

Appendix table 7-21

Preferred groups for influencing decisions about public issues, by respondent characteristic: 2006

(Mean preferred influence score)

Characteristic	Global warming			Stem cell research			Federal income taxes			Genetically modified foods		
	Environmental scientists (n = 888)	Business leaders (n = 883)	Elected officials (n = 887)	Medical researchers (n = 880)	Religious leaders (n = 875)	Elected officials (n = 872)	Economists (n = 875)	Business leaders (n = 888)	Elected officials (n = 890)	Medical researchers (n = 887)	Business leaders (n = 883)	Elected officials (n = 884)
All adults	3.35	2.17	2.55	3.21	2.09	2.45	2.95	2.45	2.74	3.26	1.88	2.24
Sex												
Male	3.28	2.22	2.64	3.15	2.05	2.57	2.94	2.47	2.77	3.28	1.96	2.30
Female	3.42	2.13	2.48	3.26	2.12	2.35	2.95	2.43	2.71	3.25	1.81	2.20
Formal education												
<High school	3.24	2.15	2.46	3.36	2.13	2.27	2.81	2.61	2.79	3.08	2.32	2.48
High school graduate	3.37	2.13	2.47	3.17	2.12	2.39	2.87	2.44	2.70	3.24	1.87	2.17
Baccalaureate	3.27	2.31	2.79	3.16	2.08	2.65	3.13	2.41	2.87	3.36	1.71	2.39
Graduate/professional	3.57	2.18	2.71	3.38	1.78	2.60	3.13	2.41	2.67	3.41	1.74	2.11
Science/mathematics education ^a												
Low	3.32	2.15	2.46	3.24	2.19	2.32	2.84	2.50	2.70	3.19	1.97	2.25
Middle	3.39	2.12	2.63	3.24	1.99	2.53	3.07	2.45	2.77	3.40	1.84	2.19
High	3.41	2.26	2.69	3.13	1.93	2.62	3.10	2.32	2.76	3.31	1.68	2.25
Family income (quartile)												
Top	3.45	2.18	2.71	3.20	2.02	2.46	2.99	2.37	2.79	3.37	1.81	2.25
Second	3.30	2.14	2.51	3.12	2.11	2.50	2.97	2.35	2.67	3.31	1.87	2.23
Third	3.47	2.22	2.58	3.22	2.11	2.47	2.96	2.58	2.80	3.20	1.91	2.29
Bottom	3.28	2.06	2.40	3.34	2.15	2.35	2.79	2.53	2.74	3.18	1.93	2.23
Age (years)												
18–24	3.43	2.02	2.55	3.28	1.91	2.53	3.08	2.37	3.22	3.58	1.81	2.50
25–34	3.45	2.12	2.58	3.31	1.92	2.46	3.01	2.44	2.77	3.26	1.83	2.39
35–44	3.38	2.26	2.65	3.15	2.10	2.63	2.84	2.39	2.68	3.14	1.84	2.23
45–54	3.34	2.22	2.62	3.16	2.14	2.40	2.86	2.32	2.62	3.22	1.79	2.06
55–64	3.32	2.16	2.44	3.17	2.10	2.32	3.06	2.66	2.65	3.35	1.98	2.20
65+	3.17	2.22	2.42	3.21	2.31	2.31	2.94	2.64	2.70	3.21	2.09	2.21
Minor children at home												
Yes	3.37	2.17	2.60	3.19	2.18	2.57	2.87	2.45	2.77	3.29	1.87	2.30
No	3.35	2.17	2.53	3.22	2.04	2.39	2.98	2.45	2.72	3.25	1.88	2.21
Factual knowledge of science ^b (quartile)												
Top	3.34	2.14	2.66	3.15	1.87	2.61	3.05	2.35	2.74	3.34	1.72	2.23
Second	3.38	2.10	2.48	3.16	1.96	2.43	2.95	2.47	2.75	3.31	1.81	2.28
Third	3.42	2.28	2.59	3.28	2.20	2.42	2.95	2.46	2.77	3.22	1.93	2.16
Bottom	3.28	2.18	2.47	3.27	2.37	2.29	2.78	2.53	2.67	3.15	2.11	2.33

^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 much influence should each of the following groups have in deciding: global warming policy; government funding for stem cell research; reducing federal income taxes; restricting sale of genetically modified foods?* See chapter endnote 23 for precise question wording. Mean preferred influence score based on 4-point scale, where 1 = none at all, 2 = a little influence, 3 = a fair amount, 4 = a great deal of influence. Questions on global warming and stem cell research asked of 928 survey respondents; questions on federal income taxes and genetically modified foods asked of 936 survey respondents. Number (n) of respondents varies by group within issue because mean preferred influence score excludes responses of "don't know."

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