

TABLE S7-11

## Public opinion on whether the federal government should fund basic scientific research, by respondent characteristic: 2018

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,175)	29	55	11	2	3
Sex					
Male (n = 485)	31	54	11	2	1
Female (n = 690)	27	56	12	1	4
Formal education					
Less than high school diploma (n = 137)	25	45	17	3	10
High school diploma (n = 362)	21	57	15	3	4
Some college (n = 330)	30	60	8	1	1
Bachelor's degree (n = 232)	31	58	10	1	0
Graduate or professional degree (n = 114)	52	39	6	2	1
Science and mathematics education <sup>a,b</sup>					
Low (n = 598)	23	56	16	2	4
Middle (n = 237)	33	55	10	1	1
High (n = 252)	43	52	3	1	*
Family income (quartile) <sup>b</sup>					
Bottom (n = 227)	22	57	14	3	4
Third (n = 223)	32	58	8	1	1
Second (n = 290)	28	57	11	2	3
Top (n = 287)	36	54	10	1	0
Age (years) <sup>b</sup>					
18–24 (n = 94)	25	59	11	3	2
25–34 (n = 225)	24	59	13	3	*
35–44 (n = 206)	30	57	9	1	3
45–54 (n = 190)	30	57	12	*	1
55–64 (n = 186)	29	54	10	2	6
65 or older (n = 269)	35	45	14	1	5
Correct answers to questions about basic scientific facts <sup>c</sup>					
Low (n = 227)	18	57	14	3	8
Middle (n = 512)	24	59	13	2	3
High (n = 436)	40	50	9	1	0

\* = &lt; 0.5% responded.

<sup>a</sup> 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.

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

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

**Note(s)**

Responses are to the following: *I'm going to read to you some statements like those you might find in a newspaper or magazine article. For each statement, please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. 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. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

**Source(s)**

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

*Science and Engineering Indicators*