

Appendix table 7-24

Public perception of degree of scientific consensus on current issues, by respondent characteristic: 2006

(Mean score)

| Characteristic | Environmental scientists on existence and causes of global warming (<i>n</i> = 850) | Medical researchers on importance of stem cells for research (<i>n</i> = 851) | Economists on effects of reducing federal income taxes (<i>n</i> = 811) | Medical researchers on risks and benefits of genetically modified foods (<i>n</i> = 815) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| All adults | 3.38 | 3.64 | 2.83 | 3.12 |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 3.33 | 3.71 | 2.85 | 3.21 |
| Female | 3.43 | 3.59 | 2.81 | 3.04 |
| Formal education | | | | |
| <High school | 3.12 | 3.72 | 2.78 | 3.16 |
| High school graduate | 3.38 | 3.56 | 2.82 | 3.07 |
| Baccalaureate | 3.36 | 3.79 | 2.90 | 3.23 |
| Graduate/professional | 3.77 | 3.83 | 2.81 | 3.18 |
| Science/mathematics education ^a | | | | |
| Low | 3.38 | 3.55 | 2.81 | 3.04 |
| Middle | 3.37 | 3.71 | 2.83 | 3.26 |
| High | 3.45 | 3.76 | 2.87 | 3.18 |
| Family income (quartile) | | | | |
| Top | 3.52 | 3.67 | 2.77 | 3.10 |
| Second | 3.30 | 3.52 | 2.90 | 3.20 |
| Third | 3.48 | 3.74 | 2.98 | 3.25 |
| Bottom | 3.33 | 3.64 | 2.66 | 3.00 |
| Age (years) | | | | |
| 18–24 | 3.23 | 3.52 | 2.74 | 3.28 |
| 25–34 | 3.58 | 3.77 | 2.96 | 3.19 |
| 35–44 | 3.42 | 3.58 | 2.75 | 3.09 |
| 45–54 | 3.44 | 3.63 | 2.83 | 3.00 |
| 55–64 | 3.18 | 3.71 | 2.71 | 3.14 |
| 65+ | 3.35 | 3.65 | 2.93 | 3.13 |
| Minor children at home | | | | |
| Yes | 3.41 | 3.58 | 2.87 | 3.18 |
| No | 3.37 | 3.67 | 2.81 | 3.09 |
| Factual knowledge of science ^b (quartile) | | | | |
| Top | 3.36 | 3.76 | 2.95 | 3.20 |
| Second | 3.41 | 3.61 | 2.83 | 3.16 |
| Third | 3.44 | 3.58 | 2.77 | 3.09 |
| Bottom | 3.32 | 3.62 | 2.74 | 3.01 |

^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: *To what extent do [members of group] agree among themselves about [public issue]?* See chapter endnote 26 for full question wording. Mean consensus score based on 5-point scale, where 5 = near complete agreement and 1 = no agreement at all. 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/issue because mean consensus score excludes responses of "don't know."

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