

Appendix table 7-1
Leading source for current news: 2001

Respondent characteristic	Newspaper	Magazine	Internet	Books/ other print	Television	Radio	Family	Friend/ colleague	Other	Do not know	Sample size
											Percent
All adults	29	3	7	—	53	5	—	1	1	—	1,574
Male	29	4	10	—	48	7	—	1	1	—	751
Female.....	29	3	5	1	57	4	—	1	1	—	823
Formal education											
Less than high school.....	22	2	3	0	69	1	0	4	0	1	116
High school graduate.....	29	3	7	—	54	6	—	1	1	—	834
Baccalaureate	30	7	12	1	42	8	0	1	—	—	393
Graduate/professional degree.....	43	6	10	1	30	9	—	1	1	—	221
Science/mathematics education ^a											
Low.....	25	2	3	—	62	4	—	2	—	—	674
Middle.....	33	4	9	—	46	5	—	1	1	1	469
High.....	33	6	16	—	35	9	—	1	1	—	431
Attentiveness to science and technology ^b											
Attentive public	37	7	8	—	44	3	0	—	1	—	195
Interested public.....	27	4	9	1	53	6	—	1	1	—	755
Residual public.....	29	2	6	—	55	6	0	2	1	—	624

— less than 0.5 percent responded.

^aLow = five or fewer high school and college science/math courses, middle = six to eight courses, high = nine or more courses.

^bAttentive = very interested in the issue, very well informed about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Interested = very interested but not well informed. Residual = all others. Classifications encompass new scientific discoveries, inventions, and technologies.

NOTES: Percents may not sum to 100 because of rounding. A few respondents did not provide information about highest level of education. Responses are to the following question: *We are interested in how people get information about events in the news. Thinking about the kind of issues we have been talking about, where do you get most of your information about current news events?*

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.

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Appendix table 7-2
Leading source of information about science and technology: 2001

Respondent characteristic	Newspaper	Magazine	Internet	Books/ other print	Television	Radio	Government agency	Family	Friend/ colleague	Other	Do not know	Sample size
												Percent
All adults	16	16	9	2	44	3	—	2	1	5	2	1,574
Male	17	18	13	2	41	4	—	1	1	3	1	751
Female.....	16	14	6	2	48	2	1	2	1	6	2	823
Formal education												
Less than high school.....	13	9	2	4	53	4	1	1	1	9	4	116
High school graduate.....	16	15	10	2	48	2	—	2	1	3	1	834
Baccalaureate	17	23	16	3	31	3	0	1	1	4	1	393
Graduate/professional degree.....	25	30	11	2	23	2	—	1	1	4	0	221
Science/mathematics education ^a												
Low.....	16	12	5	2	53	3	—	2	1	5	2	674
Middle.....	19	18	12	1	39	2	—	2	1	4	1	469
High	15	27	19	4	28	3	—	1	1	4	—	431
Attentiveness to science and technology ^b												
Attentive public	20	35	14	3	21	1	—	1	0	5	0	195
Interested public.....	14	18	11	2	46	3	—	2	1	4	—	755
Residual public.....	18	10	7	2	48	3	—	1	1	5	3	624

— less than 0.5 percent responded.

^aLow = five or fewer high school and college science/math courses, middle = six to eight courses, high = nine or more courses.

^bAttentive = very interested in the issue, very well informed about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Interested = very interested but not well informed. Residual = all others. Classifications encompass new scientific discoveries, inventions, and technologies.

NOTES: Percents may not sum to 100 because of rounding. A few respondents did not provide information about highest level of education. Responses are to the following question: *We are also interested in how people get information about science and technology. Thinking about the kind of issues we have been talking about, where do you get most of your information about science and technology?*

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.

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Appendix table 7-3
Leading source of information about specific scientific issue: 2001

Respondent characteristic	Newspaper	Magazine	Internet	Books/ other print	Television	Radio	Government agency	Family	Friend/ colleague	Other	Do not know	Sample size
												Percent
All adults	4	8	44	24	6	—	—	—	1	8	5	1,574
Male	4	9	45	22	6	—	—	—	1	8	5	751
Female.....	2	8	43	26	6	0	1	1	—	8	5	823
Formal education												
Less than high school.....	3	5	26	29	13	0	0	1	1	9	12	116
High school graduate.....	3	7	45	25	6	0	—	—	—	8	4	834
Baccalaureate	3	13	55	18	3	—	1	—	0	7	1	393
Graduate/professional degree.....	2	13	55	21	1	0	—	0	1	6	1	221
Science/mathematics education ^a												
Low.....	4	8	33	28	9	0	—	1	1	8	7	674
Middle.....	2	7	53	23	4	0	—	—	—	8	2	469
High.....	2	12	60	15	2	—	1	—	1	8	0	431
Attentiveness to science and technology ^b												
Attentive public	3	11	47	25	5	0	0	0	—	5	2	195
Interested public.....	2	10	49	23	7	0	—	—	—	6	2	755
Residual public.....	4	6	38	25	6	—	—	1	1	11	8	624

— less than 0.5 percent responded.

^aLow = five or fewer high school and college science/math courses, middle = six to eight courses, high = nine or more courses.

^bAttentive = very interested in the issue, very well informed about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Interested = very interested but not well informed. Residual = all others. Classifications encompass new scientific discoveries, inventions, and technologies.

NOTES: Percents may not sum to 100 because of rounding. A few respondents did not provide information about highest level of education. Responses are to the following question: *If you wanted to learn more about a scientific issue such as global warming or biotechnology, how would you get more information?*

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.

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Appendix table 7-4

Feeling informed about selected policy issues: 1979–2001

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

— not asked

NOTES: Responses are to the following statement: *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 are converted to a 0–100 scale, with 100 for “very well informed,” 50 for “moderately well informed,” and 0 for “poorly informed.” Indices were obtained by adding all the values for each policy issue and computing the average.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.

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Appendix table 7-5

Public assessment of astrology, by respondent characteristic: 1979–2001

Characteristic	1979	1981	1985	1988	1990	1992	1995	1997	1999	2001
	Percent									
All adults										
Very scientific	7	10	8	6	6	6	7	7	7	9
Sort of scientific	34	35	31	31	29	29	28	29	29	31
Not at all scientific	50	51	57	60	60	62	60	59	59	56
Do not know	9	4	4	3	5	3	5	5	5	4
Male										
Very scientific.....	7	9	7	5	5	6	7	7	7	9
Sort of scientific	30	29	29	25	23	25	24	27	25	27
Not at all scientific.....	54	58	60	67	67	67	65	63	63	60
Do not know.....	9	4	4	3	5	2	4	3	5	3
Female										
Very scientific.....	8	10	9	7	6	7	7	7	7	8
Sort of scientific	37	41	32	37	35	32	32	31	32	36
Not at all scientific.....	46	44	55	53	55	58	55	55	56	52
Do not know.....	9	5	4	3	4	3	6	7	5	4
Less than high school graduate										
Very scientific.....	11	13	14	11	7	12	11	11	13	14
Sort of scientific	34	37	38	35	31	33	28	37	34	35
Not at all scientific.....	39	40	43	50	50	49	48	42	41	45
Do not know.....	16	10	5	4	12	6	13	10	12	6
High school graduate										
Very scientific.....	7	10	8	6	6	6	8	7	7	9
Sort of scientific	37	38	29	32	32	31	30	30	30	35
Not at all scientific.....	50	50	60	59	60	61	59	59	60	52
Do not know.....	6	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	4
Baccalaureate or higher										
Very scientific.....	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	4
Sort of scientific	20	25	25	23	18	17	22	19	19	21
Not at all scientific.....	71	69	70	74	77	78	74	76	76	74
Do not know.....	7	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2
Attentive to science and technology^a										
Very scientific.....	8	9	7	3	6	15	8	7	12	4
Sort of scientific	28	34	27	29	21	23	24	29	23	25
Not at all scientific.....	60	54	62	66	72	58	65	62	64	68
Do not know.....	4	3	4	2	1	4	3	2	1	2
	Number									
Sample size										
All adults	1,635	1,631	2,005	2,041	2,033	1,004	2,006	2,000	1,882	1,574
Male	773	775	950	958	964	486	953	930	900	751
Female.....	862	856	1,054	1,084	1,070	533	1,053	1,070	982	823
Less than high school graduate.....	465	404	507	530	495	215	418	420	403	116
High school graduate	932	941	1,147	1,158	1,202	623	1,196	1,188	1,111	834
Baccalaureate or higher	238	282	349	353	336	203	392	392	368	614
Attentive to science and technology ..	154	208	235	233	229	105	195	288	216	195

^aVery interested in science and technology issues, very well informed about science and technology, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine.

NOTES: A few respondents did not provide information about highest level of education. Responses are to the following question: *Would you say that astrology is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific?*

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.

Appendix table 7-6

Public opinion on whether Federal Government should fund basic research, by respondent characteristic: 1985–2001

(Percent)

Characteristic	1985	1988	1990	1992	1995	1997	1999	2001
All adults								
Strongly agree	9	16	17	14	19	22	21	19
Agree	70	65	62	63	61	57	61	62
Do not know	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Disagree	16	14	15	18	17	15	13	15
Strongly disagree	0	1	2	2	2	3	2	1
Male								
Strongly agree	11	20	23	17	19	24	24	23
Agree	71	63	60	62	60	54	60	63
Do not know	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Disagree	15	13	13	17	18	16	12	11
Strongly disagree	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	2
Female								
Strongly agree	8	11	13	11	15	20	18	16
Agree	68	68	65	64	62	59	62	61
Do not know	8	6	5	4	5	4	4	5
Disagree	16	14	16	19	16	15	14	18
Strongly disagree	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	1
Less than high school graduate								
Strongly agree	5	6	10	10	8	20	17	13
Agree	65	66	59	61	59	50	55	66
Do not know	9	7	8	5	7	5	7	5
Disagree	21	18	20	21	24	22	18	16
Strongly disagree	0	3	3	3	2	3	3	0
High school graduate								
Strongly agree	8	17	18	12	16	19	18	18
Agree	72	66	65	64	63	60	66	60
Do not know	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
Disagree	15	13	14	19	17	15	12	17
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1
Baccalaureate								
Strongly agree	19	26	27	22	24	31	34	23
Agree	68	62	60	64	62	56	53	68
Do not know	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1
Disagree	10	8	10	12	11	10	10	8
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1
Graduate degree								
Strongly agree	20	29	31	26	43	40	40	32
Agree	70	61	58	53	46	51	51	56
Do not know	2	2	4	5	2	2	1	3
Disagree	8	7	6	14	8	5	8	8
Strongly disagree	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1
Attentive to science and technology^a								
Strongly agree	17	27	35	28	35	46	35	35
Agree	76	62	50	61	48	42	52	49
Do not know	0	2	4	1	1	1	0	3
Disagree	6	8	10	9	14	7	9	12
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	3

^aVery interested in science and technology issues, very well informed about science and technology, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine.

NOTES: Responses are to the following question: *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: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.

Appendix table 7-7

Public assessment of Federal Government spending in selected policy areas: 1981–2002

Policy area	1981	1983	1985	1988	1990	1992	1997	1999	2001	2002
	Percent									
Exploring space										
Too little.....	18	17	9	17	9	12	14	15	11	12
Too much.....	43	39	45	42	52	50	45	46	48	38
Reducing pollution										
Too little.....	52	54	69	76	76	72	65	65	63	60
Too much.....	14	11	6	4	5	7	8	7	6	7
Improving health care										
Too little.....	61	—	68	68	75	79	68	71	70	75
Too much.....	6	—	3	2	3	5	7	5	4	4
Supporting scientific research										
Too little.....	31	—	29	34	30	34	34	37	36	36
Too much.....	18	—	18	15	16	19	14	14	14	14
Improving education										
Too little.....	62	71	73	76	77	81	76	75	76	74
Too much.....	6	5	3	4	4	4	6	6	5	5
Helping older people										
Too little.....	73	—	72	76	75	73	66	71	73	—
Too much.....	3	—	3	2	2	4	5	4	3	—
Improving national defense ^a										
Too little.....	33	19	11	11	15	15	23	31	29	31
Too much.....	26	47	50	53	40	40	32	25	25	22
Helping low-income people										
Too little.....	45	—	54	55	57	56	44	49	53	—
Too much.....	24	—	13	12	15	17	23	19	15	—
	Number									
Sample size.....	1,659	1,631	2,005	2,041	2,033	2,001	2,000	1,882	1,574	912

— not asked

^aOnly 1,013 responses in 1988 because question was asked on a split ballot.

NOTES: Responses are to the following statement: *We are faced with many problems in this country. 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.* Percents do not sum to 100 because "about the right amount" and "do not know" responses are not shown.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years, 1981–2001; and University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey, 2002.

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Appendix table 7-8

Public confidence in leadership of various institutions: 1973–2002

Institution	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1980	1982	1983	1984	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
	Percent																					
Medicine.....	54	60	50	54	51	46	52	45	51	50	46	52	51	46	46	48	39	41	45	44	44	37
Scientific community	37	45	39	43	41	36	41	38	41	44	39	45	39	40	37	41	37	38	39	40	41	39
Military	32	40	35	39	36	29	28	31	29	36	31	34	34	32	33	60	42	37	37	36	39	55
U.S. Supreme Court	31	33	31	35	35	28	25	30	27	33	30	36	35	34	35	37	31	30	28	37	32	37
Banks and financial institutions.....	—	—	32	39	42	33	32	27	24	31	21	27	27	19	18	12	15	18	25	26	29	22
Major companies.....	29	31	19	22	27	22	27	23	24	30	24	30	25	24	25	20	21	25	23	26	28	18
Organized religion.....	35	44	24	30	40	31	35	32	28	31	25	29	20	22	23	25	23	24	25	27	28	19
Education	37	49	31	37	41	28	30	33	29	28	28	35	29	30	27	30	22	25	23	27	27	25
Executive Branch of Federal Government.....	29	14	13	13	28	12	12	19	13	18	21	18	16	20	23	26	12	11	10	14	13	27
Organized labor	15	18	10	12	15	11	15	12	8	8	8	10	10	9	11	11	8	10	11	11	13	12
Congress.....	23	17	13	14	19	13	9	13	10	12	16	16	15	17	15	18	7	8	8	11	12	13
Press	23	26	24	28	25	20	22	18	13	17	18	18	18	17	15	16	11	8	11	9	10	10
Television	18	23	18	19	17	14	16	14	12	13	15	12	14	14	14	14	12	9	10	10	10	10
Average ^a	30	33	26	29	31	24	26	26	24	27	25	28	26	25	25	29	22	22	23	24	25	25
	Number																					
Sample size.....	1,504	1,484	1,490	1,499	1,530	1,532	1,468	1,506	1,599	989	1,470	1,466	997	1,035	899	1,017	1,057	2,011	1,925	1,911	1,887	912

— not asked

^aDoes not include banks and financial institutions.

NOTES: Percents represent respondents expressing a "great deal of confidence" when asked the following question: *As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say that you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?* The survey was not conducted in 1979 and 1981 and was conducted every other year from 1994 through 2002; the question was not asked in 1985.

SOURCE: J. A. Davis, T. W. Smith, and P. V. Marsden, *General Social Survey 1972–2002 Cumulative Codebook* (Chicago: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, 2003).

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