

# AGE OF CONSENT SURVEY METHODOLOGY

## **1. Scientific Method Applied To Subject:**

### **1. Question:**

The age of consent laws vary across states. Do people know the age of consent laws? And are consent law issues a matter voters care about?

### **2. Background Research:**

Overall, the consensus leans towards using education and supportive dialogue as tools to enhance the understanding and implementation of consent laws, rather than just changing legal age limits.

Article from The Conversation: An opinion piece discusses why merely changing the age of consent might not effectively protect young people from exploitation, advocating instead for education and dialogue as more effective tools.

You can explore this perspective in detail at:

[phys.org/news/2023-09-opinion-age-consent-solution-young.html](https://phys.org/news/2023-09-opinion-age-consent-solution-young.html)

### **3. Hypothesis:**

Given that the researched general consensus shows that education is more affective at protecting young people than legal changes, one might conclude that the age of consent is not a issue that matters to voter, particularly women voters.

### **4. Test The Hypothesis by Conducting the Survey (Experiment)**

Survey currently being conducted.

### **5. Conclusion**

Survey currently being conducted.

## 6. Report Your Results

Survey currently being conducted

## 7. Replication

Any organization is welcome to replicate the study, and any replicates would be more than welcome to be cited here at that time.

## 2. Define Target Participants (Subgroups):

Age of Consent Target Participants:

- **Primary Focus:** Women across various age groups, socioeconomic statuses, and educational backgrounds.
- **Secondary Focus:** Men, to provide comparative insights but with less emphasis than the primary group.

## 3. Sampling Criteria:

- **Geographic Diversity:** We aim to stop in a variety of locations that differ socioeconomically and culturally within each state to capture a wide range of perspectives.
- **Demographic Representation:** Within each location, we specifically seek out respondents who represent different demographics, particularly focusing on ensuring a balanced representation of target participants.

## 4. Approach Strategy:

- When we stop in public areas, we actively look for and approach target participants who appear to be willing to engage in a brief discussion. This could be indicated by those who are not in a hurry or those already engaged in leisure activities in public spaces.

- We use a friendly and non-intrusive approach to explain your research purpose briefly and ask if they would be willing to answer a quick question about your topic.

## **5. Data Collection Consistency:**

- We use a standard set of questions that are straightforward and respectful, ensuring that the same questions are posed to all participants to maintain consistency across the data.
- We document responses immediately and systematically to ensure accuracy and reliability in data collection.

## **6. Ethical Considerations:**

- We ensure that all participants are approached respectfully and are fully informed about the purpose of the survey and how their data will be used. Respect participants' right to decline and thank them for their time regardless of their willingness to participate.

## **7. Adjustments Based on Feedback:**

- Prepared to make adjustments to your approach based on the responses and interactions you have early in the survey process. If a particular approach does not seem to be effective or well-received, adapt your strategy to be more engaging or less intrusive.

# **AGE OF CONSENT SURVEY QUESTIONS**

## Introduction:

1. Sexual Orientation:
  - A. Male
  - B. Female
  - C. Non-Traditional
2. Parental Status
  - A. Parent
  - B. Non Parent
3. Age of Participant:
  - A. < 18
  - B. 18 - 30
  - C. 30 - 40
  - D. 50 - 65
  - E. 60 +
4. Voter Intention Status
  - A. Definite-Voter
  - B. Potential-Voter
  - C. Non-Voter
5. Voter Identity
  - A. Republican
  - B. Democrat
  - C. Independent
6. Race
  - A. White
  - B. Arabic
  - C. Jewish
  - D. Black
  - E. Hispanic

F. Asian

7. Country

A. US

B. Canada

6. State / Province

Answer Options

1. Alabama

2. Alaska

3. Arizona

4. Arkansas

5. California

6. Colorado

7. Connecticut

8. Delaware

9. Florida

10. Georgia

11. Hawaii

12. Idaho

13. Illinois

14. Indiana

15. Iowa

16. Kansas

17. Kentucky

18. Louisiana

19. Maine

20. Maryland

21. Massachusetts

22. Michigan

23. Minnesota

24. Mississippi

25. Missouri

26. Montana

27. Nebraska

28. Nevada

29. New Hampshire
30. New Jersey
31. New Mexico
32. New York
33. North Carolina
34. North Dakota
35. Ohio
36. Oklahoma
37. Oregon
38. Pennsylvania
39. Rhode Island
40. South Carolina
41. South Dakota
42. Tennessee
43. Texas
44. Utah
45. Vermont
46. Virginia
47. Washington
48. West Virginia
49. Wisconsin
50. Wyoming

7. Religion

Answer Options

- A. Christian
- B. Jewish
- C. Muslim
- D. Hindu
- E. Other
- F. Prefer Not to Answer

8. Did you know the age of consent in Washington State is 16?

Answer Option

- A. Yes
- B. No

9. If the age of consent is considered without “Romeo and Juliet” laws, meaning: if the age of consent is defined as the youngest legal age a girl or boy can consent to sleeping with a full grown adult of any age, what should the age of consent should be?

- A. 16
- B. 18
- C. 21
- D. Other

10. Should “Romeo and Juliet” law exceptions apply? Meaning if the age of consent laws are violated in some way, but the participants are of similar age (usually within 2-4) years, they fall into an exemption of the consent laws?

Answer Options:

- A. Yes
- B. No

11. How important of an issue is this?

Answer Options:

- A. Not worth voting on
- B. Absolutely should be on the ballot
- C. I’m ambivalent