

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Disconnected: The Growing Class Divide in American Civic Life](#)

Article Link: <https://www.americansurveycenter.org/research/disconnected-places-and-spaces/>

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Tweet: 17% of Americans report having no close friends in 2024, up from 12% in 2021; 24% of Americans with a high school education or less report having no close friends vs. 10% of college grads. @dcoxpolls notes this gap is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Summary: Today, 17% of Americans report having no close friends—a category that excludes close relatives. This is only a modest increase from 2021, when 12% of Americans reported they had no close friends. 18% of Americans have one or two close friends. About one-third (34%) of Americans have three to five close friends, and one-quarter (25%) have six or more. The survey reveals a massive educational disparity in Americans' number of close friends. Roughly one in four (24%) Americans with a high school education or less report having no close friends, compared to only 10% of college graduates. College graduates are twice as likely as those without any college education to have at least six close friends (33% vs. 17%). The educational gap in the size of American friendship circles is a relatively recent phenomenon. Roughly three decades ago, Americans with more formal education did not have larger social circles. In 1990, nearly half (49%) of Americans with a high school degree or less reported having at least six close friends—a slightly greater share than those with a college degree—while only 3% reported having no close friends.

Related Articles: Generation Z and the Transformation of American Adolescence: How Gen Z's Formative Experiences Shape Its Politics, Priorities, and Future and An Unsettled Electorate: How Uncertainty and Apathy Are Shaping the 2024 Election and Why Young Men and Women are Drifting Apart

Primary Topic: Family/Marriage

Topics: Family/Marriage, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Weekly, Workforce

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