

Space Program: Results of Poll of AAAS Members

A questionnaire prepared and sent by Science to 2000 randomly selected members of the AAAS has produced returns that indicate substantial disagreement with the aims and priorities of the national space program. The questionnaire drew 1134 returns within 3 weeks of mailing, including 548 on which the Ph.D. was listed as the highest degree held. A total of 139 respondents answered "yes" to the question: "Do you receive support directly or indirectly from the federal government in connection with space activities?"

The questions and results are tabulated below according to percentage of total responses ("Total"), percentage of responses by Ph.D. holders ("Ph.D."), and percentage of responses by those who indicated a connection with space activities ("Space"). All percentages have been rounded off.

1) The vital national interests of the United States require that a high priority be given to landing a man on the moon by 1970.

	Total	Ph.D.	Space
Yes	31%	29%	42%
No	62	64	53
No opinion	6	6	4
Other	<1/4	<1/4	0
No answer	1	1	1

2) A reasonable objective would be a lunar landing by:

	Total	Ph.D.	Space
1970	20%	16%	28%
1975	23	23	33
1980	19	20	14
1990	9	10	6
Never	7	8	4
No opinion	17	20	13
Other	1	1	0
No answer	2	1	1

3) In your opinion the most important justification for manned exploration of the moon is:

	Total	Ph.D.	Space
Military	7%	6%	10%
Scientific	58	55	45
Resources on moon	1	1	0
National prestige	13	15	15
Technological fallout	6	6	12
Spirit of adventure	7	8	9
Public works project	2	3	3
None	4	3	2
No opinion	1	1	1
Other	<1/2	<1/2	0
No answer	1	1	3

4) Rank the following fields in order of their potentiality for producing new knowledge:

	Total		
	1st	2nd	3rd
Earth-based astronomy	2%	4%	5%
Manned lunar research	10	6	9
Biomedical research	51	21	15
Oceanography	6	20	12
Physics research	15	22	29
Chemical research	9	25	28
Other	7	2	3

5) What fraction of the total federal \$15 billion research and development funds should be devoted to the space program?

	Total	Ph.D.	Space
0-10%	30%	36%	23%
10-20%	31	30	27
20-30%	14	13	27
30-40%	5	5	9
>40%	2	1	4
No opinion	17	13	9
No answer	2	1	1

6) Do you receive support directly or indirectly from the federal government in connection with space activities?

	Total	Ph.D.
Yes	12%	11%
No	86	89
No answer	1	<1/2

7) What is your highest degree?

	Total	Space
Ph.D.	48%	42%
M.D.	10	1
Master's	19	22
Bachelor's	17	30
None	3	3
Other	2	1
No answer	1	1