

1. Polling for Justice Survey 2008

Welcome to the Polling for Health, Education and Justice Project survey!! This is a survey written by youth for youth in New York City. 5,000 young people are filling out this survey just like you. Together, your answers will create a powerful voice that will improve young people's experiences with health, education and justice. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at: polling4justice@gmail.com Thank you for your interest in taking the survey. It will take about 30 - 40 minutes. When you finish the survey, we'll give you a FREE MOVIE TICKET to thank you for your time!

2. About You

1. What is your zip code?

2. What are the cross-streets near your house?
(for example: 35th street and 5th avenue)

3. What is your birth date?

MM DD YYYY

for example:
01/23/1990

 / /

4. Do you identify as:

male

female

trans (gender/sexual)

5. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (check all that apply)

Black or African American

Afro Caribbean

Asian, South Asian or Pacific Islander

White

Middle Eastern

Other (please specify) _____

Latino/Latina or Hispanic

Native American or American Indian,
Alaskan Native

6. What is your sexual orientation?

gay

bisexual

not sure

lesbian

straight

other _____

7. Do you have any conditions that would be considered a disability (like a mobility disability, blindness, deafness, ADHD, and/or a learning disability)?

yes

no

If yes, please indicate:

8. What country were you born in?

9. Are you:

currently working full-time

looking for work but not working

working part time

not working or looking for work

10. What is the highest level of schooling your mother/female guardian has completed?

did not graduate from high school

some college

went beyond a B.A.

graduated from high school

graduated from college

don't know

3. Concerns

11. Everybody has problems. When you are going through a hard time, how often do you turn to . . .

	always	frequently	sometimes	never
Adult family members (like: my mother/father/grandparent/guardian/aunt/uncle)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer family members (like: my brother/sister/cousins)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends (including boyfriend/girlfriend)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adults at school (like: teachers/Guidance Counselor/Nurse)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police (including School Safety Agent)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mentor (like: youth program worker/organizer)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. What are the three most stressful things in your life?

1.
2.
3.

13. How much are you stressed out by . .

	always	frequently	sometimes	not at all	does not apply to me
Worries about money?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about immigration?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about housing?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about problems in my family?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about health?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about school?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about police?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Worries about involvement with the criminal justice system?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

14. During the past week, how often have you felt . . .

	Rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day)	Some or a little of the time (1 - 2 days)	Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days)	All of the time (5-7 days)
I was bothered by things that usually don't bother me	jn	jn	jn	jn
I had trouble keeping my mind on what I was doing	jn	jn	jn	jn
I felt depressed	jn	jn	jn	jn
I felt that everything I did was an effort	jn	jn	jn	jn
I felt fearful	jn	jn	jn	jn
My sleep was restless	jn	jn	jn	jn
I was happy	jn	jn	jn	jn
I was lonely	jn	jn	jn	jn
I could not "get going"	jn	jn	jn	jn
I felt that life isn't worth living	jn	jn	jn	jn

15. Please check how safe or unsafe you feel in each of these places.

	very unsafe	somewhat unsafe	somewhat safe	very safe
At home	€	€	€	€
At school	€	€	€	€
In the streets (including parks)	€	€	€	€
At church/mosque/synagogue/places of worship and/or spirituality	€	€	€	€
In my neighborhood	€	€	€	€
On my way to and from school	€	€	€	€

16. Thinking about your day-to-day life, how much do you agree with these statements?

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
Adults respect me.	€	€	€	€
People treat me with less respect than others.	€	€	€	€
People treat me as if I'm not smart.	€	€	€	€
People act as if they are afraid of me.	€	€	€	€

4. What do you think?

The United States right now is very much like this picture. A few people have most of the wealth in the country while a lot of people make do with what is left.



Credit: United For a Fair Economy

In fact, only **10%** of the U.S. population owns **71%** of all of American's wealth . . .

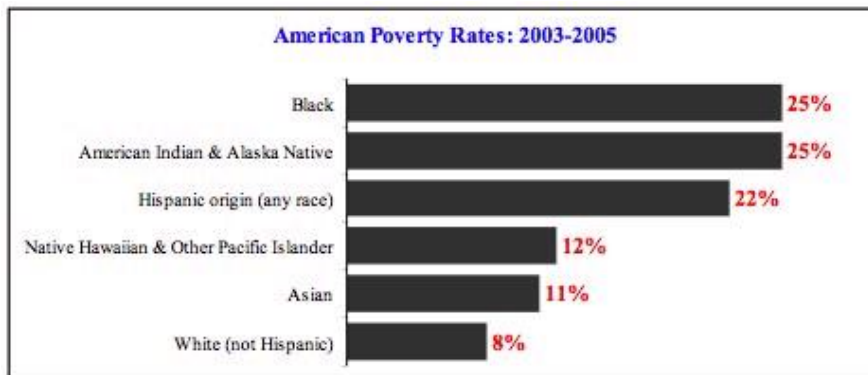
and on the other hand

the rest of the **90%** of the population owns only **29%** of all of American's wealth . . .

In other words, there is a huge gap between the very few wealthy and the rest; particularly the poor.

17. Help us understand what to make of this. Why are some people so wealthy and others so poor?

Some race and ethnic groups seem to have more wealth as a group than others. For example, look at the graph below. Only 8% of the White community is living in poverty while 25% of the Black community is living in poverty, and 22% of people of Hispanic origin are living in poverty.



18. Why do you think some racial and ethnic groups are more likely to be poor than others?

19. Is there anything that can or should be done about some groups being poorer or wealthier than others? Is there anything you have done about it?

5. About you and school

20. What's the highest level of education you plan to achieve?

- high school diploma
 Bachelor's degree
 I don't plan on finishing high school or getting my GED.
- GED
 Master's Degree
- Vocational or Associates Degree
 PhD, doctor or lawyer

21. List all the high schools you have attended - starting with the most recent:
school name:

1.

2.

3.

22. Your current educational level:
(check all that apply to you)

	yes	no
I'm still in high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I left high school before graduating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I graduated high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm in a GED program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have my GED.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm in college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

name of college:

23. My school . . .

(if you are not currently in school, answer about the last school you attended)

	yes	no	I don't know
Provides advanced classes such as Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides science lab materials, such as microscopes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides music, art or drama classes during school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a school based health center.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allows military recruiters to recruit during class time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supports the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) diploma.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. What kind of security does your school have? (check all that apply)

- none
 cops
 other _____
- school safety agents
 cameras
- metal detectors
 not sure

25. In my school . . .

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
My teachers care about me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My culture is respected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel like people really know me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My teachers have high expectations of me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My teachers help me when I don't understand something.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teachers do not listen to what students like me have to say.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students in my class talk back or act rudely towards teachers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I can talk to teachers about problems I am having in class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel bored.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The school helps me feel prepared for college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Too much class time is spent getting ready to pass Regents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worry that Regents exams could keep me from graduating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have had negative interactions with School Safety Agents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is overcrowded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I care about getting good grades.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel challenged by what I'm learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometimes school rules, tests, the way school personnel treat students, and other elements of school make me feel pushed to leave school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. In general, during the past school year, how many days a week have you had difficulty paying attention in class due to hunger?

- 1 day
 2 days
 3 days
 4 days
 5 days

27. In my school, I can get help from teachers or guidance counselors with . . .

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	I don't know
Questions about college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help with college applications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information and support with financial aid forms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. Have you ever:

	never	once	more than once
been held back in a grade?	€	€	€
dropped out or been pushed out of high school?	€	€	€
been suspended or expelled?	€	€	€
entered a GED program?	€	€	€
been homeless?	€	€	€
been in foster care?	€	€	€

29. If you were ever suspended or expelled, or if you dropped out of school,

	yes	no
did you return to school?	€	€
did you enter a GED program?	€	€

30. In general, the public education system does a good job educating young people like me.

strongly disagree
 disagree
 agree
 strongly agree

6. About you and the criminal justice system.

31. In the past 6 months, have any of the following happened to you?

	never	yes, happened out of school	yes, happened in school
I was told to move by the police in a disrespectful way.	€	€	€
I was arrested.	€	€	€
I was helped by a police officer.	€	€	€
I got a ticket/summons.	€	€	€
I was stopped and questioned due to the clothing I was wearing/for being in a large group/because I fit the description of somebody who did a crime.	€	€	€
I was stopped by the police on my way to or from school (like, for jumping the turnstyle).	€	€	€
I was given a "second chance" by a police officer.	€	€	€
I was picked up in a sweep.	€	€	€
I was arrested or given a summons/ticket for not having i.d.	€	€	€
I was picked up for a PINS (person in need of supervision) violation.	€	€	€
I had to miss school/work for a summons/ticket.	€	€	€
I was stopped by police for questioning.	€	€	€
I was frisked (patted-down).	€	€	€
I was strip searched.	€	€	€
A police officer crossed the line (touched inappropriately) while searching me.	€	€	€
I received "sexual attention" from the police.	€	€	€
I was threatened and/or called a name by the police.	€	€	€

32. Have you ever been in jail or prison?
 (if yes, continue below. if no, skip to question #34)

yes

no

33. Did you experience violence while you were in jail or prison? (check all that apply)

yes, from staff

no, I did not experience violence

does not apply to me

yes, from other inmates

other _____

34. Did you experience any problems when you got home from jail/prison?

no

yes

If yes, what were they?

35. In general, the police in NYC protect young people like me.

strongly disagree

disagree

agree

strongly agree

7. Sex and Relationships

36. Have you ever:

	yes	no	not sure
been in a romantic relationship?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had sex with a male?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had sex with a female?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
been tested for a sexually transmitted infection or disease?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had a sexually transmitted infection or disease?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had intercourse without a condom?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had sexual pleasure or an orgasm with a partner?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had an abortion (either you or your partner)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
taken emergency contraception pills, also known as morning after pills, abortion pills, or Plan B? (either you or your partner)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
been forced to have any kind of sexual contact when you did not want to?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by your boyfriend or girlfriend?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37. The last time you had sex (sexual intercourse), which of the following did you use? (check all that apply)

I have never had sex.

birth control pills

I don't know

used nothing

Depo-Provera (injectable birth control/ a "shot")

other _____

condoms

withdrawal or pull-out

38. In the last 30 days have you:

	No	Once or twice.	Three or more times.	Every day.
Smoked a cigarette	€	€	€	€
Had a drink of beer, wine or other alcohol	€	€	€	€
Used marijuana	€	€	€	€
Used some other illegal drug (like, crack, cocaine, heroin, Ecstasy, crystal meth, LSD, angel dust, inhalants such as air freshener, glue, markers, paint, gasoline etc)	€	€	€	€
Used prescription pain killers (to get high)	€	€	€	€
Gotten into a fight that injured you	€	€	€	€
Injured someone else in a fight	€	€	€	€
Carried a weapon	€	€	€	€
Participated in gang activities.	€	€	€	€
Been hurt or felt threatened by a gang	€	€	€	€

8. Your thoughts on the U.S.

39. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Basically, people get fair treatment in the U.S., no matter who they are.	€	€	€	€
In the U.S. you have an equal chance no matter where you come from or what race you are.	€	€	€	€
The U.S. is a fair society where everyone has an equal chance to get ahead.	€	€	€	€
It makes me angry when I think about the conditions some people have to live in.	€	€	€	€
It's not right for there to be rich and poor in our society. There should be more equality.	€	€	€	€
The U.S. society needs to be radically restructured.	€	€	€	€
Differences in wealth in society are due to the natural order of things.	€	€	€	€
There are many reasons to think that the economic system is unfair.	€	€	€	€
It is nearly impossible to eliminate poverty.	€	€	€	€
Most people who don't get ahead in our society have only themselves to blame.	€	€	€	€
If people wanted to change the economic system to make things equal they could.	€	€	€	€
There are no natural differences between rich and poor: it is purely a matter of the situation into which you are born.	€	€	€	€

9. Youth attitudes.

40. How much do you agree or disagree?

	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree
Young people have an important role to play in making the world a better place.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
In a typical week, I often search the Internet for information on current events.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
I like being involved with other young people to create change.	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

41. Rate your answer:

	yes	maybe	no
If you could vote, would you?	jñ	jñ	jñ

42. Who would you vote for in the 2008 Presidential Election?

jñ John McCain (republican) jñ someone else jñ Barack Obama (democrat)

who's the someone else?

43. When I think about the future I feel:

	very	somewhat	a little bit	not at all
hopeful	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
excited	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
scared	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

44. In general, young people like me can make a difference in society.

jñ strongly disagree jñ disagree jñ agree jñ strongly agree

45. Tell us about a time when you witnessed or experienced an injustice/unfairness that upset you.

10. Your health.

46. Would you say in general that your health is:

€ excellent € very good € good € fair € poor

47. What is your height?

feet:

inches:

48. What is your weight?

in pounds:

49. Would you say you are:

underweight

overweight

about the right weight

very overweight

50. During the last month, how many days of school or work have you missed because of:

	0 days	1 - 3 days	4 - 10 days	11 or more days
physical sickness (such as an injury, your period or infections)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
mental health (such as feeling depressed, sad, anxious, or like you just couldn't 'get going')	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
a chronic condition (like asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
taking care of family members (babysitting, going to court, taking someone to the doctor, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

51. If you had health education class, what grade was it in? (check all that apply)

I haven't had it

8th grade

11th grade

6th grade

9th grade

12th grade

7th grade

10th grade

52. Have you had any formal instruction at school, church, community center or some other place about (check all that apply):

	No	Yes, at school	Yes, at church	Yes, at a community center	Yes, at some other place
how to say no to sex?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
how to use birth control?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
how to have safe sex?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
emergency contraception?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
abortion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
healthy relationships and intimacy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
lesbian, gay and bisexualities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

if you check some other place, please specify

53. In the last year, when you felt sick, have you gone to . . . (check all that apply)

Haven't used health care in last year

School based health center

Church/mosque/synagogue/place of worship and/or spirituality

Private doctor

Hospital emergency room

Community or hospital clinic

Botanica, acupuncturist or other alternative care

some other place (please specify)

54. In the last year, have you ever needed health care but not gone because . . .
(check all that apply)

- I had no one to go with me.
- I have trouble communicating with health care providers.
- I was scared of what I would learn.
- my immigration status.
- not enough money.
- I didn't know how.
- language barrier.
- no health insurance.
- Other _____

55. How do you pay for health care:

- With my own money
- Find places where health care is free
- With health insurance from my family
- Some other way

56. In general, I feel like the health care system in this city keeps young people like me healthy.

- strongly disagree disagree agree strongly agree

11. Last but not least . . . your reflections!

57. How did you find out about this survey?

- friend
- another internet site
- other
- myspace
- a youth organization
- facebook
- school

if you answered youth organization, what is the name of youth organization:

58. What 3 questions do you think we should be asking other New York City teens?

1.
2.
3.

59. Comment box! (write whatever you want)

Thank you for taking our survey!

~ the Polling for Justice research project
polling4justice@gmail.com
www.polling4justice.org

12. Getting Involved! (optional)

60. We want to talk more with you! If you are interested in talking more about these issues, being interviewed, or being in a focus group, please give us your name and the best way to get in touch with you.

DETACH THIS SHEET and hand it in separately from your survey.

Someone from the Polling for Justice project will get in touch soon!

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
ZIP/Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>
Country:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>