

Appendix table 7-16

**Public opinion on whether federal government should fund basic research: 1985–2006**

(Percent)

Opinion	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)
Strongly agree .....	9	16	18	14	17	22	21	19	29	32
Agree.....	70	65	63	63	61	57	61	62	53	55
Disagree.....	16	14	15	18	17	15	13	14	15	8
Strongly disagree.....	—	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	1
Don't know .....	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	1	3

— = ≤0.5% responded

NOTES: 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.* 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 (1985–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); and University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006).

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