



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

American Teens are Politically Engaged but Pessimistic about Country's Direction

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Interviews: 12/7-31/2016

790 teens age 13-17

Margin of error: 4.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

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Some questions held for future release.

P1. And now, switching gears... Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Right direction	37
Wrong direction	61
DON'T KNOW	2
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N= 790

P2. In general, do you think America's best days are...

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Ahead of us	56
Behind us	41
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N= 790

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P4. What statement comes closer to your own view?

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values	18
Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values	81
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=790

FUT1. Thinking about the future of our country, please tell me whether you feel generally optimistic or generally pessimistic about each of the following:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Generally optimistic	Generally pessimistic	DK	SKIP/REFUSED
The opportunity for most people to achieve the American dream	58	42	*	*
America's role as a global leader in the world	56	44	*	*
The way our leaders are chosen under our political system	43	56	*	*
Our system of government and how well it works	41	57	1	*

N=790

FUT7. Looking ahead to the next 40 years – that is, from now until about 2055 – do you think life in America over that time will:

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Get better	41
Get worse	29
Stay about the same	30
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

790

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P5. For each of the following tasks, do you think the federal government is doing a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job at that particular task?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Good job	Neither good nor poor job	Poor job	DK	SKIP/REFUSED
Making sure that our nation is safe from foreign and domestic threats	36	38	26	*	*
Making sure that all people are treated equally	19	36	46	-	*
Representing the views of most Americans	18	40	41	*	*
Promoting the well-being of all Americans, not just special interests	16	46	37	*	*

N=790

P6. The United States has a diverse population, with people of many different races, ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. On balance, do you think this diversity makes the country:

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Much/moderately stronger NET	62
Much stronger	31
Moderately stronger	31
Neither stronger nor weaker	27
Much/moderately weaker NET	10
Moderately weaker	7
Much weaker	3
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

790

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P7. How much do you feel you have in common with the following types of people?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	A great deal/ Quite a bit in common	A great deal in common	Quite a bit in common	A moderate amount in common	Only a little/ Nothing at all in common	Only a little in common	Nothing at all in common	DK	Ref.
People who live in your local community	52	18	33	35	12	9	3	*	1
People of different races	48	20	27	40	12	10	2	*	1
People who have a lot less money than you	38	12	26	44	17	14	3	-	1
People of different religions	38	12	26	41	21	15	6	-	-
People with different ethnic backgrounds	36	12	24	42	22	16	6	-	*
People with a lot more education than your parents	32	8	23	44	24	17	7	*	*
People with a lot less education than your parents	26	7	20	44	29	24	5	*	*
People who live in other parts of the country	25	8	17	41	33	25	9	*	1
People in different political parties	25	8	17	40	35	22	13	*	1
People with different gender identities	23	9	15	30	46	23	23	*	*
People with different sexual identities	22	8	14	34	43	22	21	*	1
People who have a lot more money than you	20	6	14	36	43	31	12	*	1

N=790

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P8. For each of the following individuals, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that person. If you don't know enough about the person to have an opinion, you can say that too.

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Very/ Somewhat fav. NET	Very fav.	Somewhat fav.	Very/ Somewhat unfav. NET	Somewhat unfav.	Very unfav.	DK	Ref.
Barack Obama	62	37	26	32	12	21	5	-
Hillary Clinton	38	14	24	53	18	35	9	-
Donald Trump	30	10	20	61	17	44	9	*
Mike Pence	23	9	15	36	14	22	40	1

N=790

P9. For each of the following, please say whether each word does describe or does not describe how you feel about Donald Trump being elected president?

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Does describe	Does not describe	DK	Ref.
Surprised	68	30	*	2
Frustrated	48	51	*	2
Afraid	46	52	-	2
Hopeful	43	56	-	2
Helpless	40	58	*	2
Angry	35	64	-	2
Excited	29	70	-	1
Proud	20	78	-	2

N=790

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P12. Now we have a list of things the federal government might do over the next four years. Would you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the federal government doing these things?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	Ref.
Repealing the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare	40	23	17	27	33	12	21	*	*
Changing trade agreements with other countries	35	14	21	38	25	14	11	1	*
Banning foreign Muslims from entering the United States	29	12	17	24	46	15	31	*	*
Building a wall along the Mexican border	25	11	13	22	53	13	40	*	*
Scaling back efforts to fight climate change	19	8	11	33	47	18	29	*	*

N=790

P13. Now we are going to ask you about some things some people may have done and others may have not.

Over the past year, how many times have you...

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Never	Once	Twice	Three or more times	DK	Ref.
Volunteered for a cause you cared about	28	25	14	32	*	*
Raised money for a cause you cared about	39	28	17	16	*	*
Worked or cooperated with others to try to solve a problem affecting your school, city, or neighborhood	39	26	13	22	-	*
Expressed your political beliefs online	66	13	5	16	*	*
Signed a paper or online petition	68	19	7	7	*	*
Taken part in a peaceful protest, march, or demonstration	88	8	3	2	-	*

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P14. How many times, if at all, have you done the following in your classes this year:

AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016	Never	Once	Twice	Three or more times	DK	Ref.
Learned about people with backgrounds and experiences different from yours	21	14	12	52	-	*
Discussed how to tell if the information you find online is trustworthy	33	19	13	34	-	*
Discussed the importance of evaluating the evidence that backs up people's opinions	40	15	12	32	-	*
Talked about how to find different points of view on political and social issues on the Internet	42	17	11	30	-	*
Created and shared something on the Internet related to a societal issue	55	19	9	18	-	*

N=790

P15. If you were going to register to vote today, which party would you register with?

[RESPONSE OPTION ORDER RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Democrats	29
Republicans	23
Libertarian	2
Green Party	2
Unaffiliated/No Party/Independent	19
Other (please specify)	1
Not sure	24
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

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P16. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Liberal	13
Conservative	20
Moderate	20
Do not know	46
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	790

P17. How often do you talk with your parent(s) about politics, if at all?

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Daily	11
Weekly	28
Monthly	16
Less often	33
Never	11
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	790

Ask if talk politics with parent(s) more than never...

P18. Thinking about the parent or guardian you discuss politics with most often, do you mostly agree with your parent's views, disagree with your parent's views or is it a mix?

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Mostly agree with parent	52
Mostly disagree with parent	3
Mix of agree and disagree	40
I don't know	4
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	696

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AGE

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
13	21
14	19
15	18
16	20
17	22

N= 790

GENDER

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Male	51
Female	49
Other	*

N= 790

TEEN RACE/ETHNICITY¹

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
White	54
Black or African American	15
Hispanic	23
Other	8

N= 790

¹ Teens' race/ethnicity was derived from a combination of their own answer to a question about their race and the AmeriSpeak® profile variable of their parent. Race was imputed for the teen based on their parent if the teen did not answer the question about their race (n=8).

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PARENT HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	5
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	19
\$150,000 or more	16
<i>N=</i>	<i>790</i>

PARENT² EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
Less than a high school diploma	7
High school graduate or equivalent	22
Some college	22
College graduate or above	49
<i>N=</i>	

PARENT RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 12/7-31/2016
White	58
Black or African American	14
Hispanic	23
Other	5
<i>N=</i>	<i>790</i>

² Parent education and parent race/ethnicity were asked of parents and only apply to the parent who was sampled as an AmeriSpeak® Panelist. Income was asked of parents as well, but applies to the entire household.

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using AmeriSpeak, NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between December 7 and 31, 2016, with teenagers age 13 to 17 representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Adult panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and after confirming that there were children of the appropriate age in the household, permission was sought from a parent or guardian to survey their teenager. If a given panelist had multiple teens at home, one teen was randomly selected to participate. Completed interviews were conducted with 790 teenagers, 739 via the web and 51 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference.

The final stage completion rate is 31.5 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 34.3 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 95 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 10.3 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.6 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables at the adult level included age, sex, education, race/ethnicity, housing tenure, telephone status, and Census division. This produced a weight for each teen that was then adjusted so as to be calibrated to the external controls totals for age, sex, race/ethnicity, Census division, and household income for the U.S. population of teenagers age 13 to 17. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2016 Current Population Survey. The weighted data were used for all analyses.

All differences reported between subgroups of the U.S. population are at the 95 percent level of statistical significance, meaning that there is only a 5 percent (or lower) probability that the observed differences could be attributed to chance variation in sampling.

A comprehensive listing of the questions, complete with tabulations of top-level results for each question, is available on The AP-NORC Center website: www.apnorc.org.

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The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.