

APPENDIX TABLE 7-13 

Understanding of the term "scientific study," by respondent characteristic: 2016

(Percent)

Characteristic	Clear understanding	General understanding	Little understanding	Don't know
All adults (<i>n</i> = 1,390)	31	48	19	2
Sex				
Male (<i>n</i> = 571)	34	47	18	1
Female (<i>n</i> = 819)	29	49	19	3
Formal education				
Less than high school diploma (<i>n</i> = 169)	14	31	50	5
High school diploma (<i>n</i> = 415)	25	49	24	2
Some college (<i>n</i> = 388)	30	55	13	2
Bachelor's degree (<i>n</i> = 263)	46	49	5	0
Graduate or professional degree (<i>n</i> = 151)	48	44	7	1
Science and mathematics education ^a				
Low (<i>n</i> = 776)	23	49	26	3
Middle (<i>n</i> = 262)	35	55	10	*
High (<i>n</i> = 275)	54	42	4	0
Family income (quartile) ^b				
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 336)	23	40	33	4
Third (<i>n</i> = 281)	27	54	18	1
Second (<i>n</i> = 324)	33	50	15	1
Top (<i>n</i> = 318)	40	52	7	0
Age (years) ^b				
18–24 (<i>n</i> = 115)	36	45	17	2
25–34 (<i>n</i> = 269)	43	42	13	2
35–44 (<i>n</i> = 206)	37	43	18	3
45–54 (<i>n</i> = 223)	33	48	19	1
55–64 (<i>n</i> = 264)	24	56	19	1



Characteristic	Clear understanding	General understanding	Little understanding	Don't know
65 or older (<i>n</i> = 310)	19	54	25	3
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile) ^c				
Bottom (<i>n</i> = 250)	15	35	44	6
Third (<i>n</i> = 387)	22	54	23	1
Second (<i>n</i> = 437)	34	53	12	1
Top (<i>n</i> = 316)	51	44	4	1

* = < 0.5% responded.

^a For science and mathematics education, "low" equates to five or fewer high school and college science or mathematics courses, "middle" is six through eight courses, and "high" means nine or more courses. Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

^b Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

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

Note(s)

Responses to *When you read or hear the term scientific study, do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source(s)

NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2016).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018