

Appendix table 7-7

**Correct answers to polar and nanotechnology questions, by respondent characteristic: 2006**

(Percent)

Characteristic	Polar					Nanotechnology <sup>a</sup>	
	<i>The North Pole is on a sheet of ice that floats on the Arctic Ocean.</i> (True)	<i>The sun never shines at the South Pole.</i> (False)	<i>Hunting is more likely than climate change to make polar bears become extinct.</i> (False)	<i>Have the polar ice caps gotten larger or smaller over the last 25 years?</i> (Smaller)	<i>Inuit (often called Eskimos) live north of the Arctic Circle.</i> (False)	<i>Nanotechnology involves manipulating extremely small units of matter, such as individual atoms, in order to produce better materials.</i> (True)	<i>The properties of nanoscale materials often differ fundamentally and unexpectedly from the properties of the same materials at larger scales.</i> (True)
All adults (n = 1,864).....	41	67	36	77	18	57	39
Sex							
Male (n = 804).....	52	75	40	86	18	64	45
Female (n = 1,060).....	33	61	32	71	18	48	33
Formal education							
<High school (n = 227).....	39	50	19	60	9	42	21
High school graduate (n = 1,115) ..	38	64	37	76	18	51	32
Baccalaureate (n = 346).....	47	78	38	84	20	67	48
Graduate/professional (n = 176).....	52	85	45	91	27	66	57
Science/mathematics education <sup>b</sup>							
Low (n = 1,042).....	36	61	33	70	14	48	25
Middle (n = 359).....	42	73	36	86	23	54	39
High (n = 408).....	54	80	43	90	24	70	54
Family income (quartile)							
Top (n = 311).....	47	78	40	89	23	56	40
Second (n = 420).....	43	68	43	81	18	66	40
Third (n = 419).....	41	67	34	79	15	57	39
Bottom (n = 462).....	41	59	29	68	18	52	41
Age (years)							
18–24 (n = 157).....	48	66	37	83	26	48	35
25–34 (n = 341).....	45	72	33	73	17	56	47
35–44 (n = 382).....	38	68	37	75	17	59	43
45–54 (n = 386).....	39	69	37	79	17	56	31
55–64 (n = 272).....	45	63	36	83	19	62	42
65+ (n = 321).....	35	60	34	75	14	61	38
Minor children at home							
Yes (n = 588).....	39	65	34	71	17	55	37
No (n = 1,276).....	43	68	37	80	18	58	41
Factual knowledge of science <sup>c</sup> (quartile)							
Top (n = 455).....	61	91	48	95	28	72	52
Second (n = 470).....	40	72	42	85	22	51	34
Third (n = 479).....	40	60	30	78	14	39	26
Bottom (n = 460).....	22	43	20	48	7	31	14

<sup>a</sup>Nanotechnology questions asked only of 822 survey respondents who reported they had heard of nanotechnology.<sup>b</sup>Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses.<sup>c</sup>See notes to appendix table 7-4 for explanation of “factual knowledge of science scale 1.”

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