



APPENDIX TABLE 7-22

Public opinion on whether the federal government should fund basic scientific research: 1985–2016

(Percent)

Opinion	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)
Strongly agree	9	16	18	14	17	22	21	19	29	32	24	23	21	25	30
Agree	70	65	63	63	61	57	61	62	53	55	60	59	62	60	54
Disagree	16	14	15	18	17	15	13	14	15	8	11	12	12	12	13
Strongly disagree	*	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1
Don't know	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	1	3	4	4	4	2	2

* = < 0.5% responded.

Note(s)

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.* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1985–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2006–16).

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