

TABLE S7-10

## Public perception of scientists: 1983, 1985, 2001, 2012, 2016, 2018

(Percent and mean)

Perception	1983 (n = 1,615)	1985 (n = 1,986)	2001 (n = 1,574)	2012 (n = 1,152)	2016 (n = 1,390)	2018 (n = 1,175)
Scientists work for the good of humanity						
Strongly agree	na	4	11	19	26	26
Agree	na	76	74	69	63	63
Disagree	na	15	9	6	8	7
Strongly disagree	na	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	na	4	4	5	2	2
Mean	na	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2
Scientists help to solve problems						
Strongly agree	na	na	17	21	28	27
Agree	na	na	79	74	66	66
Disagree	na	na	2	1	4	5
Strongly disagree	na	na	*	1	1	*
Don't know	na	na	1	3	2	1
Mean	na	na	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Scientists want to make life better for the average person						
Strongly agree	na	4	11	14	24	22
Agree	na	76	78	72	64	67
Disagree	na	15	8	8	9	8
Strongly disagree	na	1	1	1	*	1
Don't know	na	4	3	5	2	2
Mean	na	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Scientists are odd and peculiar						
Strongly agree	1	na	2	4	9	10
Agree	31	na	22	32	43	40
Disagree	59	na	63	51	37	39
Strongly disagree	4	na	8	6	7	7
Don't know	4	na	4	8	4	4
Mean	2.3	na	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.5

\* = &lt; 0.5% responded. na = not applicable; question was not asked.

**Note(s)**

Responses are to the following: *Scientific researchers are dedicated people who work for the good of humanity; Scientists are helping to solve challenging problems; Most scientists want to work on things that will make life better for the average person; and Scientists are apt to be odd and peculiar people.* Mean score is based on a 5-point scale, where 5 equals strongly agree and 1 equals strongly disagree. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

**Source(s)**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology 1983–2001; NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2012–18).

*Science and Engineering Indicators*