603)	27	59	10	2	2
Female (n = 831)	20	59	13	1	7
Formal education ^a					
<High school (n = 186)	10	64	16	2	8
High school graduate (n = 443)	20	58	15	1	6
Some college (n = 350)	23	62	10	2	3
Baccalaureate (n = 300)	28	59	9	2	2
Graduate/professional degree (n = 154)	42	47	7	1	3
Science/mathematics education ^b					
Low (n = 454)	20	61	14	1	4
Middle (n = 181)	23	60	9	2	7
High (n = 219)	34	56	8	2	1
Family income (quartile) ^a					
Top (n = 270)	29	61	8	1	2
Second (n = 361)	24	62	12	2	1
Third (n = 291)	22	62	12	2	1
Bottom (n = 368)	19	58	17	2	4
Age (years) ^a					
18–24 (n = 85)	17	65	6	1	12
25–34 (n = 279)	26	56	13	1	5
35–44 (n = 245)	24	61	11	3	2
45–54 (n = 272)	27	55	14	2	1
55–64 (n = 261)	23	61	12	1	3
≥65 (n = 284)	21	58	13	1	7
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c					
Top (n = 378)	31	55	11	2	1
Second (n = 416)	24	62	8	2	4
Third (n = 355)	22	58	15	1	5
Bottom (n = 285)	15	59	15	1	9

* = <0.5% responded

^aCategories do not add to total n because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.^bLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Questions asked of 956 survey respondents; categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.^cQuartiles based on percentage of nine questions in trend factual knowledge of science scale answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for questions.NOTES: Responses to *Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government*. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2010).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2012