

High Schoolers View the Future

National Teens Comparison Survey

THE WASHINGTON POST/HENRY J. KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION/HARVARD UNIVERSITY

This survey was conducted by telephone Aug. 3 - 8, 2005 among a nationally representative sample of 570 respondents 14 to 18 years of age. Margin of error for total respondents is plus or minus four percentage points, and plus or minus six percentage points for results based on half the sample. Fieldwork by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, PA.

HS-1. Do you think things in this country (are generally going in the right direction) or do you feel things (have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track)?

TEEN

40%	Right direction
54	Wrong track
6	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

HS-2. 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), or do you feel (concerned that America's best years might already be behind us)?

TEEN

54	Best years are still ahead of us
41	Best years already behind us
4	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

HS-3. Generally speaking, do you think NOW is a (good) time or a (bad) time to be growing up?

TEEN

63	Good time
31	Bad time
5	(Neither)
1	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

HS-4. How likely is it that you will be rich someday? Is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

<u>TEEN</u>	
63	Likely (NET)
15	Very likely
48	Fairly likely
35	Not Likely (NET)
27	Not too likely
8	Not likely at all
2	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

HS-5. How likely is it that you will be famous someday? Is it very likely, fairly likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?

<u>TEEN</u>	
31	Likely (NET)
9	Very likely
21	Fairly likely
69	Not Likely (NET)
4	Not too likely
25	Not likely at all
*	(Don't know)
--	(Refused)

HS-5a. Do you think it is better for the child if one of the parents stays home full-time, or doesn't it make much difference?

<u>TEEN</u>	
41	Parent stays home full-time
55	Doesn't make much difference if parent stays home
1	(Better if both parents work)
2	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

HS-5b. INTERVIEWER READ: Now I'd like you to think ahead to when you are your parent's age. Just your best guess, by the time you are your parents' age, do you think...
This country's political leaders will be more trustworthy or less trustworthy than they are now?

TEEN

42 More trustworthy
51 Less trustworthy
5 (Same)
2 (Don't know)
-- (Refused)

HS-6. Do you think there will or will not be another terrorist attack as big as the one on Sept. 11, 2001 in your lifetime?

TEEN

65 Yes, will have attack
31 No, no attack
4 (Don't know)
-- (Refused)

HS-7. Do you think that there will or will not be a nuclear war in your lifetime?

TEEN

28 Yes, nuclear war
66 No, no war
6 (Don't know)
-- (Refused)

HS-6/HS-7 Combo Table

TEEN	
71	Will have an Attack (NET)
65	Terrorist Attack
28	Nuclear Attack
29	Will not have an attack/Don't Know/Refused

(Asked of one half 14-18 year olds; n = 288)

HS-8A. Have you, personally, had any of the following experiences?
Have you ever (INSERT), or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't Know)
a. Visited or lived in a foreign country	36	64	--
b. Had a friend of a different race	94	6	--
d. Had a friend who was killed or injured by gun violence	21	79	--
h. Had a friend who became pregnant	49	51	--
i. Had a friend who was openly gay or lesbian	48	52	*

(Asked of one half 14-18 year olds; n = 282)

HS-8B. Have you, personally, had any of the following experiences?
Have you ever (INSERT), or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't Know)	(Refused)
c. Taken an Advanced Placement class in school	47%	53	--	--
e. Had a friend who dropped out of school	53	47	*	--
f. Known someone who was in a gang	42	57	1	1
g. Dated someone of a different race	35	65	--	--
j. Personally been a victim of crime or violence	20	79	--	1

HS-9. In general, how often do you experience stress in your daily life -- never, rarely, sometimes, or frequently?

TEEN	
5	Never
94	Experience Stress (NET)
19	Rarely
48	Sometimes
27	Frequently
--	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

HS-10. Do you think it should be (legal) or (illegal) for gay and lesbian couples to get married?

TEEN	
53	Legal
43	Illegal
3	(Don't know)
1	(Refused)

And finally, I'd just like to ask a few questions which help us to classify your answers ...

D-1. What grade of school are you currently in?

TEEN	
--	5 th
--	6 th
*	7 th
3	8 th
19	9 th
21	10 th
20	11 th
21	12 th
11	College
3	Not in School
1	(Refused)

D-2. Which of the following are ways you obtain spending money?

	Yes	No	(Don't Know)	(Refused)
a. Have a regular full or part time job	46	54	--	*
b. Earn money occasionally (doing odd jobs)	70	29	--	*
c. Have a regular allowance	32	68	--	*
d. Obtain money from parents when needed	81	19	*	*

D-3. Including your own money and other people's money, approximately how much did you, yourself, spend in total in the last 7 days?

TEEN

11	Nothing spent/less than \$1
7	\$1-\$9
23	\$10 but less than \$25
57	\$25 or more
3	(Don't know)
*	(Refused)

About The Survey

The survey of local high school-age students and their parents was conducted among 800 randomly selected pairs of teenagers and parents or guardians living in the Washington region: 102 pairs in the District, 391 in Maryland and 307 in Virginia. High school-age teenagers were defined as those 14 to 18 years old. Teenagers were interviewed with their parents' permission. Interviews were conducted by telephone from April 26 to May 29. Hispanic and Asian teenagers were represented in the sample in proportion to their percentage in the local population. However, the resulting subsamples of each group were too small to draw statistically valid characterizations.

The national survey was conducted by telephone August 3 to August 8 among a nationally representative sample of 570 respondents in the same age group. The margin of sampling error for results based on national teens, local teens or local parents is plus or minus four percentage points. The fieldwork for both surveys was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

This project was conducted jointly by The Washington Post, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University as part of an ongoing collaboration. The three sponsors worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results but are publishing independent summaries of the findings. Each organization bears sole responsibility for the work that appears under its name. The Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation-- a nonprofit organization that conducts research on health care and other public policy issues -- paid for the surveys and related expenses. The project team members from KFF included Drew E. Altman, president; Mollyann Brodie, vice president for public opinion research; and Elizabeth Hamel, associate director for public opinion research. Harvard project team members included Robert J. Blendon, a professor at the School of Public Health and John F. Kennedy School of Government, and John Benson, managing director of the Harvard Opinion Research Program.