

Appendix table 7-14

Public assessment of whether science is too concerned with theory and speculation for use in government decisions, by respondent characteristic: 2006

(Percent)

Characteristic	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
All adults (n = 1,864).....	6	29	48	10	8
Sex					
Male (n = 804).....	5	31	47	11	6
Female (n = 1,060).....	6	27	49	10	9
Formal education					
<High school (n = 227).....	9	37	40	3	12
High school graduate (n = 1,115).....	6	30	48	8	8
Baccalaureate (n = 346).....	3	25	50	15	7
Graduate/professional degree (n = 176).....	3	17	51	27	2
Science/mathematics education ^a					
Low (n = 1,042).....	7	33	45	6	9
Middle (n = 359).....	3	29	49	12	6
High (n = 408).....	4	18	56	20	2
Family income (quartile)					
Top (n = 311).....	3	25	53	15	3
Second (n = 420).....	5	28	52	9	6
Third (n = 419).....	7	32	49	7	5
Bottom (n = 462).....	6	32	41	12	8
Age (years)					
18–24 (n = 157).....	3	21	59	10	8
25–34 (n = 341).....	7	31	46	10	7
35–44 (n = 382).....	5	27	53	9	6
45–54 (n = 386).....	6	27	49	13	5
55–64 (n = 272).....	5	31	39	13	12
65+ (n = 321).....	6	34	43	7	11
Minor children at home					
Yes (n = 588).....	5	29	49	9	7
No (n = 1,276).....	6	28	47	11	8
Factual knowledge of science ^b (quartile)					
Top (n = 455).....	3	17	56	22	2
Second (n = 470).....	4	29	53	10	5
Third (n = 479).....	9	33	47	5	6
Bottom (n = 460).....	7	37	33	4	19

^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: *Science is too concerned with theory and speculation to be of much use in making concrete government policy decisions that will affect the way we live.*
Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

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