TABLE S7-34

Public interest in selected issues, by respondent characteristic: 2018

(Percent)

Characteristic	New medical discoveries			Local school issues			Environmental pollution			New scientific discoveries			Economic issues/ business conditions			Use of new inventions/ technologies			Military/ defense policy			Space exploration			International/ foreign policy issues			Agricultural/ farm issues		
	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested
All adults (*n* = 1,175)	56	39	5	50	38	12	45	44	11	41	44	15	41	44	15	40	47	13	32	50	18	25	44	30	22	46	31	20	50	30
Sex																														
Male (*n* = 485)	52	43	6	44	39	17	45	43	11	45	41	14	46	41	13	48	41	10	36	49	16	31	42	26	29	48	23	22	52	26
Female (*n* = 690)	59	37	4	55	36	8	44	45	11	38	46	16	37	46	17	33	52	15	29	50	20	21	46	33	18	45	37	18	49	32
Formal education																														
Less than high school diploma (*n* = 137)	52	37	11	50	34	16	42	39	19	27	39	33	29	41	30	23	47	30	35	36	28	21	33	47	8	39	53	25	41	34
High school diploma (*n* = 362)	52	43	5	47	41	12	43	45	12	34	42	23	35	48	17	37	47	16	34	50	16	23	41	36	15	48	37	22	47	31
Some college (*n* = 330)	59	38	3	54	33	13	41	49	10	43	48	9	43	43	14	41	48	11	33	51	16	27	47	26	22	47	31	20	54	26
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 232)	57	39	3	51	42	7	50	41	8	49	46	5	45	46	9	43	52	5	26	54	20	27	50	23	31	49	20	14	57	30
Graduate or professional degree (*n* = 114)	61	36	2	51	39	10	51	45	4	56	39	5	59	36	5	61	34	5	32	53	15	30	51	19	49	44	7	15	52	33
Science and mathematics education[a,b]																														
Low (*n* = 598)	54	41	5	51	35	13	43	45	13	35	45	20	37	44	19	33	50	17	37	47	16	24	41	35	18	44	38	24	49	28
Middle (*n* = 237)	57	40	3	55	36	9	49	41	10	44	46	10	43	45	12	41	48	11	29	50	21	23	49	27	21	48	30	17	51	33
High (*n* = 252)	61	36	3	44	43	13	47	46	7	55	41	4	46	46	8	55	41	4	28	55	17	30	51	19	37	50	14	14	54	32
Family income (quartile)[b]																														
Bottom (*n* = 277)	58	35	8	42	42	16	48	39	13	39	43	18	31	45	23	41	42	17	33	44	23	32	35	32	22	36	42	23	44	32
Third (*n* = 223)	55	40	5	55	37	8	49	40	11	42	41	17	35	52	13	36	48	16	35	52	14	26	48	26	13	53	34	25	51	25

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(Percent)

Characteristic	New medical discoveries			Local school issues			Environmental pollution			New scientific discoveries			Economic issues/ business conditions			Use of new inventions/ technologies			Military/ defense policy			Space exploration			International/ foreign policy issues			Agricultural/ farm issues		
	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Not at all interested
Second (*n* = 290)	57	39	4	55	35	10	41	49	10	40	46	14	39	48	12	37	54	9	31	53	16	25	44	31	21	48	31	17	53	30
Top (*n* = 287)	53	45	2	54	36	10	43	48	8	45	47	9	52	39	9	44	49	7	30	52	18	22	52	25	30	50	19	17	53	30
Age (years)[b]																														
18–24 (*n* = 94)	50	45	5	38	53	9	41	52	7	40	40	20	30	58	12	39	45	15	26	56	18	31	44	25	16	54	30	8	47	45
25–34 (*n* = 225)	56	39	5	54	39	7	45	42	13	41	41	19	35	42	23	46	41	12	26	48	26	29	34	38	18	42	40	21	48	30
35–44 (*n* = 206)	50	44	6	67	25	9	42	44	14	46	38	16	50	38	12	38	49	12	36	42	22	24	45	31	24	46	30	26	46	28
45–54 (*n* = 190)	50	47	3	59	30	11	42	49	8	33	58	8	41	49	10	36	56	8	28	57	15	23	46	31	15	53	32	17	54	29
55–64 (*n* = 186)	60	35	6	44	39	17	44	44	12	41	45	14	44	42	14	43	42	15	29	55	16	26	46	27	24	48	29	22	52	26
65 or older (*n* = 269)	68	28	4	36	45	19	51	39	10	42	41	17	40	42	18	35	48	17	43	44	12	22	51	27	35	39	26	20	52	29
Correct answers to questions about basic scientific facts[c]																														
Low (*n* = 227)	52	38	10	56	31	13	37	43	19	27	42	30	39	38	22	29	47	23	30	47	23	17	35	48	14	43	44	21	44	35
Middle (*n* = 512)	58	39	3	53	38	10	44	46	10	36	47	16	39	46	15	35	52	13	34	48	18	21	46	32	16	45	39	21	50	29
High (*n* = 436)	56	40	4	45	41	14	49	43	8	52	41	7	43	44	12	51	41	8	30	53	17	34	46	20	34	50	16	18	54	29

[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: *There are a lot of issues in the news, and it is hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a short list of issues, and for each one, I'd like you to tell me if you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested.* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding and because responses of "don't know" and refusals to respond are not shown.

Source(s)

NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2018).

Science and Engineering Indicators