

CaRDI Research & Policy Brief

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Community Attitudes Toward Scientific Research

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Table 1. Means and standard deviations to key questions.

	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
<i>Distributive Justice</i>		
1. Members of my community receive a fair share of the benefits of scientific research.	3.50	.85
2. Scientific progress helps more people in my community than it hurts.	3.90	.83
3. Scientific research in my community has been bad for the local natural environment.	3.67	.86
<i>Procedural Justice</i>		
1. Local scientists don't care what the average person thinks about the ethics or morality of their research.	3.53	.89
2. If I wanted to, I could influence whether or not controversial scientific research would place in my community.	2.87	.94
3. The procedures that protect public health and the environment from potential risks of scientific research in communities like mine have been developed in an unbiased way.	3.05	.74
4. If a decision had to be made about doing controversial scientific research in my community, I would be able to express my views to the scientists in charge.	3.24	.90
5. If a decision were made to do scientific research that I did not support in my community, there are procedures in place to allow me to make an appeal.	3.27	.75
<i>Interpersonal Justice</i>		
1. If I were to speak with a scientist in my community, he or she would treat me in a polite manner	3.80	.77
2. If I were to speak with a scientist in my community, he or she would treat me with respect	3.87	.70
3. If I were to speak with a scientist in my community, he or she would treat me with dignity	3.73	.74
<i>Informational Justice</i>		
1. Local scientists are usually candid in their public communication about potential impacts of their research on communities like mine.	3.30	.83
2. Procedures are in place to ensure that communities like mine have accurate information about local scientific research that might affect them.	3.03	.80
3. Scientists working in my community would communicate potential public health or environmental hazards in a timely manner.	3.42	.80

Biotechnology Concern

1. The potential benefits of agricultural biotechnology outweigh the potential risks.	2.65	0.91
2. The use of agricultural biotechnology poses a serious environmental hazard.	2.77	0.86
3. The use agricultural biotechnology poses a serious public health risk.	2.66	0.85
4. I oppose the use of biotechnology in agricultural food production.	2.54	1.05

Nanotechnology Concern

1. The potential benefits of nanotechnology outweigh the potential risks.	2.56	0.81
2. The use of nanotechnology poses a serious environmental hazard.	2.64	0.74
3. The use of nanotechnology poses a serious public health risk.	2.62	0.75
4. I oppose the use of nanotechnology in commercial applications.	2.36	0.82

Gene Therapy Concern

1. The potential benefits of gene therapy outweigh the potential risks.	2.37	0.90
2. Using gene therapy in medicine poses a serious public health risk.	2.38	0.79
3. I oppose the use of gene therapy in medical treatment.	2.14	0.87

Satisfaction with Local Scientific Research

1. I am satisfied with the scientific research that is going on in my community.	3.49	0.77
2. I am satisfied with the procedures in place to manage potential risk to public health and the environment from scientific research in my community.	3.33	0.77
3. I would support plans to bring more scientific research to my community.	3.83	0.80
4. The scientific research going on in my community is appropriate for the area.	3.51	0.75

Note: Scale values range from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree.