

Table SPSS-3

Public opinion on whether the federal government should fund basic scientific research: Selected years, 1985–2018

(Percent)

Opinion	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 = 1,434)	2012 (n = 2,256)	2014 (n = 2,130)	2016 (n = 1,390)	2018 (n = 1,175)
Strongly agree or agree	79	81	80	76	78	79	82	81	82	87	84	82	83	84	83	84
Strongly disagree or disagree	16	15	16	20	18	18	15	16	16	10	12	13	13	13	15	13
Don't know	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	1	3	4	4	4	2	2	3

n = number of survey responses.**Note(s):**

Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding. See Table SPSS-6 for standard errors. Table displays data for years when the question was proffered. Responses are to the following: *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?*

Source(s):

Data are sourced from multiple surveys that used either identical or similar survey items. National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1985–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2006–18).

Science and Engineering Indicators