

Figure 43. Adult interest in and knowledge about environmental issues and concepts: 1992

	European Community Percent	United States Percent
Interest in environmental issues		
Very interested.....	56	59
Moderately interested.....	38	36
Not very interested.....	6	5
Informed about environmental issues		
Very well-informed.....	25	29
Moderately well-informed.....	60	56
Poorly informed.....	14	15
Subjective environmental knowledge		
Acid rain.....	40	32
Air pollution.....	57	52
Global warming.....	37	27
The hole in the ozone layer.....	44	30
The greenhouse effect.....	40	27
Objective environmental knowledge		
Location of hole in ozone layer.....	31	17
Hole in ozone layer can cause skin cancer.....	81	73
Greenhouse effect can reduce deserts.....	47	32
Greenhouse effect can raise sea level.....	59	45
Acid rain can cause damage to forests.....	90	89
Car exhausts have nothing to do with acid rain...	20	16
	N =	
	12,800	2,001

NOTES: There were slight variations in the wording of the questions between the European Community and U.S. samples. The items measuring subjective and objective knowledge were asked of a random half of the U.S. sample (N=1,004). Percentages for the objective items represent percent correct.

SOURCES: J.D. Miller and L.K. Pifer *Public Attitudes Toward Science and Technology, 1979-1992, Integrated Codebook* (Chicago: International Center for the Advancement of Scientific Literacy, Chicago Academy of Sciences, 1993); and Commission of the European Communities, *Europeans, Science and Technology - Public Understanding and Attitudes* (Eurobarometer 38.1) (Brussels: Commission of the European Communities, 1993).