



STUDY METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, with funding from MTV. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and MTV collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Data were collected using both probability and non-probability sample sources. Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 1 and 19, 2021, with people age 13 to 56 representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The probability sample source is AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. 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.

Adult panel members age 18 to 56 were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 939 completed the survey – 929 via the web and 10 via telephone. Teen panel members age 13 to 17 were drawn from AmeriSpeak Teen, and 488 completed the survey – 484 via the web and 4 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference.

The final stage completion rate is 29.3 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 18.6 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.3 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 4.1 percent. The overall margin of sampling error for the AmeriSpeak sample is +/-4.3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

Dynata provided 2,337 non-probability interviews – 1,170 with people age 13-17 and 1,167 with people age 18-56. 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 email 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 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 as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling in both probability and non-probability samples resulting from the study specific sample design. Raking variables for both the probability and nonprobability samples included age, gender, census region, race/ethnicity, and education. Population control totals for the raking variables were obtained from the 2020 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of people age 13-56.

In order to incorporate the nonprobability sample, NORC used TrueNorth calibration, an innovative hybrid calibration approach developed at NORC based on small area estimation methods in order to explicitly 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.

First, the nonprobability sample is raked for each age group of interest (13-17; 18-24; 25-56) to the following sociodemographic characteristics: sex, education level for adults 18-56, parent's highest level of education for teens 13-17, Census Region, and race/ethnicity. Additionally the nonprobability sample is raked to more granular age overall (13-14; 15-17; 18-24; 25-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-56) and race/ethnicity by gender (NH White, Male; NH White Female; All other Male; All other Female). Second, the weighted AmeriSpeak sample and the calibrated nonprobability sample were used to develop a small area model to support domain-level estimates, where the domains were defined by race/ethnicity, age, education and gender. The dependent variables for the models were:

- Q3NEW3: Would you say the world your generation is facing is better than most other generations have faced, worse than most other generations have faced, or about the same?
- Q7BNEW: How much can people like you affect what the government does?
- Q8_1: Would you say each of the following is a major source of stress, a minor source of stress, or not a source of stress at all? The fear of getting COVID-19
- C17: How much responsibility do you think a company has to take a stand on important social and political issues?

These were found to be key survey variables, in terms of model fit. The model included covariates, domain-level random effects, and sampling errors. The covariates were external data available from other national surveys such as health insurance, internet access, voting behavior, and housing type from the American Community Survey (ACS). Finally, the combined AmeriSpeak and nonprobability sample weights were derived such that for the combined sample, the weighted estimate reproduced the small domain estimates (derived using the small area model) for key survey variables.

The overall margin of error for the combined sample is +/- 3.3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups. The overall margin of sampling error among those age 13-24 is +/-2.8 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The overall margin of sampling error among those age 25-40 is +/-5.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The overall margin of sampling error among those age 41-56 is +/-7.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS-NORC CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, 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.

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

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. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.

ABOUT MTV

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