

TABLE S7-12

Public opinion on whether the federal government should fund basic scientific research: 1985–2018

(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)	2018 (n = 1,175)
Strongly agree	9	16	18	14	17	22	21	19	29	32	24	23	21	25	30	29
Agree	70	65	63	63	61	57	61	62	53	55	60	59	62	60	54	55
Disagree	16	14	15	18	17	15	13	14	15	8	11	12	12	12	13	11
Strongly disagree	*	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
Don't know	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	1	3	4	4	4	2	2	3

* = < 0.5% responded.

Note(s)

Responses are to the following: *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. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or 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 (1985–2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2006–18).

Science and Engineering Indicators