

TABLE S7-31

## Self-reported understanding of the term "scientific study": 1979–2018

(Percent)

Assessment	1979 (n = 1,635)	1981 (n = 1,235)	1983 (n = 1,615)	1985 (n = 1,986)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	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 = 1,454)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)	2016 (n = 1,390)	2018 (n = 1,175)
Clear understanding	22	34	18	29	31	33	31	34	37	37	35	33	30	29	26	24	28	31	27
General sense	61	51	49	50	49	47	50	46	46	47	49	51	52	50	52	54	51	48	51
Little understanding	17	14	32	20	19	19	18	18	16	17	14	16	17	20	21	20	20	19	20
Don't know	1	1	*	*	*	*	*	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1

\* = &lt; 0.5% responded.

**Note(s)**

Responses are to the following: *When you read or hear the term scientific study, do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?* 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