



The State of GENDER EQUALITY for U.S. Adolescents

Across Race & Ethnicity

In 2018, Plan International USA, an international organization that advances girls' equality and children's rights, commissioned leading non-partisan public opinion research firm, PerryUndem, to conduct an extensive public opinion study of adolescents, ages 10 to 19, on issues and experiences related to gender equality. The goal of the research is to provide a resource for policymakers, media, and others who want to understand how adolescents feel about gender equality and what shapes their views, as well as inform solutions to achieve gender equality in the U.S.

The survey looked at differences in views on sexism and gender equality by race and ethnicity, and what shapes these views.

VIEWS ON GENDER EQUALITY & SEXISM

- **Overall, adolescents of color tend to be more progressive on gender equality and are more likely than White adolescents to perceive inequality.**
- Higher percentages of Black (70 percent) and Latinx (65 percent) boys and girls strongly agree they want equal numbers of men and women who are leaders in work, politics, and life—compared to 53 percent of White adolescents.
- Thirty-five percent of White adolescents surveyed say that full equality for girls already exists, compared to 28 percent of Black adolescents and 27 percent of Latinx adolescents surveyed.
- Eighty-seven percent of Black adolescents and 83 percent of Latinx adolescents surveyed say sexism is a problem, compared to 74 percent of white adolescents surveyed.

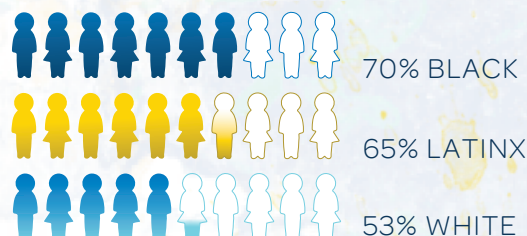
REPORTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- **A higher percentage of Latinx and Black adolescents report hearing boys make sexual comments and jokes about girls.**
- Nearly half of Latinx (46 percent) and Black (46 percent) boys and girls surveyed says they hear sexual comments and jokes about girls at least once a day, compared to 30 percent of White boys and girls.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of Black adolescents surveyed says their parent(s) talked to them about preventing or stopping sexual harassment as a result of the #MeToo movement, compared to 30 percent of Latinx adolescents surveyed and 26 percent of White adolescents surveyed.
- Thirty percent of Black adolescents surveyed say a teacher talked to them about preventing or stopping sexual harassment as a result of the #MeToo movement, compared to 20 percent of Latinx adolescents surveyed and 18 percent of White adolescents surveyed.

OTHER RELEVANT FINDINGS

- A higher percentage of Black boys and girls surveyed say an adult has talked to them about a number of issues, such as their right to be safe, encouragement to be a leader, and what makes romantic relationships healthy, as compared to Latinx and White adolescents surveyed.
- **A higher percentage of Black and Latinx boys and girls surveyed say they want to learn more about equality, safety, emotions, and relationships, compared to White adolescents surveyed.**
- A larger percentage of Black and Latinx adolescents surveyed say they feel pressure to be physically attractive, physically strong, or interested in sports, compared to White adolescents surveyed.

STRONGLY AGREE WITH WANTING EQUAL NUMBERS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE LEADERS IN WORK, POLITICS, AND LIFE.



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THE STUDY AND PLAN'S
CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE
GENDER EQUALITY IN THE U.S.,
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