

DON'T JUST TALK AT US.



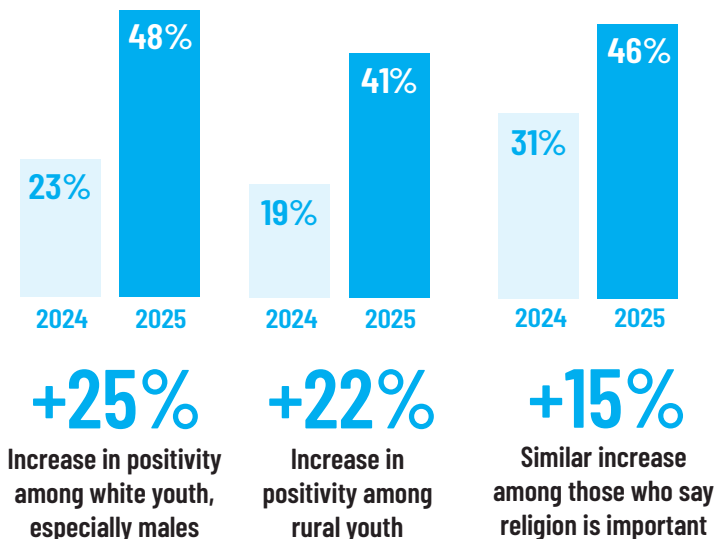
RESULTS OF THE 2025 UNICEF USA/HARRIS POLL: HOW YOUNG PEOPLE SEE AMERICA TODAY

A year after our inaugural poll, a majority of youth still see a country on the wrong track, guided by leaders they see as ignoring their core concerns. Young people continue to show up and are ready to make a positive difference. How policymakers listen to and engage youth matters now and in the future.

62% OF YOUTH THINK OUR COUNTRY IS ON THE WRONG TRACK...

...which is an improvement from 2024, when 72% felt this way.

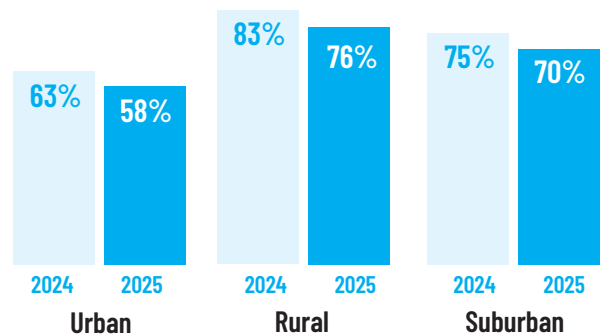
Levels of optimism grew over 2024 among white and rural youth who say religion is important to them.



STILL FEELING DISCONNECTED

Despite mild improvements, most young people feel shut out of politics and civic life, and the disconnect is especially strong for youth in rural and suburban communities.

Percent of youth who do not feel or are not sure they feel included in the political process in the U.S.



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TOP YOUTH ISSUES

For youth, economic and basic needs issues are top of mind. Compared to 2024, their concern for immigration has increased.

Cost of Living (59%)

Homelessness (50%)

The State of the Economy (48%)

Immigration (47%)

Access to Healthcare (46%)

90% OF YOUTH ARE ASKING FOR MORE ENGAGEMENT

Top Ten Ways to Engage Youth

1. Make an effort to understand young people's views on issues
2. Consider how young people are impacted by legislation
3. Engage in honest dialogue with younger generations
4. Allow younger people to be part of decision-making and solutions
5. Make room for young people to be in political power
6. Create youth advisory boards for young people to voice opinions
7. Be transparent about amounts invested in programs for young people
8. Create strategies for change based on issues that matter to youth
9. Fund programs addressing unique issues experienced by youth
10. Draft policies that focus on youth-oriented issues

DOMESTICALLY FOCUSED, GLOBALLY ENGAGED

81% AGREE

“people my age can make a difference in America.”

73% AGREE

“what happens in other countries has or will have an impact on my life.”

65% AGREE

that the U.S. has a global role in supporting other countries.

HOWEVER, 63% AGREE

it's important for U.S. lawmakers focus on political and social issues in the U.S. before issues in other countries.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

UNICEF USA can provide frameworks and suggestions for youth-centered governance and policymaking. Contact our Community Alliance for Child Rights team to learn more at volunteer@unicefusa.org

Methodology: Fifteen-minute online survey of 3,253 young people residing in the U.S., aged 14 – 22.
Survey Dates: 6.23.25 – 7.15.25