

Appendix table 7-23

Public opinion on whether federal government should fund basic scientific research, by respondent characteristic: 2012

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (<i>n</i> = 2,256)	21	62	12	2	4
Sex					
Male (<i>n</i> = 1,011)	22	62	11	2	2
Female (<i>n</i> = 1,245)	21	62	12	1	5
Formal education					
< High school (<i>n</i> = 308)	19	56	12	2	11
High school diploma (<i>n</i> = 671)	15	64	14	2	5
Some college (<i>n</i> = 608)	21	63	13	1	1
Bachelor's degree (<i>n</i> = 429)	23	65	9	1	2
Graduate/professional degree (<i>n</i> = 240)	40	54	4	1	1
Science/mathematics education ^a					
Low (<i>n</i> = 1,248)	18	63	13	2	5
Middle (<i>n</i> = 398)	24	63	11	2	1
High (<i>n</i> = 484)	29	61	8	1	1
Family income (quartile) ^b					
Top (<i>n</i> = 446)	26	61	11	1	1
Second (<i>n</i> = 494)	22	67	8	1	3
Third (<i>n</i> = 521)	16	63	15	2	4
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 563)	23	59	11	2	5
Age (years) ^b					
18–24 (<i>n</i> = 140)	18	71	8	2	1
25–34 (<i>n</i> = 357)	17	67	10	2	3
35–44 (<i>n</i> = 385)	25	62	8	*	4
45–54 (<i>n</i> = 423)	25	59	11	1	5
55–64 (<i>n</i> = 420)	22	56	16	4	3
≥ 65 (<i>n</i> = 504)	19	62	14	1	5
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c					
Top (<i>n</i> = 616)	28	60	8	2	2
Second (<i>n</i> = 655)	22	63	12	2	1
Third (<i>n</i> = 583)	17	64	15	1	3
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 402)	14	59	12	2	13

* = < 0.5% responded.

^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 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: 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 (2012).