



This Washington Post-University of Maryland poll was conducted online May 4-17, 2022, among a random national sample of 1,503 adults. The sample was drawn through SSRS's Opinion Panel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points, including design effects due to weighting. Sampling, data collection and tabulation was conducted by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pa. The survey was conducted in partnership with the University of Maryland's Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism.

(Full methodological details and sampling error margins for subgroups appended at the end.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. In general, would you describe yourself as an avid sports fan, a regular fan, a casual fan, or not a fan at all?

	----- Sports fan -----				Not a fan	No
	NET	Avid	Regular	Casual	at all	opinion
5/17/22	83	12	28	43	17	*
3/18/21	78	14	27	37	22	*
8/20/17*	81	20	26	35	19	*
1/20/13**	76	20	21	35	23	*
1/6/13	76	20	19	37	24	*
10/16/11	75	19	19	37	25	*

*Post-UMass Lowell telephone survey

**2013 and prior Washington Post telephone survey

2. Are you a fan of each of the following sports, or not?

5/17/22 -- Summary table among all adults

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Football	67	31	3
b. Baseball	49	47	4
c. Basketball	45	51	4
d. Ice hockey	25	69	6
e. Soccer	27	68	6
f. Auto racing	31	63	6
g. Tennis	20	74	6
h. Golf	20	74	6
i. E-sports or competitive video gaming	17	76	7

5/17/22 -- Summary table among sports fans

	Yes	No	No opinion
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a. Football	79	19	3
b. Baseball	57	39	4
c. Basketball	53	42	5
d. Ice hockey	29	64	7
e. Soccer	31	63	7
f. Auto racing	35	58	8
g. Tennis	23	70	8
h. Golf	24	69	7
i. E-sports or competitive video gaming	19	73	8

Trend among all adults:

a. Football

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	67	31	3
3/18/21	65	33	2

b. Baseball

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	49	47	4
3/18/21	45	49	7

c. Basketball

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	45	51	4
3/18/21	43	51	6

d. Ice hockey

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	25	69	6
3/18/21	25	67	8

e. Soccer

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	27	68	6
3/18/21	27	67	6

f-h. No trend.

i. E-sports or competitive video gaming

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	17	76	7

3. What is your favorite sport to watch?

	5/17/22	3/18/21	8/20/17*	8/26/12**
Football	36	34	37	35
Basketball	12	11	11	9
Baseball	11	11	10	12
Soccer	8	7	8	9
Auto racing	6	5	4	6
Ice hockey	3	4	4	3
Golf	3	2	2	1
Tennis	2	3	2	2
Something else	6	7	9	14
None/Don't watch sports (vol.)	12	15	12	3
No opinion	*	*	2	6

*Post-UMass Lowell telephone survey

**Washington Post telephone survey

5. On another topic, people who are transgender identify as a gender that is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. Aside from acquaintances, do you personally know someone who is transgender, or not? (Select all that apply)

	----- Yes -----						No	opinion
	NET	Myself	NET Close friend/family	A close friend	A family member	Someone else	No	*
5/17/22	40	3	16	9	8	25	60	*

Compare to:

Now thinking about the people that you know, do you have a close friend or family member who is transgender?

	----- Yes -----						No	opinion
	Myself	NET Close friend/family	A close friend	A family member	No	opinion		
4/20/19*	0	24	18	7	75	1		
2/19/17	NA	21	NA	NA	77	2		
6/7/15	NA	11	NA	NA	85	4		
12/13	NA	9	NA	NA	89	2		
8/11	NA	11	NA	NA	86	3		

*2019 and prior PRRI

Now thinking about the people that you know, do you have a close friend or family member who is gay?

	----- Yes -----						No	opinion
	Myself	NET Close friend/family	A close friend	A family member	No	opinion		
4/20/19*	3	68	48	34	30	1		
2/19/17	NA	70	NA	NA	30	2		
6/7/15	NA	65	NA	NA	34	1		
12/13	NA	58	NA	NA	35	2		
5/11	NA	54	NA	NA	45	1		

*2019 and prior PRRI

6. Do you think the greater social acceptance of transgender people is:

	- Good for society --			Neither good nor bad	-- Bad for society --			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	for society	NET	Somewhat	Very	
5/17/22	40	26	14	35	25	14	11	*
7/18/21*	38	23	15	29	32	14	18	1

*Pew Research Center "Do you think each of the following is generally good or bad for our society? Greater social acceptance of people who are transgender (people who identify as a gender that is different from the sex they were assigned at birth)"

7. Thinking about transgender women and girls - people whose sex was classified as male at birth but who currently identify as female - do you think transgender women and girls should or should not be allowed to compete in sports with other women and girls at each of the following levels?

5/17/22 -- Summary table

	Should be allowed	Should not be allowed	No opinion
a. Professional sports	28	58	15
b. College sports	28	58	15
c. High school sports	30	55	15
d. Youth sports	33	49	17

8. If transgender girls are not allowed to compete with other girls in youth sports, how concerned are you that the mental health of transgender girls will suffer?

	----- Concerned -----			----- Less concerned -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
5/17/22	52	17	35	48	25	22	*

9. If transgender girls are allowed to compete with other girls in youth sports, do you think:

	Transgender girls would have a competitive advantage over other girls	Other girls would have a competitive advantage over transgender girls	Neither would have an advantage	No op.
5/17/22	68	2	30	*

10. Are you a parent or guardian of a child of any age, including adult children?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	64	35	*

11. (AMONG PARENTS) Are any of your children: (Select all that apply)

	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-binary	Gender nonconforming
5/17/22	72	74	2	1	1

NET 10/11

----- Parents -----								
	NET	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-binary	Gender nonconforming	No	No opinion
5/17/22	64	47	48	1	1	1	35	*

12. (AMONG PARENTS) Are any of your children under the age of 18?

	Yes	No	No opinion
5/17/22	41	59	0

NET 10/12

----- Parents -----					
	NET	Under 18	Over 18	No	No opinion
5/17/22	64	26	38	35	*

13. Changing topics, overall, do you approve or disapprove of making betting on professional sporting events legal?

		Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
5/17/22	All	66	34	1
5/17/22	Fans	69	30	1
8/20/17*	All	55	33	12
8/20/17	Fans	57	30	13
9/15/93**	All	41	56	3

*Washington Post-UMass Lowell

**Gallup/CNN/USA Today: "(Do you approve or disapprove of making it legal to do each of the following types of gambling?)... Betting on professional sports events"

14. Thinking about college sports, do you approve or disapprove of making betting on college sporting events legal?

		Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
5/17/22	All	49	50	1
5/17/22	Fans	52	46	1

15. (AMONG THOSE WHO APPROVE OF PRO OR COLLEGE SPORTS BETTING) Would you prefer that the minimum legal age for sports betting be 18 or 21?

		Age 18	Age 21	No opinion
5/17/22		32	68	*
5/17/22	Fans	32	67	*

16. As you may know, an increasing number of states have been allowing people to bet on sporting events. Overall, do you think this has mainly been:

		A good thing	A bad thing	Neither good nor bad	No opinion
5/17/22	All	23	23	54	*
5/17/22	Fans	26	21	53	0

17. In the past 5 years, have you bet on a professional sports event such as baseball, basketball or football, or not?

		Yes, have bet	No, have not bet	No opinion
5/17/22	All	17	83	*
5/17/22	Fans	20	79	*
8/20/17*	Fans	21	79	1

*Washington Post-UMass Lowell

18. In the past 5 years, have you bet on any college sports event?

		Yes, have bet	No, have not bet	No opinion
5/17/22	All	9	90	1
5/17/22	Fans	11	89	*

NET 17/18

		Bet on pro or college sports	Did not bet on sports	No opinion
5/17/22	All	17	82	1
5/17/22	Fans	21	78	1

19. (AMONG THOSE WHO PLACED PRO OR COLLEGE SPORTS BETS IN PAST 5 YEARS) In the past five years, have you bet on sporting events in any of the following ways?

5/17/22 -- Summary table among adults who placed bet in past 5 years

Among friends or through an office pool	67
Online using betting or fantasy sports websites or apps	49
In person at a casino	40
At a racetrack or OTB facility	20
(Among parents) With your children	14
In person at a stadium or arena	12
No opinion	*

5/17/22 -- Summary table among sports fans who placed bet in past 5 years

Among friends or through an office pool	67
Online using betting or fantasy sports websites or apps	48
In person at a casino	40
At a racetrack or OTB facility	19
(Among parents) With your children	14
In person at a stadium or arena	11

No opinion

*

20. (AMONG THOSE WHO PLACED PRO OR COLLEGE SPORTS BETS IN PAST 5 YEARS) In the past 12 months, how often did you place bets on sporting events, if at all?

		----- At least monthly -----						
		More than once a week	A few times a month	About once a month	Once or twice a year	Did not bet in past year	No opinion	
5/17/22	NET	45	9	21	15	44	11	0
5/17/22	Fans	45	9	21	15	43	11	0

NET 17/18/20

		----- Bet on sports in past 5 years -----							
		More than once a week	A few times a month	About once a month	Once or twice a year	Not in past year	No bet in past 5 years	No op.	
5/17/22	All	17	2	4	3	8	2	82	1
5/17/22	Fans	21	2	4	3	9	2	78	1

21. (AMONG THOSE WHO PLACED PRO OR COLLEGE SPORTS BETS IN PAST 5 YEARS) Did betting on a sports game make it (more interesting) to watch, (less interesting), or did it not make a difference?

		More interesting	Less interesting	Did not make a difference	No opinion
5/17/22		85	2	12	*
5/17/22	Fans	85	2	12	*
8/20/17	Fans	73	1	26	*

22. Before you were 21 years old, did you ever bet on any college or professional sporting event?

		Yes, did bet	No, did not bet	No opinion
5/17/22	All	11	88	1
5/17/22	Fans	13	86	1

23. Do you think professional athletes should be allowed to place bets on games in their league, if their team is not competing in that game?

		Yes, should be allowed	No, should NOT be allowed	No opinion
5/17/22	All	24	76	*
5/17/22	Fans	25	75	0

24. How much are you bothered, if at all, by the amount of online and TV ads for each of the following, or not?

5/17/22 -- Summary table among all adults

	----- Bothered -----			----- Less bothered -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Sports betting	37	15	22	62	32	31	*
b. Beer	25	9	16	75	34	40	*
c. Prescription drugs	54	26	29	45	25	21	*

5/17/22 -- Summary table among sports fans

	----- Bothered -----			----- Less bothered -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. Sports betting	36	14	22	64	33	31	*
b. Beer	25	9	17	75	35	39	*
c. Prescription drugs	55	25	30	45	25	20	*

25. How concerned, if at all, are you that the increasing availability of sports betting will lead to...

5/17/22 -- Summary table among all adults

	----- Concerned -----			----- Less concerned -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. More people becoming addicted to gambling	71	31	40	28	21	8	1
b. Games being fixed or rigged	73	35	38	26	19	7	1
c. Children gambling	61	32	29	38	24	14	1

5/17/22 -- Summary table among sports fans

	----- Concerned -----			----- Less concerned -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. More people becoming addicted to gambling	70	29	41	29	22	7	1
b. Games being fixed or rigged	74	35	39	25	20	6	1
c. Children gambling	61	32	29	38	24	14	1

26. Thinking about people you know, including yourself, do you have a close friend or family member who ever had a problem with gambling too much or too often? (Select all that apply)

		You have	A close friend has	A family member has	No	No opinion
5/17/22	All	4	14	21	64	*
5/17/22	Fans	5	15	21	63	*

27. In the past six months, have you watched any women's sporting event on TV or streaming services?

Yes No No opinion

5/17/22	All	35	65	*
5/17/22	Fans	41	59	*

28. (AMONG THOSE WHO WATCHED WOMEN'S SPORTS) What women's sporting events have you watched on TV or streaming services? (Select all that apply)

5/17/22 -- Summary table among those who watch women's sports

Basketball	38
Any women's Olympic sport	38
Gymnastics	37
Tennis	34
Volleyball	25
Soccer	24
Ice skating	24
Softball	23
UFC/MMA (Ultimate Fighting Championship/Mixed Martial Arts)	17
Golf	15
Boxing	9
Ice hockey	5
Lacrosse	3
Field hockey	1
No opinion	*

29. When it comes to giving female college athletes equal opportunities as male college athletes, do you think colleges and universities have...

		Gone too far	Not gone far enough	Been about right	No opinion
5/17/22	All	8	54	37	1
5/17/22	Fans	8	55	37	*

30. A 1972 federal law, known as Title Nine (Title IX), addresses discrimination in high school and college athletics. How much have you heard or read about Title Nine?

		-- A lot/Some ----		--- Not much/Nothing at all ---		No opinion
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Nothing at all
5/17/22	33	8	25	67	28	39
3/7/11*	35	12	23	64	17	47

*CBS News/New York Times "A federal law, known as Title Nine, that was enacted in 1972, prohibits any high school or college that receives federal funds from discriminating on the basis of gender. It is best known for its impact in athletics. How much have you heard or read about Title Nine--a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?"

31. (ASK IF HEARD A LOT/SOME ABOUT TITLE NINE) Do you know if Title Nine applies to...

Discrimination	Discrimination	No
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	based on gender	based on race	Both	Neither	opinion
5/17/22	57	3	36	4	0

32. Do you support or oppose requiring colleges and universities to provide an equal number of athletic scholarships to men and women?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
5/17/22	85	55	29	14	11	4	1

33. Would you support or oppose allowing women to compete for spots on each of the following men's college teams?

5/17/22 -- Summary table among all adults

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. Football	47	52	1
b. Baseball	61	38	1
c. Swimming	64	35	1
d. Basketball	59	40	1

34. As you may know, less than half of women's college sports teams are coached by women. Do you think this is a problem or not a problem? And do you feel this is a major problem or a minor problem?

	----- Problem -----			No	Not a	No
	NET	Major	Minor	opinion	problem	opinion
5/17/22	31	18	13	*	68	*

35. Changing subjects, how much have you heard about the NCAA's decision last year to allow college athletes to be paid when their name or image is used commercially, such as in video games or to sell merchandise?

	---- A lot/Some----		--- Not much/Nothing at all ---			No	
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Not much	Nothing at all	opinion
5/17/22	48	10	38	52	27	24	0

36. (AMONG THOSE WHO HEARD A LOT, SOME, OR NOT MUCH) Do you think paying college athletes when their names and images are used commercially has had a positive impact on your enjoyment of college sports, a negative impact, or hasn't it made a difference?

	Positive	Negative	Hasn't made	No
	impact	impact	a difference	opinion
5/17/22	28	11	60	1

NET 35/36

	----- Know at least something -----				No	
NET	Positive	Negative	No difference	No op.	Nothing at all	op.

5/17/22 76 21 9 45 * 24 0

Questions 37-40 held for release.

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?

	A Democrat	A Republican	An independent	Other	No opinion
5/17/22	28	26	30	16	*
3/18/21	31	25	34	10	*

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the University of Maryland, including the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism. The poll is a random sample of U.S. adults living in the United States. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheticals within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

SSRS conducted sampling, interviewing and tabulation for the survey. The survey was conducted online among a sample from the SSRS Opinion Panel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households through both address-based sampling and random digit dialing of cell/landline phones.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for differential probability of selection based on phone type or geographic strata. The sample was also weighted to match the demographic makeup U.S. adults age 18 or older by age, race/ethnicity, gender, education, region, population density, civic engagement and party affiliation.

Sources of weighting benchmarks are listed below:

U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey: Age by gender, education by age, education by gender, race/ethnicity, region, and population density

U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 Current Population Survey: Civic engagement (volunteering and talking to neighbors)

Washington Post-ABC News polls: Party affiliation

The margin of sampling error for the overall sample including the design effect is plus or minus three percentage points. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.6. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample

design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Error margin
All adults	1,503	+/- 3 points
Sports fans	1,264	3.5
Parents of children of any age	973	4
Parents of children <18	442	6
Approve of pro or college betting	1,028	4
Have made a sports bet in past 5 yrs	296	7.5
Watched women's sports in past 6 mos	579	5
Heard something about paying college athletes for name/image	1,126	3.5

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

