

Appendix table 7-29

**Public assessment of benefits and harms of nanotechnology, by respondent characteristic: 2006**

(Percent)

Characteristic	Benefits will outweigh harmful results	Benefits will be about equal to harmful results	Harmful results will outweigh benefits	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,864) .....	40	19	9	32
Sex				
Male (n = 804) .....	49	18	8	24
Female (n = 1,060).....	33	20	9	39
Formal education				
<High school (n = 227) .....	14	28	15	43
High school graduate (n = 1,115) .....	38	19	10	34
Baccalaureate (n = 346).....	52	17	4	27
Graduate/professional degree (n = 176) .....	63	14	2	22
Science/mathematics education <sup>a</sup>				
Low (n = 1,042) .....	28	22	11	39
Middle (n = 359) .....	50	19	8	24
High (n = 408).....	62	13	3	22
Family income (quartile)				
Top (n = 311) .....	53	16	7	24
Second (n = 420) .....	42	22	7	29
Third (n = 419).....	37	20	9	34
Bottom (n = 462).....	37	18	13	32
Age (years)				
18–24 (n = 157).....	45	22	13	20
25–34 (n = 341).....	41	20	9	30
35–44 (n = 382).....	38	23	5	34
45–54 (n = 386).....	44	16	10	30
55–64 (n = 272).....	41	17	9	33
65+ (n = 321) .....	30	16	7	47
Minor children at home				
Yes (n = 588).....	39	19	10	32
No (n = 1,276).....	40	19	8	33
Factual knowledge of science <sup>b</sup> (quartile)				
Top (n = 455) .....	68	12	2	19
Second (n = 470) .....	45	20	7	27
Third (n = 479).....	30	22	12	36
Bottom (n = 460).....	14	23	14	50

<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: *Nanotechnology works at the molecular level atom by atom to build new structures, materials, and machines. People have frequently noted that new technologies have produced both benefits and harmful results. Do you think the benefits of nanotechnology will outweigh the harmful results or the harmful results will outweigh the benefits?* Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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