

Appendix table 7-27

Perceptions of scientific nature of various fields, by respondent characteristic: 2006

(Mean scientific score)

Characteristic	Medicine (n = 1,829)	Biology (n = 1,800)	Physics (n = 1,730)	Engineering (n = 1,785)	Economics (n = 1,769)	Sociology (n = 1,593)	Accounting (n = 1,785)	History (n = 1,799)
All adults	3.81	3.68	3.68	3.21	2.56	2.56	2.15	2.11
Sex								
Male	3.79	3.68	3.72	3.30	2.50	2.54	2.10	2.13
Female	3.82	3.69	3.65	3.13	2.61	2.58	2.19	2.09
Formal education								
<High school	3.80	3.57	3.36	2.98	2.71	2.74	2.16	2.32
High school graduate	3.82	3.65	3.64	3.16	2.48	2.53	2.11	2.18
Baccalaureate	3.77	3.76	3.84	3.37	2.65	2.56	2.21	1.85
Graduate/professional	3.79	3.84	3.92	3.45	2.70	2.60	2.29	1.92
Science/mathematics education ^a								
Low	3.81	3.61	3.56	3.08	2.51	2.54	2.06	2.20
Middle	3.82	3.74	3.76	3.22	2.54	2.62	2.17	2.06
High	3.79	3.83	3.89	3.46	2.67	2.54	2.31	1.93
Family income (quartile)								
Top	3.80	3.73	3.82	3.27	2.64	2.57	2.18	1.98
Second	3.84	3.68	3.71	3.27	2.45	2.52	2.04	2.07
Third	3.79	3.69	3.68	3.11	2.51	2.57	2.12	2.13
Bottom	3.77	3.60	3.53	3.17	2.67	2.68	2.19	2.31
Age (years)								
18–24	3.81	3.68	3.72	3.14	2.58	2.67	1.96	2.08
25–34	3.84	3.72	3.66	3.21	2.58	2.67	2.00	2.09
35–44	3.83	3.72	3.69	3.27	2.56	2.54	2.20	2.10
45–54	3.80	3.70	3.71	3.25	2.59	2.53	2.15	2.10
55–64	3.78	3.68	3.66	3.16	2.41	2.50	2.25	2.05
65+	3.78	3.58	3.63	3.16	2.63	2.46	2.33	2.24
Minor children at home								
Yes	3.83	3.71	3.68	3.22	2.53	2.58	2.12	2.09
No	3.80	3.67	3.68	3.20	2.57	2.55	2.17	2.12
Factual knowledge of science ^b (quartile)								
Top	3.80	3.84	3.90	3.43	2.62	2.60	2.18	1.98
Second	3.84	3.73	3.74	3.30	2.51	2.56	2.15	2.01
Third	3.80	3.60	3.61	3.07	2.58	2.58	2.13	2.19
Bottom	3.78	3.55	3.40	2.98	2.53	2.48	2.13	2.28

^aLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses.^bSee notes to appendix table 7-4 for explanation of “factual knowledge of science scale 1.”NOTES: Responses to: *How scientific is [field]: very scientific, pretty scientific, not too scientific, not scientific at all?* (where 4 is very scientific and 1 is not scientific at all). Question asked of 1,864 survey respondents; number (n) of respondents varies by field because mean scientific score excludes responses of “haven’t heard of [field]” or “don’t know.”

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