



American Teenagers Survey

Topline Questionnaire

Total N = 782 teenagers aged 13 to 17. | Interview dates: January 20 – February 16, 2026.

Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk () replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total 100 percent due to rounding.*

ASK ALL:

Q1 In general, do you think America's best days are ahead of us or behind us?

41	Ahead of us
58	Behind us
*	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q2 Even if these are not your current goals, thinking about the future, how likely is it or not that you will accomplish the following at some point in your life...

A. Own your own home

33	Extremely likely
23	Very likely
28	Somewhat likely
11	Not too likely
4	Not at all likely
1	Not interested in ever doing this
*	Refused

B. Get married to someone you really like

33	Extremely likely
26	Very likely
27	Somewhat likely
7	Not too likely
4	Not at all likely
4	Not interested in ever doing this
0	Refused

C. Find a job or career that is rewarding and worthwhile

29	Extremely likely
31	Very likely
31	Somewhat likely
7	Not too likely
1	Not at all likely
1	Not interested in ever doing this
*	Refused

D. Earn enough money to live comfortably

30	Extremely likely
27	Very likely
30	Somewhat likely
11	Not too likely
2	Not at all likely
1	Not interested in ever doing this
*	Refused

E. Graduate from a four-year college

28	Extremely likely
24	Very likely
23	Somewhat likely
14	Not too likely
4	Not at all likely
7	Not interested in ever doing this
*	Refused

F. Have children

23	Extremely likely
20	Very likely
30	Somewhat likely
11	Not too likely
5	Not at all likely
10	Not interested in ever doing this
*	Refused

Q3 Generally speaking, how happy are you compared to most other teenagers your age?

37	Happier
14	Less Happy
49	About the same
0	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q4 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of your life?

A. The way things are going in your life

16	Completely satisfied
34	Very satisfied
34	Somewhat satisfied
12	Not too satisfied
4	Not at all satisfied
*	Refused

B. The relationship you have with your parents

33	Completely satisfied
32	Very satisfied
25	Somewhat satisfied
7	Not too satisfied
3	Not at all satisfied
1	Refused

C. Your school

16	Completely satisfied
31	Very satisfied
34	Somewhat satisfied
11	Not too satisfied
7	Not at all satisfied
1	Refused

D. Your personal health

21	Completely satisfied
29	Very satisfied
37	Somewhat satisfied
10	Not too satisfied
2	Not at all satisfied
*	Refused

E. The number of friends you have

26	Completely satisfied
34	Very satisfied
29	Somewhat satisfied
7	Not too satisfied
3	Not at all satisfied
1	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q5 What kinds of extracurricular activities are you involved in, if any...
Please select all that apply.

18	Academic club
20	Choir, band, orchestra, jazz ensemble
3	Scouting
40	Travel sports or school athletics
14	Private music or dance lessons
8	Yearbook or school newspaper
7	Student government or debate team
15	Part-time job, please specify [TEXT BOX]
15	Something else, please specify [TEXT BOX]
14	Refused

Q6 Do you currently have...?
Please select all that apply.

84	Your own smartphone
31	Your own smartwatch
44	Your own tablet
52	Your own laptop computer
59	A gaming console
2	Do not personally own any of these
*	Refused

IF OWN SMARTPHONE OR SMARTWATCH (Q6=1,2), ASK:

Q7 To the best of your knowledge, do your parents track your smartphone or smartwatch so they know where you are?

40	Yes, all the time
28	Yes, most of the time
25	No
6	Not sure
*	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q8 In your current school, what is the policy when it comes to using smartphones during the school day?

- 7 No restrictions on phone use in school
- 47 Not allowed during class, but allowed otherwise
- 39 Not allowed during the entire school day
- 5 Other, please specify [TEXT BOX]
- 1 Refused

Q9 In the past week, did you spend any time on the following social media apps?
Please select all that apply.

- 24 Facebook
- 55 Instagram
- 45 Snapchat
- 60 TikTok
- 72 YouTube
- 10 Reddit
- 1 4chan
- 10 X
- 1 Truth Social
- 5 None of the above
- * Refused

Q10 On average, how many hours a day, if any, do you spend doing the following?

A. Scrolling or posting on social media

- 10 None
- 29 Less than an hour
- 34 1 to 3 hours
- 26 4 or more hours
- 1 Refused

B. Playing video games

- 23 None
- 32 Less than an hour
- 26 1 to 3 hours
- 18 4 or more hours
- 1 Refused

Q11 In general, when people publicly call out others on social media for posting content that might be considered offensive, are they more likely to...

69	Hold people accountable for their actions
29	Punish people who didn't deserve it
2	Refused

ASK MEN ONLY:

Q12a How important, if at all, do you think the following are to finding a partner?

A. Being physically attractive

11	One of the most important
35	Very important
40	Somewhat important
10	Not too important
3	Not at all important
*	Refused

B. Being athletic or physically fit

8	One of the most important
30	Very important
42	Somewhat important
15	Not too important
4	Not at all important
*	Refused

C. Being wealthy

7	One of the most important
17	Very important
39	Somewhat important
25	Not too important
12	Not at all important
*	Refused

D. Having a lot of professional success

10	One of the most important
22	Very important
40	Somewhat important
23	Not too important
6	Not at all important
*	Refused

E. Being popular or having lots of friends

4	One of the most important
12	Very important
39	Somewhat important
34	Not too important
11	Not at all important
1	Refused

F. Being kind and considerate

39	One of the most important
34	Very important
20	Somewhat important
6	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	Refused

G. Having a good sense of humor

18	One of the most important
47	Very important
28	Somewhat important
7	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	Refused

H. Being more traditionally masculine

6	One of the most important
19	Very important
35	Somewhat important
28	Not too important
11	Not at all important
1	Refused

ASK WOMEN ONLY:

Q12b How important, if at all, do you think the following are to finding a partner?

A. Being physically attractive

10	One of the most important
30	Very important
39	Somewhat important
16	Not too important
4	Not at all important
*	Refused

B. Being athletic or physically fit

6	One of the most important
27	Very important
44	Somewhat important
20	Not too important
3	Not at all important
*	Refused

C. Being wealthy

6	One of the most important
12	Very important
43	Somewhat important
26	Not too important
13	Not at all important
1	Refused

D. Having a lot of professional success

9	One of the most important
27	Very important
46	Somewhat important
14	Not too important
5	Not at all important
*	Refused

E. Being popular or having lots of friends

3	One of the most important
9	Very important
26	Somewhat important
41	Not too important
19	Not at all important
2	Refused

F. Being kind and considerate

49	One of the most important
35	Very important
10	Somewhat important
3	Not too important
1	Not at all important
2	Refused

G. Having a good sense of humor

28	One of the most important
39	Very important
27	Somewhat important
4	Not too important
1	Not at all important
2	Refused

H. Being more traditionally feminine

6	One of the most important
12	Very important
34	Somewhat important
27	Not too important
19	Not at all important
2	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q13 Please tell me how much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

A. At my school, girls generally get more support and encouragement than boys

14	Completely agree
33	Mostly agree
40	Mostly disagree
11	Completely disagree
2	Refused

B. Many girls interpret innocent remarks or acts as being sexist

9	Completely agree
35	Mostly agree
44	Mostly disagree
10	Completely disagree
2	Refused

C. Over the past decade, things have steadily gotten better for girls and women in the U.S.

11	Completely agree
50	Mostly agree
28	Mostly disagree
9	Completely disagree
2	Refused

D. When I'm first getting to know someone, I'm generally more comfortable talking to them over text or direct message than talking in person

16	Completely agree
40	Mostly agree
30	Mostly disagree
12	Completely disagree
2	Refused

E. My school should not host speakers who have views that some students might find offensive or hurtful

17	Completely agree
40	Mostly agree
27	Mostly disagree
13	Completely disagree
2	Refused

F. Men benefit from advantages in society that women do not have

15	Completely agree
41	Mostly agree
30	Mostly disagree
12	Completely disagree
3	Refused

G. Getting married and having children are essential to living a successful life

13	Completely agree
33	Mostly agree
33	Mostly disagree
20	Completely disagree
1	Refused

H. I feel proud to be an American

28	Completely agree
38	Mostly agree
20	Mostly disagree
12	Completely disagree
2	Refused

I. In my day-to-day life, I don't spend much time thinking about God or religion

16	Completely agree
28	Mostly agree
31	Mostly disagree
22	Completely disagree
2	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q14 Not counting your relatives, about how many CLOSE friends would you say you have? Just your best estimate...

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 2 | None/ Do not have a close friend |
| 8 | One friend |
| 11 | Two friends |
| 15 | Three friends |
| 13 | Four friends |
| 18 | Five friends |
| 13 | Six to nine friends |
| 13 | Ten or more friends |
| 4 | Refused |

Q15 How often, if at all, do you...?

A. Attend religious services with your family

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Every day |
| 8 | Multiple times a week |
| 23 | Once a week |
| 11 | Once or twice a month |
| 14 | A few times a year |
| 13 | Seldom |
| 27 | Never |
| 2 | Refused |

B. Spend time with your friends in person outside school

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 10 | Every day |
| 26 | Multiple times a week |
| 19 | Once a week |
| 23 | Once or twice a month |
| 7 | A few times a year |
| 7 | Seldom |
| 7 | Never |
| 2 | Refused |

C. Have meals together as a family

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 37 | Every day |
| 29 | Multiple times a week |
| 12 | Once a week |
| 7 | Once or twice a month |
| 5 | A few times a year |
| 4 | Seldom |
| 5 | Never |
| 1 | Refused |

D. Get at least 8 hours of sleep

28	Every day
41	Multiple times a week
15	Once a week
8	Once or twice a month
2	A few times a year
4	Seldom
1	Never
1	Refused

E. Do household chores, such as the laundry, dishes or cleaning

28	Every day
35	Multiple times a week
16	Once a week
9	Once or twice a month
4	A few times a year
5	Seldom
3	Never
1	Refused

F. Feel excited about your life

25	Every day
39	Multiple times a week
15	Once a week
10	Once or twice a month
6	A few times a year
2	Seldom
2	Never
2	Refused

G. Read a book for fun

7	Every day
16	Multiple times a week
11	Once a week
20	Once or twice a month
14	A few times a year
13	Seldom
17	Never
1	Refused

H. Use an AI chatbot such as ChatGPT

- 9 Every day
- 19 Multiple times a week
- 14 Once a week
- 16 Once or twice a month
- 5 A few times a year
- 13 Seldom
- 22 Never
- 1 Refused

IF USES AN AI CHATBOT AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A YEAR (Q15H=1-5), ASK:

Q16a Which of the following describes how you use AI chatbots?

Please select all that apply.

- 32 For help with a personal problem or to get advice
- 14 For role-playing or imaginative scenarios
- 11 As a friend or companion
- 71 As a tool for homework or school assignment help
- 58 To ask general questions or find information
- 2 Other, please specify [TEXT BOX]
- 1 Refused

Q16b Do you generally think of the AI chatbot you use most often as male, female, or does it not have a gender?

- 23 Male
- 14 Female
- 62 Neither
- 1 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q17 Which of the following comes closest to what you plan to do after you finish high school?

- 48 Attend a four-year college
- 9 Attend a two-year college
- 8 Enroll in a technical or vocational school
- 10 Work full time
- 3 Join the military
- 3 Not sure
- 18 Other, please specify [TEXT BOX]
- 1 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q18 In the last 12 months, have you had the following experiences...

A. Gone on a date with someone

29	Yes, in the last 12 months
12	Yes, but not in the last 12 months
58	No, have never done this
1	Refused

B. Tried to reduce the amount of time you spend on social media

41	Yes, in the last 12 months
16	Yes, but not in the last 12 months
41	No, have never done this
2	Refused

ASK MEN ONLY:

C. Spend time in person with a close female friend

50	Yes, in the last 12 months
15	Yes, but not in the last 12 months
34	No, have never done this
1	Refused

ASK WOMEN ONLY:

D. Spent time with a close male friend

44	Yes, in the last 12 months
10	Yes, but not in the last 12 months
45	No, have never done this
1	Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

E. Flirted with someone in person

48	Yes, in the last 12 months
10	Yes, but not in the last 12 months
41	No, have never done this
1	Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

F. Flirted with someone on social media

23	Yes, in the last 12 months
13	Yes, but not in the last 12 months
61	No, have never done this
2	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q19 Who do you usually turn to first when you have a person problem?

24	A close friend
40	Your mother
6	Your father
4	A sister
4	A brother
4	Other family member
2	A teacher or coach
10	No one
5	Someone else, please specify [TEXT BOX]
1	Refused

Q20 What is the current marital status of your parents? Are they...?

58	Married to each other
7	Living together, but not married
16	Not living together, and not married
13	Divorced
4	Other arrangement, please specify [TEXT BOX]
1	Refused

Q20b Do you currently live with your...
Please select all that apply.

88	Mother
71	Father
54	Siblings
7	Grandparents
4	Aunts/Uncles
4	Other, please specify [TEXT BOX]
1	Refused

IF CURRENTLY LIVES WITH MOTHER (Q20B_1=1):

Q21a In the 2024 presidential election, who did your mother vote for...

22	Donald Trump, the Republican
33	Kamala Harris, the Democrat
22	Did not vote
23	Not sure
*	Refused

IF CURRENTLY LIVES WITH FATHER (Q20B_2=1):

Q21b In the 2024 presidential election, who did your father vote for...

26	Donald Trump, the Republican
27	Kamala Harris, the Democrat
23	Did not vote
23	Not sure
1	Refused

ASK ALL:

Imagine you received a creative writing assignment from your English/Language Arts teacher at your school. Please read the following prompt and reply as best as you can...

ASK FORM 1:

Q22a Imagine you woke up and you are now a teenage [girl/boy]. In a few sentences, write about your experience... what are you feeling, what are you excited or worried about as you begin your day?

[TEXT BOX]

ASK FORM 2:

Q22b Imagine you just turned 30 years old. In only a few short sentences, please describe what your ideal life looks like. Where do you live? How are you spending your time?

[TEXT BOX]

ASK ALL:

Q23 All in all, how favorable or unfavorable is your view of...?

A. Donald Trump

11	Very favorable
12	Somewhat favorable
10	Somewhat unfavorable
44	Very unfavorable
20	Not sure
4	Refused

B. The Republican Party

9	Very favorable
15	Somewhat favorable
16	Somewhat unfavorable
27	Very unfavorable
29	Not sure
3	Refused

C. The Democratic Party

12	Very favorable
22	Somewhat favorable
14	Somewhat unfavorable
17	Very unfavorable
31	Not sure
4	Refused

D. The MeToo Movement

9	Very favorable
12	Somewhat favorable
7	Somewhat unfavorable
9	Very unfavorable
59	Not sure
4	Refused

Q24 How would you describe your political views...

9	Very liberal
12	Somewhat liberal
41	Moderate
13	Somewhat conservative
9	Very conservative
12	Something else, please specify [TEXT BOX]
5	Refused

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago on behalf of the American Enterprise Institute's Survey Center on American Life, using NORC's AmeriSpeak Panel for the sample source. AmeriSpeak is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US household population, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. AmeriSpeak Teen members (ages 13 to 17) are recruited via their parent and/or legal guardian who resides in the same household and is already a part of the AmeriSpeak Panel; therefore, the AmeriSpeak Teen Panel has the same probability-based design as the adult household panel. The survey sample consisted of all active Teen Panelists; from the 1,400 individuals invited to the survey, NORC collected 782 complete interviews. The survey was offered in English only and was self-administered by respondents online. Interviewing was conducted between January 20 and February 16, 2026.

Weighting was accomplished in three separate stages. First, weights were developed for all panel members to account for their probability of selection into the sample of panel recruits, panel recruitment nonresponse adjustments, and poststratification adjustments of the recruited panel to match population benchmarks. Second, sampling weights were developed for the study sample selected from the panel to account for their selection probabilities under the sample design; these base weights are a product of the AmeriSpeak Panel weights and the inverse of the selection probabilities associated with sample selection from the panel. Lastly, final weights were developed for all completed cases of the study. The final weights are adjustments of the base weights to address survey nonresponse through a weighting class method, with the weighting classes defined by age, race/ethnicity, sex, and parent's education. Raking adjustments were then applied to the nonresponse-adjusted weights to align the survey sample to specific population benchmarks drawn from the March 2025 Current Population Survey. The final weights may be trimmed to reduce the influence of extreme weights on survey estimates.

The use of survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.79 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.87.