

TABLE S7-9

Public perception of scientists, by respondent characteristic: 2018

(Percent)

Characteristic	Scientists work for the good of humanity	Scientists help to solve problems	Scientists want to make life better for the average person	Scientists are odd and peculiar
All adults (n = 1,175)	90	93	89	50
Sex				
Male (n = 485)	89	93	86	50
Female (n = 690)	90	93	91	49
Formal education				
Less than high school diploma (n = 137)	83	83	81	54
High school diploma (n = 362)	89	93	90	58
Some college (n = 330)	89	94	91	53
Bachelor's degree (n = 232)	93	96	89	35
Graduate or professional degree (n = 114)	96	99	91	38
Science and mathematics education ^{a,b}				
Low (n = 598)	89	91	89	57
Middle (n = 237)	89	96	89	44
High (n = 252)	94	97	89	36
Family income (quartile) ^b				
Bottom (n = 227)	90	91	88	51
Third (n = 223)	91	95	90	50
Second (n = 290)	89	92	88	47
Top (n = 287)	93	97	90	53
Age (years) ^b				
18–24 (n = 94)	90	95	90	48
25–34 (n = 225)	89	90	89	49
35–44 (n = 206)	90	93	91	52
45–54 (n = 190)	94	97	89	51
55–64 (n = 186)	90	96	90	47
65 or older (n = 269)	86	89	85	50
Correct answers to questions about basic scientific facts ^c				
Low (n = 227)	84	86	85	52
Middle (n = 512)	89	92	91	54
High (n = 436)	93	98	89	42

^a For science and mathematics education, "low" equates to five or fewer high school and college science or mathematics courses, "middle" is six through eight courses, and "high" means nine or more courses.

^b Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

^c See notes to Table S7-1 for an explanation of the questions asked about basic scientific facts.

Note(s)

Data represent respondents who "strongly agree" and "agree" with the following: *Scientific researchers are dedicated people who work for the good of humanity; Scientists are helping to solve challenging problems; Most scientists want to work on things that will make life better for the average person; and Scientists are apt to be odd and peculiar people.*

Source(s)

NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2018).

Science and Engineering Indicators