

Table SPSS-6

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

(Standard error)

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 or agree	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Strongly disagree or disagree	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
Don't know	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6

*n* = number of survey responses.**Note(s):**

Table displays data for years when the question was proffered. 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?*

**Source(s):**

Data are sourced from multiple surveys that used either identical or similar survey items. 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 (2006–18).

*Science and Engineering Indicators*