

# The Washington Post



This Washington Post-Ipsos poll was conducted online May 7-June 15, 2021, among a random national sample of 1,349 teens between 14 and 18 years old and 1,284 of their parents or guardians. The sample was primarily drawn through Ipsos's KnowledgePanel and the YouthPulse panel, with additional interviews with Asian teens and parents conducted through the SSRS Probability Panel. All three sample sources are ongoing survey panels recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Results among teens have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points; the error margin among parents and guardians is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling, field work and data processing were conducted by Ipsos of Washington, D.C.

(Full methodological details at the end of this document.)

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) When you think about the future of the United States, do you feel

	Confident that the country's best years are still ahead of us	Concerned that America's best years might already be behind us	No opinion
6/15/21	43	56	1
8/8/05*	54	41	4

\*Post/KFF/Harvard

2. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS) Which of these statements best describes your opinion about the U.S.?

	The U.S. stands above all other countries in the world	The U.S. is one of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others	There are other countries that are better than the U.S.	No opinion
6/15/21 TEENS	23	52	24	1
6/15/21 PARENTS	25	59	15	1

Compare to U.S. adults:

Which of these statements best describes your opinion about the United States?

	The U.S. stands above all other countries in the world	The U.S. is one of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others	There are other countries that are better than the U.S.	No opinion
9/15/19*	24	55	21	1

\*Pew Research Center

3. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Generally speaking, do you think now is a (good) time or a (bad) time to be growing up?

(AMONG PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Generally speaking, do you think NOW is a (good) time or a (bad) time for teenagers to be growing up?

	Good time	Bad time	No opinion
6/15/21 TEENS	48	51	*
6/15/21 PARENTS	37	62	*
8/8/05*	63	31	6

\*Post/KFF/Harvard teens 14-18

4. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) How likely is it that someday you will be...?

Summary table - 6/15/21

	----- Likely -----			----- Not likely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Rich	51	10	41	49	38	10	*
b. Famous	19	4	15	81	50	31	*

Compare to:

How likely is it that you will be [ITEM] someday?

Summary table - 8/8/05\*

	----- Likely -----			----- Not likely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Rich	63	15	48	35	27	8	2
b. Famous	31	9	21	69	4	25	*

\*Post/KFF/Harvard teens 14-18

5. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Regardless of whether you get rich, how likely is it that you will achieve a good standard of living as an adult?

	----- Likely -----			----- Less likely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
6/15/21	90	40	51	9	8	1	*

6. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Compared to your parents' generation, do you think, in general, your opportunities to succeed in life are...

	Better than theirs	Worse than theirs	About the same as theirs	No opinion
6/15/21	46	16	37	*

Compare to U.S. adults:

Compared to your parents' generation, do you think, in general, your opportunities to succeed in life are better than theirs, worse than theirs, or about the same as theirs?

	Better than theirs	Worse than theirs	About the same as theirs	No opinion
6/2/20*	47	24	28	1

\*CBS News

7. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Below is a list of some things that different people value in their lives. Some people say these things are very important to them. Other people say they are not so important. Please indicate how important each of these is to you personally:

Summary table - 6/15/21

	---- Important ----			----- Not important -----			No op.
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Being successful in a career	93	52	41	7	6	1	*
b. Having enough free time to do things you want to do	95	51	44	5	4	1	*
c. Having a family of your own	80	42	38	20	16	4	*
d. Having lots of close friends	66	24	43	33	29	4	*
e. Living a religious life	54	26	28	46	25	21	*
f. Being rich	47	10	37	53	43	10	*
g. Making a difference in the world	76	30	46	24	20	4	*
h. Being involved in your community	67	17	50	33	28	4	*
i. Running as a candidate for public office	10	3	8	89	38	52	*
j. Graduating from college	82	48	34	18	14	4	*

8. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS) These days, would you say that getting a four-year college degree is worth the cost, or not?

	----- Worth the cost -----			----- Not worth the cost -----			
	NET	Definitely	Probably	NET	Prob. not	Def. not	No op.
6/15/21 TEENS	58	18	40	42	32	10	*
6/15/21 PARENTS	59	21	38	40	29	11	*

Compare to U.S. adults:

These days, would you say that getting a four-year college degree is worth the cost, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/2/18*	58	36	6

\*APM Research Lab

9. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) How big of a threat are each of the following to your generation?

Summary table - 6/15/21

	A major threat	A minor threat	Not a threat	No opinion
a. Climate change	49	31	20	1
b. Racial discrimination	57	28	14	1
c. Lack of career opportunities	34	46	20	*
d. Terrorism	53	40	7	1
e. Immigration	30	38	32	1
f. Cost of health care	57	33	9	1
g. Gun violence	57	27	15	1
h. Political divisions	59	33	8	1
i. Access to education	28	40	31	1

Questions 10-12 held for release.

13. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Overall, what kind of impact has the coronavirus pandemic had on your...

Summary table - 6/15/21

	Negative impact	Positive impact	No impact	No opinion
a. Relationships with your parents	11	37	52	*
b. Mental health	45	10	45	*
c. Academics	49	18	33	*
d. Relationships with friends	40	18	41	*

Compare to U.S. adults:

Overall, has the coronavirus pandemic had a major negative impact, a minor negative impact, a positive impact, or no impact on [ITEM]?

Summary table - 9/14/20

	NET	---- Negative Major	----- Minor	Positive impact	No impact	No opinion
a. Your children's education*	77	55	23	6	16	1
b. Your relationships with family members	49	20	29	9	41	1
c. Your mental health	63	22	41	4	33	1

\*KFF/The Undeclared, "Your children's education" only among parents

14. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Right now, do you feel closer to the (Republican Party) or the (Democratic Party), or neither?

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	Neither	No opinion
6/15/21	22	29	49	*

15. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Would you say your parents' political views are...?

	Closer to the Republican Party	Closer to the Democratic Party	Parents have different views	Not sure	No opinion
6/15/21	32	34	12	21	*

Question 16 held for release.

17. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Do you think Joe Biden is doing a (good job) or a (bad job) as president, or aren't you sure?

	A good job	A bad job	Not sure	No opinion
6/15/21	34	28	38	*

18. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Do you think Donald Trump did a (good job) or a (bad job) as president, or aren't you sure?

	A good job	A bad job	Not sure	No opinion
6/15/21	31	49	19	*

Question 19 held for release.

20. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS) How often, if at all, do you think each of these groups are treated unfairly in society today because of who they are?

Summary table among teens - 6/15/21

	----- Often -----			----- Less often -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Occasionally	Rarely	op.
a. Gay and lesbian people	56	31	25	43	29	14	1
b. Transgender people	60	35	25	39	25	14	1
c. Women	49	19	29	50	34	16	1
d. Men	16	5	12	83	28	55	1
e. White people	14	5	9	85	28	56	1
f. Black people	61	40	22	38	25	13	1
g. Asian people	48	22	26	51	33	18	1
h. Hispanic people	50	22	28	48	34	15	1
i. People who are immigrants	56	30	27	43	30	13	1

Summary table among parents - 6/15/21

	----- Often -----			----- Less often -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Occasionally	Rarely	op.
a. Gay and lesbian people	54	27	27	45	31	14	1
b. Transgender people	60	35	25	39	28	11	1
c. Women	47	15	32	52	39	13	1
d. Men	18	6	12	81	34	47	1

e. White people	18	7	11	81	32	50	1
f. Black people	58	33	25	41	29	12	1
g. Asian people	48	17	31	51	35	16	1
h. Hispanic people	49	19	30	50	37	13	1
i. People who are immigrants	58	29	29	40	30	10	2

21. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Was there a time over the past year where you were treated unfairly because of your racial or ethnic background?

	Yes	No	No opinion
6/15/21	19	81	*

Questions 22-32 held for release.

33. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) Given what you've heard or read about it, do you (support) or (oppose) the Black Lives Matter movement?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
6/15/21	61	35	4

Compare to U.S. adults:

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
7/15/20*	63	32	5

\*Post-ABC

34. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS WHO SUPPORT BLM) Have you attended a Black Lives Matter rally or protest?

	Yes	No	No opinion
6/15/21	12	88	*

NET Q33/Q34

	----- Support BLM -----				No	
	NET	Yes	No	No opinion	Oppose	opinion
6/15/21	61	7	53	*	35	4

Questions 35-40 held for release.

41. (AMONG 14-18 YEAR OLDS) What grade of school are you currently in?

	7 <sup>th</sup> grade	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade	College	Other	Not curr. in school	No op *
6/15/21	1	13	19	22	18	19	5	1	2	*

\*\*\* END \*\*\*

## METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and Ipsos. The poll includes a random sample of 1,349 teens between the ages of 14 and 18 in the United States, as well as 1,284 of their parents and guardians. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

Ipsos conducted sampling, interviewing and tabulation for the survey using the KnowledgePanel®, a representative panel of adults age 18 and over living in the United States. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods using address-based sampling. Panel members who do not have internet access are provided with a tablet and internet service. Teens were reached through their parents. Additional interviews were collected using a sample drawn from Ipsos's YouthPulse panel and the SSRS Probability Panel. The YouthPulse and SSRS Probability Panel are also probability-based web panels designed to be representative of the United States. Parental consent was obtained at the time of panel recruitment and teens surveyed through the YouthPulse panel were contacted directly. For the SSRS Probability Panel, 18 year-olds were contacted directly while teens ages 14 through 17 were reached through their parents.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples. The overall sample was weighted to match the demographic makeup of general population teens age 14 to 18 by sex, region, age, race/ethnicity, and household income according to the Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey, and to residence in a metropolitan area according to the 2020 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey.

The margin of sampling error for the samples of teens and parents are plus or minus three percentage points. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.4. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Group	Unweighted	
	sample size	Error margin
Teens	1,349	+/- 3 points
White teens	659	4.5
Black teens	175	8.5
Hispanic teens	284	7
Asian/Pacific Islander	101	11.5
Parents/Guardians	1,284	3

The Washington Post is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research's Transparency Initiative.

