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Civic Engagement Among Young Men and Women

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Political scientists and sociologists have long established significant differences in civic engagement between women and men. For example, Verba et al. found that men were more likely to engage in political activities, such as voting and contributing to a campaign, than women.² More recently, the Center for American Women and Politics found that women of all ages had consistently higher voter turnout rates than men since 1984.³ And utilizing the 2002 civic and political health of the nation survey, Jenkins finds that young women and men were similar in civic engagement, though young men were much more attentive to the news and politics and young women, reflecting differences also observed among adult men and women.⁴

Utilizing data from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, and several other sources, we provide new information on the civic engagement of youth, confidence in government, and following public affairs and the news, by gender. Generally we find that young men are among the most engaged in a wide range of political activities despite lower voter turnout rates, and young women are among the most engaged in civic activities such as volunteering, and also the most likely to vote. We also find, as Jenkins has, that young men are more attentive to the news than their young female counterparts.

The 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey

In the spring of 2006, CIRCLE conducted the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (2006 CPHS), interviewing 1,674 young people and 547 adults on their civic engagement, as measured by 19 core engagement activities.⁵ A complete list of these activities is shown in Table 1. The 2006 CPHS also includes over-samples of African-American, Latino, and Asian-American youth.⁶ Below we present a portrait of civic engagement by gender by exploring each area of civic engagement shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 - 19 Core Measures of Civic Engagement from the 2006 CPHS
(Activities Performed within the Last 12 Months)**

| Civic Activities | Electoral Activities | Political Voice Activities |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Engaged in Community Problem Solving Activity | Regular Voter (ages 20 and older) | Contacted public officials |
| Regular Volunteer for a non-electoral organization | Tried to Persuade others in an election | Contacted the print media |
| Active member in a group or association | Displayed buttons, signs, stickers | Contacted the broadcast media |
| Participated in fund-raising run/walk/ride | Made Campaign contributions | Protested |
| Engaged in Other fund-raising for charity | Volunteered for a candidate or political organization | Signed E-mail petitions |
| | | Signed paper petitions |
| | | Engaged in Boycotting |
| | | Engaged in Buycotting |
| | | Canvassed |

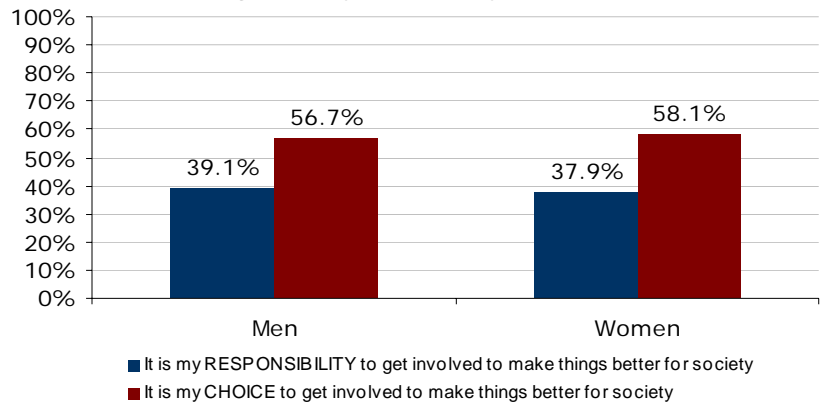
Source: *Civic and Political Health of the Nation Report*, October 2006.

Engagement in Civic Activities

Getting Involved

Young people offer various views of why they get involved. As shown in Figure 1, the majority of both young men and women view getting involved as a *choice*. In contrast, roughly a third of men and women believe it is their *responsibility* to get involved in societal problems.

Figure 1: Views on Getting Involved in Society Among 15-25 year olds by Gender

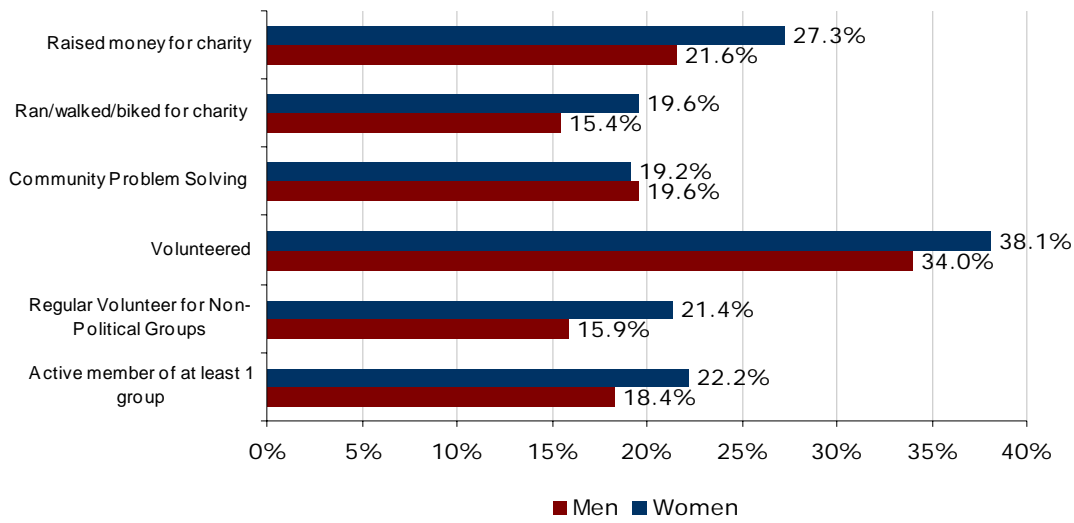


Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

Gender Differences across Participation in Civic Activities

According to the 2006 CPHS, there were substantial differences between young women and men across the six civic activities measured. Young women were the most active in civic activities, leading on five of the six civic activities reported in Figure 2. For example, 38.1 percent of young women reported volunteering in 2006 compared to 34.0 percent of men.

≡ **Figure 2: Participation in Civic Activities Among 15-25 year olds by Gender**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

Volunteering

The rate of volunteering among all young people, according to the 2006 CPHS, was 36 percent. However, as shown in Figure 2, young women reported the greatest volunteering rate (at 38.1 percent) and were more likely than men to report volunteering regularly (at 21.4 percent).

Young male and female volunteers favored the same types of organizations. Among young men and women, the three organizations that drew the most volunteers in 2006 were youth, civic, and religious organizations (in descending order). See Table 2.

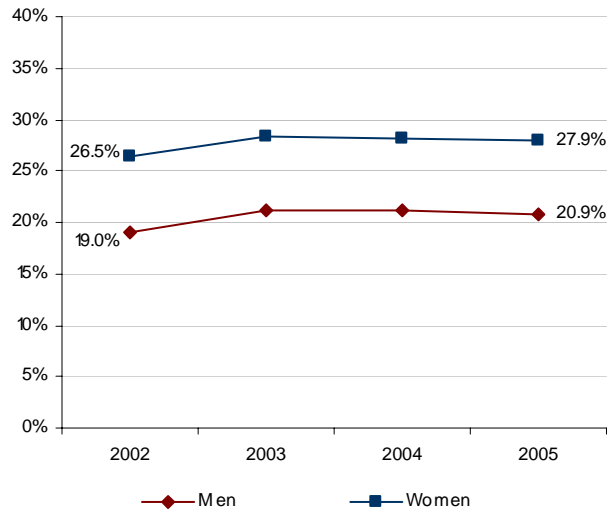
Table 2 – Top 3 Organizations (by type) Where 15-25 year old Volunteer by Gender

| | Men | Women |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Youth (21.6%) | Youth (28.6%) |
| 2 | Civic (15.0%) | Civic (20.2%) |
| 3 | Religious (14.1%) | Religious (18.7%) |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE).

While the 2006 CPHS provides a snapshot of volunteering in 2006, it fails to provide a picture on how volunteering rates among young people have changed over time. However, two data sources, the Current Population Survey September Supplement⁷ and Monitoring the Future (MTF), while not as rich on civic engagement measures as the 2006 CPHS, provide enough information to identify trends in volunteering. Figure 3 shows the volunteer rate among young men and women ages 15 to 25 from 2002 to 2005, according to the Current Population Survey. As seen in the 2006 CPHS, young women consistently volunteer at higher rates than men.

Figure 3: Volunteer Rates Among Young People, Ages 15-25, by Gender

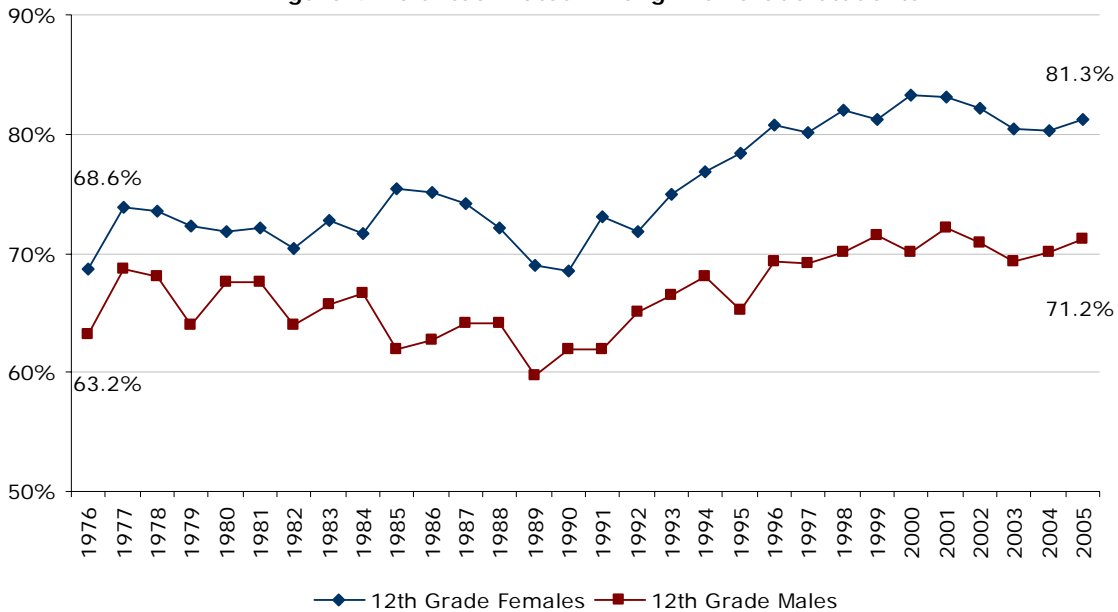


Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, September Supplements, 2002-2005

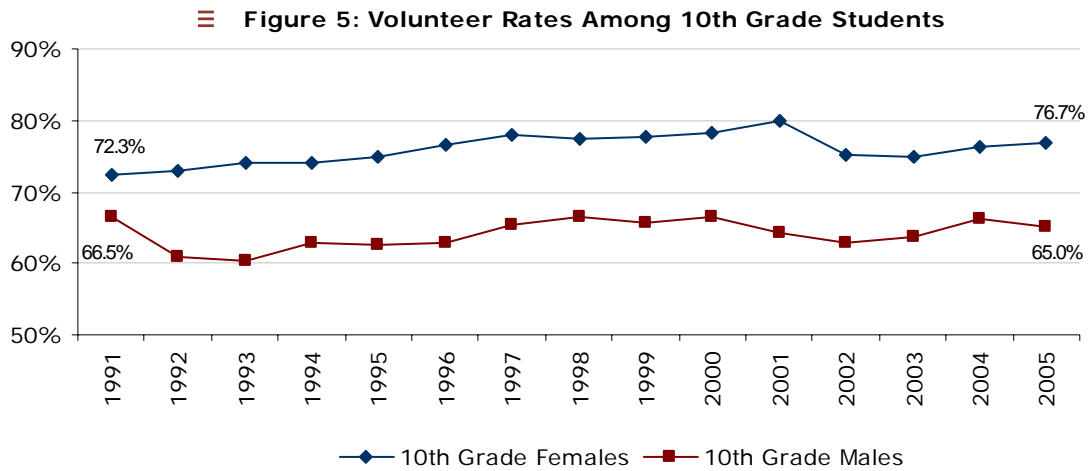
Figures 4 - 6 show the volunteering rate for young people in high school since 1976 for twelfth graders and since 1991 for tenth and eighth graders.

Overall, since 1976, volunteering among young people in school has grown. This was true for high school seniors, 10th graders and 8th graders (the later two since 1991), according to the MTF.⁸ In all three grades, young women have reported higher volunteering rates than their male counterparts, with the gap largest among tenth graders 76.7 percent versus 65.0 percent respectively).

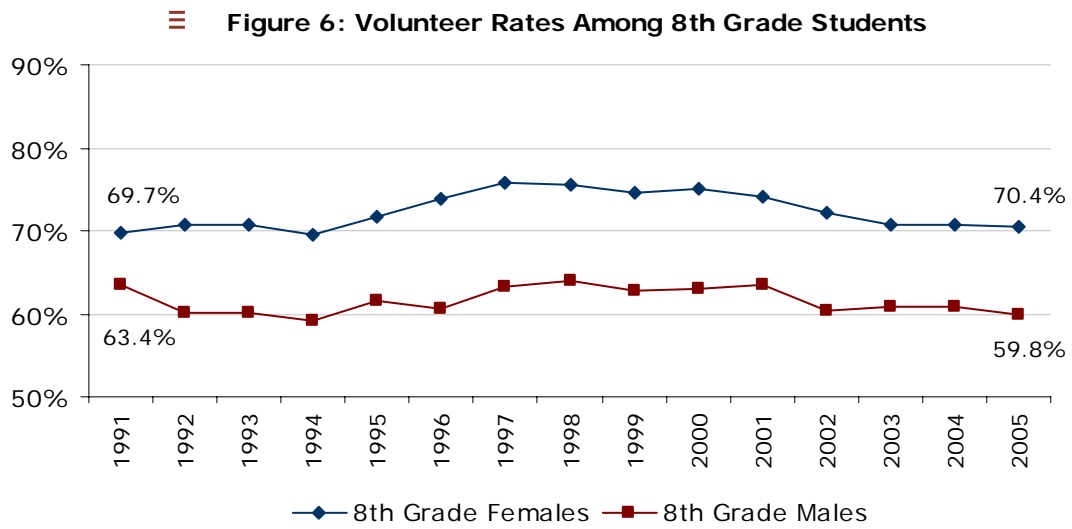
Figure 4: Volunteer Rates Among 12th Grade Students



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF), 1976-2005



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF), 1991-2005



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF), 1991-2005

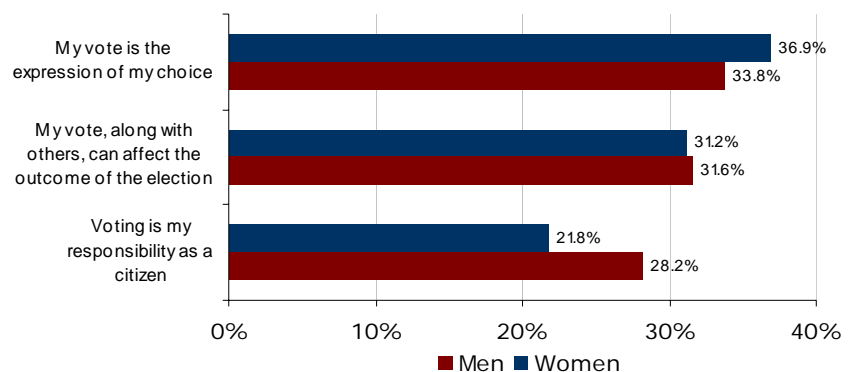
Engagement in Electoral Activities

Since young people ages 18 to 20 were first given the right to vote, electoral participation among young people has declined steadily, with upturns in engagement in 1992, 2004, and 2006. This pattern of electoral engagement has been true for all groups of young people, including young men and women. The decline has been due to many factors, but two reasons are that young people feel they can do little to affect elections and a substantial number believe that it might even be difficult to learn how, when and where to vote. Even when they do know how and where to vote, young people today do not “particularly feel guilty” about not voting.⁹ However, this notion is not an absolute deterrent to voting; rigorous experimental evidence shows that young people are more likely to vote when they are asked to do so.¹⁰

Views of Voting and Politics

As Figure 7 shows, a plurality of both men and women view their vote as “the expression of my choice.” Men were substantially more likely than women to view their vote as “my responsibility as a citizen.”

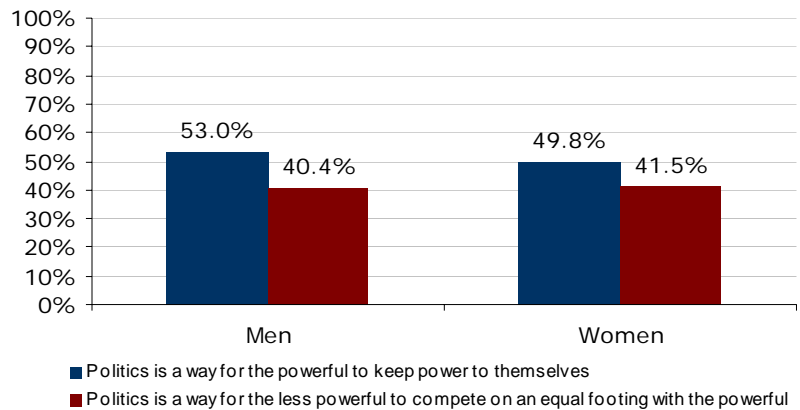
Figure 7: Views on Voting Among 15-25 year olds by Gender



Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

Figure 8 shows views on politics among 15-25 year olds. Men were 3.2 percentage points more likely to view politics as a way for the powerful to keep power to themselves than their female counterparts.

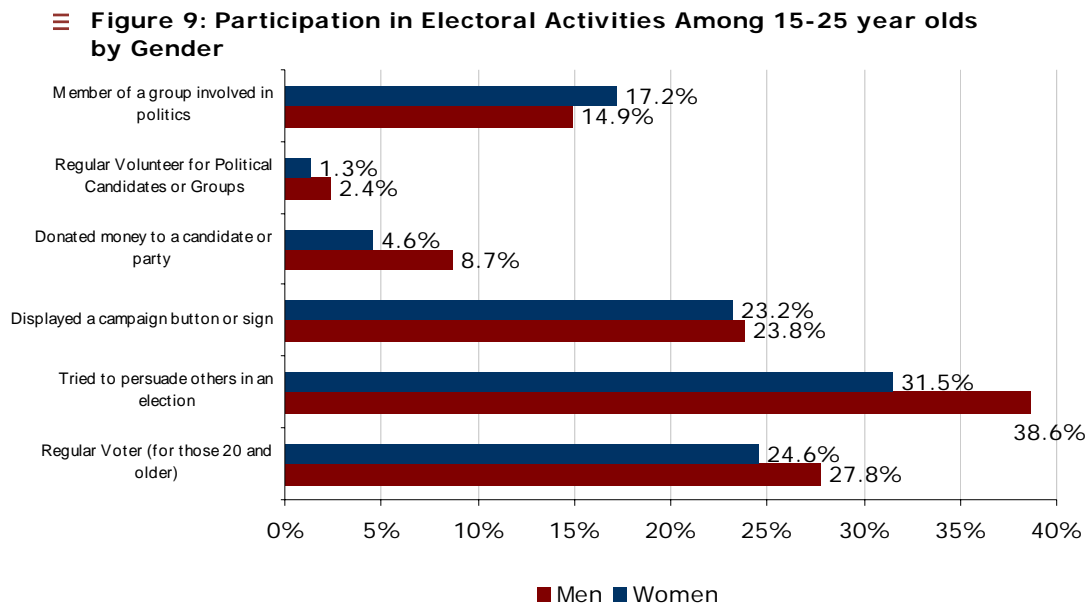
Figure 8: Views on Politics Among 15-25 year olds by Gender



Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

Participation in Electoral Activities

The 2006 CPHS asked survey respondents about six different kinds of electoral activities, from regular voting to making campaign contributions (see Figure 9 for a complete list). In five out of six of the electoral activities, young men were the most involved. The only category in which young women prevailed was being a member of a group involved in politics. What is surprising about these results is the finding that young women are *less* likely to report being regular voters, yet have consistently reported greater voter turnout rates, as shown in Figures 13 and 14 since the late 1970s.

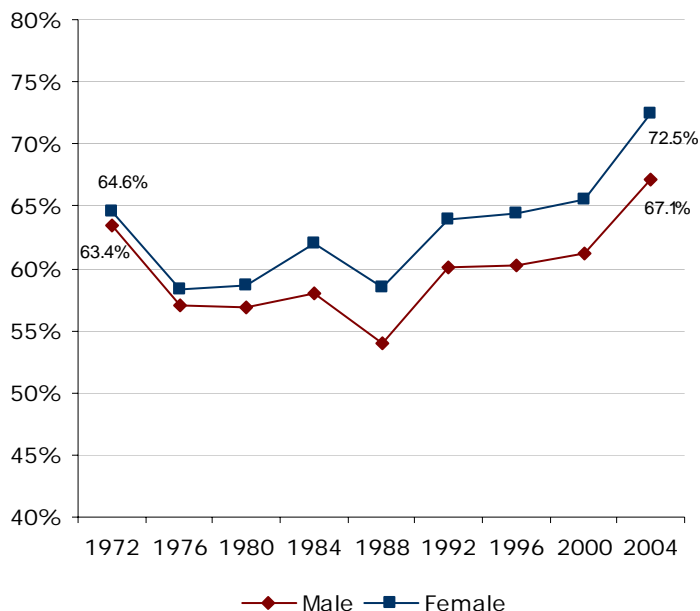


Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

Trends in Voter Registration

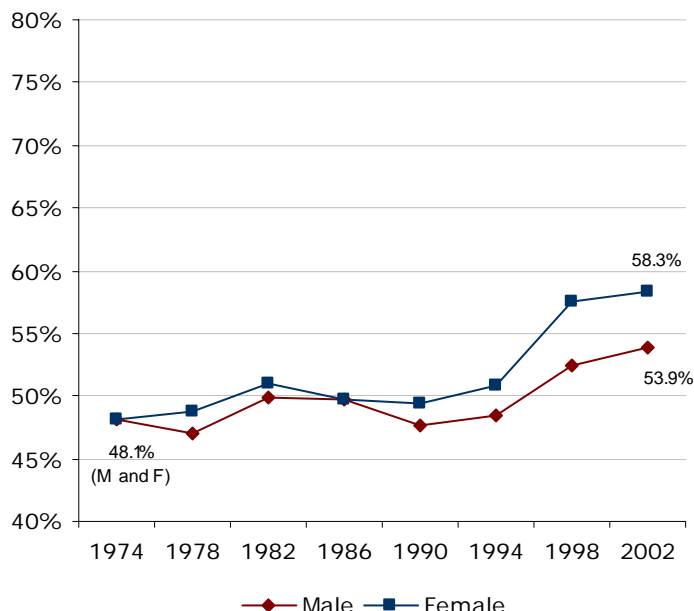
According to the CPS, since the early 1970s, young women have reported higher voter registration rates, with 72.5 percent of young women reporting that they were registered to vote in 2004. For both men and women, voter registration rates during presidential elections have been on the rise since 1988, and since 1994 in midterm election years. See Figures 10 and 11.

≡ **Figure 10: Registration Rates in Presidential Elections Among 18-29 year old Citizens**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 1972-2004

≡ **Figure 11: Registration Rates in Midterm Elections Among 18-29 year old Citizens**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 1974-2002

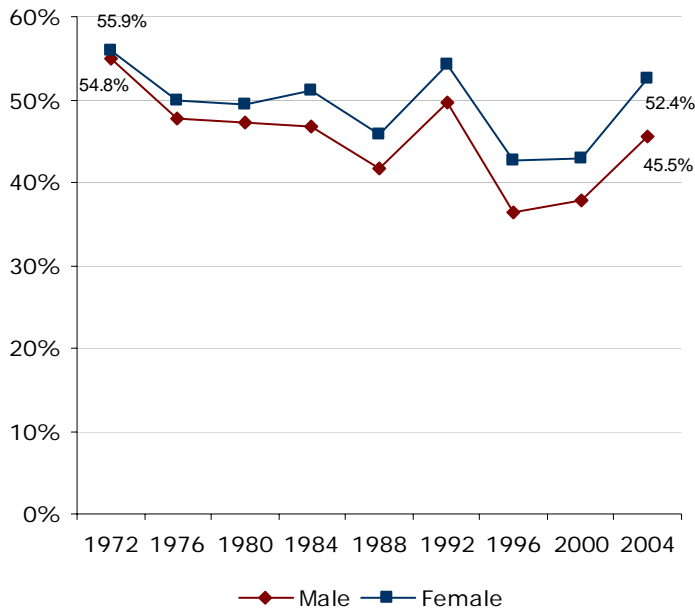
Voter Turnout

The 2006 CPHS provides an estimate of how many young people age 20 and older identified as regular voters (meaning that they voted in two or more elections) in 2006. Another way to measure voter participation is to use the CPS to estimate voter participation over time.

CPS estimates¹¹ show that young women (age 18-29) have been the most likely to report voting in both midterm and presidential elections (see Figures 13 and 14). While young men surpass women in electoral activities, according to the 2006 CPHS, women are still more likely to vote than men. Thus, while young men engage in a range of electoral activities, women concentrate their efforts in voting. This difference could be attributed to differences between the CPS sample (ages 18 to 29) and the 2006 CPHS sample (15 to 25) by age. Figure 7 reports responses from 15-25 year olds, and Figures 13 and 14 report voter turnout rates for 18-29 year olds. Yet, when analyzing 18-25 year olds from the CPS, women still vote at higher rates than their male counterparts in most presidential and midterm years. Compare this to the fact that among 18-25 year olds in the 2006 CPHS, young men are more engaged in electoral activities than their female counterparts, such as being regular voters.¹² This suggests that there is a real difference in the civic engagement of women in voting and in other electoral activities.

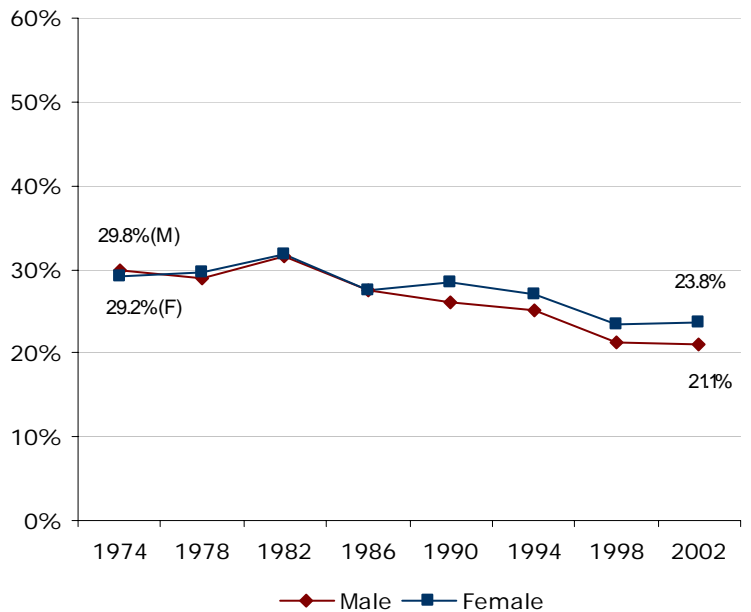
As shown in Figure 14, in general, turnout in midterm elections has been on the decline since 1982.¹³

≡ **Figure 13: Voter Turnout Rates in Presidential Elections Among 18-29 year old Citizens**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 1972-2004

≡ **Figure 14: Voter Turnout Rates in Midterm Elections Among 18-29 year old Citizens by Gender**

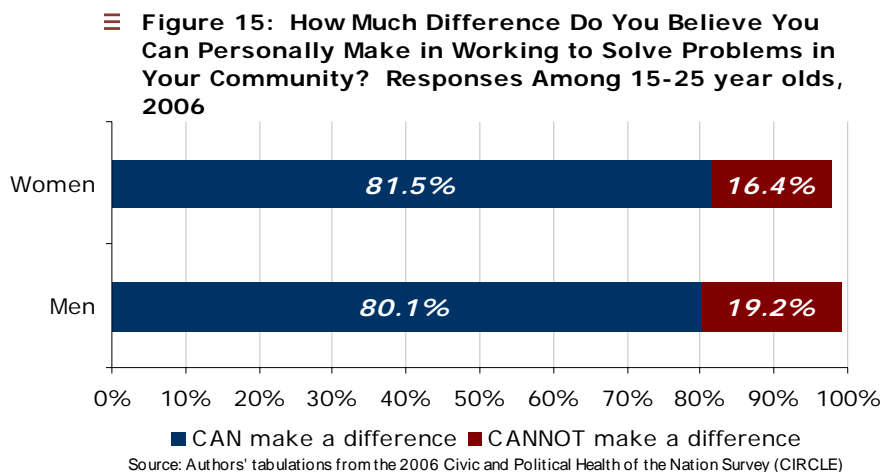


Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplement, 1974-2002

Engagement in Political Voice Activities

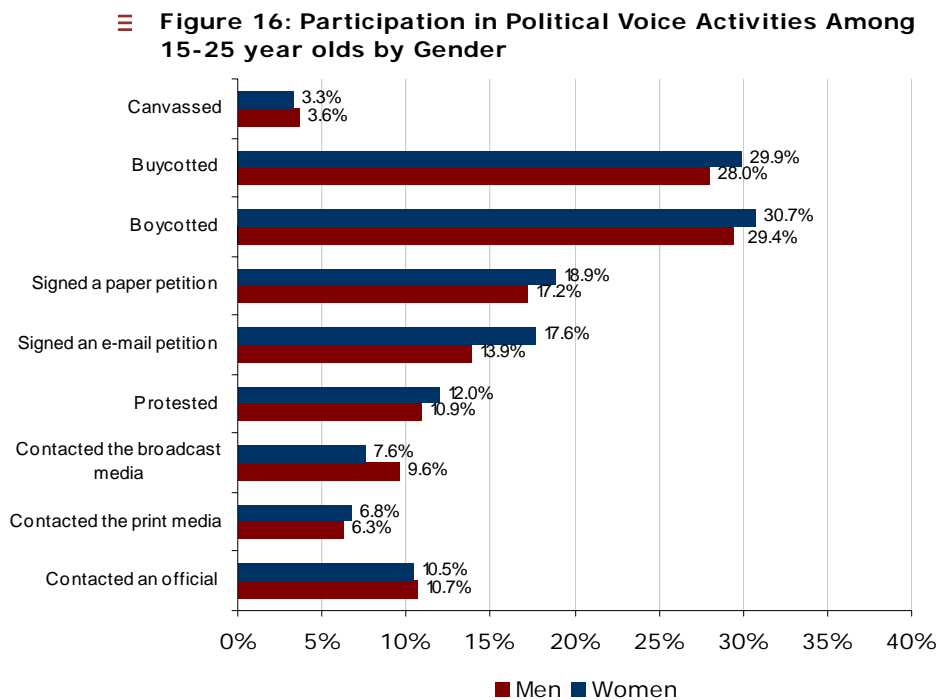
Making a Difference

Political voice indicators measure the ways people attempt to influence the government and their communities. Participation in these activities often reflects a belief that one can change one's community. Overall, the majority of young people believe they can make a difference, and this belief does not vary significantly by gender. Figure 13¹⁴ shows that men and women feel equally efficacious.



Participation in Political Voice Activities

According to the 2006 CPHS, young people were engaged in a wide variety of political voice activities. Overall, men and women reported similar levels of engagement for many political voice activities. Only in signing email petitions (women led 17.6 to 13.9 percent) and contacting the broadcast media (men led 9.6 to 7.6 percent) were there large and significant differences by gender. See Figure 16.

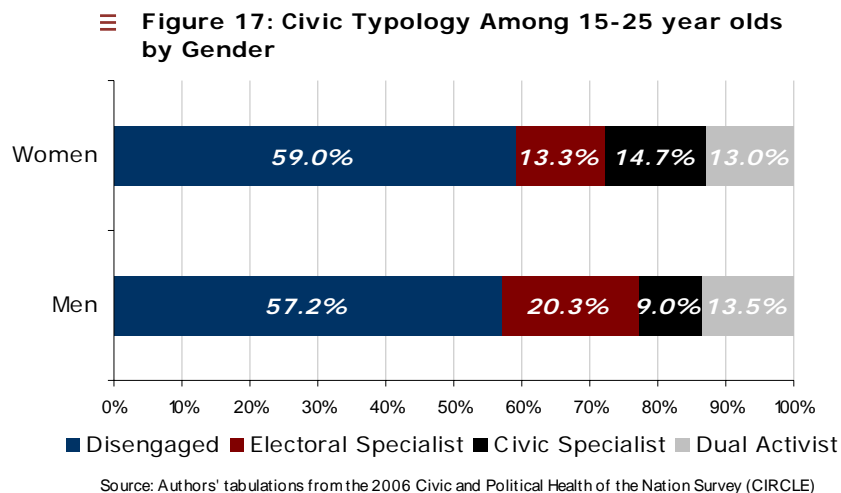


Civic Typology¹⁵

The 2006 CPHS provides a detailed look at civic engagement activities. In addition, participation in key civic and electoral activities can be summarized with a civic typology. Following Keeter et al. (2002) and Zukin et al. (2006), CIRACLE classifies people into four broad categories:¹⁶

- The “*disengaged*” do not perform two or more types of engagement in either the civic or the political category.
- “*Civic specialists*” are those who have participated in at least two forms of civic engagement within the last year.
- “*Electoral specialists*” are those who can cite at least two forms of electoral engagement that they have conducted with the past year.
- “*Dual activists*” qualify as both electoral specialists and civic specialists.

As Figure 17 shows, the majority of youth were “disengaged” in 2006, regardless of gender. While men and women reported similar levels of being “disengaged” and being “dual activists,” there was a significant difference in the other two categories. Young men were more likely to be “electoral specialists” (20.3 percent) than young women (13.3 percent). On the other hand, young women were more likely to be “civic specialists” (14.7 percent) than their male counterparts (9.0%). This finding is interesting, because as shown above (see Figures 13 and 14), women turnout to vote in higher rates than men.



Confidence in Government

In recent years, young people have generally expressed the greatest level of confidence in the government of any age group, though this support for government and its role has eroded in recent years.¹⁷

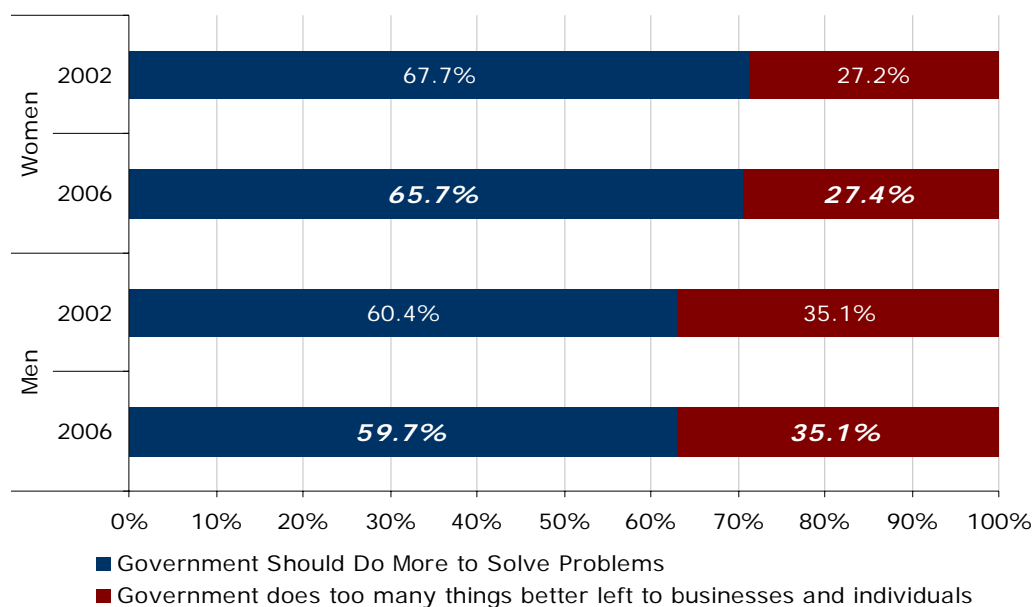
The 2006 and 2002 CPHSs asked four comparison questions about confidence in government, asking respondents to choose between two possible descriptions of their confidence in government. These comparisons comprised:

- *Government problem-solving*: do **MORE** or do **LESS**
- *Government efficiency*: does a **GOOD** job or **WASTEFUL** and **INEFFICIENT**
- *Government responsiveness*: **IS** responsive or is **NOT** responsive
- *Government regulation of business*: regulation is **NECESSARY** or regulation is **HARMFUL**

These responses are reported in Figures 18-21. Overall, young women reported greater levels of confidence in government than young men, though reported confidence in 2006 was down from 2002.

When asked to choose between two propositions--“government should do more to solve problems” versus “government does too many things better left to business and individuals”--as shown in Figure 18, young women reported the greatest level of support for governmental activism in 2006; 65.7 percent reported that government should do more to solve problems. Young men were the less likely than young women to want government to solve problems in both 2002 and 2006.

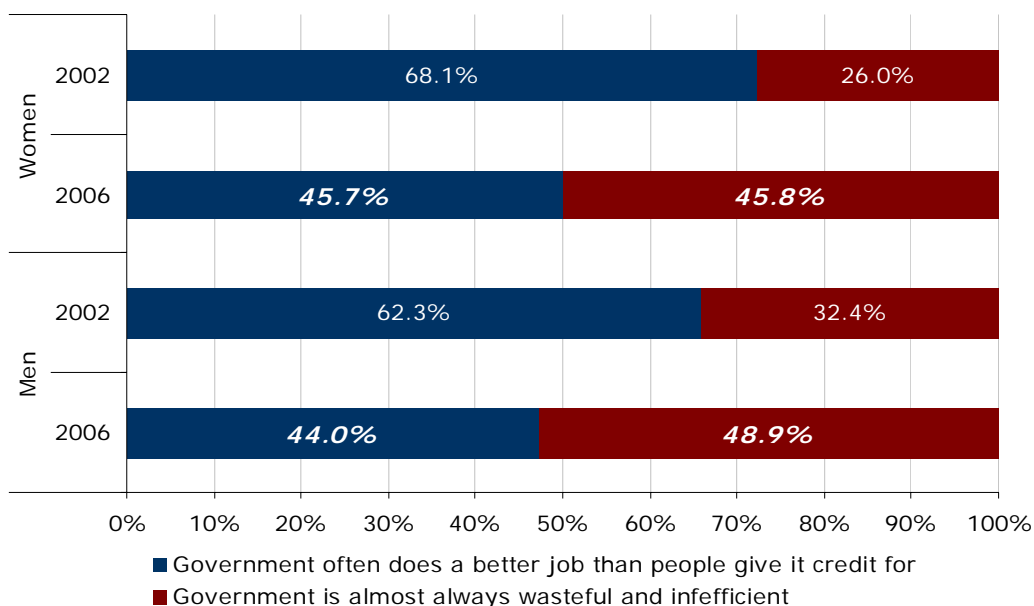
≡ **Figure 18: Confidence in Government Problem Solving Among 15-25 year olds by Gender**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

When asked to choose between “government often does a better job than people give it credit for” and “government is almost always wasteful and inefficient,” in 2006, there was little difference in the views of young women and men (45.7 percent vs. 44.0 percent). This is in contrast to 2002, where women had a much more positive view of government performance than young men. Since 2002, among young women, the percentage who held the view that “government often does a better job than people give it credit for” was down 22.4 percentage points from 2002. Men also reported a decreased level of confidence from 2002 to 2006—a 18.3 percentage point decrease. See Figure 19.

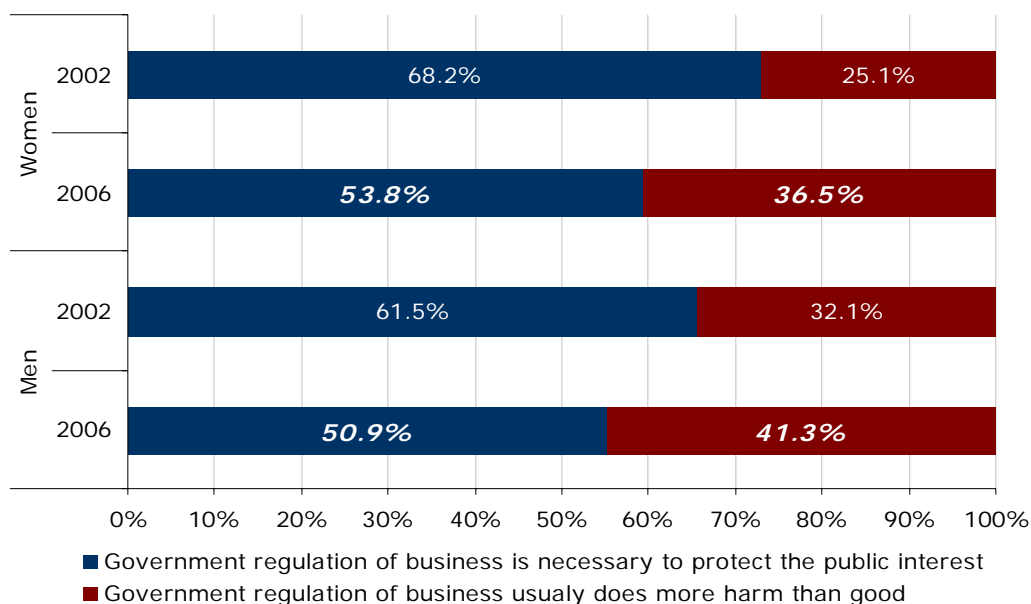
Figure 19: Confidence in Government Efficiency Among 15-25 year olds by Gender



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

As shown in Figure 20, the majority of both men and women reported that “government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest” (50.9 and 53.8 percent, respectively). But support for regulation is down from 2002. Young men were 10.6 percentage points less supportive of government’s right to regulate business, while young women were 14.4 percentage points less favorable.

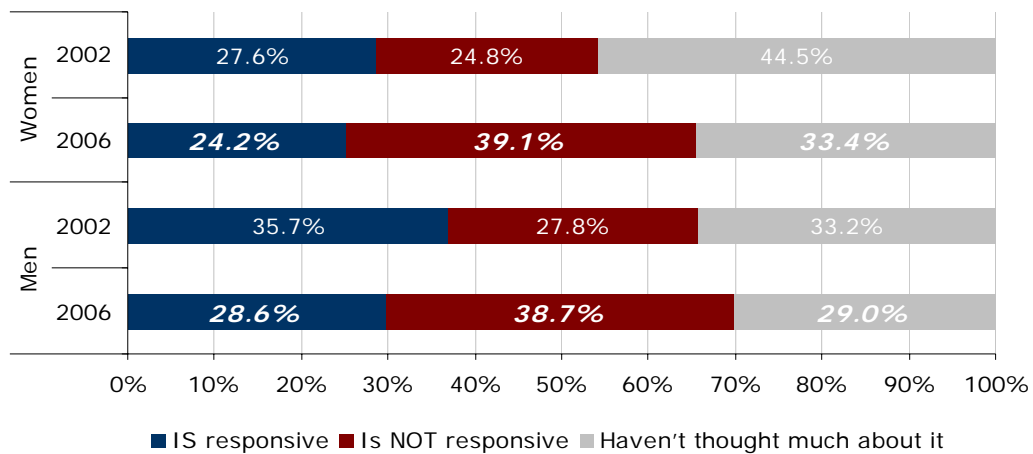
≡ **Figure 20: Confidence in Government Regulation of Business Among 15-25 year olds by Gender**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

When asked about the responsiveness of government, a plurality of young men and women viewed the government as not responsive to the genuine needs of the public (38.7 and 39.1 percent, respectively). The dissatisfaction with the government’s responsiveness grew from 2002 to 2006 among both genders. See Figure 21.

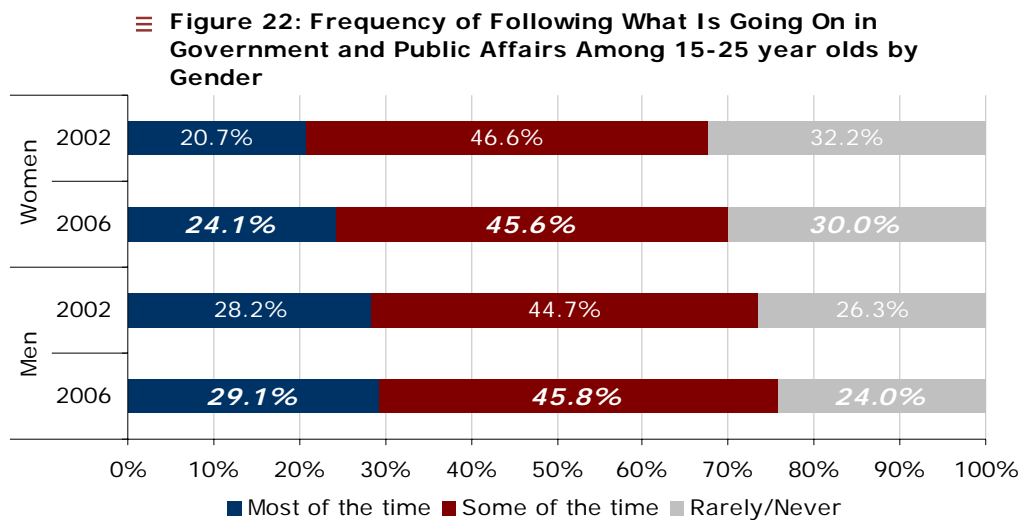
≡ **Figure 21: Views on Responsiveness of Government to the Genuine Needs of the Public Among 15-25 year olds by Gender**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

Following Public Affairs and the News

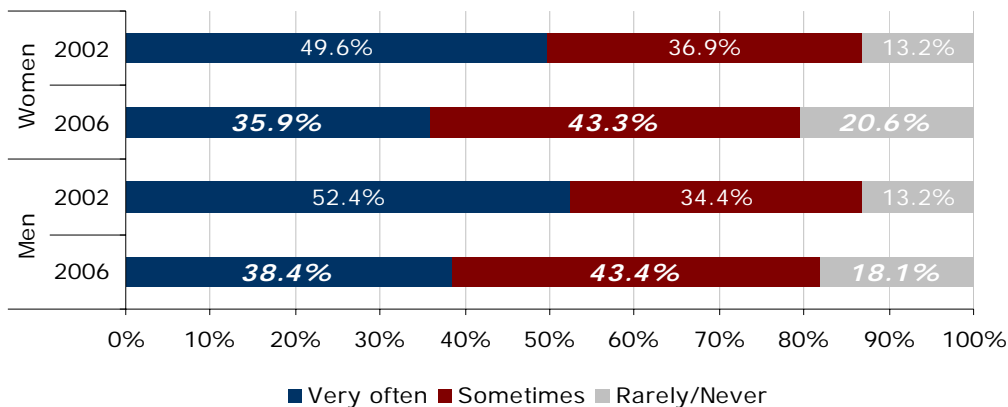
In order to get involved in their communities, young people must gather information. Figures 22 and 23 show how often young people followed public affairs and the news in 2002 and 2006. Young men were most likely to follow what was going on in government and public affairs “most of the time,” and were the most likely to follow what was going on in government and public affairs at least some of the time (85.5 percent). Both men and women have increased their frequency of following public affairs and the news since 2002. See Figure 22.



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

While frequency levels in Figure 23 are up from 2002, the frequency of discussing current events and news with family and friends is down from 2002 to 2006 for both men and women. Young men are more likely to discuss current events and news “very often” (38.4 percent) than young women (35.9 percent). More than likely this reflects the impact of events like September 11th on the news consumption of young people.

≡ **Figure 23: Frequency of Discussing Current Events and News with Family and Friends Among 15-25 year olds by Gender**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey, 2002 and 2006 (CIRCLE)

Appendix

Table A – Demographics Among 15-25 year olds by Gender

| | Male | Female |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1962 | 47.9% | 52.1% |
| 1964 | 48.4% | 51.6% |
| 1966 | 48.0% | 52.0% |
| 1968 | 47.7% | 52.3% |
| 1970 | 48.1% | 51.9% |
| 1972 | 49.0% | 51.0% |
| 1974 | 49.1% | 50.9% |
| 1976 | 49.5% | 50.5% |
| 1978 | 49.4% | 50.6% |
| 1980 | 49.6% | 50.4% |
| 1982 | 49.6% | 50.4% |
| 1984 | 49.7% | 50.3% |
| 1986 | 49.6% | 50.4% |
| 1988 | 49.8% | 50.2% |
| 1990 | 49.7% | 50.3% |
| 1992 | 50.0% | 50.0% |
| 1994 | 50.2% | 49.8% |
| 1996 | 50.1% | 49.9% |
| 1998 | 50.5% | 49.5% |
| 2000 | 50.4% | 49.6% |
| 2002 | 50.5% | 49.5% |
| 2004 | 50.8% | 49.2% |
| 2006 | 50.7% | 49.3% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, March Supplements, 1962-2006.

Table B – Civic Indicators, Civic Typology, and Alternative Summary Measures

| | Men | Women | All 15-25 Year Olds |
|--|-------|-------|---------------------|
| Civic Activities | | | |
| Active member of at least 1 group | 18.4% | 22.2% | 20.2% |
| Regular Volunteer for Non-Political Groups | 15.9% | 21.4% | 18.6% |
| Volunteered | 34.0% | 38.1% | 36.0% |
| Community Problem Solving | 19.6% | 19.2% | 19.4% |
| Ran/walked/biked for charity | 15.4% | 19.6% | 17.5% |
| Raised money for charity | 21.6% | 27.3% | 24.4% |
| Electoral Activities | | | |
| Regular Voter (for those 20 and older) | 27.8% | 24.6% | 26.2% |

Table B Continued – Civic Indicators, Civic Typology, and Alternative Summary Measures

| | Men | Women | All 15-25 Year Olds |
|--|-------|-------|---------------------|
| Electoral Activities - continued | | | |
| Tried to persuade others in an election | 38.6% | 31.5% | 35.1% |
| Displayed a campaign button or sign | 23.8% | 23.2% | 23.5% |
| Donated money to a candidate or party | 8.7% | 4.6% | 6.7% |
| Regular Volunteer for Political Candidates or Groups | 2.4% | 1.3% | 1.9% |
| Member of a group involved in politics | 14.9% | 17.2% | 16.0% |
| Political Voice Activities | | | |
| Contacted an official | 10.7% | 10.5% | 10.6% |
| Contacted the print media | 6.3% | 6.8% | 6.5% |
| Contacted the broadcast media | 9.6% | 7.6% | 8.6% |
| Protested | 10.9% | 12.0% | 11.4% |
| Signed an e-mail petition | 13.9% | 17.6% | 15.7% |
| Signed a paper petition | 17.2% | 18.9% | 18.0% |
| Boycotted | 29.4% | 30.7% | 30.1% |
| Buycotted | 28.0% | 29.9% | 28.9% |
| Canvassed | 3.6% | 3.3% | 3.5% |
| Civic Typology | | | |
| Disengaged | 57.2% | 59.0% | 58.1% |
| Electoral Specialist | 20.3% | 13.3% | 16.8% |
| Civic Specialist | 9.0% | 14.7% | 11.8% |
| Dual Activist | 13.5% | 13.0% | 13.2% |
| Alternative Summary Measures | | | |
| Average number of civic activities | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| No Civic Activities | 45.4% | 41.3% | 43.4% |
| Average number of electoral activities | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| No electoral activities | 33.4% | 38.9% | 36.1% |
| Average number of voice activities | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| No voice activities | 45.3% | 43.6% | 44.4% |
| Average number of activities | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| "Hyper-disengaged" | 15.9% | 17.3% | 16.6% |
| "Hyper-engaged" | 6.5% | 7.2% | 6.8% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

**Table C – Voter Registration Rates in Presidential Elections
Among 18-29 year old Citizens by Gender**

| | Male | Female |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1972 | 63.4% | 64.6% |
| 1976 | 57.0% | 58.3% |
| 1980 | 56.9% | 58.7% |
| 1984 | 57.9% | 62.0% |
| 1988 | 54.0% | 58.5% |
| 1992 | 60.0% | 63.9% |
| 1996 | 60.2% | 64.5% |
| 2000 | 61.1% | 65.5% |
| 2004 | 67.1% | 72.5% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1972-2004.

**Table D – Voter Registration Rates in Midterm Elections
Among 18-29 year old Citizens by Race and Ethnicity**

| | Male | Female |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1974 | 48.1% | 48.1% |
| 1978 | 46.9% | 48.8% |
| 1982 | 49.8% | 50.9% |
| 1986 | 49.7% | 49.7% |
| 1990 | 47.7% | 49.5% |
| 1994 | 48.4% | 50.8% |
| 1998 | 52.4% | 57.5% |
| 2002 | 53.9% | 58.3% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2002.

**Table E – Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections
Among 18-29 year old Citizens by Race and Ethnicity**

| | Male | Female |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1972 | 54.8% | 55.9% |
| 1976 | 47.7% | 49.8% |
| 1980 | 47.1% | 49.3% |
| 1984 | 46.9% | 51.1% |
| 1988 | 41.8% | 45.7% |
| 1992 | 49.6% | 54.3% |
| 1996 | 36.4% | 42.6% |
| 2000 | 37.7% | 42.8% |
| 2004 | 45.5% | 52.4% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1972-2004.

**Table F – Voter Turnout in Midterm Elections
Among 18-29 year old Citizens by Race and Ethnicity**

| | Male | Female |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1974 | 29.8% | 29.2% |
| 1978 | 28.8% | 29.7% |
| 1982 | 31.5% | 31.9% |
| 1986 | 27.5% | 27.5% |
| 1990 | 26.1% | 28.4% |
| 1994 | 25.1% | 27.1% |
| 1998 | 21.2% | 23.3% |
| 2002 | 21.1% | 23.8% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2002.

Notes

¹ Research Associate, Research Director, and Senior Research Associate, respectively. We thank Peter Levine, Abby Kiesa, and Deborah Both for comments on previous drafts of this fact sheet. All errors in fact or interpretation are our own.

² Verba, S., Schlozman, K.L., and Brady, H.E. (1995). *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

³ Center for American Women in Politics. "Fact Sheet: Young Women in Politics." Eagleton Institute for Politics: Rutgers, The State University of University. <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/Facts/young.pdf>

⁴ See "Gender and Civic Engagement: Secondary Analysis of Survey Data," by Krista Jenkins, CIRCLE working paper 41, June 2005, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement.

⁵ For more information on the 2006 CPHS and its survey methodology, please see the CIRCLE report *The 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Detailed Look at How Youth Participate in Politics and Communities*. by Mark Hugo Lopez, Peter Levine, Deborah Both, Abby Kiesa, Emily Kirby, Karlo Marcelo, October 2006.

⁶ The 2006 CPHS surveyed 1,674 young people ages 15 to 25 and 547 adults 26 and older. It is a combined random phone sample and random internet sample. For more details on the structure of the survey, see *The 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Detailed Look at How Youth Participate in Politics and Communities* by Lopez et. al.

⁷ The Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS), also asks about volunteering rates but uses different question wording, and thus produces a different volunteering rate than the 2006 CPHS. See "CIRCLE Working Paper 43: Measuring Volunteering: A Behavioral Approach," by Chris Toppe. www.civicyouth.org

⁸ For more detail on long run volunteering trends among young people, see the CIRCLE fact sheet "Volunteering among Young People." Trends from 1976 to 2005 for 12th graders, and from 1991 to 2005 for 8th and 10th graders are available. Additionally, information on incoming college freshmen is also available.

⁹ According to the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press report "How Young People View Their Lives, Futures, and Politics: A Portrait of 'Generation Next'," 50 percent said they feel guilty about not getting around to voting, compared to 70 percent of adults over age 40.

¹⁰ Young Voter Strategies with CIRCLE, *Young Voter Mobilization Tactics* (September 2006).

¹¹ For a full discussion of the different ways voter turnout can be calculated please see "CIRCLE Working Paper 35: The Youth Voter 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004." Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. www.civicyouth.org

All voter turnout estimates presented in this fact sheet are calculated for U.S. citizens only, and according to the "Census Citizen Method" described in CIRCLE Working Paper 35.

¹² See the following comparisons:

Participation in Electoral Activities Among 18-25 year olds by Gender

| | Men | Women |
|--|-------|-------|
| Member of a group involved in politics | 14.5% | 18.3% |
| Regular volunteer for political candidates or groups | 1.7% | 1.3% |
| Donated money to a candidate or party | 8.3% | 4.4% |
| Displayed a campaign button or sign | 22.1% | 22.3% |
| Tried to persuade others in an election | 37.0% | 33.0% |
| Regular Voter (for those 20 and older) | 33.1% | 26.8% |

Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

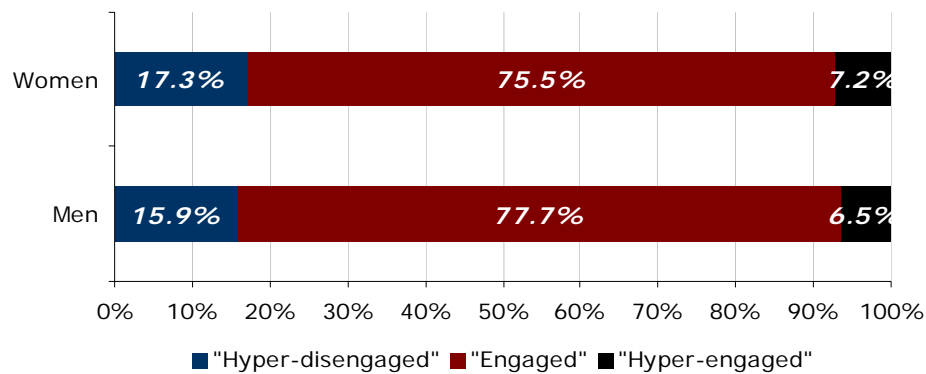
¹³ Preliminary estimates of youth voter turnout in the 2006 midterm election from CIRCLE suggests that young people did vote in slightly greater numbers relative to 2002. Final, and more reliable, estimates of voter turnout will not be available until later in 2007 when data from the November 2006 CPS becomes available.

¹⁴ For Figure 13, the categories of "a lot" and "some" were collapsed into "CAN make a difference", and the categories "little" and "no difference" were collapsed into "CANNOT make a difference." Values do not add up to 100 percent, because other responses were not included.

¹⁵ In addition to the civic typology, Lopez et. al. (2006) report other summary measures of civic engagement. These are shown in Figure A and include the following measures:

- The "hyper-engaged" were individuals who reported engaging in 10 or more of the 19 core activities.
- The "engaged" were individuals who reported engaging in at least one activity, but no more than nine activities.
- The "hyper-disengaged" were individuals who reported engaging in none of the 19 core activities.

≡ **Figure A: Alternative Summary Measures of Civic Engagement Among 15-25 year olds by Gender**



Source: Authors' tabulations from the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE)

As Figure A shows, there is little difference in hyper-engagement and hyper-disengagement by gender. However, women were the most likely to be found on the extremes. They were slightly more likely than men to be “hyper-engaged” (7.2 percent vs. 6.5%) and “hyper-disengaged” (17.3 percent vs. 15.9 percent). Men were more likely to be “engaged” (77.7 percent vs. 75.5 percent). Overall, men were more likely to be engaged in at least one civic engagement activity than women (84.2 percent vs. 82.7 percent).

¹⁶ Keeter, S., Zukin, C., Andolina, M., and Jenkins, K. (2002) “The Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Generational Portrait.” CIRCLE and The Pew Charitable Trusts. www.civicyouth.org

Zukin, C., Keeter, S., Andolina, M., Jenkins, K., and Delli Carpini, M.X. (2006) *A New Engagement? Political Participation, Civic Life, and the Changing American Citizen*. NY, NY: Oxford University Press.

¹⁷ For more information on confidence in government among young people, in comparison to adults, see Lopez et. al. (2006) *The 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Detailed Look at How Youth Participate in Politics and Communities*, and the Council for Excellence in Government's report *A Matter of Trust: Americans and Their Government: 1958-2004*. (2004)