

Appendix table 7-7

## Public assessment of Federal Government spending in selected policy areas: 1981–2002

Policy area	1981	1983	1985	1988	1990	1992	1997	1999	2001	2002
	Percent									
Exploring space										
Too little.....	18	17	9	17	9	12	14	15	11	12
Too much.....	43	39	45	42	52	50	45	46	48	38
Reducing pollution										
Too little.....	52	54	69	76	76	72	65	65	63	60
Too much.....	14	11	6	4	5	7	8	7	6	7
Improving health care										
Too little.....	61	—	68	68	75	79	68	71	70	75
Too much.....	6	—	3	2	3	5	7	5	4	4
Supporting scientific research										
Too little.....	31	—	29	34	30	34	34	37	36	36
Too much.....	18	—	18	15	16	19	14	14	14	14
Improving education										
Too little.....	62	71	73	76	77	81	76	75	76	74
Too much.....	6	5	3	4	4	4	6	6	5	5
Helping older people										
Too little.....	73	—	72	76	75	73	66	71	73	—
Too much.....	3	—	3	2	2	4	5	4	3	—
Improving national defense <sup>a</sup>										
Too little.....	33	19	11	11	15	15	23	31	29	31
Too much.....	26	47	50	53	40	40	32	25	25	22
Helping low-income people										
Too little.....	45	—	54	55	57	56	44	49	53	—
Too much.....	24	—	13	12	15	17	23	19	15	—
	Number									
Sample size.....	1,659	1,631	2,005	2,041	2,033	2,001	2,000	1,882	1,574	912

— not asked

<sup>a</sup>Only 1,013 responses in 1988 because question was asked on a split ballot.

NOTES: Responses are to the following statement: *We are faced with many problems in this country. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one, I'd like you to tell me if you think that the Government is spending too little money on it, about the right amount, or too much.* Percents do not sum to 100 because "about the right amount" and "do not know" responses are not shown.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years, 1981–2001; and University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey, 2002.

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