

Appendix table 7-17

**Public opinion on whether federal government should fund basic research, by respondent characteristic: 2006**

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,864) .....	32	55	8	1	3
Sex					
Male (n = 804) .....	36	53	7	1	2
Female (n = 1,060).....	29	57	9	1	4
Formal education					
<High school (n = 227) .....	33	45	11	2	9
High school graduate (n = 1,115) .....	29	58	9	2	3
Baccalaureate (n = 346).....	34	59	6	0	1
Graduate/professional degree (n = 176) .....	46	46	7	0	1
Science/mathematics education <sup>a</sup>					
Low (n = 1,042) .....	29	57	9	2	4
Middle (n = 359) .....	34	54	7	2	3
High (n = 408) .....	38	54	7	0	—
Family income (quartile)					
Top (n = 311) .....	36	55	8	1	—
Second (n = 420) .....	32	60	5	1	1
Third (n = 419).....	31	56	10	1	2
Bottom (n = 462).....	32	54	9	2	3
Age (years)					
18–24 (n = 157).....	36	54	6	2	2
25–34 (n = 341).....	28	61	6	1	5
35–44 (n = 382).....	32	57	9	1	1
45–54 (n = 386).....	37	52	8	1	1
55–64 (n = 272).....	32	52	10	1	6
65+ (n = 321) .....	27	53	12	1	6
Minor children at home					
Yes (n = 588).....	30	57	8	2	4
No (n = 1,276).....	33	54	8	1	3
Factual knowledge of science <sup>b</sup> (quartile)					
Top (n = 455) .....	45	48	6	1	—
Second (n = 470) .....	32	57	7	1	2
Third (n = 479).....	29	59	9	1	3
Bottom (n = 460).....	20	57	12	2	9

— = &lt;0.5% responded

<sup>a</sup>Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses.<sup>b</sup>See notes to appendix table 7-4 for explanation of "factual knowledge of science scale 1."NOTES: Responses to: *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.* Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006).