

Appendix table 7-19

(Page 1 of 2)

**Public assessment of federal government spending, by policy area and respondent characteristic: 2006**

(Percent)

Characteristic	Exploring space		Reducing pollution		Improving health care		Supporting scientific research		Improving education	
	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much
All adults (n = 2,992).....	14	35	67	7	72	7	41	11	73	5
Sex										
Male (n = 1,296).....	19	33	65	9	67	9	42	10	69	8
Female (n = 1,696).....	10	37	69	5	76	6	40	12	77	4
Formal education										
<High school (n = 442).....	9	47	57	10	66	8	36	17	64	5
High school graduate (n = 1,755).....	13	36	67	6	75	6	39	12	75	5
Baccalaureate (n = 524).....	17	26	70	6	70	8	46	7	71	8
Graduate/professional degree (n = 271).....	19	25	79	5	69	7	51	4	79	5
Science/mathematics education <sup>b</sup>										
Low (n = 1,042).....	12	38	65	8	77	5	37	13	74	5
Middle (n = 359).....	16	29	76	4	75	6	49	7	79	5
High (n = 408).....	20	27	72	6	71	7	45	6	77	6
Family income (quartile)										
Top (n = 457).....	18	29	74	5	68	10	48	7	76	6
Second (n = 663).....	15	29	66	6	72	7	39	8	74	6
Third (n = 685).....	12	39	69	7	75	5	39	12	76	5
Bottom (n = 773).....	12	44	64	8	73	8	39	17	71	4
Age (years)										
18–24 (n = 254).....	15	28	71	6	69	5	40	11	78	3
25–34 (n = 559).....	11	31	71	4	73	5	34	12	79	3
35–44 (n = 616).....	11	36	66	7	71	10	38	14	74	5
45–54 (n = 582).....	16	38	70	6	80	5	42	10	77	4
55–64 (n = 451).....	20	34	68	7	74	7	51	7	70	8
65+ (n = 522).....	12	43	54	11	64	8	43	12	59	11
Minor children at home										
Yes (n = 981).....	12	36	66	6	72	6	39	14	77	4
No (n = 2,011).....	15	35	68	7	72	7	42	10	71	6
Factual knowledge of science <sup>c</sup> (quartile)										
Top (n = 455).....	26	20	72	6	71	7	54	3	76	6
Second (n = 470).....	14	31	70	4	73	6	39	9	77	4
Third (n = 479).....	9	41	73	6	80	6	39	12	75	6
Bottom (n = 460).....	8	44	59	10	74	5	32	18	72	5

Appendix table 7-19

(Page 2 of 2)

**Public assessment of federal government spending, by policy area and respondent characteristic: 2006**

(Percent)

Characteristic	Spending for Social Security		Improving national defense		Improving mass transportation		Assistance to other countries		Assistance to the poor <sup>a</sup>	
	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much	Too little	Too much
All adults (n = 2,992) .....	61	5	26	39	39	8	11	62	68	8
Sex										
Male (n = 1,296) .....	56	6	26	41	41	10	10	64	65	9
Female (n = 1,696) .....	65	3	25	36	38	7	11	60	71	7
Formal education										
< High school (n = 442) .....	65	3	26	40	33	11	16	50	81	5
High school graduate (n = 1,755) .....	66	4	28	36	34	9	8	67	69	7
Baccalaureate (n = 524) .....	50	7	21	42	51	7	12	59	58	10
Graduate/professional degree (n = 271) .....	44	6	19	49	58	3	16	53	63	10
Science/mathematics education <sup>b</sup>										
Low (n = 1,042) .....	67	4	30	32	33	10	8	65	72	6
Middle (n = 359) .....	58	4	26	38	45	6	9	64	67	7
High (n = 408) .....	51	6	22	44	50	7	12	59	61	8
Family income (quartile)										
Top (n = 457) .....	51	7	26	38	50	7	11	61	62	10
Second (n = 663) .....	62	5	26	38	40	10	7	67	67	9
Third (n = 685) .....	65	4	27	38	39	9	11	63	73	7
Bottom (n = 773) .....	65	4	22	43	32	8	13	58	75	5
Age (years)										
18–24 (n = 254) .....	51	7	19	45	28	7	19	44	68	7
25–34 (n = 559) .....	62	7	23	44	36	8	13	53	69	7
35–44 (n = 616) .....	67	5	23	41	37	11	11	63	70	6
45–54 (n = 582) .....	67	4	24	38	42	6	9	70	73	5
55–64 (n = 451) .....	62	2	32	33	49	9	8	69	71	9
65+ (n = 522) .....	49	3	34	29	40	10	6	68	55	12
Minor children at home										
Yes (n = 981) .....	63	4	25	38	34	8	11	60	70	5
No (n = 2,011) .....	59	5	26	39	42	9	10	63	67	9
Factual knowledge of science <sup>c</sup> (quartile)										
Top (n = 455) .....	48	5	22	42	51	7	13	60	59	8
Second (n = 470) .....	62	5	27	39	37	8	9	62	70	7
Third (n = 479) .....	68	4	30	35	38	9	8	67	73	7
Bottom (n = 460) .....	68	3	30	28	32	9	7	67	73	4

<sup>a</sup>Question asked of 1,508 survey respondents.<sup>b</sup>Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Science/mathematics education asked of 1,864 survey respondents; information available for 1,809 respondents.<sup>c</sup>See notes to appendix table 7-4 for explanation of "factual knowledge of science scale 1." Questions used in scale asked of 1,864 survey respondents.NOTES: Responses to: *We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one, I'd like you to tell me if you think that the Government is spending too little money on it, about the right amount, or too much.* Detail does not add to total because "about the right amount" and "do not know" responses not shown. See notes to appendix table 7-18 for explanation of policy area categories.

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