

Appendix table 7-12

Correct answers to scientific process questions, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic	Scientific inquiry	Probability	Experiment	Scientific study
All adults (<i>n</i> = 2,256)	33	65	34	20
Sex				
Male (<i>n</i> = 1,011)	33	66	33	22
Female (<i>n</i> = 1,245)	33	65	36	19
Formal education				
< High school (<i>n</i> = 308)	10	39	14	2
High school diploma (<i>n</i> = 671)	20	63	22	8
Some college (<i>n</i> = 608)	34	68	38	21
Bachelor's degree (<i>n</i> = 429)	55	78	53	39
Graduate/professional degree (<i>n</i> = 240)	57	78	56	45
Science/mathematics education ^a				
Low (<i>n</i> = 1,248)	20	59	23	10
Middle (<i>n</i> = 398)	44	71	44	27
High (<i>n</i> = 484)	58	80	57	42
Family income (quartile) ^b				
Top (<i>n</i> = 446)	49	74	51	30
Second (<i>n</i> = 494)	38	71	36	25
Third (<i>n</i> = 521)	29	64	34	16
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 563)	21	58	21	13
Age (years) ^b				
18–24 (<i>n</i> = 140)	39	69	42	24
25–34 (<i>n</i> = 357)	38	73	39	24
35–44 (<i>n</i> = 385)	36	68	35	24
45–54 (<i>n</i> = 423)	35	62	36	19
55–64 (<i>n</i> = 420)	30	61	30	21
≥ 65 (<i>n</i> = 504)	23	61	26	12
Verbal ability ^c				
0–4 (<i>n</i> = 277)	11	40	13	4
5 (<i>n</i> = 217)	24	60	28	6
6 (<i>n</i> = 297)	27	68	29	17
7 (<i>n</i> = 220)	42	72	38	24
8–10 (<i>n</i> = 354)	58	81	56	43
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^d				
Top (<i>n</i> = 616)	59	85	54	43
Second (<i>n</i> = 655)	36	70	36	20
Third (<i>n</i> = 583)	17	55	23	7
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 402)	10	39	15	4

^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.

^c Measure is based on correct responses to a 10-item, multiple-choice test of vocabulary knowledge completed by 1,365 survey respondents. Categories represent the number of correct responses.

^d 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.

NOTES: See footnotes to appendix table 7-11 for an explanation of understanding of probability, experiment, scientific inquiry, and scientific study. "Don't know" responses and refusals to respond count as incorrect.

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