



The Youth and Participatory Politics Panel Survey

The Youth Participatory Politics Survey (YPP) is a nationally representative panel survey of young people in the United States. It was conducted between 2011 and 2015 and was designed to examine how youth from a variety of backgrounds participate in and experience public life, online and off.

Cross-sectional and nationally representative data of youth from 2011 and 2013 is available as is panel data drawing on data from 2013 and 2015. These data are archived at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. For more information on the YPP Survey Project data set, variables, and publications please follow this link: <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/civicleads/series/768>

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Measures for Online Participatory Politics

"People use a variety of methods to gather and share information about political candidates, campaigns or political issues. Please tell us how often you have done the following during the past 12 months:"
(Answer options: never, less than once a month, once or twice a month, once a week, several times a week.)

"Forwarded, retweeted, or posted someone else's article, blog, picture, or video about a political campaign, candidate or issue."

"Created and circulated your own article, blog, picture, or video about a political campaign, candidate, or issue on an online site."

"Commented online or tweeted about an article, blog, picture, or video you saw about a political campaign, candidate, or issue."

"Posted a status update or sent an e-mail, Tweet, or instant message about a political campaign, candidate, or issue."

For an article that uses this scale and provides conceptual explanations of the scales see:

<https://www.civicsurvey.org/publications/participatory-politics>

Measures for Friendship-Driven Online Activity

"People interact with family and friends through a variety of online methods. How often would you say you interact with your friends and family by:" *(Answer options: never, less than once a month, at least once a month, at least once a week, daily.)*

"Sending messages, sharing status updates, or chatting online using social network services like Twitter or Facebook?"

"Sharing links or forwarding information or media through social network services like Twitter or Facebook?"

"Tagging friends and family members in posts, photos, or videos on social networking sites?"

“Commenting on something a friend or family member posted on a social networking site?”

“Visiting websites and other online material that friends or family members have posted or circulated?”

For an article that uses these scales and provides conceptual explanations of the scales see:

<https://www.civicsurvey.org/publications/participatory-politics>

Measures for Interest-Driven Online Activity

“People have a variety of interests (gaming, sports, music, fandom, crafting, etc.). Thinking about your major interests, how often do you typically do the following?” (*Answer options: never, less than once a month, at least once a month, at least once a week, daily.*)

“Participate in an online forum or group related to your interests.”

“Give help, advice or suggestions to others online related to your interests.”

“Use the internet to organize an online group, discussion, or website.”

“Create your own media to share online, like blogging, fiction, podcasts, music, videos, art, or games.”

“Post an online comment, review, or critique of someone else’s media.”

For an article that uses these scales and provides conceptual explanations of the scales see:

<https://www.civicsurvey.org/publications/participatory-politics>

Measures for Digital Engagement Learning Opportunities

“During the 2014-2015 school year, how often have you learned about how to create and share digital media as part of... Your classes or schoolwork?” (*Answer options: Never (0), Once (.33), 2 or 3 times (.67), More than 3 times (1).*)

“During the 2014-2015 school year, how often have you discussed how to effectively share your perspective on social or political issues online (for example, by blogging or tweeting) as part of... Your classes or schoolwork?” (*Answer options: Never (0), Once (.33), 2 or 3 times (.67), More than 3 times (1).*)

For an article that uses these scales and provides conceptual explanations of the scales see:

Joseph Kahne & Benjamin Bowyer (2019) Can media literacy education increase digital engagement in politics? *Learning, Media and Technology*, 44:2, 211-224, <https://www.civicsurvey.org/publications/can-media-literacy-education-increase>

Measures for Media Literacy Learning Opportunities (focused on credibility judgments)

Thinking back to the last school you attended, how often did you have a class where you discussed the importance of evaluating the evidence that backs up people’s opinions? (*Never, Once, A few times, Often.*)

Thinking back to the last school you attended, how often did you have a class where you discussed how to tell if the information you find online is trustworthy? (*Never, Once, A few times, Often.*)

For an article that uses these scales and provides conceptual explanations of the scales see:

Kahne, J. & B.T. Bowyer (2017). Educating for Democracy in a Partisan Age: Confronting the Challenges of Motivated Reasoning and Misinformation. *American Educational Research Journal*. 54(1), 3-34. <https://www.civicsurvey.org/publications/educating-for-democracy-in-a-partisan-age>

Measures for Targeted Political Pressure

“Many people try to have influence in ways that aren’t directly related to campaigns or elections. Please indicate whether you have done the following in the past 12 months: Signed an e-mail, Facebook, or other online petition” *(Answer options: yes (1), no (0).)*

“In the past 12 months, have you contacted your local, state or federal government by sending an email, tweet, or instant message, or by posting a comment on its website or Facebook page?” *(Answer options: yes (1), no (0).)*

“In the past 12 months, have you contacted a corporation, company, or business to protest its practices or policies by sending an email, tweet, or instant message, or by posting a comment on its website or Facebook page?” *(Answer options: yes (1), no (0).)*

“In the past 12 months, have you contacted an organization doing work in your community by sending an email, tweet, or instant message, or by posting a comment on its website or Facebook page?” *(Answer options: yes (1), no (0).)*

For an article that uses these scales and provides conceptual explanations of the scales see:

Joseph Kahne & Benjamin Bowyer (2019) Can media literacy education increase digital engagement in politics? *Learning, Media and Technology*, 44:2, 211-224, <https://www.civicsurvey.org/publications/can-media-literacy-education-increase>