

Appendix table 7-18

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**Public opinion on whether federal government should fund basic research, by respondent characteristic:
Selected years, 1985–2004**

(Percent)

Characteristic	1985	1988	1990	1992	1995	1997	1999	2001	2004
All adults									
Strongly agree.....	9	16	17	14	19	22	21	19	30
Agree.....	70	65	62	63	61	57	61	62	53
Do not know.....	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	1
Disagree.....	16	14	15	18	17	15	13	15	15
Strongly disagree.....	0	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	2
Male									
Strongly agree.....	11	20	23	17	19	24	24	23	33
Agree.....	71	63	60	62	60	54	60	63	52
Do not know.....	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	0
Disagree.....	15	13	13	17	18	16	12	11	13
Strongly disagree.....	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2
Female									
Strongly agree.....	8	11	13	11	15	20	18	16	26
Agree.....	68	68	65	64	62	59	62	61	54
Do not know.....	8	6	5	4	5	4	4	5	1
Disagree.....	16	14	16	19	16	15	14	18	16
Strongly disagree.....	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
Formal education									
<High school graduate									
Strongly agree.....	5	6	10	10	8	20	17	13	14
Agree.....	65	66	59	61	59	50	55	66	58
Do not know.....	9	7	8	5	7	5	7	5	1
Disagree.....	21	18	20	21	24	22	18	16	25
Strongly disagree.....	0	3	3	3	2	3	3	0	2
High school graduate									
Strongly agree.....	8	17	18	12	16	19	18	18	28
Agree.....	72	66	65	64	63	60	66	60	54
Do not know.....	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	1
Disagree.....	15	13	14	19	17	15	12	17	16
Strongly disagree.....	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	2
Baccalaureate									
Strongly agree.....	19	26	27	22	24	31	34	23	32
Agree.....	68	62	60	64	62	56	53	68	54
Do not know.....	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Disagree.....	10	8	10	12	11	10	10	8	12
Strongly disagree.....	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1
Graduate degree									
Strongly agree.....	20	29	31	26	43	40	40	32	52
Agree.....	70	61	58	53	46	51	51	56	39
Do not know.....	2	2	4	5	2	2	1	3	0
Disagree.....	8	7	6	14	8	5	8	8	7
Strongly disagree.....	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	2

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**Public opinion on whether federal government should fund basic research, by respondent characteristic:
Selected years, 1985–2004**

(Percent)

Characteristic	1985	1988	1990	1992	1995	1997	1999	2001	2004
Family income (quartile)									
Top									
Strongly agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37
Agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51
Do not know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	11
Strongly disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Second									
Strongly agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29
Agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	56
Do not know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13
Strongly disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Third									
Strongly agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	31
Agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55
Do not know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	11
Strongly disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2
Bottom									
Strongly agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23
Agree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52
Do not know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	20
Strongly disagree.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3

NA = not available

NOTE: Responses to: *Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government—do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?*

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (various years); and University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004).