

Appendix table 7-12
Correct answers to science literacy questions, by respondent characteristic: 2004
 (Percent)

Characteristic	<i>The center of the Earth is very hot.</i> (True)	<i>All radioactivity is man-made.</i> (False)	<i>It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.</i> (True)	<i>Lasers work by focusing sound waves.</i> (False)	<i>Electrons are smaller than atoms.</i> (True)	<i>Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria.</i> (False)
All adults (n = 2,025)	78	73	62	42	45	54
Male (n = 903)	86	82	51	59	52	49
Female (n = 1,122)	72	66	70	28	39	58
Formal education						
<High school (n = 139)	65	47	49	18	27	17
High school graduate (n = 1,156)	77	72	61	39	40	50
Baccalaureate (n = 449)	85	85	69	53	60	72
Graduate/professional (n = 261)	89	87	67	62	64	82
Science/mathematics education ^a						
Low (n = 761)	68	63	56	28	29	39
Middle (n = 481)	80	73	62	42	44	54
High (n = 780)	89	86	69	59	65	74
Family income (quartile)						
Top (n = 513)	86	84	70	58	56	71
Second (n = 493)	84	78	69	45	46	66
Third (n = 459)	76	71	61	39	41	51
Bottom (n = 414)	70	64	50	32	41	35
Age (years)						
18–24 (n = 116)	91	64	61	46	63	47
25–34 (n = 276)	81	74	67	42	52	56
35–44 (n = 430)	78	78	68	53	47	63
45–54 (n = 441)	81	77	64	48	46	58
55–64 (n = 352)	76	74	60	40	39	55
65+ (n = 403)	69	67	48	26	32	42
Minor children at home						
Yes (n = 721)	81	73	71	47	48	60
No (n = 1,303)	76	74	55	39	43	51

Characteristic	<i>The universe began with a huge explosion.</i> (True)	<i>The continents on which we live have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move in the future.</i> (True)	<i>Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals.</i> (True)	<i>Does the Earth go around the Sun, or does the Sun go around the Earth?</i> (Earth around the Sun)	<i>Please tell me in your own words, what is DNA?</i>
All adults (n = 2,025)	40	77	50	71	33
Male (n = 903)	47	85	54	82	35
Female (n = 1,122)	34	71	47	63	32
Formal education					
<High school (n = 139)	30	71	43	48	9
High school graduate (n = 1,156)	36	75	46	68	29
Baccalaureate (n = 449)	49	84	57	83	47
Graduate/professional (n = 261)	58	91	71	93	54
Science/mathematics education ^a					
Low (n = 761)	31	69	40	57	20
Middle (n = 481)	41	79	49	73	35
High (n = 780)	49	86	63	87	49
Family income (quartile)					
Top (n = 513)	51	87	61	83	48
Second (n = 493)	42	80	51	76	40
Third (n = 459)	38	76	47	72	29
Bottom (n = 414)	33	71	44	60	22
Age (years)					
18–24 (n = 116)	42	84	68	86	49
25–34 (n = 276)	42	78	58	80	44
35–44 (n = 430)	42	79	51	76	38
45–54 (n = 441)	40	76	49	71	34
55–64 (n = 352)	45	77	47	66	26
65+ (n = 403)	31	73	36	57	17
Minor children at home					
Yes (n = 721)	37	76	50	77	38
No (n = 1,303)	41	78	50	68	30

^aLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses.

NOTES: Correct responses to questions. Some respondents did not provide information about highest level of education.

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004).