



# Young People Study 2019

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

*Interviews: 8/07-9/09/2019  
2,573 Teens and Young Adults  
769 Teens age 13-17  
1804 Young Adults age 18-29*

*Margin of error: +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

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

**E1. Overall, do you think each of the following are having a positive impact, a negative impact, or neither a positive nor negative impact on the way things are going in this country today?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]**

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	Positive impact	Negative impact	Neither a positive nor negative impact	DK	SKP/ REF
Labor unions	39	17	44	*	1
Churches and religious organizations	41	27	31	-	1
Banks and other financial institutions	31	25	43	-	*
News media	21	51	28	-	*
Vocational or trade schools	63	9	28	-	*
Community colleges	69	8	22	-	1
Colleges and universities	59	17	23	-	1

N = 2,573

**E2. Which of the following are you [planning to do after you leave high school/doing now]?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Attend a vocational or trade school	7
Attend at community college	15
Attend a college or university	35
Work full-time or part time	53
Serve in the military	4
Something else	15

N =

2,573

**E3. In general, how well do you think each of the following prepares someone for success in today's economy?**

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	<b>Extremely /Very well NET</b>	Extremely well	Very well	<b>Somewhat well</b>	<b>Not too well/Not well at all NET</b>	Somewhat well	Not too well	DK	SKP/ REF
High school diploma	<b>45</b>	27	18	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	17	7	-	*
Military service	<b>39</b>	14	25	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>	13	9	-	1
On the job experience	<b>73</b>	37	36	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	4	2	-	1
Competition of a vocational or trade program	<b>60</b>	25	35	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	7	4	-	1
Associate degree from a community college	<b>47</b>	19	28	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	11	5	-	1
Bachelor's degree from a college or university	<b>60</b>	29	31	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	8	5	-	1
Postgraduate degree such as a master's degree or a doctorate	<b>66</b>	40	26	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	6	5	-	1

N = 2,573

**E5. How would you rate the job your high school [is doing/did] in providing students with the knowledge and skills they would need to do each of the following?**

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	<b>Excellent/ Good NET</b>	Excellent	Good	<b>Fair/Poor NET</b>	Fair	Poor	DK	SKP/ REF
Get a good job right after leaving high school	<b>50</b>	19	31	<b>50</b>	31	18	-	*
Succeed in the military	<b>47</b>	16	31	<b>52</b>	33	19	*	1
Succeed at a vocational or trade school	<b>59</b>	20	38	<b>40</b>	27	13	-	1
Succeed at a two-year college	<b>66</b>	24	41	<b>33</b>	24	9	-	1
Succeed at a four-year college	<b>67</b>	31	36	<b>32</b>	22	10	-	1

N = 2,573

**E6. How much emphasis [does/did] your parent or guardian place on the importance of a good education?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
<b>A great deal/A lot NET</b>	<b>76</b>
A great deal	50
A lot	27
<b>Some</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Not much/None at all NET</b>	<b>7</b>
Not much	4
None at all	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N =	2,573

**E7. How much pressure [do/did] you feel from your parent or guardian to attend a college or university?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
<b>A great deal/A lot NET</b>	<b>50</b>
A great deal	28
A lot	21
<b>Some</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Not much/None at all NET</b>	<b>24</b>
Not much	14
None at all	10
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2
N =	2,573

**E8. At any point, has your parent or guardian helped you, or indicated that they will help you, with each of the following, or not?**

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	Yes	No	DON'T KNOW	SKP/ REF
Researching college options	57	43	-	1
Setting up college visits	52	47	-	1
Filling out college applications	57	42	-	1
Filling out financial aid forms	61	38	-	1
Hiring a tutor to help with college admissions tests	28	70	-	1
Paying for college admission test preparation	52	47	-	1
Hiring a college admission consultant	24	75	-	1
Paying for college tuition	57	41	*	1

N = 2,573

**E9. Which of the following do you think are the main purposes of pursuing a four-year college degree?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Pursue a passion about a particular subject	56
Gain knowledge	68
Learn how to do a specific job	49
Prepare to become a leader	33
Gain skills so you can be trained to do different jobs	52
Become a better citizen	30
Personal growth	59
Improve earning potential	58
Something else	9

N =

2,573

**E12. How serious a problem is the affordability of higher education in this country?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
<b>Extremely/Very serious NET</b>	<b>77</b>
Extremely serious	49
Very serious	27
<b>Somewhat serious</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Not very serious/Not at all serious NET</b>	<b>6</b>
Not very serious	4
Not at all serious	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N =

2,573

*Asked of those that attended or plan to attend college, university, community college, or vocational or trade school.*

**E11. [Do you anticipate that you will have to/Did you] take out student loans to pay for college, or not?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Yes	63
No	36
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	2,573

**E13. Considering the costs of attending a four-year college versus the benefits of a bachelor's degree, would you say there are more advantages to attending, more disadvantages, or would you say there are about as many advantages as disadvantages?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
More advantages	32
More disadvantages	22
There are about as many advantages as disadvantages	45
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	2,573

**E14. Thinking about your future, how concerned are you about each of the following?**

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	<b>Extremely/ Very concerned NET</b>	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>Not very/Not at all concerned NET</b>	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	DK	SKP/ REF
Student loan debt	<b>47</b>	28	19	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	12	20	-	1
Having the skills to get a good job	<b>49</b>	25	24	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	15	8	-	1
Making enough money to earn a good living	<b>62</b>	37	25	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	11	5	-	*
Saving enough money for retirement (Asked of young adults, N = 1,804)	<b>58</b>	34	24	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	9	6	-	*
Getting into a good college (Asked of teens, N = 769)	<b>48</b>	23	24	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	18	7	-	1

N = 2,573

**E15A. Do you think colleges and universities are generally doing a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job at each of the following?**

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	<b>Very/ Moderately good job NET</b>	Very good job	Moderately good job	<b>Neither good nor poor job</b>	<b>Moderately /Very poor job NET</b>	Moderately poor job	Very poor job	DK	SKP/ REF
Addressing the mental health needs of students	<b>33</b>	10	24	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	20	13	-	1
Creating policies to deal with sexual assault at school	<b>37</b>	11	26	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	20	10	*	1
Providing a safe environment for students	<b>52</b>	14	38	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	12	6	-	1

N = 2,573

**E15B. Do you think high schools are generally doing a good job, a poor job, or neither a good nor poor job at each of the following?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]**

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	<b>Very/ Moderately good job NET</b>	Very good job	Moderately good job	<b>Neither good nor poor job</b>	<b>Moderately /Very poor job NET</b>	Moderately poor job	Very poor job	DK	SKP/ REF
Addressing the mental health needs of students	<b>30</b>	9	21	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	21	17	-	1
Creating policies to deal with sexual assault at school	<b>36</b>	11	25	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	18	13	-	1
Providing a safe environment for students	<b>45</b>	12	33	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	14	10	-	1

N = 2,573



**E16. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019	<b>Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET</b>	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat /Strongly oppose NET</b>	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
The government allowing those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at lower interest rates	<b>70</b>	46	25	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	5	3	-	1
The government forgiving some student loan debt for individuals in households earning less than \$100,000 a year	<b>67</b>	45	21	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	8	5	*	1
Making public colleges and universities tuition free for all income levels	<b>60</b>	37	24	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	9	9	-	1
Making community college tuition free for all income levels	<b>65</b>	43	22	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	9	6	-	1
Loan forgiveness for graduates who take public service jobs in the government or with non-profit organizations	<b>65</b>	38	27	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	6	5	-	1

N = 2,573

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Democrat	34
Republican	22
Independent	24
None of these	20
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N =	2,573

*If Democrat in PID1*

**PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Democrat?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Strong Democrat	49
Moderate Democrat	51
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	-
N =	904

*If Republican in PID1*

**PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Republican?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Strong Republican	45
Moderate Republican	55
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N =	529

*If Independent, Republican, None of these, Don't know, Skip, or Refuse in PID1*

**PID1. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans? Would you say you ...**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Lean Democrat	26
Lean Republican	19
Don't lean	54
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	1,140

**G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a ...**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Liberal	32
Moderate	39
Conservative	27
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2
N =	2,573

**DM5. How would you describe the community you live in now?**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Urban	33
Suburban	45
Rural	21
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	2,573

**AGE.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
13-17	29
18-24	40
25 and above	31
N =	2,573

**GENDER.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Male	51
Female	49
N =	2,573

**RACE/ETHNICITY.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
White, non-Hispanic	54
African American, non-Hispanic	14
Hispanic	22
Other	10
N =	2,573

**MARITAL STATUS.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Married	31
Widowed	1
Divorced	4
Separated	3
Never married	46
Living with partner	15
N =	2,573

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Working – as a paid employee	60
Working – self employed	8
Not working – on temporary layoff from a job	1
Not working – looking for work	14
Not working – retired	2
Not working – disabled	4
Not working - other	12
N =	2,573

**EDUCATION.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
No high school diploma	36
High school graduate or equivalent	22
Some college	26
BA or above	17
N =	2,573

**INCOME.**

	AP-NORC 08/07-09/09/2019
Less than \$10,000	11
\$10,000 to \$19,999	11
\$20,000 to \$29,999	13
\$30,000 to \$39,999	13
\$40,000 to \$49,999	8
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17
\$75,000 to \$84,999	12
\$85,000 to \$99,999	-
\$100,000 to \$149,999	10
\$150,000 or more	6
N =	2,573

## Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research with funding from the NORC at the University of Chicago. Interviews for this survey were completed between August 7 and September 9, 2019, with teens and young adults age 13 to 29 representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The survey combined interviews from both probability and nonprobability sample sources. The probability interviews were conducted using AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population, and nonprobability interviews were provided by Dynata, an opt-in panel.

During the initial recruitment phase of the AmeriSpeak 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

Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,301 completed the survey—265 teens age 13-17 and 1,036 young adults age 18-29. Interviews were conducted online and over the phone, with 1,288 completing via the web and 13 completing via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 26.3 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 26.9 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 85.6 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.1 percent. The overall margin of sampling error for the AmeriSpeak sample is +/- 5.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Dynata provided 1,272 non-probability interviews – 504 teens age 13-17 and 768 young adults age 18-29. The Dynata sample was derived based on quotas related to age, race and ethnicity, gender, and education. Interviews were conducted in English and via the web only. For panel recruitment, Dynata uses invitations of all types including e-mail invitations, phone alerts, banners, and messaging on panel community sites to include people with a diversity of motivations to take part in research. Because non-probability panels do not start with a frame where there is a known probability of selection, standard measures of sampling error and response rates cannot be calculated.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a raking process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse in the probability sample as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling in both probability and nonprobability samples resulting from the study specific sample design. Raking variables for both the probability and nonprobability samples included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Population control totals for the raking variables were obtained from the 2018 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 13 to 29.

In order to incorporate the nonprobability sample with the probability sample, NORC used TrueNorth®, a calibration approach developed at NORC that features small domain estimation methods to account for potential bias associated with the nonprobability sample. The purpose of TrueNorth calibration is to adjust the weights for the nonprobability sample so as to bring weighted distributions of the nonprobability sample in line with the population distribution for characteristics correlated with the survey variables. Such calibration adjustments help to reduce potential bias, yielding more accurate population estimates.

A small domain model was used with the combined samples to generate estimates at the domain level, where the domains were defined by race/ethnicity, age, gender, and education. The dependent variables for the models were key survey variables derived from a random forest model, and the model included covariates and domain-level random effects. The covariates were external data available from other national surveys such as health insurance, internet access, and housing type from the American Community Survey (ACS). The final combined AmeriSpeak and nonprobability sample weights were derived so the weighted estimates of the combined sample was consistent with the small domain model estimates derived for key survey variables.

The overall margin of error for the sample is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups. Although there is no statistically agreed upon approach for calculating margins of error for nonprobability samples, these margins of error were estimated using a calculation called the root mean squared error, along with other statistical adjustments. A mean square error is a measure of uncertainty that incorporates the variability associated with the estimates, as well as the bias associated with the estimates derived from a nonprobability sample.

For more information, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

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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

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