

Public assessment of astrology, by respondent characteristic: 1979–2006

(Percent)

Characteristic	1979 (n = 1,635)	1983 (n = 1,631)	1985 (n = 2,003)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2004 (n = 2,025)	2006 (n = 1,864)
All adults												
Very scientific.....	8	10	8	6	6	7	7	7	7	9	6	5
Sort of scientific.....	34	35	31	31	29	29	28	29	29	31	26	26
Not at all scientific.....	50	51	57	60	60	62	60	59	59	56	66	65
Don't know.....	9	4	4	3	5	3	5	5	5	4	2	4
Sex												
Male												
Very scientific.....	7	9	7	5	5	6	7	7	7	9	5	5
Sort of scientific.....	30	29	29	25	23	25	24	27	25	27	21	23
Not at all scientific.....	54	58	60	67	67	66	65	63	63	60	72	68
Don't know.....	9	4	3	3	5	2	4	2	5	4	2	4
Female												
Very scientific.....	8	10	9	7	6	7	7	7	7	8	6	5
Sort of scientific.....	37	41	32	36	35	32	32	31	32	36	30	29
Not at all scientific.....	46	44	55	53	55	58	56	55	56	52	61	63
Don't know.....	9	5	4	3	5	3	6	7	5	4	3	4
Formal education												
<High school												
Very scientific.....	11	13	14	11	7	12	11	11	13	14	10	10
Sort of scientific.....	34	37	38	35	31	34	30	37	34	35	38	41
Not at all scientific.....	39	40	43	50	49	49	46	42	41	45	50	42
Don't know.....	16	10	5	4	12	5	13	10	13	6	2	8
High school graduate												
Very scientific.....	7	10	8	6	6	6	8	7	7	9	7	5
Sort of scientific.....	37	38	29	32	32	31	28	30	30	35	29	29
Not at all scientific.....	50	50	60	59	61	61	61	60	60	52	62	62
Don't know.....	6	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	4
Baccalaureate												
Very scientific.....	1	3	4	2	4	3	6	2	2	4	2	2
Sort of scientific.....	23	26	25	24	19	19	34	21	20	25	17	16
Not at all scientific.....	67	69	68	72	75	76	60	75	76	69	80	78
Don't know.....	9	3	3	1	2	3	—	2	3	2	1	4
Graduate/professional degree												
Very scientific.....	5	5	1	—	1	3	2	4	2	3	—	—
Sort of scientific.....	15	23	23	19	17	14	22	15	19	13	16	12
Not at all scientific.....	76	69	74	78	80	82	74	78	77	83	83	84
Don't know.....	4	3	2	2	2	—	2	2	2	—	1	4

Appendix table 7-11

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(Percent)

Characteristic	1979 (n = 1,635)	1983 (n = 1,631)	1985 (n = 2,003)	1988 (n = 2,041)	1990 (n = 2,005)	1992 (n = 1,995)	1995 (n = 2,006)	1997 (n = 2,000)	1999 (n = 1,882)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2004 (n = 2,025)	2006 (n = 1,864)
Age (years)												
18–24												
Very scientific.....	9	13	10	10	5	14	9	11	7	17	10	5
Sort of scientific.....	40	43	39	36	37	37	33	38	40	39	36	34
Not at all scientific.....	47	42	51	54	56	49	53	50	50	42	52	56
Don't know.....	4	3	—	0	2	1	5	1	3	1	2	5
25–34												
Very scientific.....	7	7	6	6	6	4	9	6	5	10	6	8
Sort of scientific.....	36	39	32	32	32	33	30	32	30	33	33	28
Not at all scientific.....	52	51	60	60	61	62	59	59	61	54	60	60
Don't know.....	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	3	1	4
35–44												
Very scientific.....	6	11	8	6	5	7	4	4	7	7	4	5
Sort of scientific.....	37	32	29	31	26	27	32	26	32	32	24	28
Not at all scientific.....	53	54	61	60	68	64	61	66	59	58	69	65
Don't know.....	5	3	2	2	1	3	3	4	1	3	2	2
45–54												
Very scientific.....	8	7	5	4	7	6	4	4	5	5	4	3
Sort of scientific.....	28	40	32	26	25	27	26	28	23	27	18	24
Not at all scientific.....	54	50	59	66	64	63	67	65	67	66	74	70
Don't know.....	10	3	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	3
55–64												
Very scientific.....	10	8	11	5	5	3	8	7	10	6	6	3
Sort of scientific.....	32	33	24	33	25	18	20	17	27	27	25	24
Not at all scientific.....	44	56	56	56	59	77	66	69	58	62	66	68
Don't know.....	15	3	9	5	10	2	6	7	6	5	3	5
65+												
Very scientific.....	5	12	11	6	5	7	10	11	11	6	6	5
Sort of scientific.....	26	24	26	27	29	27	22	31	20	31	26	21
Not at all scientific.....	50	52	55	60	53	60	55	47	57	54	64	68
Don't know.....	19	12	8	6	13	6	12	11	13	9	3	7
Factual knowledge of science^a (quartile)												
Top												
Very scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	4	3	2	7	2	2
Sort of scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	20	22	24	24	17	14
Not at all scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	75	75	72	68	81	83
Don't know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	1	—	1	2	—	1

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Second												
Very scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7	6	6	6	9	4	5
Sort of scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28	30	29	25	30	22	24
Not at all scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	63	62	67	58	73	67
Don't know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	1	2	2	2	1	4
Third												
Very scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7	10	8	8	10	6	7
Sort of scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	33	29	31	34	36	31	34
Not at all scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	58	57	58	55	51	62	55
Don't know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	4	3	3	3	2	4
Bottom												
Very scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	8	9	11	11	10	5
Sort of scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	31	31	32	31	36	32	34
Not at all scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	50	46	45	44	51	54
Don't know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	12	12	13	10	7	8
Understanding of scientific inquiry^a												
Understands inquiry												
Very scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	4	4	2	4
Sort of scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	26	22	29	19	19
Not at all scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	70	73	66	78	75
Don't know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	2	1	1	2
Doesn't understand inquiry												
Very scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	9	9	12	8	5
Sort of scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	31	32	33	31	31
Not at all scientific.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	53	53	49	58	58
Don't know.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	7	7	6	3	5

— = ≤0.5% responded; NA = not available, question not asked

^aSee notes to appendix table 7-4 for explanation of "factual knowledge of science scale 1."^bSee notes to appendix table 7-9 for explanation of scientific inquiry.NOTES: Responses to: *Would you say that astrology is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific?* Table includes all years for which data collected. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1979–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); and University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006).