



Ipsos/USA Today poll among ages 13-24

Crime or gun violence is the top concern among young people; only two-thirds of students feel safe at school

Washington, DC, March 22, 2018 — A recent Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of USA Today finds that some young Americans are increasingly worried about their safety; one in five high school students and 17% of middle school students report not feeling safe at their school. Crime or gun violence is the top issue concern (43%) among this age group, driven by ages 13-17 (53% select crime or gun violence as a top issue concern). The data indicates parents are also feeling concerned about gun violence in schools, as a vast majority (80%) of those ages 13-17 report having had a serious talk with a parent or guardian about dealing with a gun at school.

When it comes to gun control and ways to prevent school shootings, a strong majority favor requiring schools to have active shooter drills to prepare students and faculty for a mass shooting (82%), banning people who have been treated for mental illness from owning a firearm (75%), and requiring schools to have an armed police officers on site (71%). A plurality of young people oppose teachers being trained and armed with guns and schools (29% support). Despite strong support for some policies aimed to curb gun violence, just half think that tightening gun control laws and background checks will prevent more mass shootings in the U.S.

Young people in this age group are organizing and becoming more politically involved. More than one third (35%) plan to participate in upcoming protests about gun violence and gun control (either in person or via social media). They are also sympathetic to social movements that aim to change the status quo: 43% have favorable views of the #MeToo movement (14% unfavorable), and 40% feel positive toward the March for Our Lives movement (11% unfavorable).

Young people are less confident about political institutions: 59% report that traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like them, and two-thirds (68%) believe that the American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and the powerful. The U.S. Congress holds a 2:1 negative rating, and young people have particularly negative perceptions of the Republican leaders who currently hold power on Capitol Hill. Sixty percent have unfavorable views of President Trump, and 41% have an unfavorable view of the Republican Party (compared to 33% who view the Democratic Party unfavorably).

This discontent with American institutions, the economy, and the nation's leaders has translated into a learned helplessness of the younger generation: While 86% of those in middle school or high school say they plan to go to college, nearly two-thirds (62%) are not sure that they can afford to go to college. Half (50%) of those under age 24 believe that their generation will be worse off than their parents, and one in five (19%) believe that the American Dream is not obtainable for their generation.

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1. What level of school, if any, are you currently in? (Select one)

	Total n = 1,112	Ages 13 to 17 n = 605	Ages 18 to 24 n = 507
7 th Grade	6%	11%	-
8 th Grade	10	18	-
9 th Grade	11	20	-
10 th Grade	13	24	-
11 th Grade	10	18	*
12 th Grade	7	10	5
Undergraduate college	19	-	43
Graduate program	3	-	6
Not in school	21	-	46
Middle school (Net)	16%	29%	-
High school (Net)	41	71	5
College (Net)	22	-	49
In school (Net)	79%	100%	54%
Not in school (Net)	21	-	46

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2. Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying? (Select up to three)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Crime or gun violence	43%	53%	32%
Terrorism	29	32	26
Racism or racial inequality	28	27	29
College affordability	27	32	20
Climate change or natural disasters	17	14	21
Education quality	14	16	13
Healthcare	14	9	20
Government taxes, budget, and debt	13	7	20
Digital security, hacking, or cyber bullying	13	17	8
Foreign or nuclear conflict	12	10	14
Unemployment	12	6	19
Immigration	9	9	9
Net neutrality	9	5	13
Social or income inequality	8	5	12
Political extremism or polarization	7	4	11
Other	1	1	1
None of these	6	6	5

3. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following:

Agree (Net)	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful	68%	67%	69%
My parents or guardians have had a serious talk with me about dealing with a gun at school	67	80	38
I feel safe at my school	61	63	57
I trust the administrators and educators at my school to keep me safe	59	60	57
Traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like me	59	62	56
Women have the same opportunities as men in the U.S.	47	48	46
People of color have the same opportunities as white people in the U.S.	45	49	41
To fix America, we need a strong leader willing to break the rules	43	45	40

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a. I feel safe at my school (Base: In school)

	Total n = 874	Ages 13 to 17 n = 605	Ages 18 to 24 N = 269
Strongly agree	24%	26%	20%
Somewhat agree	37	37	37
Neither agree nor disagree	20	18	22
Somewhat disagree	14	13	15
Strongly disagree	5	5	4
Don't know	1	1	1
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	61%	63%	57%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	19	18	20

b. I trust the administrators and educators at my school to keep me safe (Base: In school)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	20%	20%	18%
Somewhat agree	40	40	39
Neither agree nor disagree	20	20	20
Somewhat disagree	13	12	14
Strongly disagree	7	6	8
Don't know	1	1	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	59%	60%	57%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	20	19	22

c. My parents or guardians have had a serious talk with me about dealing with a gun at school (Base: In school)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	42%	53%	17%
Somewhat agree	25	26	21
Neither agree nor disagree	12	8	21
Somewhat disagree	9	7	14
Strongly disagree	11	4	25
Don't know	1	*	3
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	67%	80%	38%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	20	11	38

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d. Women have the same opportunities as men in the U.S. (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	22%	21%	23%
Somewhat agree	25	27	23
Neither agree nor disagree	13	16	10
Somewhat disagree	27	26	27
Strongly disagree	12	8	16
Don't know	1	2	1
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	47%	48%	46%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	38	35	43

e. People of color have the same opportunities as white people in the U.S. (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	22%	24%	20%
Somewhat agree	23	24	21
Neither agree nor disagree	12	12	12
Somewhat disagree	23	24	22
Strongly disagree	18	14	24
Don't know	1	2	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	45%	49%	41%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	41	38	46

f. The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	36%	33%	39%
Somewhat agree	32	34	30
Neither agree nor disagree	18	18	17
Somewhat disagree	8	7	9
Strongly disagree	4	4	3
Don't know	3	4	2
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	68%	67%	69%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	11	11	12

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g. Traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like me (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	24%	25%	24%
Somewhat agree	35	37	32
Neither agree nor disagree	23	22	23
Somewhat disagree	10	9	12
Strongly disagree	3	3	4
Don't know	4	5	4
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	59%	62%	56%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	14	11	16

h. To fix America, we need a strong leader willing to break the rules (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	18%	20%	15%
Somewhat agree	25	25	25
Neither agree nor disagree	24	22	27
Somewhat disagree	15	14	16
Strongly disagree	14	14	14
Don't know	3	4	3
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	43%	45%	40%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	29	29	30

4. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following:

Agree (Net)	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
I plan to go to college	86%	86%	85%
Higher education makes it easier to have a good career	79	84	74
I am not sure that I can afford college	62	62	53
The American Dream is still obtainable for my generation	61	66	55
My generation will be worse off than my parents	50	46	56

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a. I plan to go to college (Base: In middle or high school)

	Ages 13 to 17 n = 605
Strongly agree	66%
Somewhat agree	20
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	1
Don't know	1
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	86%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	5

b. Higher education makes it easier to have a good career (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	45%	48%	41%
Somewhat agree	34	36	33
Neither agree nor disagree	11	9	12
Somewhat disagree	7	6	10
Strongly disagree	2	1	4
Don't know	*	1	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	79%	84%	74%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	10	6	14

c. My generation will be worse off than my parents (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	23%	17%	31%
Somewhat agree	27	29	25
Neither agree nor disagree	26	27	24
Somewhat disagree	15	17	13
Strongly disagree	6	7	5
Don't know	3	4	2
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	50%	46%	56%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	21	23	18

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d. The American Dream is still obtainable for my generation (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strongly agree	22%	24%	20%
Somewhat agree	39	42	35
Neither agree nor disagree	18	17	18
Somewhat disagree	12	10	15
Strongly disagree	7	5	10
Don't know	2	2	2
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	61%	66%	55%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	19	15	25

e. I am not sure that I can afford college (Base: In middle or high school)

	Ages 13 to 17
Strongly agree	30%
Somewhat agree	33
Neither agree nor disagree	19
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	6
Don't know	2
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	62%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	17

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5. When thinking about your desired career, which is more important to you?

Having a stable and dependable income
 Having flexibility and the ability to take risks

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Agree with "Having a stable and dependable income" much more	46%	45%	48%
Agree with "Having a stable and dependable income" somewhat more	31	33	28
Agree with "Having flexibility and the ability to take risks" somewhat more	13	12	14
Agree with "Having flexibility and the ability to take risks" much more	4	2	6
Don't know	6	8	4
<i>Agree with "Having a stable and dependable income" (Net)</i>	77%	78%	76%
<i>Disagree with "Having flexibility and the ability to take risks" (Net)</i>	17	14	20

6. Please answer each of the following

Yes	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Should schools be required to have active shooter drills to prepare students and faculty for a mass shooting?	82%	82%	82%
Should people who have been treated for mental illness be banned from owning a firearm?	75	78	71
Should schools be required to have an armed police officer on site?	71	72	69
Should schools be required to have metal detectors at points of entry?	61	68	53
Should semi-automatic weapons like the AR-15 be banned in the United States?	54	63	44
Should teachers be trained to use and armed with guns at schools?	29	31	27
Do you think that tightening gun control laws and background checks will prevent more mass shootings in the United States?	50	47	54

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- a. Do you think that tightening gun control laws and background checks will prevent more mass shootings in the United States?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	50%	47%	54%
No	35	37	33
Undecided	14	16	12
Refused	*	*	1

- b. Should semi-automatic weapons like the AR-15 be banned in the United States?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	54%	63%	44%
No	26	20	34
Undecided	19	17	20
Refused	1	*	2

- c. Should people who have been treated for mental illness be banned from owning a firearm?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	75%	78%	71%
No	8	7	8
Undecided	17	15	20
Refused	1	-	1

- d. Should schools be required to have an armed police officer on site?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	71%	72%	69%
No	13	11	15
Undecided	16	17	16
Refused	*	*	1

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e. Should schools be required to have metal detectors at points of entry?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	61%	68%	53%
No	17	13	22
Undecided	22	19	25
Refused	*	*	1

f. Should teachers be trained to use and armed with guns at schools?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	29%	31%	27%
No	47	44	50
Undecided	23	24	21
Refused	1	1	1

g. Should schools be required to have active shooter drills to prepare students and faculty for a mass shooting?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	82%	82%	82%
No	8	7	9
Undecided	9	11	8
Refused	*	-	1

7. How likely or not do you think each of the following are? (Select one for each)

Likely (Net)	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
I will experience sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination	41%	38%	44%
I will experience racial-based discrimination	38	35	40
I will experience sexual orientation or gender identification-based discrimination	28	25	32
A classmate of mine will bring a gun to school	25	25	23
There will be a shooting at my school	15	14	19

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a. There will be a shooting at my school (Base: In school)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Very likely	2%	2%	3%
Somewhat likely	13	12	16
Not very likely	42	44	40
Not at all likely	24	24	26
Don't know	18	19	15
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	15%	14%	19%
<i>Unlikely (Net)</i>	67	67	66

b. A classmate of mine will bring a gun to school (Base: In school)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Very likely	5%	5%	6%
Somewhat likely	19	20	17
Not very likely	37	36	38
Not at all likely	21	18	26
Don't know	18	20	13
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	25%	25%	23%
<i>Unlikely (Net)</i>	58	55	64

c. I will experience sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Very likely	17%	13%	21%
Somewhat likely	24	25	23
Not very likely	27	29	26
Not at all likely	23	21	25
Don't know	9	12	5
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	41%	38%	44%
<i>Unlikely (Net)</i>	50	50	51

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d. I will experience racial-based discrimination (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Very likely	16%	13%	19%
Somewhat likely	22	22	21
Not very likely	26	28	25
Not at all likely	28	27	30
Don't know	8	10	6
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	38%	35%	40%
<i>Unlikely (Net)</i>	55	55	54

e. I will experience sexual orientation or gender identification-based discrimination (Base: All)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Very likely	11%	7%	15%
Somewhat likely	18	17	18
Not very likely	29	30	27
Not at all likely	33	33	33
Don't know	10	12	7
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	28%	25%	32%
<i>Unlikely (Net)</i>	62	63	61

8. Recently, there have been news reports about sexual harassment. Do you think sexual harassment in the workplace is a problem or not? (Select one)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes, it's a problem	69%	62%	77%
Not a problem	9	9	9
Undecided	22	28	15
Refused	*	*	*

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9. For each of the following individuals and organizations, is your opinion of them generally favorable or generally unfavorable or have you never heard of them? (Select one for each)

	Favorable	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
The #MeToo movement	43%	43%	43%	44%
The March for Our Lives movement	40	40	39	41
Feminists	39	39	37	41
Democratic Party	38	38	37	39
National Rifle Association (NRA)	30	30	30	30
Republican Party	29	29	31	27
The news media	29	29	33	25
US Congress	21	21	20	23
Donald Trump	25	25	30	19

- a. Donald Trump

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	1%	-	3%
Favorable	25	30	19
Unfavorable	60	57	63
Undecided	14	13	14

- b. Republican Party

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	3%	3%	4%
Favorable	29	31	27
Unfavorable	41	40	43
Undecided	26	27	26

- c. Democratic Party

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	3%	3%	3%
Favorable	38	37	39
Unfavorable	33	34	32
Undecided	26	27	26

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d. US Congress

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	2%	1%	2%
Favorable	21	20	23
Unfavorable	43	43	44
Undecided	33	35	31

e. The news media

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	2%	1%	4%
Favorable	29	33	25
Unfavorable	45	42	49
Undecided	23	24	22

f. The #MeToo movement

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	21%	20%	23%
Favorable	43	43	44
Unfavorable	14	14	14
Undecided	21	23	19

g. National Rifle Association (NRA)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	8%	6%	10%
Favorable	30	30	30
Unfavorable	39	39	40
Undecided	23	25	20

h. The March for Our Lives movement

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	30%	26%	34%
Favorable	40	39	41
Unfavorable	11	11	10
Undecided	20	24	16

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Press Release – continued –

i. Feminists

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Never heard	5%	6%	4%
Favorable	39	37	41
Unfavorable	30	27	34
Undecided	26	30	21

10. When you think about abortion, which of the following is closest to your view?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Abortion should remain legal in the US in all cases	29%	25%	35%
Abortion should remain legal in the US in most cases	33	34	31
Abortion should be illegal in most cases	25	27	22
Abortion should be illegal in all cases	13	14	12
Abortion remain legal (Net)	62%	59%	66%
Abortion be illegal (Net)	38	41	34

11. Do you plan to participate in upcoming protests about gun violence and gun control? (Select all that apply)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
In person	18%	21%	14%
Via social media	24	22	27
No	65	65	66

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12. What TV news or commentary source do you trust the most? (Select one)

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Fox News	15%	15%	16%
CNN	15	15	16
ABC	6	6	6
CBS	5	5	5
NBC	5	6	4
PBS / NPR	4	4	4
Comedy Central	3	1	5
MSNBC	2	3	1
C-SPAN	1	*	1
Undecided	42	43	41

13. How would you describe your own political viewpoints?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Very liberal	8%	7%	10%
Liberal	18	19	17
Moderate	44	46	42
Conservative	16	16	16
Very Conservative	8	8	8
Other	6	5	7
<i>Liberal (Net)</i>	26	25	27
<i>Conservative (Net)</i>	24	24	23

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14. With which political party do you most identify?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Strong Democrat	13%	14%	12%
Moderate Democrat	14	15	14
Lean Democrat	9	9	10
Lean Republican	8	9	6
Moderate Republican	12	12	12
Strong Republican	9	12	6
Independent	19	19	18
Other	3	3	2
Don't know/Refuse	13	7	21
<i>Democrat (Net)</i>	37%	38%	35%
<i>Republican (Net)</i>	29	33	24
<i>Independent</i>	19	19	18

15. Are any members of your household gun owners?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Yes	35%	37%	32%
No	61	59	63
Undecided	2	1	3
Refused	3	3	2

16. How would you describe the area in which you live?

	Total	Ages 13 to 17	Ages 18 to 24
Rural	21%	24%	17%
Suburban	50	48	52
Urban	29	28	31

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted March 13-20, 2018, on behalf of USA Today. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,112 young people from ages 13 to 24 from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 605 people ages 13 to 17 and 507 18 to 24 years old.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online nonprobability sampling polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,112, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=4.9).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 4.5 percentage points for those ages 13 to 17 and, plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for those over 18 years old.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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About Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research practice made up of seasoned professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research.

Ipsos has media partnerships with the most prestigious news organizations around the world. In Canada, the U.S., UK, and internationally, Ipsos Public Affairs is the media polling supplier to Reuters News, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. Ipsos Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, a leading global survey-based market research company. We provide boutique-style customer service and work closely with our clients, while also undertaking global research.

About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

GAME CHANGERS

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.

We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.

We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

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