Brown Opinion Project: November 2023 Poll Results



Methodology

The Brown Opinion Project (BOP) conducted its November 2023 poll from November 27th – November 29th. BOP solicited responses from Brown undergraduate students near Faunce Hall and Sciences Park. BOP representatives asked every person who passed their location if they were interested in taking a quick anonymous poll. Responses were anonymously collected using Google Forms. Over the course of the polling process, BOP collected 729 total responses from Brown undergraduate students. The following data uses the 662 responses that indicated graduation year.

Compared to previous Brown Opinion Project Polls, there is an increased concern regarding self-selection to take the poll. There are statistically significant differences in poll responses depending on the day the poll was conducted for two questions: "Should the 20 members of BrownU Jews for Ceasefire Now who staged a sit-in at University Hall face disciplinary action from the University" and "To what extent do you agree or disagree with recent calls for Brown University to divest its endowment from weapons manufacturers supplying the Israeli army?"

Self-Reported Demographic Information

The sample of undergraduate students who took the poll is demographically similar to the Brown undergraduate student population. The sample was 23.9% first-years, 23% sophomores, 29% juniors, and 23.4% seniors. The sample was 46.8% female, 48% male, 5.5% non-binary or genderqueer, 0.2% questioning or unsure; while 0.6% preferred not to indicate their gender. Additionally, 55.1% of respondents identified as white, 32.8% as Asian, 10.7% as Black, 10% as Hispanic, 5.6% as Middle Eastern or North African, 2.1% Native American or Alaska Native, 1.1%

Native Haiwaiian or Pacific Islander while 2.1% preferred not to answer. The percentages for race add up to more than 100 percent because some respondents selected more than one race/ethnicity. Students also indicated their (intended) field of study: 41.5% of respondents identified as Physical Science concentrators, 36.6% of respondents identified as Social Science concentrators, 27.3% of respondents identified as Arts and Humanities concentrators, 23.6% of respondents identified as Life Science concentrators, and 0.2% of respondents selected prefer not to answer. The percentages for fields of study add up to more than 100 percent because some respondents selected more than one.

Results1

1) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel comfortable expressing my political opinions on Brown's campus.

Somewhat agree: 52.39% Somewhat disagree: 20.58%

Strongly agree: 19.51% Strongly disagree: 5.10% Prefer not to answer: 0.58%

Unsure: 1.84%

2) Have you attended a protest in your time at Brown?

Yes: 46.44% No: 47.9%

Prefer not to answer: 0.94%

Unsure: 4.72%

3) To what extent do you agree with the following statement: It is possible for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully.

Somewhat agree: 35.58% Somewhat disagree: 19.39% Strongly agree: 12.16% Strongly disagree: 10.11% Prefer not to answer: 3.42%

Unsure: 19.35%

4) Should the 20 members of BrownU Jews for Ceasefire Now who staged a sit-in at University Hall face disciplinary action from the University?

Yes: 10.72% No: 75.20%

Prefer not to answer: 2.94%

Unsure: 11.14%

¹ The results reported here are weighted by class year. There was a large enough deviation between the sample and the assumed grade distribution that we felt it necessary to report weighted averages, especially given the nature of some questions.

5) To what extent do you agree or disagree with recent calls for Brown University to divest its endowment from weapons manufacturers supplying the Israeli army?

Prefer not to answer: 3.73% Somewhat agree: 17.99% Somewhat disagree: 8.24% Strongly agree: 49.18% Strongly disagree: 11.93%

Unsure: 8.93%

6) Have you been to therapy (psychological or emotional counseling) before?

I am currently going to therapy: 22.88%

I have been to therapy in the past but do not currently go to therapy: 31.81%

I have never been to therapy: 42.12%

Prefer not to answer: 2.25%

Unsure: 0.93%

7) On average, how many class meetings (including lectures, seminars, labs, conference sections, etc.) do you skip per week?

0: 35.70%

1: 21.13%

2: 16.79%

3: 12.85%

4: 4.40%

5+: 6.84%

Prefer not to answer: 1.03%

Unsure: 1.24%

8) Do you think your concentration/double-concentration is harder or easier than the majority of other concentrations at Brown?

My concentration is easier than the majority of other concentrations: 25.77% My concentration is harder than the majority of other concentrations: 41.35%

Prefer not to answer: 1.96%

Unsure: 30.92%

9) Do you think humans are inherently monogamous (are inclined to commit to only one person at a time)?

Yes: 41.96% No: 27.81%

Prefer not answer: 1.48%

Unsure: 28.75%

10) When was the last time you masturbated?

Today: 3.89%

Yesterday: 19.21%

In the last week: 27.93% In the last month: 12.69% In the last year: 5.08%

I have never masturbated: 8.36% Prefer not to answer: 16.60%

Unsure: 6.25%

Recoded, anonymized data is available here: Anonymized Data²

If you have questions about our results or methodology, please reach out to brownopinionproject@brown.edu. Thanks for reading!

² Note that the recoded data combines or eliminates certain columns in order to preserve anonymity.