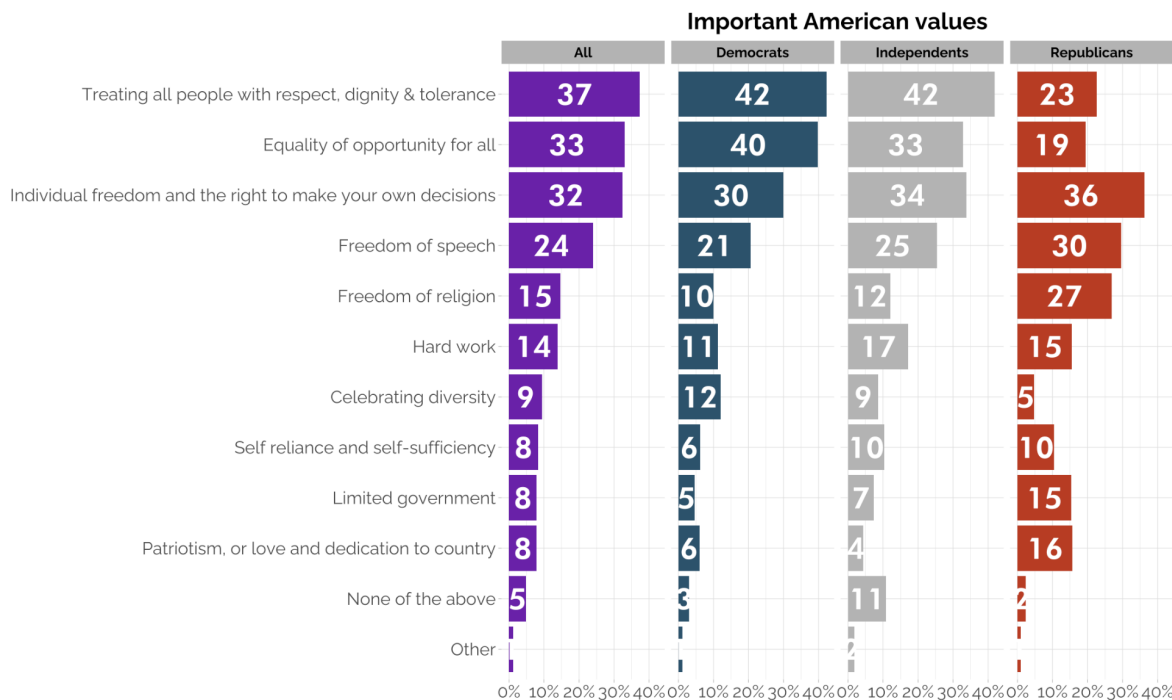


The Values and Experiences that Shape Young Americans

Treating people with respect, dignity, and tolerance is a hallmark of this generation.

Conventional wisdom says young people are sheltered and often hyper-sensitive – think the “snowflake” term often applied by conservative media. But the results of this study by the Sine Institute cast a new lens on this question. In fact, young people say that treating others with respect and dignity is a hallmark of their generation and a point of pride for them. This value gains the most consensus in rankings of important American values for this generation, as well as a focus on equality of opportunity for all and individual freedom. There are some differences, as the chart below shows, in the general ranking of these values whether young people are Democratic, independent, or Republican, but the importance of respecting (and permitting) different ideas is present across the political spectrum.¹



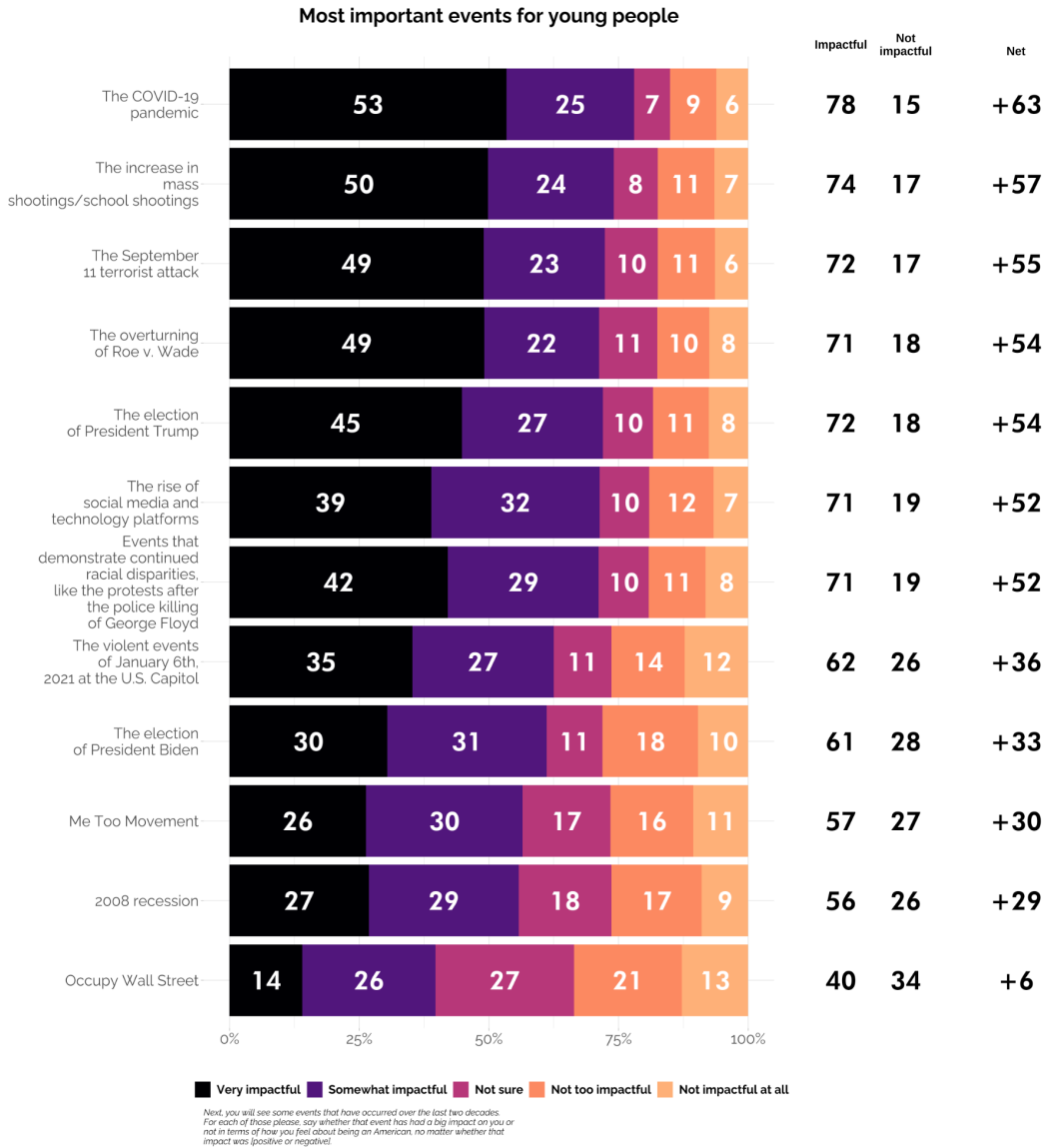
Below is a list of American values that are important to some people. Pick the two that are the most important to you personally.



Young Americans feel their lives are being shaped by gun violence and the pandemic - about 75 percent of young people describing these events as "very impactful."

¹ For more, refer to question 5 of the survey documentation.

These values have been shaped by a unique moment in American history. The young people now coming of age have lived through a COVID-19 pandemic that has shaped their lives over the last few years. And the trauma of school shootings is among the most impactful life experiences of young Americans. Often called the Lockdown Generation, young people have grown up with the specter of mass shootings since they were in elementary school. Young people have internalized these challenges and other challenges, and these experiences shape the generation they are now.²



² For more, refer to question 13 of the survey documentation.