



APPENDIX TABLE 7-12

Public assessment of astrology, by respondent characteristic: 1979–2016

(Percent)

Characteristic	1979 (n=1,635)	1983 (n=1,615)	1985 (n=1,986)	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)	2008 (n=2,021)	2010 (n=1,434)	2012 (n=2,256)	2014 (n=2,130)	2016 (n=1,390)
All adults																	
Very scientific	8	10	8	6	6	7	7	7	7	9	6	5	5	6	10	6	8
Sort of scientific	34	35	31	31	29	29	28	29	29	31	26	26	28	28	32	26	29
Not at all scientific	50	51	57	60	60	62	60	59	59	56	66	65	63	62	55	65	60
Don't know	9	4	4	3	5	3	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3
Sex																	
Male																	
Very scientific	7	9	7	5	5	6	7	7	7	9	5	5	5	7	10	5	8
Sort of scientific	30	29	29	25	23	25	24	27	25	27	21	23	28	24	27	25	26
Not at all scientific	54	58	60	67	66	66	65	63	63	60	72	68	64	67	60	69	64
Don't know	9	4	3	3	5	2	4	2	5	4	2	4	4	2	3	2	2
Female																	
Very scientific	8	10	9	7	6	7	7	7	7	8	6	5	5	6	10	6	9
Sort of scientific	37	41	32	36	35	32	32	31	32	36	30	29	28	32	36	28	32
Not at all scientific	46	44	55	53	55	58	56	55	56	52	61	63	63	58	50	62	57
Don't know	9	5	4	3	5	3	6	7	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3



Characteristic	1979 (n=1,635)	1983 (n=1,615)	1985 (n=1,986)	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)	2008 (n=2,021)	2010 (n=1,434)	2012 (n=2,256)	2014 (n=2,130)	2016 (n=1,390)
Very scientific	5	5	1	*	1	3	2	4	2	3	*	*	3	2	3	2	2
Sort of scientific	15	23	23	19	17	14	22	15	19	13	16	12	12	16	24	11	23
Not at all scientific	76	69	74	78	80	82	74	78	77	83	83	84	83	79	72	84	73
Don't know	4	3	2	2	2	*	2	2	2	*	1	4	3	3	1	2	1
Age (years)																	
18-24																	
Very scientific	9	13	10	10	5	14	9	11	7	17	10	5	5	11	14	10	11
Sort of scientific	40	43	39	36	37	37	33	38	40	39	36	34	38	43	44	40	33
Not at all scientific	47	42	51	54	56	49	53	50	50	42	52	56	55	46	42	48	54
Don't know	4	3	*	0	2	1	5	1	3	1	2	5	1	0	1	2	2
25-34																	
Very scientific	7	7	6	6	6	4	9	6	5	10	6	8	6	8	10	6	7
Sort of scientific	36	39	32	32	32	33	30	32	30	33	33	28	30	33	35	35	37
Not at all scientific	52	51	60	60	61	62	59	59	61	54	60	60	62	58	52	56	53
Don't know	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	3	1	4	2	1	2	2	3
35-44																	
Very scientific	6	11	8	6	5	7	4	4	7	7	4	5	5	8	10	8	9
Sort of scientific	37	32	29	31	26	27	32	26	32	32	24	28	31	27	33	26	27



Characteristic	1979 (n=1,635)	1983 (n=1,615)	1985 (n=1,986)	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)	2008 (n=2,021)	2010 (n=1,434)	2012 (n=2,256)	2014 (n=2,130)	2016 (n=1,390)
Not at all scientific	53	54	61	60	68	64	61	66	59	58	69	65	61	64	51	64	62
Don't know	5	3	2	2	1	3	3	4	1	3	2	2	3	1	5	2	2
45-54																	
Very scientific	8	7	5	4	7	6	4	4	5	5	4	3	4	5	10	7	8
Sort of scientific	28	40	32	26	25	27	26	28	23	27	18	24	24	23	28	22	28
Not at all scientific	54	50	59	66	64	63	67	65	67	66	74	70	68	69	58	69	61
Don't know	10	3	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	3	4	3	4	2	3
55-64																	
Very scientific	10	8	11	5	5	3	8	7	10	6	6	3	4	6	8	2	9
Sort of scientific	32	33	24	33	25	18	20	17	27	27	25	24	26	24	31	20	27
Not at all scientific	44	56	56	56	59	77	66	69	58	62	66	68	67	65	57	75	62
Don't know	15	3	9	5	10	2	6	7	6	5	3	5	4	5	4	3	1
65 or older																	
Very scientific	5	12	11	6	5	7	10	11	11	6	6	5	5	2	8	5	6
Sort of scientific	26	24	26	27	29	27	22	31	20	31	26	21	21	24	25	21	24
Not at all scientific	50	52	55	60	53	60	55	47	57	54	64	68	65	67	62	70	66
Don't know	19	12	8	6	13	6	12	11	13	9	3	7	9	8	5	4	4
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^a																	



Characteristic	1979 (n=1,635)	1983 (n=1,615)	1985 (n=1,986)	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)	2008 (n=2,021)	2010 (n=1,434)	2012 (n=2,256)	2014 (n=2,130)	2016 (n=1,390)
Bottom																	
Very scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	8	11	13	10	NA	5	6	9	12	8	12
Sort of scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	34	34	31	31	38	NA	36	34	32	39	37	30
Not at all scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50	45	44	38	42	NA	50	47	52	35	48	49
Don't know	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	14	14	18	10	NA	8	13	6	13	7	8
Third																	
Very scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	11	8	9	9	NA	7	6	11	14	9	8
Sort of scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	30	38	35	38	NA	33	37	33	40	34	38
Not at all scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	60	55	50	54	49	NA	55	55	53	44	55	52
Don't know	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	4	3	2	4	NA	5	2	2	3	3	2
Second																	
Very scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	6	6	6	13	NA	5	5	5	9	3	9
Sort of scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	28	25	27	31	NA	25	27	30	32	27	28
Not at all scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	64	66	65	54	NA	66	67	62	57	67	61
Don't know	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	2	3	2	2	NA	4	2	3	2	2	2
Top																	
Very scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	2	2	3	NA	2	3	1	6	3	3
Sort of scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	20	18	21	21	20	NA	14	18	18	19	12	20



Characteristic	1979 (n=1,635)	1983 (n=1,615)	1985 (n=1,986)	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)	2008 (n=2,021)	2010 (n=1,434)	2012 (n=2,256)	2014 (n=2,130)	2016 (n=1,390)
Not at all scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	76	78	76	75	75	NA	82	78	79	74	84	76
Don't know	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	1	1	1	2	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1
Understanding of scientific inquiry ^b																	
Understands scientific inquiry																	
Very scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	2	5	3	5
Sort of scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	26	22	29	19	19	18	24	26	20	23
Not at all scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	70	73	66	78	75	77	73	68	76	72
Don't know	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Doesn't understand scientific inquiry																	
Very scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	9	9	12	8	5	6	11	12	7	11
Sort of scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	31	32	33	31	31	33	32	35	32	34
Not at all scientific	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	53	53	49	58	58	56	54	48	57	51
Don't know	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	7	7	6	3	5	5	4	5	4	4

* = < 0.5% responded. NA = not available; question was not asked.

^a See notes to Appendix Table 7-2 for an explanation of the trend factual knowledge of science scale.

^b See notes to Appendix Table 7-11 for an explanation of scientific inquiry. Because 41 survey respondents in 2001 were not asked all of the questions related to understanding scientific inquiry, it is not possible to conclude whether they understood scientific inquiry.

Note(s)



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 were collected. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding. For 1979 data, see *Science and Engineering Indicators 2014*, Appendix Table 7-13.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1979–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2006–16).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018