APPENDIX TABLE 7-32 ⊞

Public assessment of the danger of river, lake, and stream pollution to the environment, by respondent characteristic: 1993, 1994, 2000, 2010, 2016

(Percent)

Characteristic	1993				1994				2000				2010				2016			
	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know
All adults (*n* = 1,557; 1,386; 1,276; 1,430; 911)	66	27	4	3	61	29	5	5	66	23	5	7	69	24	4	2	79	17	3	1
Sex																				
Male (*n* = 663; 617; 560; 607; 399)	64	28	5	3	58	31	6	4	67	22	5	6	68	25	5	1	78	18	3	1
Female (*n* = 894; 769; 716; 823; 512)	68	25	3	4	63	27	4	6	65	24	4	7	70	23	4	3	79	16	3	2
Formal education[a]																				
Less than high school diploma (*n* = 283; 225; 216; 220; 112)	57	29	5	9	50	30	9	10	61	21	7	11	62	24	9	5	65	25	7	3
High school diploma (*n* = 496; 466; 397; 412; 260)	65	30	3	2	58	31	6	5	67	22	3	7	71	22	6	2	79	17	2	2

Characteristic	1993				1994				2000				2010				2016			
	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know
Some college (*n* = 410; 346; 354; 390; 258)	70	22	5	2	66	28	3	4	65	23	5	7	70	25	3	3	81	16	3	*
Bachelor's degree (*n* = 249; 242; 213; 266; 175)	69	25	3	3	63	30	3	4	70	27	2	2	70	26	3	1	79	17	2	1
Graduate or professional degree (*n* = 114; 102; 89; 139; 104)	66	30	2	2	73	20	4	3	66	26	6	1	69	27	3	1	85	11	3	1
Science and mathematics education[b]																				
Low (*n* = NA; NA; NA; 116; 500)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	24	8	1	77	18	3	2
Middle (*n* = NA; NA; NA; 52; 180)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65	29	2	5	84	14	2	1
High (*n* = NA; NA; NA; 54; 179)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	28	5	0	82	14	4	0
Family income (quartile)[a]																				
Bottom (*n* = NA; NA; NA; NA; 212)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	73	21	5	2

Characteristic	1993				1994				2000				2010				2016			
	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know
Third (n = NA; NA; NA; NA; 184)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	79	18	2	1
Second (n = NA; NA; NA; NA; 222)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	14	2	1
Top (n = NA; NA; NA; NA; 211)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	80	16	4	*
Age (years)[a]																				
18–24 (n = 132; 97; 113; 137; 59)	78	17	4	2	67	25	5	3	66	25	4	5	70	20	7	3	83	15	1	1
25–34 (n = 325; 330; 256; 246; 160)	71	25	3	1	70	23	3	4	67	22	6	5	69	24	4	3	86	11	2	2
35–44 (n = 383; 305; 297; 263; 135)	67	28	2	3	63	27	4	5	66	24	4	6	70	24	3	2	80	16	4	0
45–54 (n = 251; 261; 245; 260; 158)	65	27	4	4	56	33	5	5	66	22	6	6	69	28	2	1	73	21	4	2
55–64 (n = 171; 158; 144; 234; 168)	64	27	6	3	51	38	6	5	67	24	3	6	70	26	3	1	80	17	2	2
65 or older (n = 291; 233; 220; 287; 228)	53	33	6	8	51	34	8	7	60	24	3	13	65	23	8	4	75	20	4	2

Characteristic	1993				1994				2000				2010				2016			
	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know	Extremely or very dangerous	Somewhat dangerous	Not very or not dangerous	Don't know
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)[c]																				
Bottom (n = NA; NA; NA; 60; 168)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	61	23	8	7	67	22	5	6
Third (n = NA; NA; NA; 91; 241)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	18	8	1	79	18	3	*
Second (n = NA; NA; NA; 103; 296)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	66	28	5	1	82	16	2	1
Top (n = NA; NA; NA; 73; 206)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	27	4	1	84	14	3	0

* = < 0.5% responded. NA = not available; question was not asked.

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

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

[c] See notes to Appendix Table 7-2 for an explanation of the trend factual knowledge of science scale.

Note(s)

Responses to the question *In general, do you think that pollution of America's rivers, lakes, and streams is...[1 Extremely dangerous], [2 Very dangerous], [3 Somewhat dangerous], [4 Not very dangerous], [5 Not dangerous], [8 Don't know]*. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (1993–94); NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2000–16).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2018