

Appendix table 7-8

Feeling informed about selected policy issues: Selected years, 1979–2004

(Mean index score)

Issue	1979 (n = 1,635)	1981 (n = 3,195)	1983 (n = 1,631)	1985 (n = 2,005)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,033)	1992 (n = 2,001)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2004 (n = 2,025)
Agriculture and farming	33	35	—	41	46	36	—	35	38	33	35	31
Economy and business conditions	42	55	54	48	50	53	56	52	51	50	51	51
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	—	60	57	52	51	48	47	44
International and foreign policy	35	44	40	42	42	51	46	36	36	40	35	38
Local schools.....	44	55	54	54	55	55	55	59	61	58	59	56
Military and defense policy	—	—	46	45	43	51	49	40	39	44	39	45
New inventions and technologies.....	35	35	42	39	38	38	38	40	44	43	38	40
New medical discoveries	—	—	—	53	52	53	51	52	56	53	51	46
New scientific discoveries.....	36	38	40	43	42	42	39	42	48	44	42	42
Space exploration	—	37	39	42	39	37	33	33	41	37	32	36

— = not asked

NOTES: Responses to: *Now, I'd like to go through this list with you again, and for each issue, I'd like you to tell me if you are very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed.* Responses converted to 0–100 scale, with 100 for very well informed, 50 for moderately well informed, and 0 for poorly informed. Indices obtained by adding all values for each policy issue and computing average.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (various years); and University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2006