TABLE S7-30

Self-reported understanding of the term "scientific study," by respondent characteristic: 2018

(Percent)

Characteristic	Clear understanding	General sense	Little understanding	Don't know
All adults (*n* = 1,175)	27	51	20	1
Sex				
Male (*n* = 485)	29	47	23	1
Female (*n* = 690)	26	54	18	1
Formal education				
Less than high school diploma (*n* = 137)	7	36	49	7
High school diploma (*n* = 362)	15	55	29	1
Some college (*n* = 330)	32	57	12	0
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 232)	40	51	8	1
Graduate or professional degree (*n* = 114)	54	41	5	0
Science and mathematics education[a,b]				
Low (*n* = 598)	15	54	29	2
Middle (*n* = 237)	37	53	10	*
High (*n* = 252)	51	45	3	0
Family income (quartile)[b]				
Bottom (*n* = 277)	21	46	33	1
Third (*n* = 223)	25	51	23	*
Second (*n* = 290)	29	57	14	*
Top (*n* = 287)	34	53	13	*
Age (years)[b]				
18–24 (*n* = 94)	30	60	10	0
25–34 (*n* = 225)	29	50	21	0
35–44 (*n* = 206)	34	44	20	1
45–54 (*n* = 190)	23	57	18	1
55–64 (*n* = 186)	28	48	22	2
65 or older (*n* = 269)	20	50	26	4
Correct answers to questions about basic scientific facts[c]				
Low (*n* = 227)	10	43	42	6
Middle (*n* = 512)	21	57	22	1
High (*n* = 436)	44	48	8	0

* = < 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.

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

[c] See notes to Table S7-1 for an explanation of the questions asked about basic scientific facts.

Note(s)
Responses are to the following: *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 (2018).

Science and Engineering Indicators