TABLE S7-2

Public assessment of benefits and harms of scientific research: 1979–2018

(Percent)

Assessment	1979 (*n* = 1,635)	1981 (*n* = 1,581)	1985 (*n* = 1,986)	1988 (*n* = 1,021)	1990 (*n* = 2,005)	1992 (*n* = 974)	1995 (*n* = 2,006)	1997 (*n* = 2,000)	1999 (*n* = 1,882)	2001 (*n* = 1,574)	2004 (*n* = 2,025)	2006 (*n* = 1,864)	2008 (*n* = 2,021)	2010 (*n* = 1,434)	2012 (*n* = 2,256)	2014 (*n* = 2,130)	2016 (*n* = 1,390)	2018 (*n* = 1,175)
Benefits strongly outweigh harmful results	46	42	44	53	47	42	43	47	47	47	52	48	42	46	50	43	45	45
Benefits slightly outweigh harmful results	24	28	25	23	25	30	29	28	27	25	27	22	26	23	22	26	27	29
Benefits are about equal to harmful results	13	12	4	5	7	6	3	6	5	12	3	17	16	14	13	16	12	10
Harmful results slightly outweigh benefits	7	12	13	8	10	12	10	8	10	7	10	4	7	7	6	7	6	8
Harmful results strongly outweigh benefits	4	6	6	4	3	5	3	4	5	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	6	1	8	7	8	5	13	7	6	6	5	6	7	8	8	6	8	6

Note(s)

Responses are to the following: *People have frequently noted that scientific research has produced benefits and harmful results. Would you say that, on balance, the benefits of scientific research have outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results of scientific research been greater than its benefits?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source(s)

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1979–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2006–18).

Science and Engineering Indicators