



United States Youth on Sustainability and Social Justice: *Anxious, Caring, Aware, Lacking Trusted Information and Seeking Institutional Support from Higher Education and Government*

FOR RELEASE June 3, 2025

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Recommended Citation: Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice at Sacred Heart University, June 2025, "United States Youth on Sustainability and Social Justice: *Anxious, Caring, Aware, Lacking Trusted Information and Seeking Institutional Response from Higher Education and Government*"

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
METHODOLOGY SNAPSHOT.....	4
MAJOR FINDINGS: HIGHLIGHTS.....	5
TOP THEMES.....	5
<i>U.S. Youth Increasingly Anxious and Concerned about Climate Change.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Higher Education has a Central Role to Play in Sustainability and Social Justice.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>U.S. Youth Overwhelmingly Care about a Broad Range of Sustainability and Social Justice Goals.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>U.S. Youth are Concerned and Accept Responsibility to Act.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>U.S. Youth Recognize the Importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>U.S. Youth are Aware of the Capacities and Skills Required to Take Effective Action.....</i>	<i>7</i>
OTHER NOTEWORTHY FINDINGS.....	7
<i>U.S. Youth Lack High Trust for Institutional Action on Sustainability and Social Justice.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>U.S. Youth Expect Government Institutions to Play a Leading Role in Addressing Sustainability and Social Justice Issues.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>U.S. Youth Support Diverse Government Roles in Sustainability and Social Justice.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>U.S. Youth Lack Trust in the Information They Receive on Sustainability and Social Justice.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>U.S. Youth Value Open Discussion and Diversity of Opinion but Fear Judgement.....</i>	<i>9</i>
MAJOR FINDINGS.....	9
U.S. YOUTH INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS AND CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.....	9
<i>Key Observations and Patterns.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Demographic Patterns in Eco-Anxiety.....</i>	<i>12</i>
HIGHER EDUCATION HAS A CENTRAL ROLE TO PLAY IN SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	12
U.S. YOUTH OVERWHELMINGLY CARE ABOUT A BROAD RANGE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE GOALS.....	16
<i>U.S. Youth are Concerned and Accept Responsibility to Act.....</i>	<i>17</i>
Demographic Patterns in Personal Concern, Responsibility, and Confidence to Act.....	19
<i>U.S. Youth Recognize the Importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).....</i>	<i>21</i>
Key Observations and Patterns.....	21
Demographic Patterns in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ratings.....	23
U.S. YOUTH ARE AWARE OF THE CAPACITIES AND SKILLS REQUIRED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION.....	24
<i>Demographic Patterns in Inner Development Goals (IDGs) Capacity and Skills Ratings.....</i>	<i>27</i>
U.S. YOUTH LACK HIGH TRUST FOR INSTITUTIONAL ACTION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	28
<i>Most Trusted Institutions:.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Least Trusted Institutions:.....</i>	<i>28</i>
Key Observations and Patterns.....	28
<i>Demographic Patterns in Institutional Trust.....</i>	<i>30</i>
U.S. YOUTH EXPECT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES.....	34
Key Observations and Patterns.....	34
Demographic Patterns in Institutional Roles.....	36
U.S. YOUTH SUPPORT DIVERSE GOVERNMENT ROLES IN SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	37
Demographic Patterns in Government Roles.....	39
U.S. YOUTH LACK TRUST IN THE INFORMATION THEY RECEIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	41
Demographic Patterns in Trusted Sources of Information.....	44
U.S. YOUTH VALUE OPEN DISCUSSION AND DIVERSITY OF OPINION BUT FEAR JUDGEMENT.....	48
Key Observations and Patterns.....	48
Demographic Patterns in Self-Censorship.....	51
METHODOLOGY.....	53

AREAS OF INVESTIGATION.....	53
METHODOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS	53
SURVEY PROGRAMMING AND PRE-TESTING.....	54
DATA COLLECTION.....	54
DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE	54
WEIGHTING.....	54
SUB-GROUP ANALYSIS MARGIN OF ERROR.....	54

Methodology Snapshot

The Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice at Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT) in partnership with GreatBlue Research (Glastonbury, CT) developed and conducted this survey to surface the perceptions of United States youth on the intertwined topics of sustainability and social justice, and the role and responsibility of higher education in these areas. We surveyed a random sample of 1,500 U.S. residents aged 15 to 29. The sample was stratified by gender, age and geographic region to ensure broad representation. The final sample was then weighted according to age, education, income, race, Hispanic origin and U.S. census region. The survey was fielded from March 26, 2025, to April 2, 2025.

Details of the methodology can be found at the [end of this report](#). Poll questions and response frequencies are available by request—please contact Kirk Bartholomew by email at: bartholomewk@sacredheart.edu.

Major Findings: Highlights

See **Major Findings** section for additional details, including data tables and charts.

Top Themes

U.S. Youth Increasingly Anxious and Concerned about Climate Change

Eco-anxiety is rising among U.S. youth, with a strong majority (63%) reporting psychological distress related to climate change—up from 55% reported in the [2024 Sacred Heart University Institute for Sustainability and Social Justice poll](#) (SHU ISSJ) (fielded July 29, 2024 to August 5, 2024). Seven in 10 say they are at least “somewhat worried” about climate change.

- **Eco-anxiety is rising among youth:** Greater than 6 in 10 U.S. youth report experiencing eco-anxiety—defined as a level of psychological distress about climate change that impacts their daily lives. This represents a nearly 15% increase (55% to 63%) from the 2024 SHU ISSJ poll. The share of U.S. youth who “strongly agree” with experiencing eco-anxiety also rose, increasing 7 percentage points to over 1 in 4 (from 19% to 26%).
- **Worry is widespread:** Seven in 10 U.S. youth say they are “somewhat” or “very worried” about climate change. “Anxious” is the most frequently selected descriptor of how respondents feel about climate change — 10 percentage points higher than any other emotion.
- **Concern affects majority of all political and demographic groups:** Eco-anxiety is reported (“strongly agree” or “somewhat agree”) by 73% of Democrats, 73% of liberals, 63% of Republicans and 60% of conservatives. The only demographic in the survey reporting rates of eco-anxiety barely below 50% were 15- to 17-year-olds at 49%.

Higher Education has a Central Role to Play in Sustainability and Social Justice

Three-fourths of U.S. youth believe colleges and universities should teach about sustainability and social justice and essentially the same percentage also indicate that colleges and universities should teach the skills to address issues of sustainability and social justice. The view was shared widely across political groups, although reported the strongest among Democrats and liberals.

- **Strong support for education’s role:** 75% of youth say it is “very important” or “important” for colleges and universities to teach about sustainability and social justice. Strong majorities of all party affiliations and political identities recognize the importance of sustainability and social justice. Support is strongest among Democrats (87%) and liberals (84%) but still notable among Republicans (75%), conservatives (74%), independents (65%) and moderates (67%).
- **Teaching skills to act on sustainability and social justice:** Likewise, 74% believe higher education should teach practical skills for addressing the challenges of sustainability and social justice. Again, strong majorities of all political party affiliations recognize this importance: 86% of Democrats, 70% of Republicans and 67% of independents.
- **Higher education is perceived as playing a central role in addressing sustainability**

and social justice issues: Nearly 3 in 4 respondents say colleges and universities “currently” play a central role (74%), and three-fourths (75%) say they should “continue” to have a central role in the future.

U.S. Youth Overwhelmingly Care about a Broad Range of Sustainability and Social Justice Goals

Two-thirds of U.S. youth consider sustainability and social justice highly important, though views vary by race, politics and age—with Black and Hispanic youth, as well as Democrats, rating them higher than others, while 18- to 21-year-olds show slightly lower engagement.

- **Significant majorities of U.S. youth recognize the importance of sustainability and social justice:** Overall, two-thirds of U.S. youth rate sustainability and social justice as either “extremely important” or “very important.” Views vary across demographics: Black (74%) and Hispanic (72%) youth rate these issues higher than white youth (63%). Politically, Democrats (81%) place greater importance on sustainability and social justice than Republicans (65%) or independents (56%).

U.S. Youth are Concerned and Accept Responsibility to Act

U.S. youth report high levels of concern about sustainability and social justice issues, with most also reporting a personal sense of responsibility to act. However, despite this engagement, far fewer express strong confidence in their ability to effect change. Youth place greater trust in collective efforts and institutional action—especially from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and higher education—to address these challenges.

- **High concern and responsibility:** Three-quarters at least “somewhat agree” (75%) that they are concerned about sustainability and social justice, and 71% at least “somewhat agree” that they feel responsible to act on sustainability and social justice.
- **High confidence to act lags behind:** While nearly 7 in 10 youth at least “somewhat agree” that they feel confident in their ability to take effective action on sustainability and social justice issues, less than 1 in 3 youth “strongly agree” that they are confident to act.
- **Collective action perceived as effective:** Over 3 in 4 youth (77%) believe acting with others “is currently” effective and think it could be in the future (78%).

U.S. Youth Recognize the Importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 by all member states, U.S. youth place the highest importance on goals that address basic human needs and quality of life. The top five goals rated as “very important” are:

- Clean water and sanitation (57%)
- Quality education (56%)
- Life on land (54%)
- Good health and well-being (53%)
- Zero hunger (53%)

Key Observations and Patterns

- **All SDGs rated at least “somewhat important” by strong majorities of all demographic**

groups: Greater than 7 in 10 U.S. youth rank all goals at least “somewhat important” regardless of race, gender, age, political identity or party affiliation.

- **Basic needs dominate “very important” rating:** Water, food, health and education consistently top the list of priorities across demographics.

- **Younger, female and Democrat-leaning respondents rank goals higher:** These groups show the most consistent and intense valuation of the SDGs.

U.S. Youth are Aware of the Capacities and Skills Required to Take Effective Action

Youth across the U.S. widely value inner and interpersonal capacities as essential tools for addressing sustainability and social justice. All five of the transformational skills identified by Inner Development Goals (IDGs) as critical for sustainable development -- being, thinking, relating, collaborating and acting — received strong support, with nearly 8 in 10 youth endorsing the importance of higher education in teaching these capacities and skills.

- **“Very important” capacities:** Nearly 5 in 10 U.S. youth indicated four capacities, “being” (49%), “thinking” (49%), “relating” (48%) and “collaborating” (47%) as “very important” to act on sustainability and social justice. The fifth category, acting, was rated slightly lower (44%).
- **Broad support across all five capacities:** Eight in 10 U.S. youth rated all capacities as being at least “somewhat important” and while variation exists, the differences in ratings are relatively narrow, signaling consistent value placed on all components of personal and collaborative development.
- **Strong role for education:** Nearly 8 in 10 U.S. youth believe it is at least “somewhat important” for colleges and universities to teach these inner capacities. This suggests that students not only recognize their importance but also expect higher education to help develop those capacities in students.

Other Noteworthy Findings

U.S. Youth Lack High Trust for Institutional Action on Sustainability and Social Justice

When asked which institutions they trust to effectively address sustainability and social justice issues, U.S. youth revealed generally low trust with meaningful differences across sectors, age groups, political identity/party affiliation and regions (percentages reported are sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”).

Most Trusted Institutions:

- Higher education institutions (colleges and universities) earned the highest net trust score (67%).
- Nonprofit organizations such as Nature Conservancy, UNICEF and the Red Cross followed closely (66%).
- Charitable foundations like the Gates, Ford and Rockefeller foundations were also positively rated (62%).
- Local governments—including mayors, city councils and school boards—rounded out the top 4 in terms of trusted institutions (60%).

Least Trusted Institutions:

- Extremely wealthy individuals were viewed with the most skepticism, ranking lowest by a significant margin (45%).

- Large businesses and corporations, along with the federal government, were among the least trusted institutions (48%).
- Organized religion was also ranked poorly (51%).

Key Observations and Patterns

- **Trust is hard to come by:** While education and nonprofits are most trusted, no institution achieved overwhelmingly high trust, signaling a broad deficiency of trust in U.S. institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice.
- **Education and nonprofits best positioned:** These two institutional categories may serve as the most credible platforms for advancing sustainability and social justice goals.
- **Widespread skepticism toward wealth:** Wealthy individuals and large corporations are broadly distrusted in the context of addressing sustainability and social justice.

U.S. Youth Expect Government Institutions to Play a Leading Role in Addressing Sustainability and Social Justice Issues

When asked which institutions should lead efforts to address sustainability and social justice, U.S. youth overwhelmingly pointed to the public sector, with state, local and federal governments topping the list. State government institutions led all responses with 41%, followed by local government (36%), the federal government (36%), higher education institutions (35%) and nonprofit organizations (34%).

At the opposite end of the spectrum, organized religion was selected by only 14% of respondents, making it the least selected institution to lead on these issues. Large businesses and extremely wealthy private individuals also ranked low (21% and 22%, respectively).

- **Government leadership expected:** Youth tend to view sustainability and social justice as responsibilities of public institutions at every level.
- **Multi-level governance:** The nearly equal support for state, local and federal bodies suggests youth want coordinated leadership across jurisdictions.
- **Higher education as change agent:** The comparatively high ranking of colleges and universities signals faith in their role as incubators of change and innovation.

U.S. Youth Support Diverse Government Roles in Sustainability and Social Justice

When asked which roles institutions of government should play in addressing sustainability and social justice issues, respondents expressed support for a diverse approach. The top actions selected included “funding and supporting programs” (40%), “setting and enforcing regulations” (38%) and “holding corporations accountable for their environmental and societal impact” (37%). “Raising public awareness” and “supporting education and skill building” were also widely selected, at 36% and 35%, respectively.

- **Youth support a multifaceted approach:** Respondents do not endorse a single method of action but rather support government involvement across multiple fronts—including regulatory enforcement, program funding and raising public awareness.

- **Younger youth favor government action:** The 15 to 17 age group was the most enthusiastic about multi-layered government-led solutions (43% on average support among ages 15 to 17 not factoring in “other” narrative responses).

- **Gender affects views on government roles:** Female respondents favored more proactive government engagement across education, awareness and collaboration.

U.S. Youth Lack Trust in the Information They Receive on Sustainability and Social Justice

U.S. youth report that personal and local sources top their list of trusted sources for information on sustainability and social justice issues. Family members received the highest net trust score (sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”) at 73%, followed by friends (72%), local community organizations or advocacy groups (68%) and colleges or universities (67%). Specific individuals followed on social media also ranked highly (68%).

At the opposite end, comedy news shows and talk shows ranked lowest in net trust (47%), along with government agencies (57%), general social media platforms (61%) and podcasts or radio programs (59%).

- **Fractured trust:** No source earns uniformly “high trust” across the board, indicating major challenges in reaching a broad audience with consistent messages.
- **Personal trust exceeds institutional:** U.S. youth trust information from people they know more than formal institutions or media.
- **Digital media complexity:** While social media in general is less trusted, individuals people follow on those platforms are trusted more, which suggests the value of personal credibility.

U.S. Youth Value Open Discussion and Diversity of Opinion but Fear Judgement

While U.S. youth overwhelmingly value open discussion around sustainability and social justice, many report withholding their views out of fear of judgment or backlash. Youth are more comfortable expressing themselves in private or personal settings, and far less so in academic, digital or professional environments. Despite this hesitation, the vast majority say it is important to be part of a community where open expression is encouraged and a diversity of value.

- **Self-censorship is common:** Over half of U.S. youth (54%) say they “frequently” or “occasionally” hold back from expressing their views on sustainability and social justice, that jumps to 75% when including those who do so “rarely.” Only 21% say they “never” self-censor.
- **Top reasons for holding back:** The most cited reasons are concerns over “offending” someone (41%) and not wanting to be “judged unfavorably” (39%).
- **Safe spaces important as a result:** A large majority (80%) “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” it is important to be part of a community where they feel safe to honestly share their opinions on these issues.

Major Findings

U.S. Youth Increasingly Anxious and Concerned about Climate Change

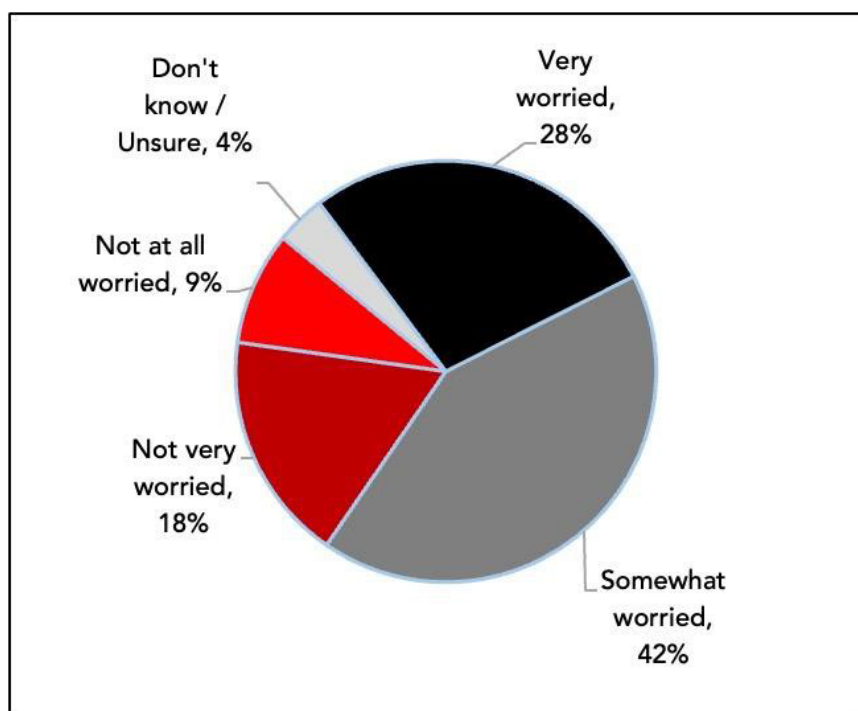
Eco-anxiety is rising among U.S. youth, with a strong majority (63%) reporting psychological distress related to climate change—up from 55% reported in the [2024 ISSJ Sacred Heart University poll](#) (fielded July 29, 2024 to August 5, 2024). Seven in 10 say they are at least “somewhat worried” about climate change.

Key Observations and Patterns

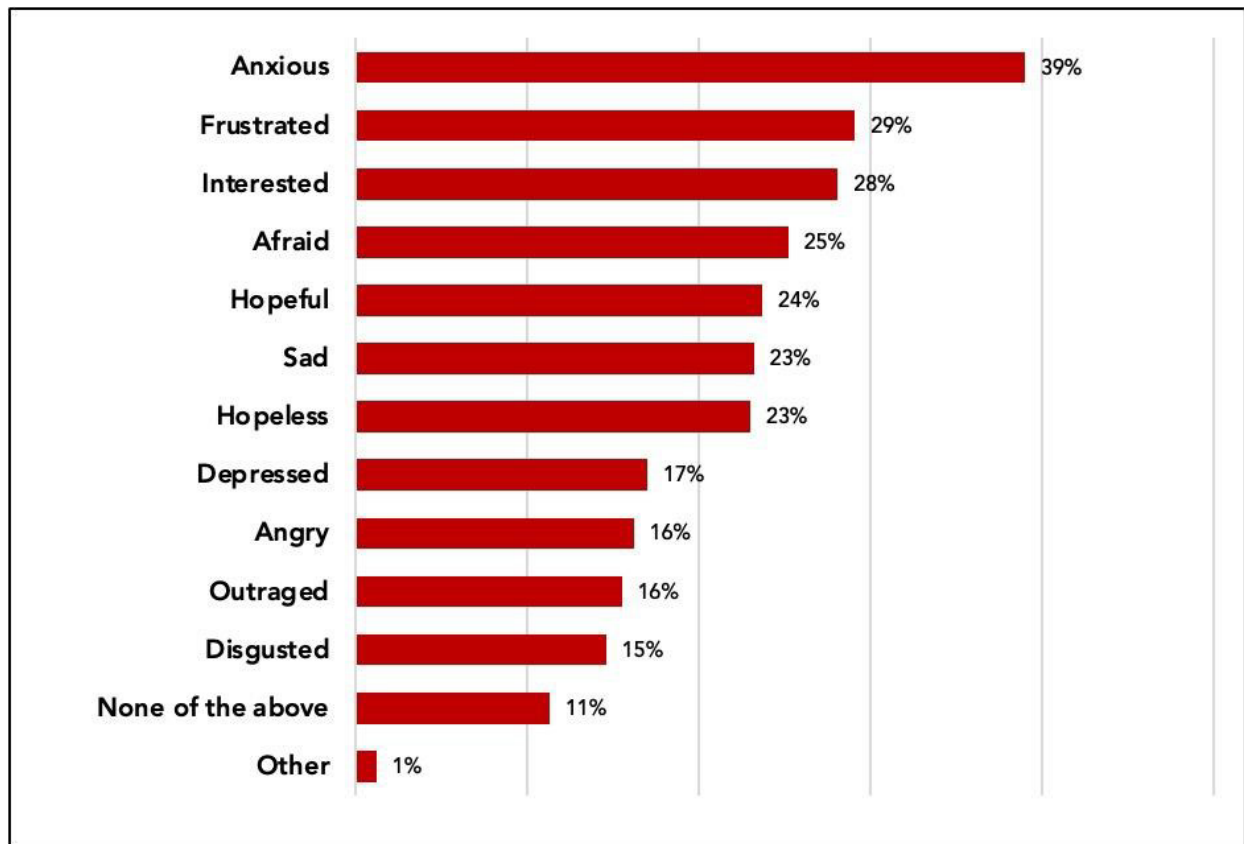
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- **Eco-anxiety is rising among youth:** Greater than 6 in 10 U.S. youth report experiencing eco-anxiety—defined as a level of psychological distress about climate change that impacts their daily lives. This represents a nearly 15% increase (55% to 63%) from the 2024 SHU ISSJ poll. The share of U.S. youth who “strongly agree” with experiencing eco-anxiety also rose, increasing 7 percentage points to over 1 in 4 (from 19% to 26%).
- **Worry is widespread:** Seven in 10 U.S. youth say they are “somewhat” or “very worried” about climate change. “Anxious” is the most frequently selected descriptor of how respondents feel about climate change — 10 percentage points higher than any other emotion.
- **Concern affects majority of all political and demographic groups:** Eco-anxiety is reported (“strongly agree” or “somewhat agree”) by 73% of Democrats, 73% of liberals, 63% of Republicans and 60% of conservatives. The only demographic in the survey reporting rates of eco-anxiety barely below 50% were 15- to 17-year-olds at 49%.
- **Younger teens report lower rates:** U.S. youth ages 15 to 17 were less likely to report eco-anxiety (49%) compared to their older peers (68% of 22- to 24-year-olds and 63% of 25- to 29-year-olds).

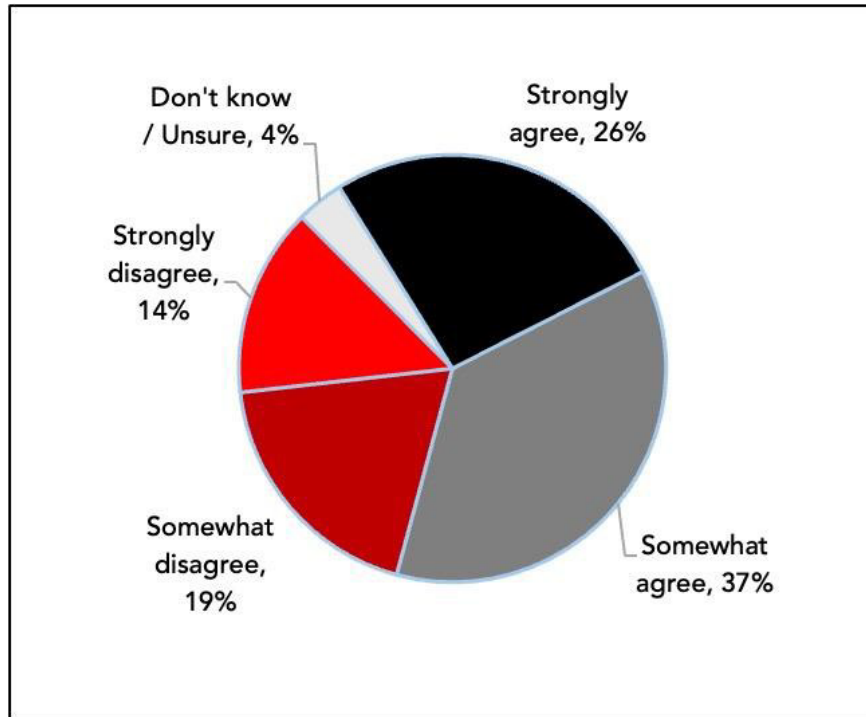
QUESTION: How worried are you, currently, about climate change? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: Which, if any, of the following emotions do you feel or experience when you think about climate change? Please select all that apply. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: Thinking specifically about climate change, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I experience “eco-anxiety” (my level of concern for climate change causes psychological distress that impacts my daily life)? (Data



Demographic Patterns in Eco-Anxiety

Eco-anxiety affects all demographic groups analyzed at high rates but varies in intensity (percentages reported are for strongly agree and somewhat agree):

- **Political party identification:** Among Republicans and conservatives, eco-anxiety rates remain substantial—64% and 60%, respectively, with Democrats/liberals reporting the highest levels—roughly 10 percentage points higher.
- **Race:** Eco-anxiety is highest among Hispanic (69%) and Black (70%) youth, compared to 60% of white youth.
- **Age:** Notably, youth aged 15 to 17 report lower levels (49%) compared to 63% to 68% among older age groups between 18 and 29.

Higher Education has a Central Role to Play in Sustainability and Social Justice

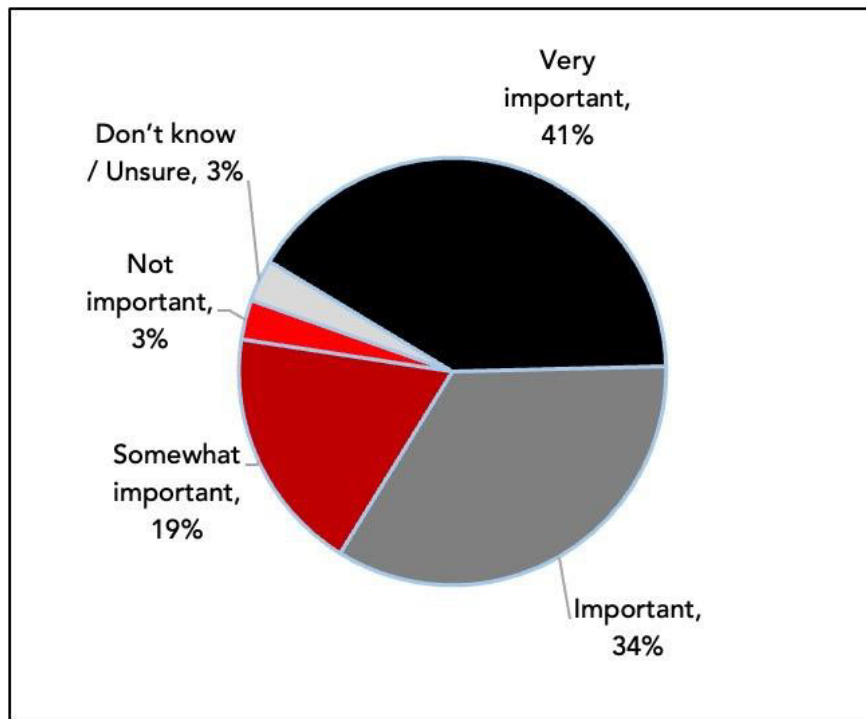
Three-fourths of U.S. youth believe colleges and universities should teach about sustainability and social justice and essentially the same percentage also indicate that colleges and universities should teach the skills to address issues of sustainability and social justice. The view was shared widely across political groups, although reported the strongest among Democrats and liberals.

- **Strong support for education's role:** 75% of youth say it is “very important” or “important” for colleges and universities to teach about sustainability and social justice.

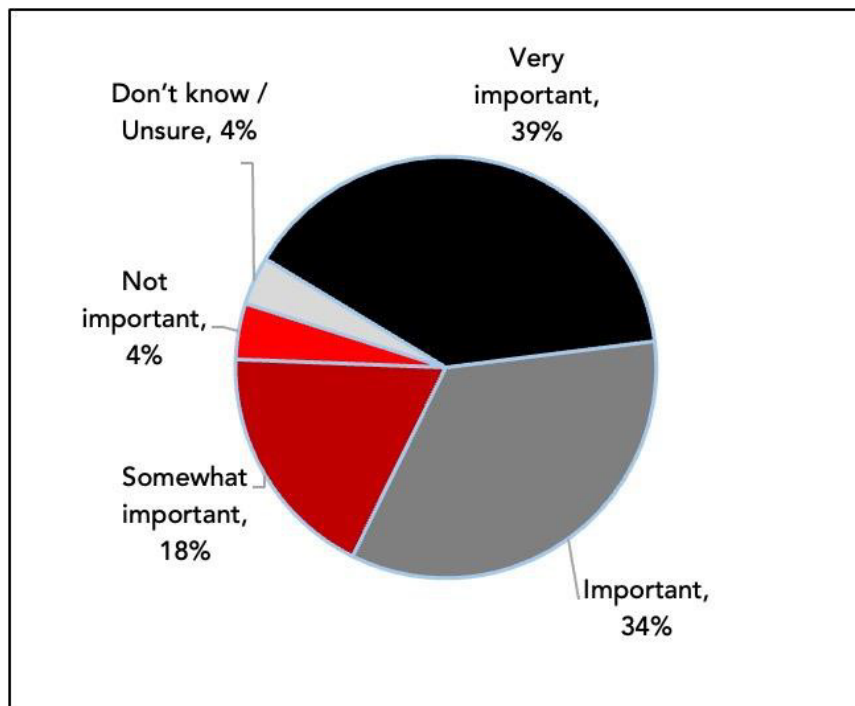
Strong majorities of all party affiliations and political identities recognize the importance of sustainability and social justice. Support is strongest among Democrats (87%) and liberals (84%) but still notable among Republicans (75%), conservatives (74%), independents (65%) and moderates (67%).

- **Teaching skills to act on sustainability and social justice:** Likewise, 74% believe higher education should teach practical skills for addressing the challenges of sustainability and social justice. Again, strong majorities of all political party affiliations recognize this importance: 86% of Democrats, 70% of Republicans and 67% of independents.
- **Higher education is perceived as playing a central role in addressing sustainability and social justice issues:** Nearly 3 in 4 respondents say colleges and universities “currently” play a central role (74%), and three-fourths (75%) say they should “continue” to have a central role in the future.
- **Higher education trusted as an information source on sustainability and social justice:** Higher education institutions (colleges and universities) earned the highest net trust scores as a source of information on sustainability and social justice; nearly 7 in 10 U.S. youth expressed at least “medium trust.”
- **Higher education trusted to act on addressing issues of sustainability and social justice:** Nearly 7 in 10 U.S. youth indicate at least “medium trust” in higher education to effectively address sustainability and social justice (the highest institutional ranking in this poll). This supports the central roll U.S. youth expect institutions of higher education to play in this area.

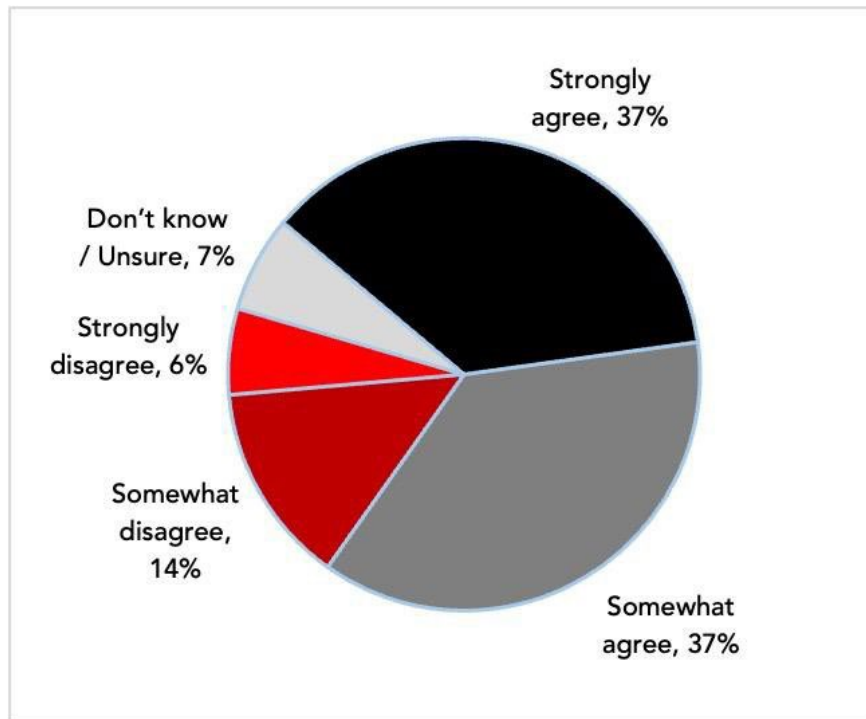
QUESTION: How important do you think it is for colleges and universities to teach about sustainability and social justice? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



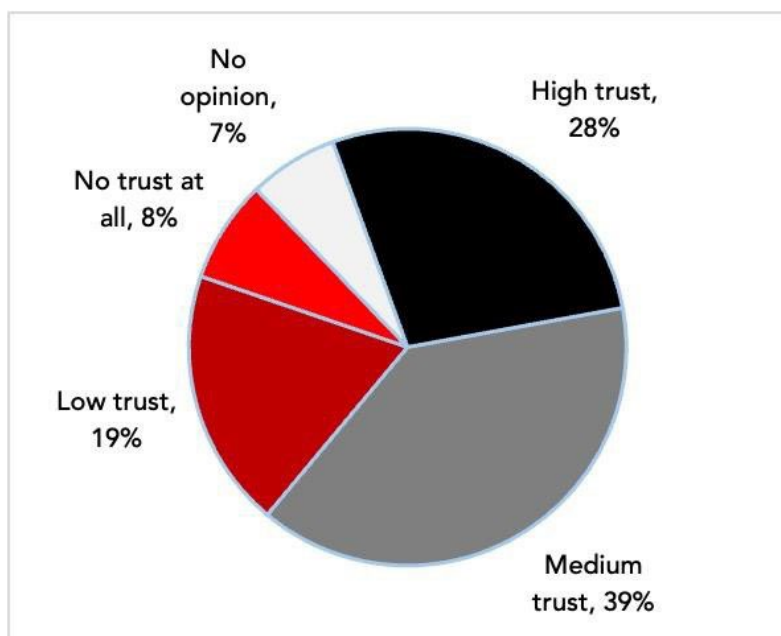
QUESTION: How important do you think it is for colleges and universities to teach the skills required to take action on sustainability and social justice? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



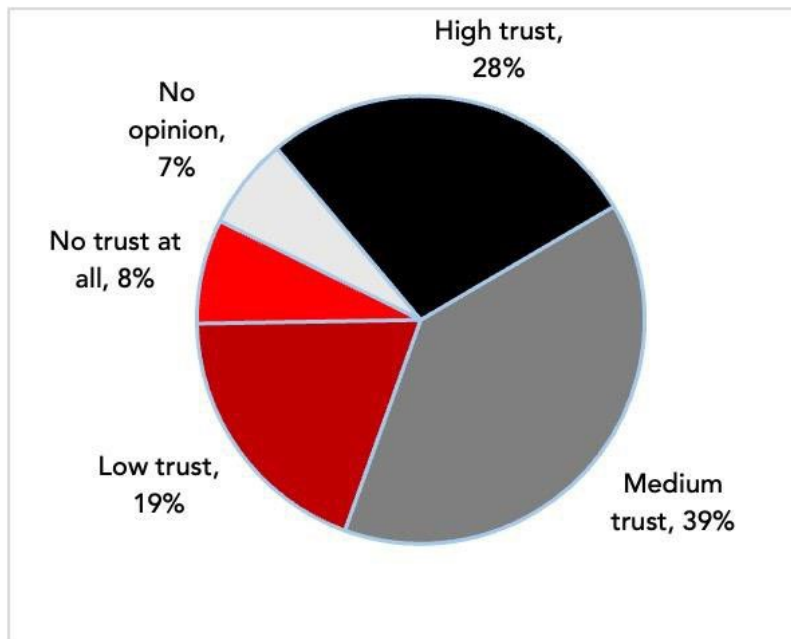
QUESTION: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your personal feelings? Showing responses for: “I feel that higher education institutions (colleges and universities) should have a central role to play in addressing sustainability and social justice.” (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: Please rate your level of TRUST for the following sources of information on sustainability and social justice. Showing responses for “colleges or universities (webinars, publications, etc.).” (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: What is your level of TRUST in the following institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice? Showing responses for, “higher education institutions (colleges and universities).” (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



U.S. Youth Overwhelmingly Care about a Broad Range of Sustainability and Social Justice

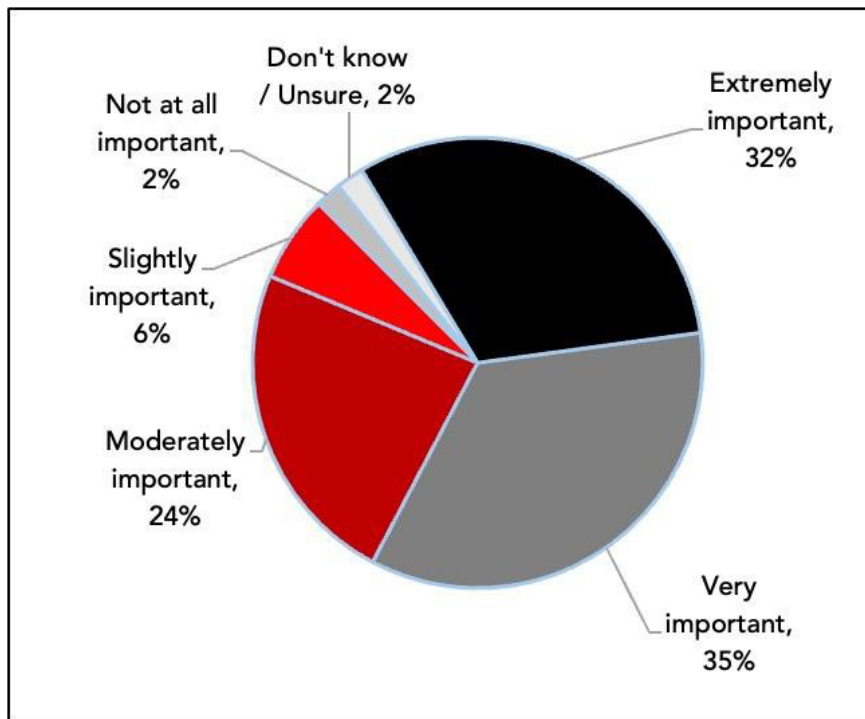
Goals

Two-thirds of U.S. youth consider sustainability and social justice highly important, though views vary by race, politics and age—with Black and Hispanic youth, as well as Democrats, rating them higher than others, while 18- to 21-year-olds show slightly lower engagement.

- **Significant majorities of U.S. youth recognize the importance of sustainability and social justice:** Overall, two-thirds of U.S. youth rate sustainability and social justice as either “extremely important” or “very important.” Views vary across demographics: Black (74%) and Hispanic (72%) youth rate these issues higher than white youth (63%). Politically, Democrats (81%) place greater importance on sustainability and social justice than Republicans (65%) or independents (56%).

For the purposes of this survey, sustainability was defined in a way that incorporates social justice. The following definition of sustainability was provided to survey respondents: The balanced and integrated pursuit of social progress, economic development and environmental protection to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It encompasses efforts to end poverty, protect the planet, ensure prosperity for all, reduce inequalities and foster peaceful and inclusive societies through collaborative global action.

QUESTION: Based on the definition of sustainability above, how important would you say addressing sustainability and social justice is to you? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



U.S. Youth are Concerned and Accept Responsibility to Act

U.S. youth report high levels of concern about sustainability and social justice issues, with most also reporting a personal sense of responsibility to act. However, despite this engagement, far fewer express strong confidence in their ability to effect change. Youth place greater trust in collective efforts and institutional action—especially from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and higher education—to address these challenges.

- **High concern and responsibility:** Three-quarters at least “somewhat agree” (75%) that they are concerned about sustainability and social justice, and 71% at least “somewhat agree” that they feel responsible to act on sustainability and social justice.
- **High confidence to act lags behind:** While nearly 7 in 10 youth at least “somewhat agree” that they feel confident in their ability to take effective action on sustainability and social justice issues, less than 1 in 3 youth “strongly agree” that they are confident to act.
- **Collective action perceived as effective:** Over 3 in 4 youth (77%) believe acting with others “is currently” effective and think it could be in the future (78%).
- **U.S. youth perceive effectiveness of both government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).** Nearly three-fourths (73%) at least “somewhat agree” that government could be effective in addressing sustainability and social justice issues

and 69% express a similar opinion of the effectiveness of NGOs.

QUESTION: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your personal feelings? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



Demographic Patterns in Personal Concern, Responsibility, and Confidence to Act

- **Race and ethnicity:** Black (81%) and Hispanic (78%) youth express higher concern about sustainability and social justice than white youth (72%). Similarly, confidence to act is higher among Black (78%) and Hispanic (70%) youth than white youth (66%).
- **Party affiliation and political identity:** Nearly 7 in 10 of all political identities at least “somewhat agree” with feeling personally responsible to act on sustainability and social justice. Democrats (82%) and liberals (81%) are more likely to feel personally responsible for action compared to Republicans (69%) and conservatives (68%). Democrats and liberals are also more optimistic about the effectiveness of collective and institutional responses—particularly government and higher education.
- **Substantial gaps perceived between current and potential effectiveness of government in the younger age groups:** Nearly a 20 percentage point gap was reported by U.S. youth ages 15 to 17 who felt that government action “is currently” an effective way to address sustainability and social justice (57%), compared to feeling that government “could be” effective (75%). Eighteen- to 21-year-olds express a 12 percentage point difference in opinion on this question.
- **Feelings of responsibility to act increase with age:** Perceptions of the effectiveness of current government action increases with age and older respondents report greater confidence in their ability to take action (see table below).

QUESTION: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your personal feelings?

Showing sum of “strongly” and “somewhat agree” by age group. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)

Personal Feelings...	Age 15-17	Age 18-21	Age 22-24	Age 25-29
I feel concerned about sustainability and social justice	77%	72%	76%	75%
I feel a personal responsibility to act on sustainability and social justice	66%	66%	77%	74%
I feel confident in my ability to act on sustainability and social justice	60%	67%	74%	70%
I feel that acting with others is currently an effective way to address sustainability and social justice	78%	76%	80%	76%
I feel that acting with others could be an effective way to address sustainability and social justice	80%	72%	82%	80%
I feel that higher education institutions (colleges and universities) currently have a central role to play in addressing sustainability and social justice	72%	73%	74%	74%
I feel that higher education institutions (colleges and universities) should have a central role to play in addressing sustainability and social justice	70%	74%	73%	78%
I feel that government action is currently an effective way to address sustainability and social justice	57%	58%	71%	69%
I feel that government action could be an effective way to address sustainability and social justice	75%	70%	73%	74%
I feel that action by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) is currently an effective way to address sustainability and social justice	65%	65%	74%	62%
I feel that action by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) could be an effective way to address sustainability and social justice	71%	65%	73%	69%

U.S. Youth Recognize the Importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

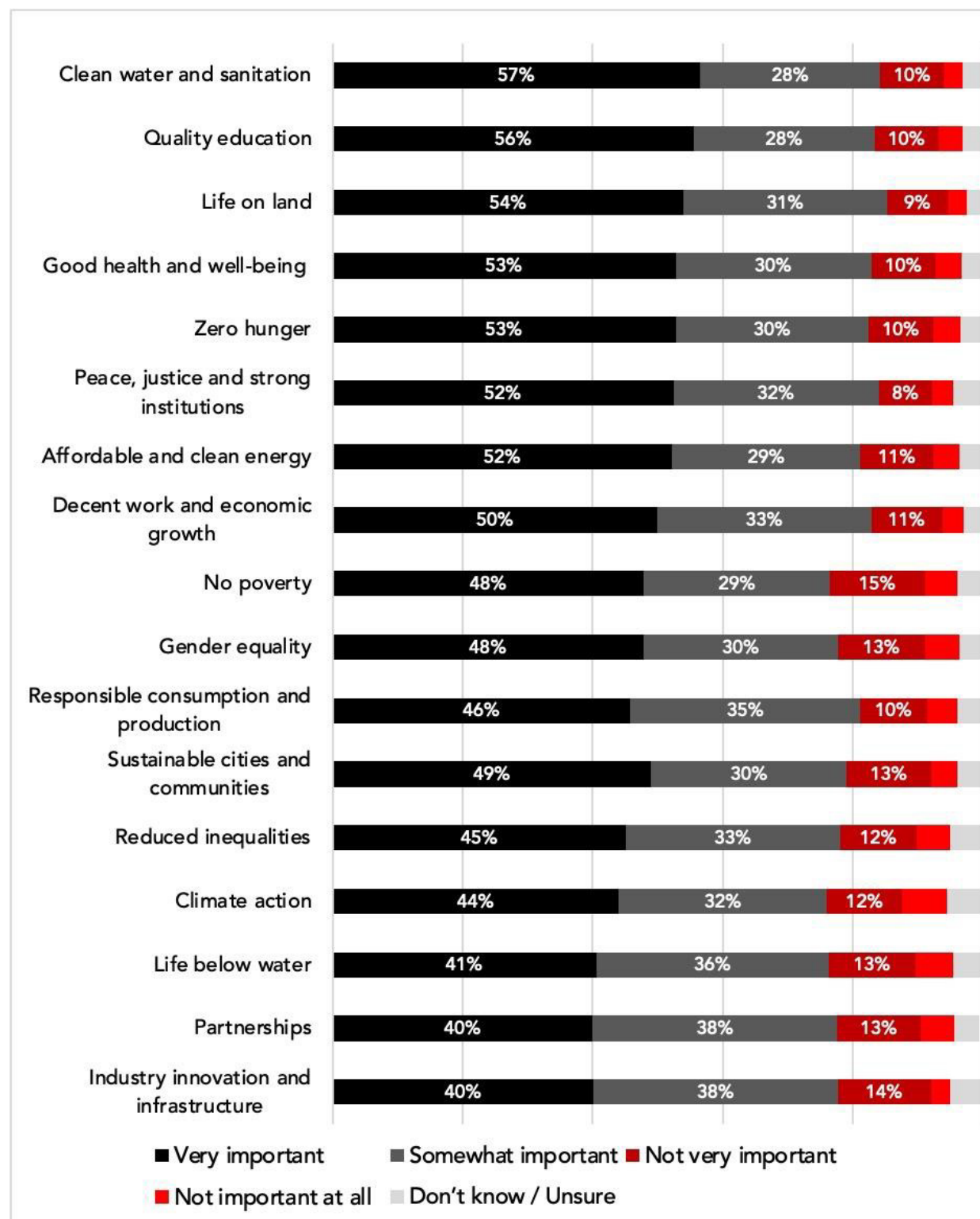
Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 by all member states, U.S. youth place the highest importance on goals that address basic human needs and quality of life. The top five goals rated as “very important” are:

- Clean water and sanitation (57%)
- Quality education (56%)
- Life on land (54%)
- Good health and well-being (53%)
- Zero hunger (53%)

Key Observations and Patterns

- **All SDGs rated at least “somewhat important” by strong majorities of all demographic groups:** Greater than 7 in 10 U.S. youth rank all goals at least “somewhat important” regardless of race, gender, age, political identity or party affiliation.
- **Basic needs dominate “very important” rating:** Water, food, health and education consistently top the list of priorities across demographics.
- **Younger, female and Democrat-leaning respondents rank goals higher:** These groups show the most consistent and intense valuation of the SDGs.
- **Political polarization reflected in broader divides:** The SDGs with the greatest political differences in “very important” ratings align (~10% lower levels of importance for Republicans/conservatives, unaffiliated/moderate) with equality, conservation of life on land and water, clean energy, climate action, responsible consumption, and peace, justice and strong institutions.

QUESTION: How important do you think it is to achieve the following goals in order to adequately address sustainability and social justice? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



Demographic Patterns in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ratings

Age: The youngest age group expressed stronger support for the SDGs overall. Respondents aged 15 to 17 rated goals as “very important” at an average of 52%, compared to just 48% among 25- to 29-year-olds. The largest age-related differences appear on:

- No poverty (13 percentage point gap between ages 15 to 17 and ages 18 to 21)
- Gender equality (12 percentage point gap between ages 15 to 17 and ages 25 to 29)
- Quality education (11 percentage point gap between ages 15 to 17 and ages 22 to 24)
- Reduced inequalities (11 percentage point gap between ages 15 to 17 and ages 18 to 21)

Gender: Female respondents consistently rated all SDGs as more important than male respondents (52% vs. 45%). The most notable gender gaps include:

- Affordable and clean energy (11 percentage point gap)
- Good health and well-being (10 percentage point gap)
- Peace, justice and strong institutions (10 percentage point gap)
- Clean water and sanitation (9 percentage point gap)

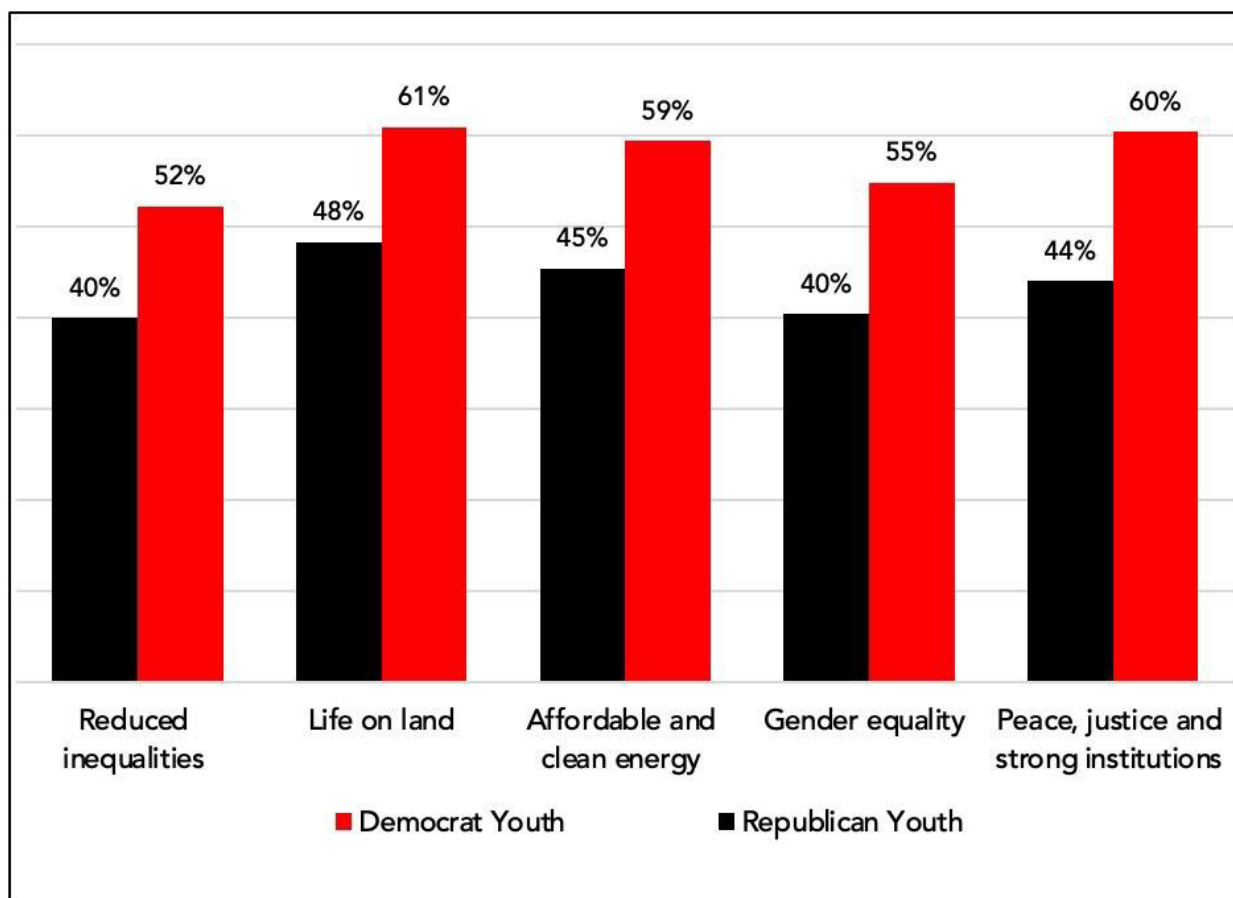
Region: Regional variation is less pronounced than other demographics, but still notable:

- Quality education ranged from 49% in the Midwest to 60% in the West
- Life below water showed an 11 percentage point gap between Northeast (36%) and West (47%)
- Peace, justice and strong institutions ranged from 47% in the Northeast to 56% in the Midwest
- Industry innovation and infrastructure varied from 35% in the Midwest to 42% in the South and West

Political identity: While overall responses were similar between Democrat and Republican youth, some differences that were observed were that Democratic youth place slightly higher importance on SDGs than Republican youth or independents with average “very important” ratings 54% among Democrat youth, 48% among independent youth and 45% among Republican youth. The largest political divides are observed on:

- Peace, justice and strong institutions (Democrat youth plus 16 percentage points)
- Gender equality (Democrat youth plus 14 percentage points)
- Affordable and clean energy (Democrat youth plus 14 percentage points)
- Life on land (Democrat youth plus 13 percentage points)
- Reduced inequalities (Democrat youth plus 12 percentage points)

QUESTION: How important do you think it is to achieve the following goals in order to adequately address sustainability and social justice? Showing Social Development Goals with the largest differences in “very important,” for Democrat and Republican youth. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



U.S. Youth are Aware of the Capacities and Skills Required to Take Effective Action

Youth across the U.S. widely value inner and interpersonal capacities as essential tools for addressing sustainability and social justice. All five of the transformational skills identified by Inner Development Goals (IDGs) as critical for sustainable development -- being, thinking, relating, collaborating and acting — received strong support, with nearly 8 in 10 youth endorsing the importance of higher education in teaching these capacities and skills (“very” and “somewhat important”).

- **“Very important” capacities:** Nearly 5 in 10 U.S. youth indicated four capacities, “being” (49%), “thinking” (49%), “relating” (48%) and “collaborating” (47%) as “very important” to act on sustainability and social justice. The fifth category, acting, was rated slightly lower (44%).
- **Broad support across all five capacities:** Eight in 10 U.S. youth rated all capacities as being at least “somewhat important” and while variation exists, the differences in ratings

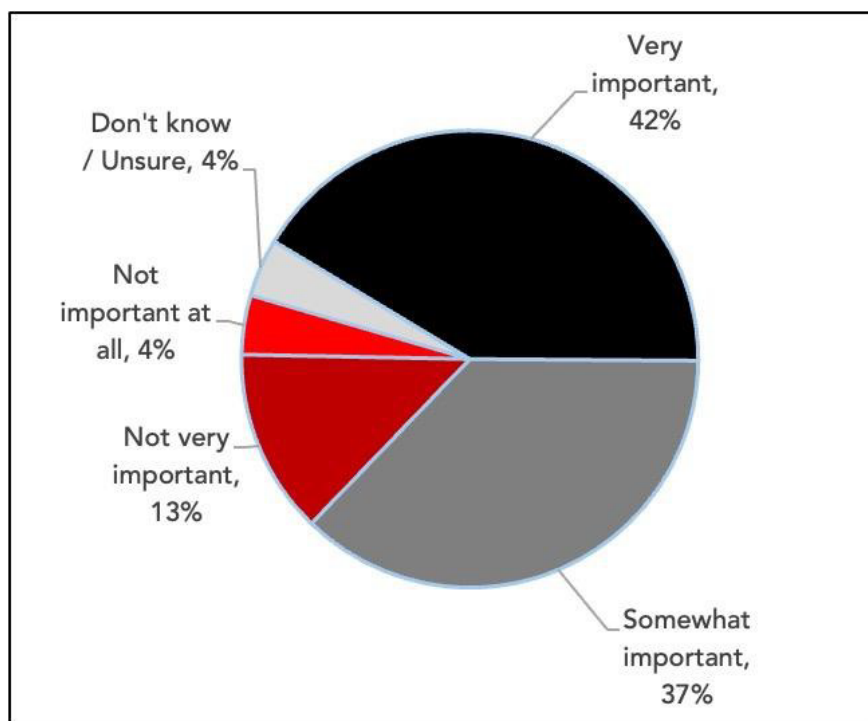
are relatively narrow, signaling consistent value placed on all components of personal and collaborative development.

- **Strong role for education:** Nearly 8 in 10 U.S. youth believe it is at least “somewhat important” for colleges and universities to teach these inner capacities. This suggests that students not only recognize their importance but also expect higher education to help develop those capacities in students.

QUESTION: How important is having each of the following capacities for you to act effectively on sustainability and social justice? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)

Capacities...	"Very Important"	Sum of "Very Important" & "Somewhat Important"
Being (self-awareness, mindfulness, integrity, honesty, openness, curiosity, being present in the moment)	49%	83%
Thinking (evaluation of information, awareness of differing viewpoints, seeing system complexity and patterns, long-term vision)	49%	83%
Relating (caring for and feeling connected to other individuals & societies, future generations, nature)	48%	81%
Collaborating (effective communication, listening, teamwork, embracing variety, trust, and the ability to motivate others)	47%	80%
Acting (enabling change with courage, creativity, optimism and perseverance)	44%	80%

QUESTION: In the previous question, you identified the capacities that you think are important for acting on sustainability and social justice: How important is it for colleges and universities to teach these capacities and skills? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



Demographic Patterns in Inner Development Goals (IDGs) Capacity and Skills Ratings

- **Gender differences:** Female respondents were significantly more likely to rate “being” as “very important” (54% vs. 45% for males) and showed consistently higher ratings across all five capacities.
- **Political identity:** Democrats rated all capacities higher than Republicans, with especially large gaps on in characterizing “relating” (56% vs. 42%) and “collaborating” (53% vs. 46%) as “very important”. Liberal respondents followed similar patterns, consistently placing higher importance than moderates and conservatives.
- **Regional variation:** Youth in the West rated “being” (54%), “thinking” (56%) and “relating” (58%) as “very important” the highest of any region, reflecting a significant regional emphasis on introspection and interpersonal understanding.
- **Age group differences:** Respondents aged 15 to 17 gave slightly higher average ratings across all capacities, particularly for “thinking” and “collaborating.”
- **Support for higher education’s role:** Support for colleges teaching these capacities was rated highest (“very important” and “somewhat important”) among Hispanic (83%) and Black (83%) youth, female respondents (81%) and Democrats (85%). Regionally, support was strongest in the West (83%) and South (79%).

U.S. Youth Lack High Trust for Institutional Action on Sustainability and Social Justice

When asked which institutions they trust to effectively address sustainability and social justice issues, U.S. youth revealed a general low trust with meaningful differences across sectors, age groups, political identity/party affiliation and regions. (percentages reported are sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”)

Most Trusted Institutions:

- Higher education institutions (colleges and universities) earned the highest net trust score (67%).
- Nonprofit organizations such as Nature Conservancy, UNICEF and the Red Cross followed closely (66%).
- Charitable foundations like the Gates, Ford and Rockefeller foundations were also positively rated (62%).
- Local governments—including mayors, city councils and school boards—rounded out the top 4 in terms of trusted institutions (60%).

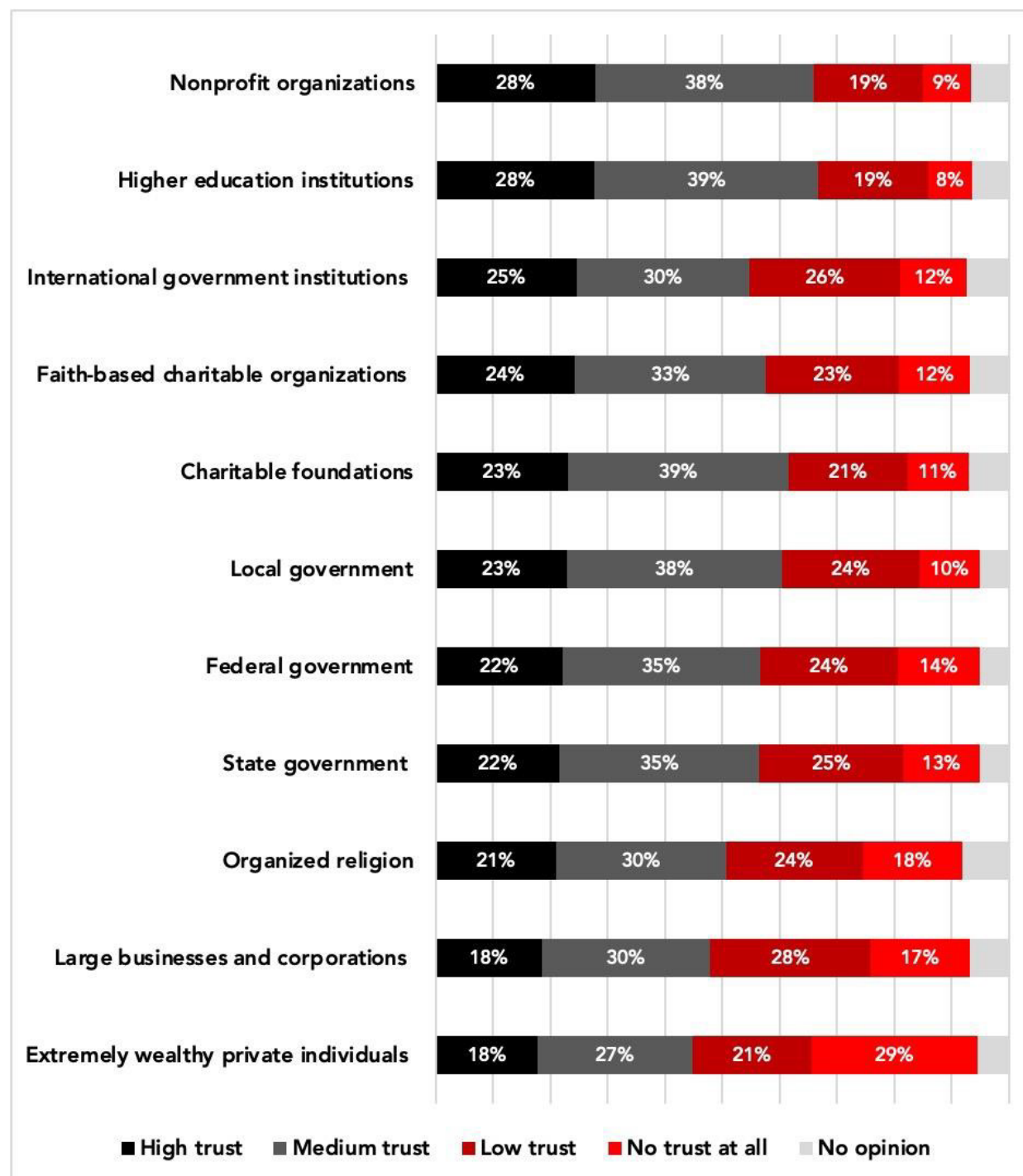
Least Trusted Institutions:

- Extremely wealthy individuals were viewed with the most skepticism, ranking lowest by a significant margin (45%).
- Large businesses and corporations, along with the federal government, were among the least trusted institutions (48%).
- Organized religion was also ranked poorly (51%).

Key Observations and Patterns

- **Trust is hard to come by:** While education and nonprofits are most trusted, no institution achieved overwhelmingly high trust, signaling a broad deficiency of trust in U.S. institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice.
- **Education and nonprofits best positioned:** These two institutional categories may serve as the most credible platforms for advancing sustainability and social justice goals.
- **Widespread skepticism toward wealth:** Wealthy individuals and large corporations are broadly distrusted in the context of addressing sustainability and social justice.
- **Political polarization:** Trust in institutions is shaped by political identity, particularly in the categories of religion, education and business.
- **Optimism among youth:** The youngest respondents show the greatest trust in institutions overall, suggesting a window of opportunity for future engagement.

QUESTION: What is your level of TRUST in the following institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)

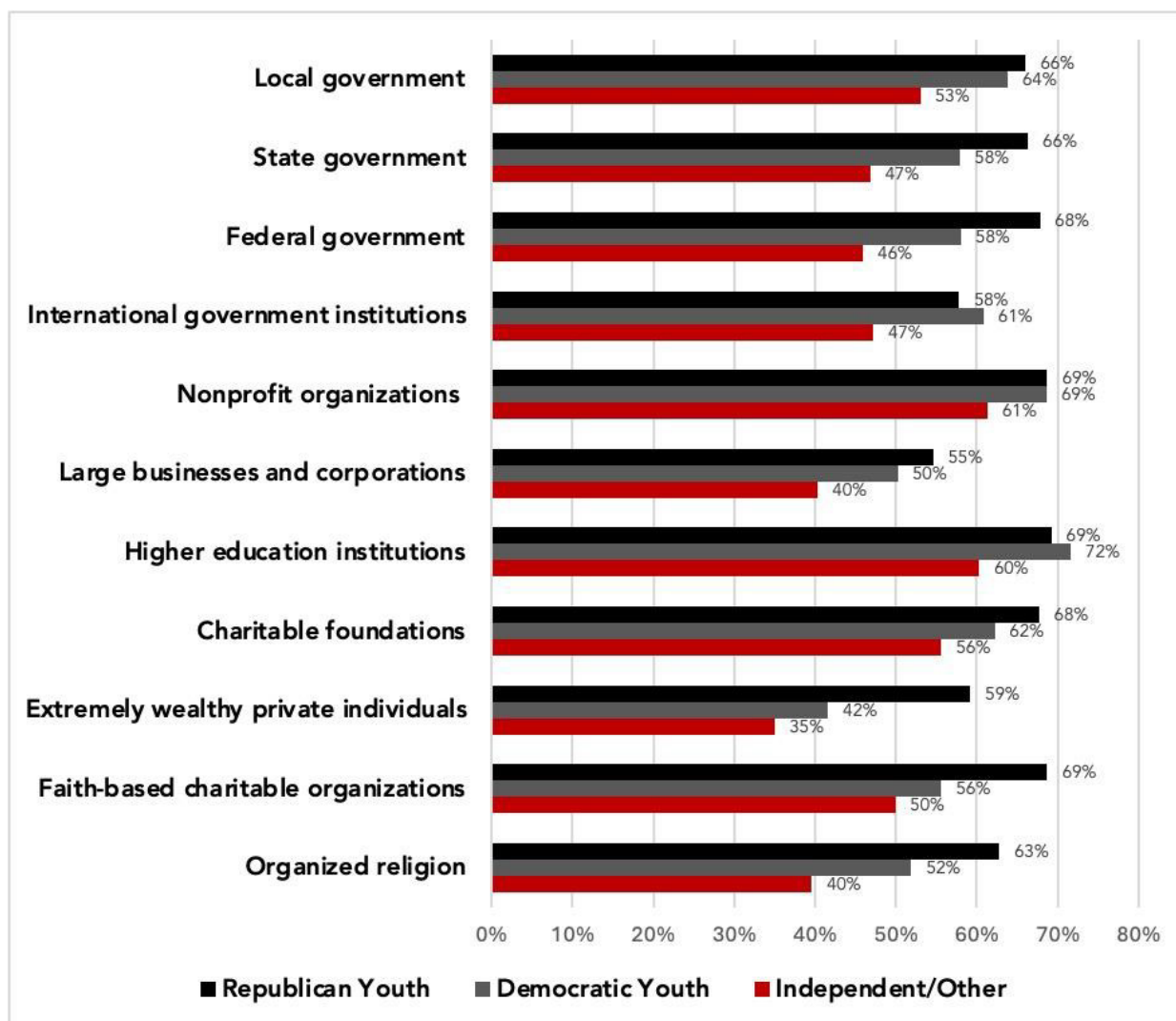


Demographic Patterns in Institutional Trust

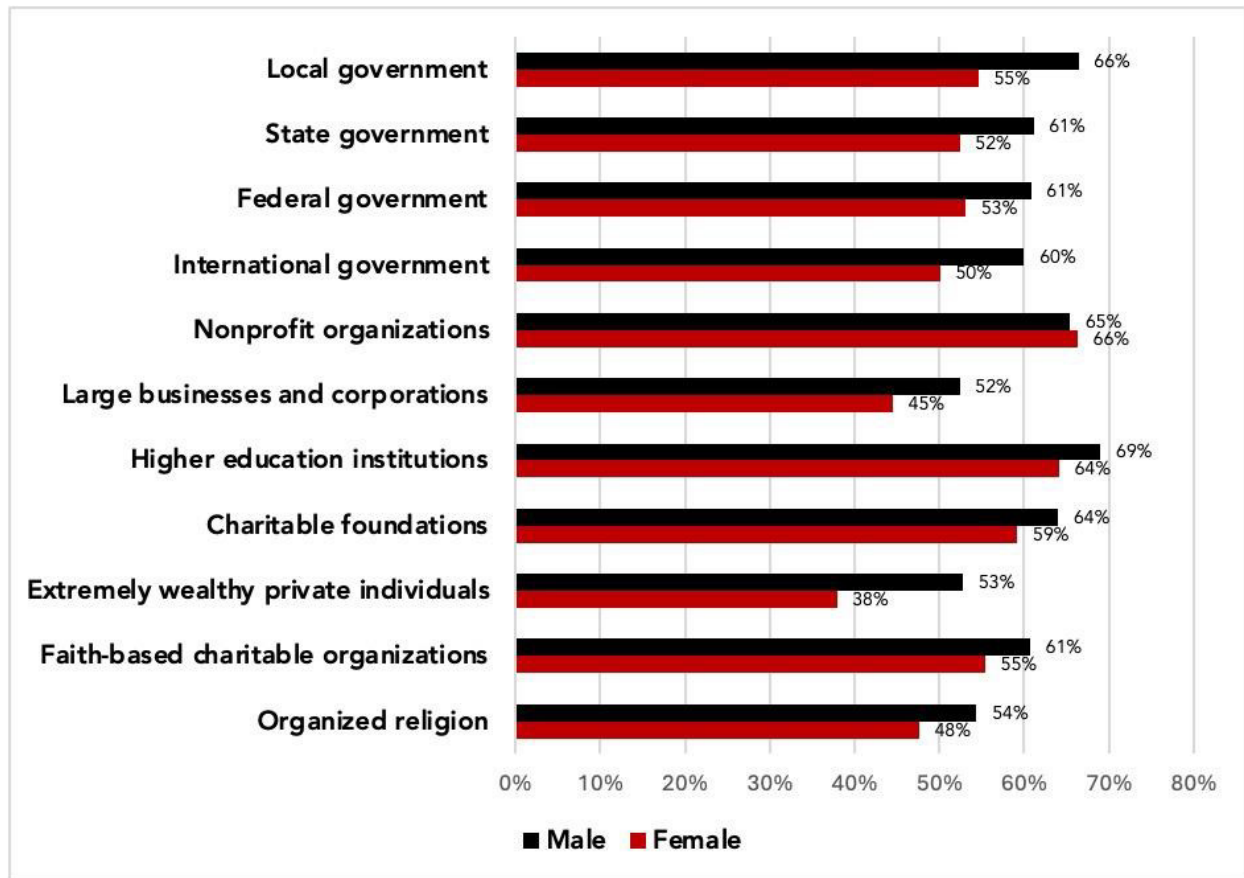
Demographic trends reveal that trust in institutions varies considerably based on age, gender, party affiliation and region.

- **Political affiliation introduces some of the starkest differences in institutional trust.** Democratic youth report higher trust in international organizations and higher education, while Republican youth express greater confidence in local government, state government, religious institutions, and large corporations; clearly indicating ideological rifts in perceptions of institutional credibility.
- **Gender differences also play a role.** Female respondents generally show lower levels of trust across all institutions, while males report relatively higher trust – especially in government and corporate entities. The most striking gender gaps is seen in trust toward extremely wealthy private individuals, organized religion and faith-based charitable organizations, where female respondents demonstrate much lower levels of trust.
- **Age:** Younger respondents, particularly those aged 15 to 17, express higher levels of trust in institutions—especially higher education—than their older peers. While trust in government tends to spike among 22-24-year olds, skepticism toward large businesses is notably more pronounced among respondents aged 25 to 29.
- **Regional differences, though somewhat less dramatic, are still evident.** Youth in the West are the least trusting of educational institutions, and State and Federal governments, while those in the South place relatively more trust in charitable foundations and religious organizations.

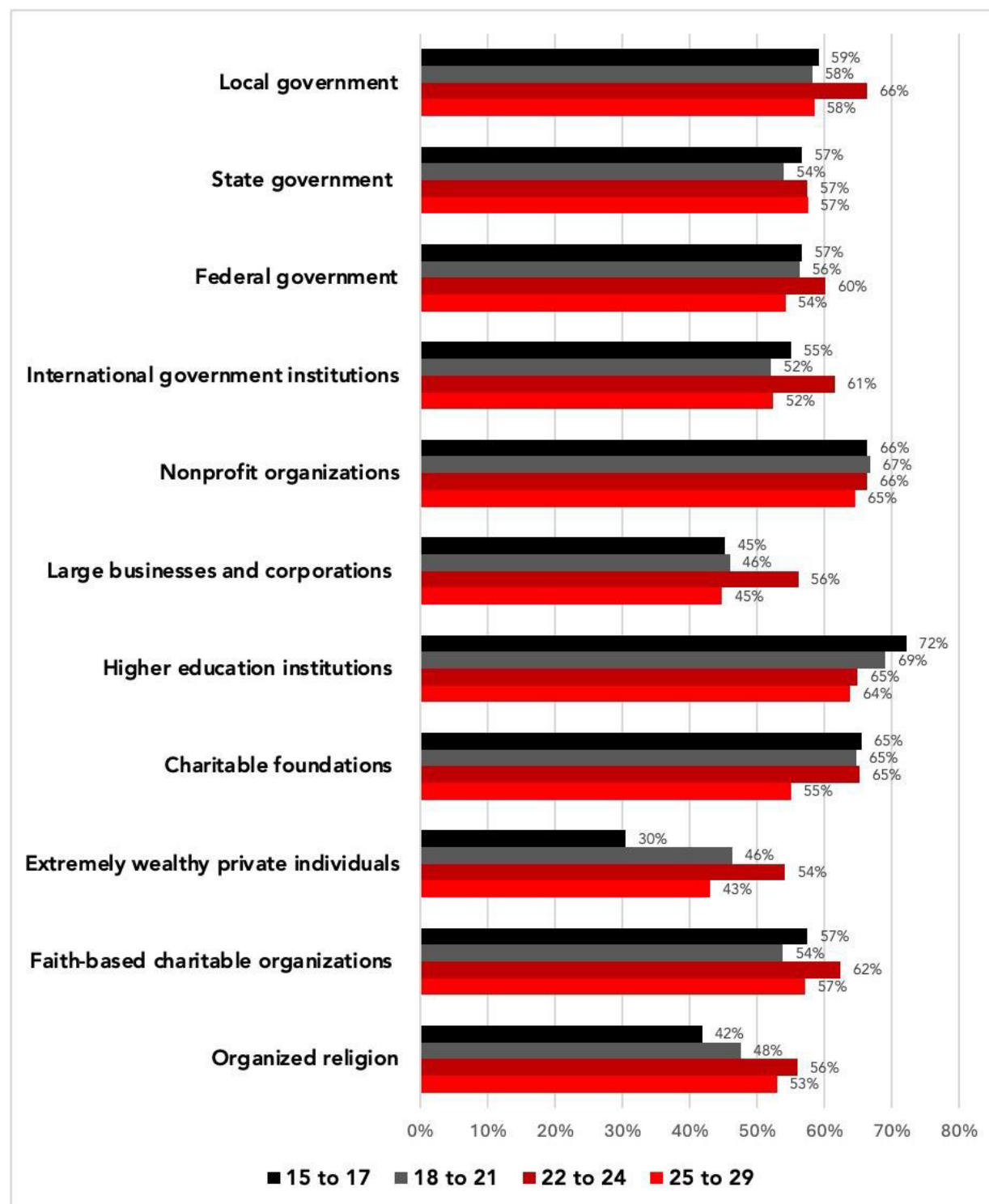
QUESTION: What is your level of TRUST in the following institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice? Showing results for institution type by political party identification. Percentages shown are sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: What is your level of TRUST in the following institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice? Showing results for institution type by gender. Percentages shown are sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: What is your level of TRUST in the following institutions to effectively address sustainability and social justice? Showing results for institution type by political age group. Percentages shown are sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



U.S. Youth Expect Government Institutions to Play a Leading Role in Addressing Sustainability and Social Justice Issues

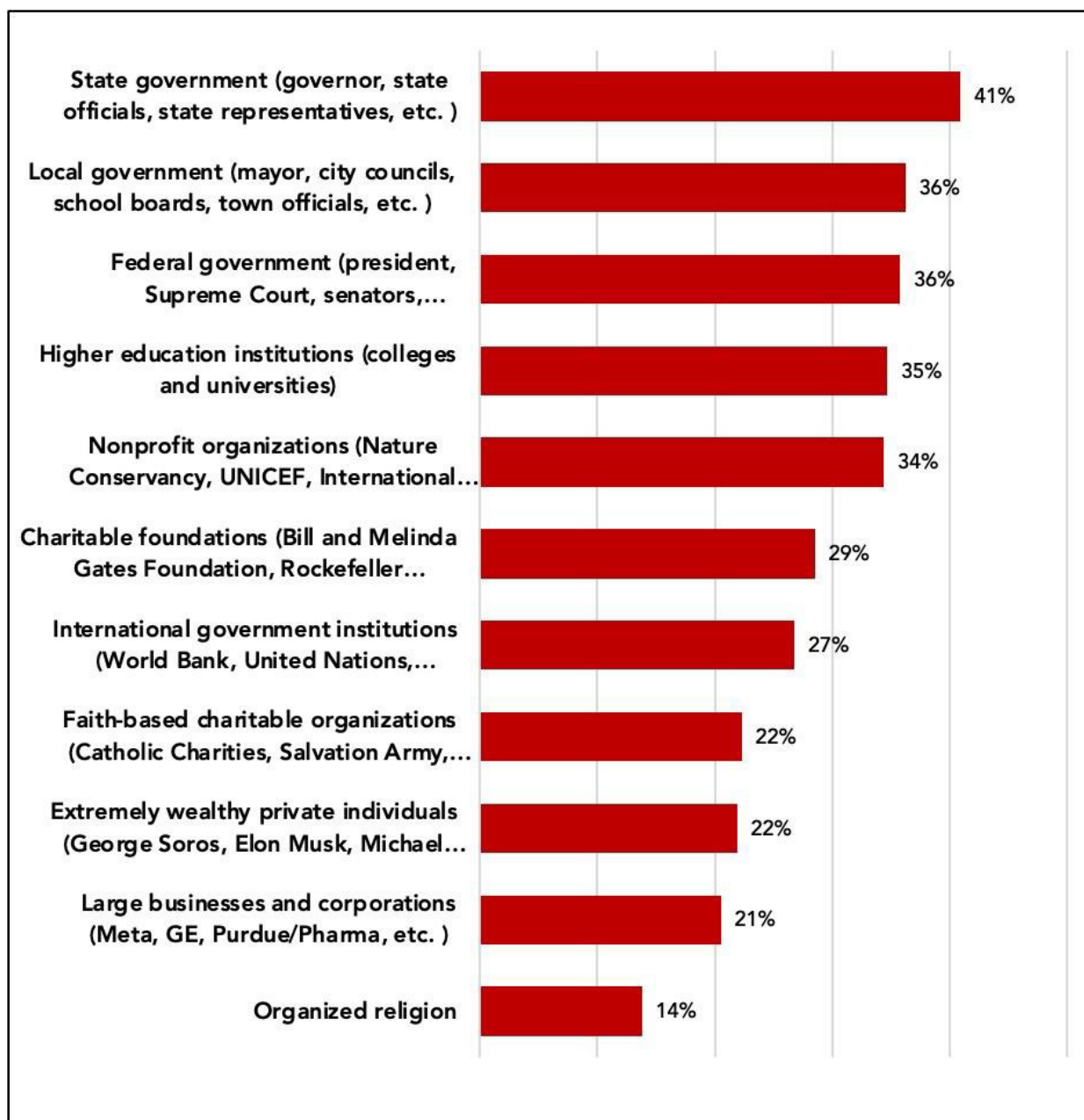
When asked which institutions should lead efforts to address sustainability and social justice, U.S. youth overwhelmingly pointed to the public sector, with state, local and federal governments topping the list.

- State government institutions led all responses with 41%, followed by local government (36%), the federal government (36%), higher education institutions (35%) and nonprofit organizations (34%). This suggests that youth see these issues as requiring coordinated, policy-driven solutions that extend beyond individual or private sector action.
- At the opposite end of the spectrum, organized religion was selected by only 14% of respondents, making it the least selected institution to lead on these issues. Large businesses and extremely wealthy private individuals also ranked low (21% and 22%, respectively), indicating a widespread skepticism toward concentrated wealth and corporate motives in the realm of social and environmental change.

Key Observations and Patterns

1. **Government leadership expected:** Youth tend to view sustainability and social justice as responsibilities of public institutions at every level.
2. **Multi-level governance:** The nearly equal support for state, local and federal bodies suggests youth want coordinated leadership across jurisdictions.
3. **Higher education as change agent:** The comparatively high ranking of colleges and universities signals faith in their role as incubators of change and innovation.
4. **Skepticism toward private sector:** Businesses, corporations and wealthy individuals are not widely seen as leaders on these issues.
5. **Limited role for religion:** The low ranking of religious institutions suggests a diminished view of their role in driving sustainability or justice efforts.

QUESTION: Which, if any, of the following should play a leading role in addressing sustainability and social justice? Please select all that apply (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



Demographic Patterns in Institutional Roles

Demographic patterns show that teens (ages 15 to 17) were more likely to select a broader range of institutions, especially government bodies.

- **The large age gaps appeared in support for some government intervention:** Including local government (12 percentage point gap between ages 15 to 17 and ages 18 to 21) and the federal government (13 percentage point gap between ages 15 to 17 and ages 18 to 21).
- **Gender also played a role:** Female respondents selected slightly more institutions overall. They were especially more likely than males to choose state government (+8 percentage points), nonprofit organizations (+5 percentage points) and the federal government (+5 percentage points). In contrast, males were slightly more likely to support faith-based charitable organizations (+6 percentage points).
- **Political identity was another key differentiator:** Democrats were more likely to support leadership from higher education (+9 percentage points) and nonprofit organizations (+14 percentage points), while Republicans were less likely overall to support government leadership. The largest partisan divides appeared around international government institutions (8 percentage point gap) and state government (9 percentage point gaps).

QUESTION: Which, if any, of the following should play a leading role in addressing sustainability and social justice? Please select all that apply. Showing percentage of respondents selecting each institution type by party identity. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)

Institution	Democrat	Republican	Independent/ Other
Local government (mayor, city councils, school boards, town officials, etc)	38%	35%	36%
State government (governor, state officials, state representatives, etc)	45%	37%	41%
Federal government (president, Supreme Court, senators, representatives, agency officials, etc)	35%	31%	40%
International government institutions (World Bank, United Nations, International Criminal Court, etc)	32%	24%	25%
Nonprofit organizations (Nature Conservancy, UNICEF, International Red Cross/Crescent, etc)	42%	28%	34%
Large businesses and corporations (Meta, GE, Purdue/Pharma, etc)	20%	24%	19%
Higher education institutions (colleges and universities)	38%	29%	37%
Charitable foundations (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, etc)	36%	21%	29%
Extremely wealthy private individuals (George Soros, Elon Musk, Michael Bloomberg, Jeff Bezos, etc)	22%	24%	20%
Faith-based charitable organizations (Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, American Jewish World Service, etc)	21%	26%	20%
Organized religion	14%	16%	12%

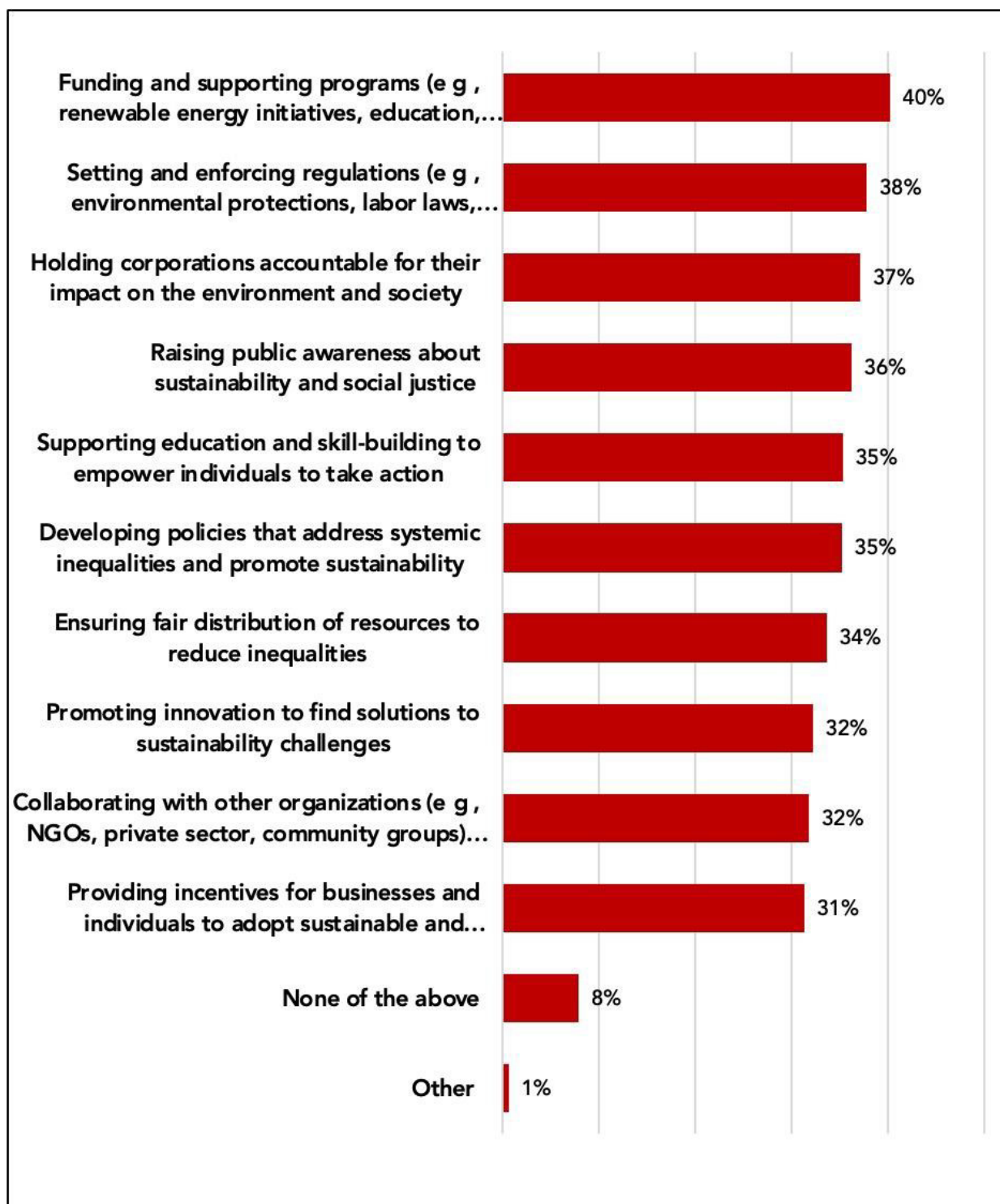
U.S. Youth Support Diverse Government Roles in Sustainability and Social Justice

When asked which roles institutions of government should play in addressing sustainability and social justice issues, respondents expressed support for a diverse approach. The top actions selected included “funding and supporting programs” (40%), “setting and enforcing regulations” (38%) and “holding corporations accountable for their environmental and societal impact” (37%). “Raising public awareness” and “supporting education and skill building” were also widely selected, at 36% and 35%, respectively.

1. **Youth support a multifaceted approach:** Respondents do not endorse a single method of action but rather support government involvement across multiple fronts—including regulatory enforcement, program funding and raising public awareness.
2. **Younger youth favor government action:** The 15 to 17 age group was the most enthusiastic about multi-layered government-led solutions (43% on average support among ages 15 to 17 not factoring in “other” narrative responses).
3. **Gender affects views on government roles:** Female respondents favored more proactive government engagement across education, awareness and collaboration.
4. **Some political divides:** Differences exist between political affiliations, especially on regulatory, corporate and redistributive strategies.
5. **Consensus on innovation and education:** While many areas were politically divided, promoting innovation and supporting educational programs garnered relatively more consistent broad support.

These findings suggest that policy efforts should be broad, flexible and responsive to demographic nuances in order to effectively engage youth in sustainability and social justice efforts.

QUESTION: What specific role should institutions of government (federal, state, and local) play in addressing sustainability and social justice? Please select all that apply. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



Demographic Patterns in Government Roles

Demographic trends also revealed strong patterns in support for government roles.

- **Teens most likely to support comprehensive government intervention.** Youth ages 15 to 17 consistently showed the highest levels of support across nearly all government actions, with a clear preference for educational and regulatory efforts, as well as for collaborative and innovative strategies. Compared with their older peers, this group showed markedly stronger support for collaborating with other organizations (18 percentage points higher than ages 18 to 21), setting and enforcing regulations (18 percentage points higher than ages 18 to 21), promoting innovation (16 percentage points higher than ages 25 to 29), and supporting education and skill-building (15 percentage points higher than ages both 22 to 24 and 25 to 29).
- **Gender differences were also evident.** Female respondents expressed greater support for most government-led efforts, especially in education, public awareness and collaboration. For example, females were 8 percentage points more likely to support regulation enforcement, 8 percentage point more likely to support public awareness campaigns and 8 percentage points more likely to favor collaboration with external organizations. In contrast, male respondents were slightly more inclined to support direct actions such as holding corporations accountable and funding large-scale programs.
- **The survey revealed some political divides on the role of government.** Republican youth were less likely to support government intervention across most policy areas, while Democrat youth and independent youth were more supportive, especially of education-related initiatives:
 - Ensuring fair resource distribution was selected by 15 percentage points more Democratic youth than Republican youth.
 - Supporting education and skill-building received 13 percentage points more support from independent youth than Republican youth.
 - Developing systemic policies showed an 11 percentage point divide, with Democrat youth more supportive than Republican youth
 - Holding corporations accountable also had an 11 percentage point gap, with Democrat youth selecting it more frequently than Republican youth

QUESTION: What specific role should institutions of government (federal, state and local) play in addressing sustainability and social justice? Showing percentage of respondents selecting each institution type by party identity. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)

Government Roles	Democrat	Republican	Independent/ Other
Setting and enforcing regulations (e g , environmental protections, labor laws, anti-discrimination policies)	41%	34%	39%
Funding and supporting programs (e g , renewable energy initiatives, education, healthcare access)	41%	39%	40%
Raising public awareness about sustainability and social justice	41%	32%	36%
Providing incentives for businesses and individuals to adopt sustainable and equitable practices	36%	31%	28%
Collaborating with other organizations (e g , NGOs, private sector, community groups) to drive change	35%	27%	34%
Holding corporations accountable for their impact on the environment and society	43%	32%	36%
Developing policies that address systemic inequalities and promote sustainability	39%	28%	39%
Supporting education and skill-building to empower individuals to take action	37%	28%	41%
Ensuring fair distribution of resources to reduce inequalities	40%	25%	36%
Promoting innovation to find solutions to sustainability challenges	33%	31%	33%

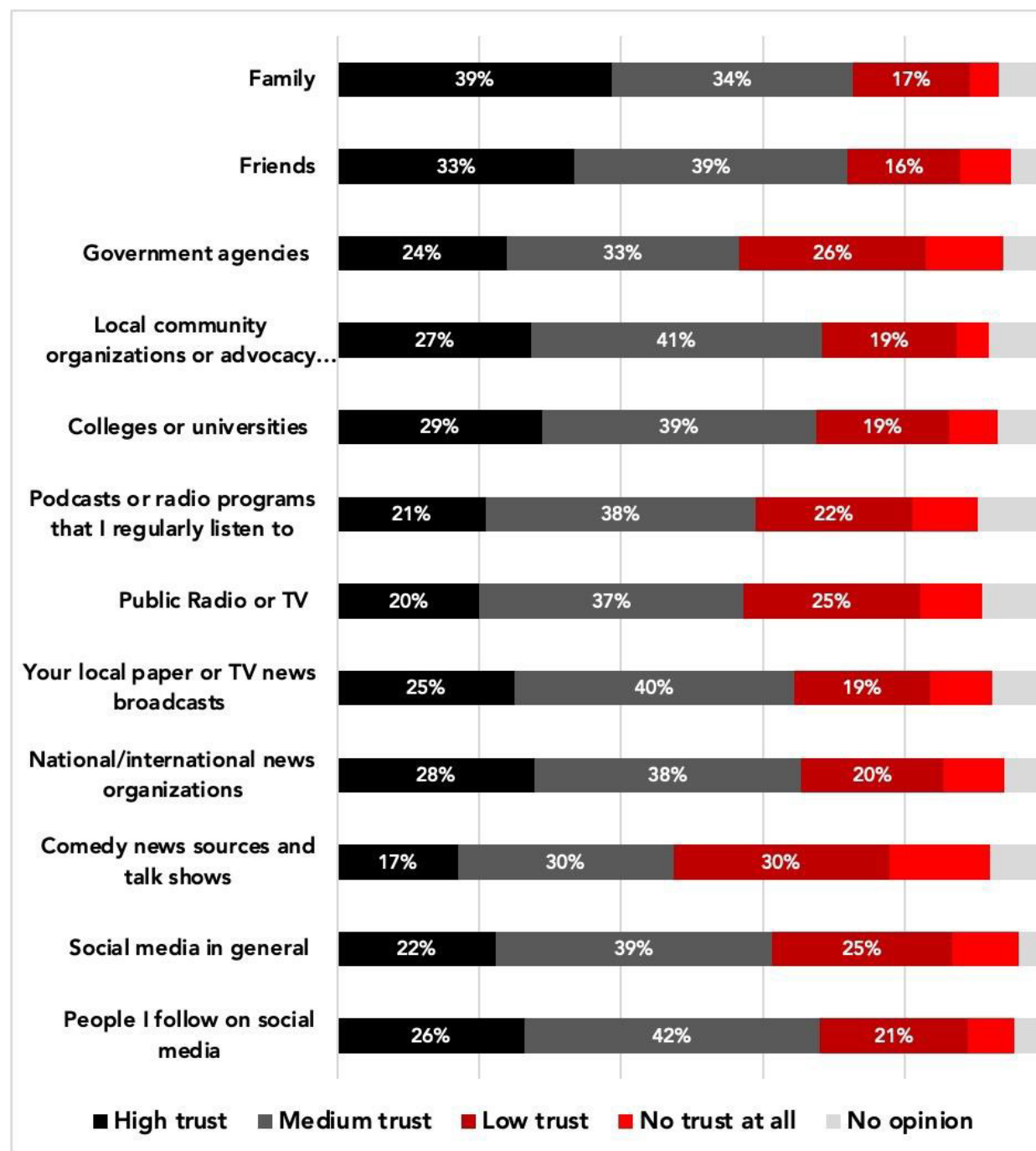
U.S. Youth Lack Trust in the Information They Receive on Sustainability and Social Justice

U.S. youth report that personal and local sources top their list of trusted sources for information on sustainability and social justice issues. Family members received the highest net trust score (sum of “high trust” and “medium trust”) at 73%, followed by friends (72%), local community organizations or advocacy groups (68%) and colleges or universities (67%). Specific individuals followed on social media also ranked highly (68%).

At the opposite end, comedy news shows and talk shows ranked lowest in net trust (47%), along with government agencies (57%), general social media platforms (61%) and podcasts or radio programs (59%).

- **Fractured trust:** No source earns uniformly “high trust” across the board, indicating major challenges in reaching a broad audience with consistent messages.
- **Personal trust exceeds institutional:** U.S. youth trust information from people they know more than formal institutions or media.
- **Digital media complexity:** While social media in general is less trusted, individuals people follow on those platforms are trusted more, which suggests the value of personal credibility.
- **Political filtering:** Trust is heavily shaped by political identity with sharp divides around media and educational sources.
- **Generational media gaps:** Different age groups prefer different types of media, and this shapes their levels of trust—indicating the importance of considering age in crafting messages that resonate.

QUESTION: Please rate your level of TRUST for the following sources of information on sustainability and social justice. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



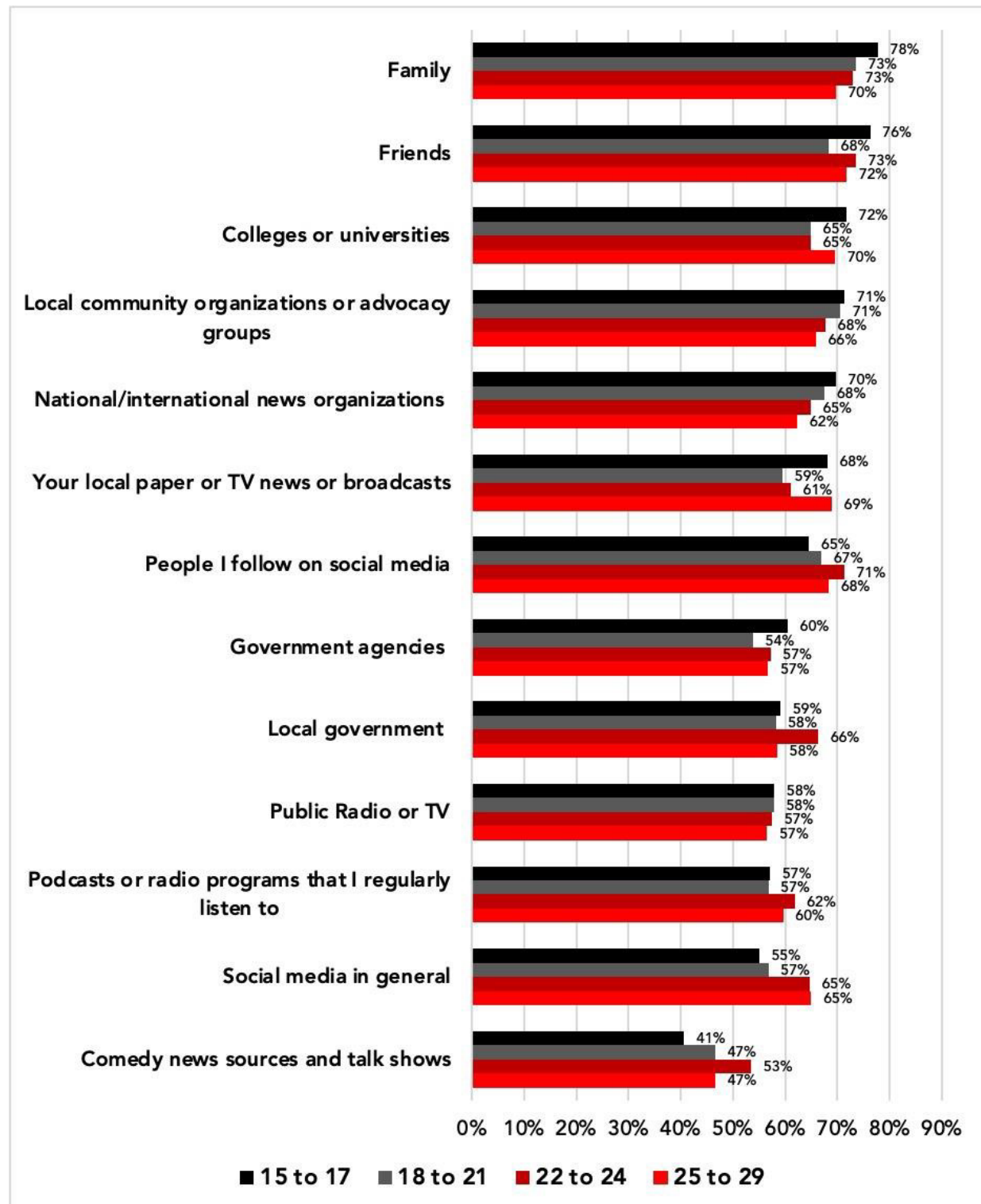
Demographic Patterns in Trusted Sources of Information

Demographic trends reveal further differences.

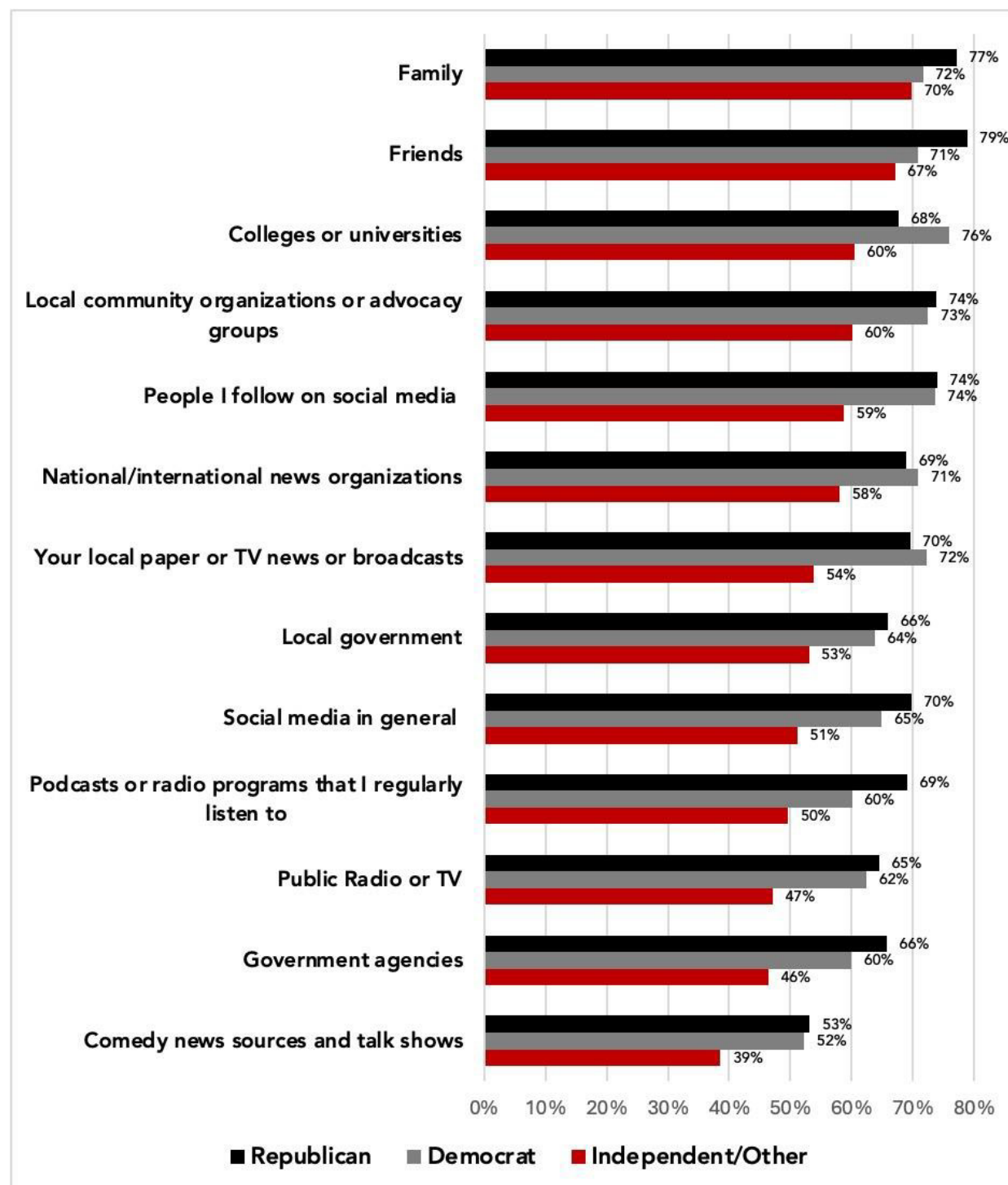
- **Gender:** With the exception of colleges and universities, males showed a pattern of higher trust across most categories. Considering “high trust” and “medium trust” together, males averaged nearly 6 percent points higher in trust than females.
- **Party affiliation.** Democrats expressed higher trust in colleges and universities as sources of information. Republicans reported greater trust in friends, family, podcasts/radio programs and government agencies. Independents generally expressed the lowest levels of trust across most categories, suggesting a broader disengagement or skepticism toward established information systems.
- **Age:** Younger respondents aged 15 to 17 reported especially “high trust” in personal connections, while those aged 22 to 24 showed greater trust in the individuals they follow on social media. Trust in traditional media decreased somewhat with age, while older groups were somewhat more likely to trust comedy and talk show content.

These findings suggest that efforts to inform youth about sustainability and social justice issues will be most effective when channeled through trusted personal relationships, localized groups and credible individual voices, especially on social platforms.

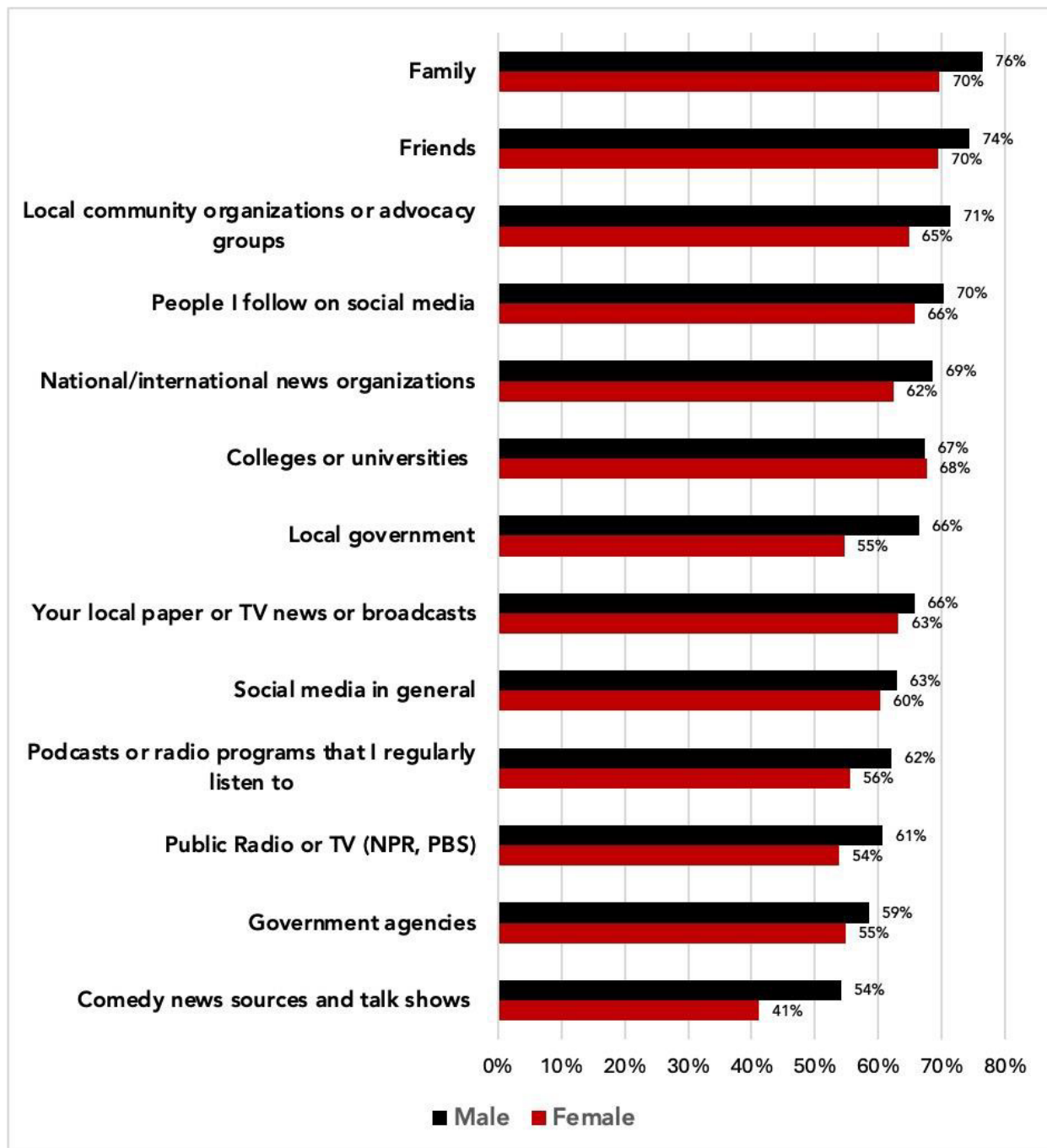
QUESTION: Please rate your level of TRUST for the following sources of information on sustainability and social justice. Showing sum of “high trust” and “medium trust” by age group. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: Please rate your level of TRUST for the following sources of information on sustainability and social justice. Showing sum of “high trust” and “medium trust” by Political Party Affiliation. (Data collected March-April 2022/25)



QUESTION: Please rate your level of TRUST for the following sources of information on sustainability and social justice. Showing sum of “high trust” and “medium trust” by gender. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



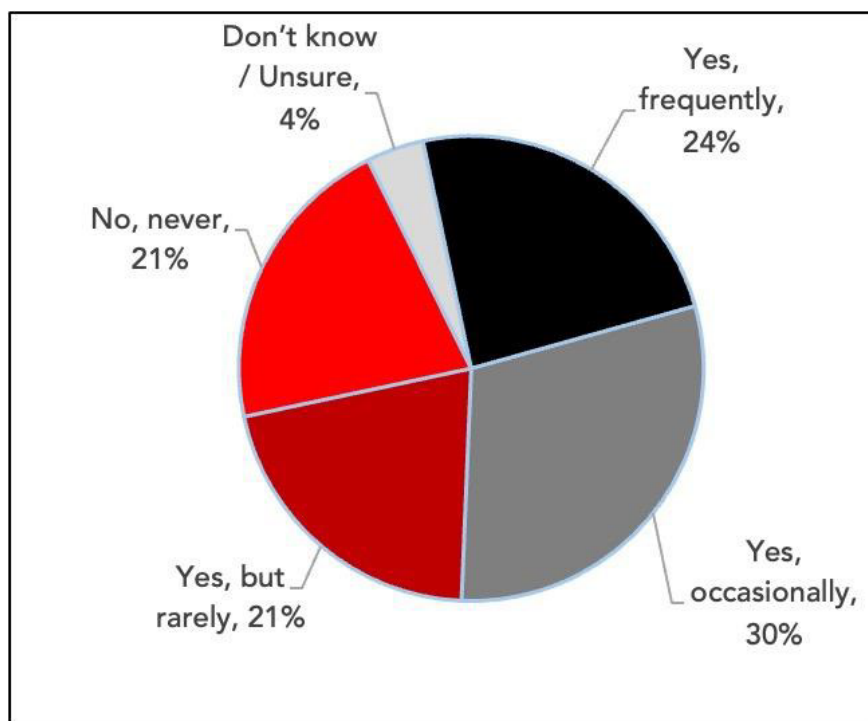
U.S. Youth Value Open Discussion and Diversity of Opinion but Fear Judgement

While U.S. youth overwhelmingly value open discussion around sustainability and social justice, many report withholding their views out of fear of judgment or backlash. Youth are more comfortable expressing themselves in private or personal settings, and far less so in academic, digital or professional environments. Despite this hesitation, the vast majority say it is important to be part of a community where open expression is encouraged and a diversity of value.

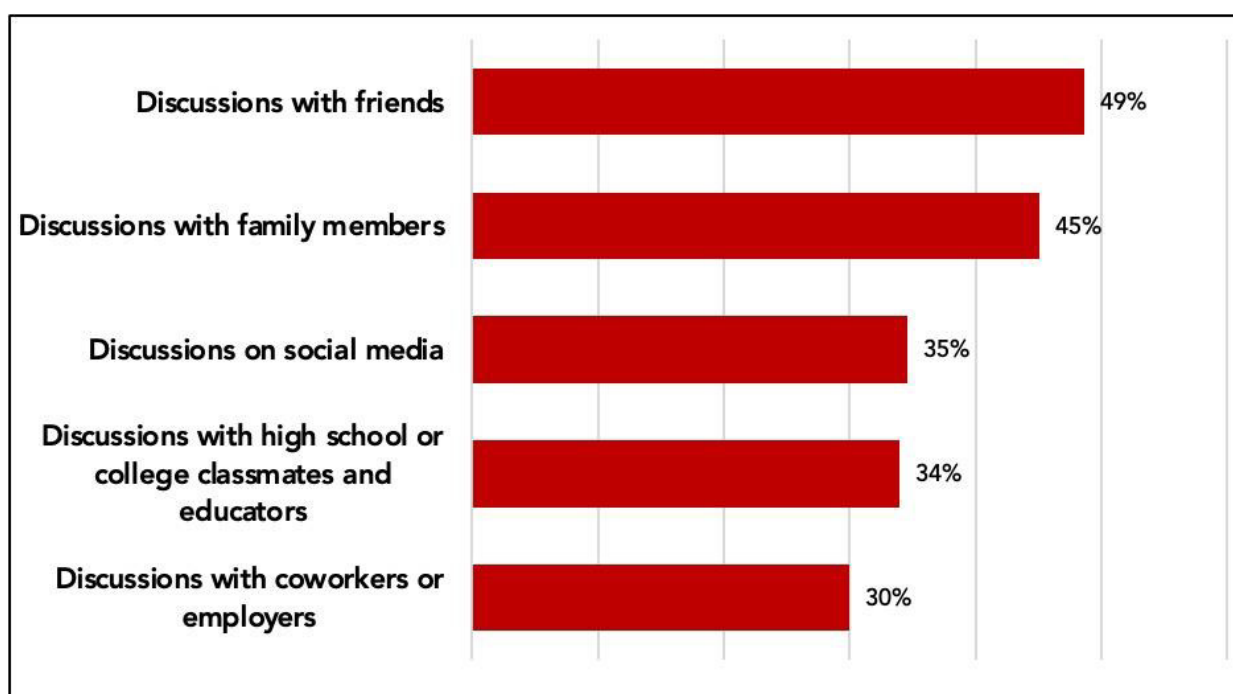
Key Observations and Patterns

- **Self-censorship is common:** Over half of U.S. youth (54%) say they “frequently” or “occasionally” hold back from expressing their views on sustainability and social justice, that jumps to 75% when including those who do so “rarely.” Only 21% say they “never” self-censor.
- **Top reasons for holding back:** The most cited reasons are concerns over “offending” someone (41%) and not wanting to be “judged unfavorably” (39%).
- **Safe spaces important as a result:** A large majority (80%) “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” it is important to be part of a community where they feel safe to honestly share their opinions on these issues.
- **Expression varies by setting:** U.S. youth feel more comfortable speaking freely with friends (49%) and family (45%), but only about one-third feel “completely free” to share with classmates and educators (34%), on social media (35%) or with coworkers (30%).

QUESTION: Have you ever held back from sharing your opinions on sustainability and social justice for fear of judgment or backlash? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



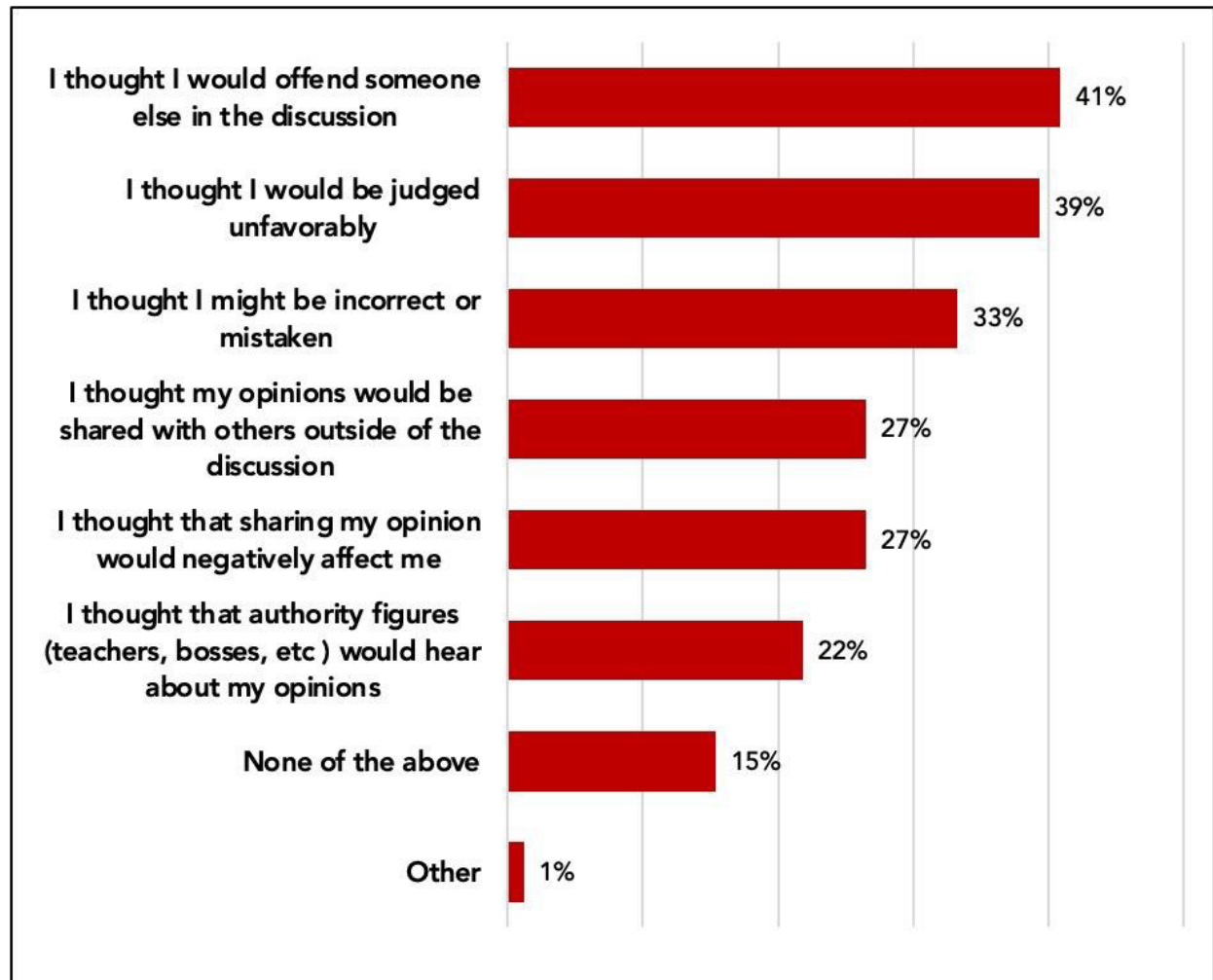
QUESTION: How free do you feel to speak your mind about sustainability and social justice in... Showing percentage of respondents selecting "Completely free to speak my mind" for each category. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



QUESTION: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding discussing sustainability and social justice? (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)

Statement	Sum of "Strongly" & "Somewhat Agree"
It is important for high schools, colleges and universities to promote situations inside and outside of classes where sustainability and social justice can be openly discussed	82%
It is important to be part of a community where I am exposed to the ideas and opinions of others on sustainability and social justice even if they differ from my own	81%
It is important to be part of a community where I feel safe to honestly share my ideas and opinions on sustainability and social justice	80%

QUESTION: Which, if any, of the following were reasons that you stopped yourself from sharing your ideas or opinions in discussions about sustainability and social justice? Please select all that apply. Showing percentage of respondents selecting each respondents selecting each reason. (Data collected March 26 to April 2, 2025)



Demographic Patterns in Self-Censorship

Self-censorship around sustainability and social justice is widespread among U.S. youth, but its intensity varies by age, gender and political identity:

- **Age differences** are relatively minor but exist: Younger respondents ages 18 to 21 (56%) and 22 to 24 (55%) are slightly more likely to report holding back their views “frequently” or “occasionally” compared to ages 15 to 17 (48%).
- **Gender:** Youth female respondents are more likely to report self-censorship. Over half (55%) of females report “frequently” or “occasionally” holding back opinions compared to 52% of males. Females are also more likely to value high schools, colleges and universities promoting situations inside and outside of classes where

sustainability and social justice can be openly discussed (85% vs. 79% of men).

- **Political identity** shows more pronounced divides: Democrats are the most likely to find it important to be part of communities where they feel safe to honestly share their ideas and opinions (86%), while fewer Republicans (78%) and independents (78%) share that opinion. In general, independents were the least likely to find these safe spaces to discuss sustainability and social justice to be important.
- **Regional variation** is relatively small: Youth in the West report the highest rate of “frequent” self-censorship (29%), while youth in the South (22%) and Northeast (20%) report slightly less frequent self-censorship. Conversely, youth in the West (87%) are most likely to find communities where they feel safe to honestly share their ideas and opinions to be important compared to the Northeast (76%), Midwest (80%) and South (79%).

Methodology

The survey was developed and conducted by the Institute for Sustainability & Social Justice at Sacred Heart University in collaboration with GreatBlue Research, Inc. The research aimed to understand U.S. youth's awareness, perceptions and attitudes toward sustainability, social justice and climate change as well as the role higher education in addressing these issues.

Areas of Investigation

The survey explored numerous key areas:

- **Youth concern and eco-anxiety:** Measured personal concern about climate change and the prevalence of climate-related psychological distress among U.S. youth.
- **Perceived importance of sustainability and social justice:** Assessed how youth define and value these issues, and how they view the role of higher education in addressing them.
- **Beliefs about individual and collective action:** Explored perceptions of personal responsibility, the effectiveness of individual vs. collective action and confidence in one's ability to effect change.
- **Inner development goals (IDGs) and capacities for action:** Gauged the importance youth place on inner capacities (e.g., self-awareness, collaboration, systems thinking) for addressing sustainability and social justice.
- **Youth prioritization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Ranked the importance of all 17 SDGs and analyzed demographic differences in support for specific goals.
- **Skills needed to take action:** Identified which practical and interpersonal skills youth believe are most important to address sustainability and social justice.
- **Trust in institutions and leadership expectations:** Measured both current trust in various institutions and which institutions youth believe should lead on these issues.
- **Trusted sources of information:** Evaluated the credibility of different information sources (e.g., family, news media, social media) and how trust varies by age, gender and political affiliation.
- **Demographic profile:** Collection of demographic information to ensure representativeness of the sample.

Methodology Highlights

- **Survey method:** Digital survey
- **Sample size:** N=1,500
- **Target audience:** U.S. residents aged 15 to 29
- **Poll margin of error:** 95% confidence interval margin of error $\pm 2.4\%$

- **Fielding period:** March 26, 2025, to April 2, 2025

Survey Programming and Pre-testing

The web survey was thoroughly tested across multiple platforms, including PC/laptop and mobile devices, by both GreatBlue Research staff and Sacred Heart University researchers. The GreatBlue Research project management team also reviewed test data in SPSS to ensure that the survey logic, including any randomizations, functioned correctly prior to launching the survey.

To further validate the survey process, a **pre-test** was conducted using 10% of the final sample (approximately N=150) over a 24-hour period. The pre-test data were carefully reviewed to identify any unforeseen issues with live data collection. Once confirmed that no problems were present, full-scale fielding was launched.

Data Collection

A random sample of U.S. residents aged 15 to 29 was invited to participate through opt-in digital panels. The sample was stratified by gender, age and geographic region to ensure broad representation.

Data Quality Assurance

To maintain data quality, GreatBlue Research implemented a series of checks. These included identifying respondents who engaged in satisficing behavior, such as leaving questions blank, speeding through the survey or consistently selecting the first or last response option. This quality check ensured that only high-quality data were included in the final analysis.

Weighting

Results were weighted according to age, education, income, race, Hispanic origin and U.S. census region.

Sub-Group Analysis Margin of Error

95% confidence interval margin of error for sub-groups analyzed was as follows:

By age

15 to 17 YOs: $\pm 6.57\%$

18 to 21 YOs: $\pm 4.91\%$

22 to 24 YOs: $\pm 5.10\%$

25 to 29 YOs: $\pm 4.21\%$

By census region:

Northeast: $\pm 5.95\%$

Midwest: $\pm 5.84\%$

South: $\pm 3.98\%$

West: $\pm 5.09\%$

By gender:

Male: $\pm 3.59\%$

Female: $\pm 3.47\%$

By political affiliation:

Democrats: $\pm 4.51\%$

Republicans: $\pm 4.45\%$

Independent/Unaffiliated: $\pm 4.06\%$

By race/ethnicity

Hispanic: $\pm 5.40\%$

Non-Hispanic, White: $\pm 3.27\%$

Non-Hispanic, Black: $\pm 6.42\%$