

## Boyhood Index United States

Adjectives most commonly used by 8- to 15-year-old boys to describe themselves:

helpful, kind, smart, outgoing

Adjectives they used to describe a “good man”:

helpful, nice, caring

Percentage of parents of boys who think boys feel comfortable sharing:

When they feel happy: 87

When they feel love: 54

When they feel weak: 28

Proportion of boys aged 14 to 19 who say society expects them to be aggressive or violent when they feel angry:

2 in 5

Who say they feel pressure to be strong:

3 in 4

Proportion of US adults who feel boys should be encouraged more to talk about their feelings when they're sad or upset:

3 in 5

The most important thing boys say they want from their parents:

willingness to listen and understand

Most promising message from interviews with 10- to 19-year-old boys:

“Don't be afraid to be yourself.”

Proportion of boys in one study whose father shares difficult feelings:

1 in 16

Most common fear keeping boys from sharing feelings with their friends:

“It'll be used against me.”

Percentage of 10- to 19-year-old boys who feel pressure:

To play sports: 61

To be physically strong: 72

Average proportion of all high school athletes who will experience a concussion in their sports seasons:

1 in 5

In a study of 7- to 8-year-old boys playing youth tackle football, average number of head impacts per player in a single season:  
107

Concussion rates for boys aged 5 to 14 in youth football:  
5% each season

Percentage of bachelor's degrees awarded to:  
Male students: 42  
Female students: 58

Percentage of bachelor's degrees in STEM fields awarded to:  
Male students: 64  
Female students: 36

Proportion of California children aged 12 to 17 in one study who identify as gender-nonconforming: 1 in 4

Rate of these children experiencing psychological distress compared to those who do not share this identity: twice as likely

Number of leading roles for LGBTQIA+ characters or characters with disabilities in the top 25 Nielsen-rated television shows for boys aged 7 to 13:  
0

Percentage of ninth-grade boys in the United States who'd ever had sexual intercourse:  
In 2005: 39  
In 2015: 27

In a different study, percentage of boys who'd had sex before 13 years old who said they had "mixed feelings" about it: 45

Percentage of boys who hear other boys making sexual comments or jokes about girls:  
At least once a week: 62  
At least once a day: 36

Percentage of Black boys among male preschoolers:  
19

Among male preschoolers receiving one or more out-of-school suspensions:  
45

Percentage of US neighborhoods in which Black boys and white boys who grew up next to each other in homes of similar income have similar wealth as adults:

1

In which Black boys fare worse as adults than white boys:

99

Estimated percentage of neighborhoods in which this is also true for girls:

0

The sons of Black families from the top 1% of income earners have about the same chance of being incarcerated on a given day as the sons of white families earning:  
\$36,000 per year

Chance of a son of a Black family earning \$36,000 per year being incarcerated compared to a white family with the same income:  
over 3 times as likely

Beyond teaching style or academic outcomes, the two highest priorities expressed by Black boys about their teachers:  
care and being seen beyond stereotypes of Black masculinity

Percentage of US teens aged 13 to 17 who have a smartphone or access to one:

95

Who say that social media has a mostly positive effect on people their own age:

31

Minimum estimated amount that could be saved by the US economy per year if harmful masculine norms ceased to exist among young men:  
\$15,771,790,000

Minimum number of countries with a gross domestic product lower than this figure:

70

View of a "good man" offered by a recently interviewed 16-year-old male:

"A good man will always show their love. Because if others don't show love, then you don't feel like they love you. Or they don't care about you."

## **Resources for the Boyhood Index**

### **“good man”**

PerryUndem. (2019). Informing a campaign on healthy masculinity: Report on insights from in-depth interviews with boys ages 8-16. PerryUndem Research/Communications.

### **feel comfortable**

Barker, G., Heilman, B., & Reichert, M. (2020). Staying at home with our sons: Fostering healthy masculinity in challenging times. Promundo-US & Kering Foundation.

<https://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Fostering-Healthy-Masculinity-in-Challenging-Times.pdf>

### **society expects them**

Plan International. (2018, September 12). The state of gender equality for U.S. adolescents: Full research findings from a national survey. <https://www.planusa.org/docs/state-of-gender-equality-2018.pdf> <https://www.planusa.org/>