

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



Sample 2,023 Adults in the U.S.
Margin of Error ±2.8 points

19. In general, about how many books would you say you read in a year?

None	24%
One or two	23%
Three to five	18%
Six to twelve	16%
Thirteen to twenty	7%
More than twenty	12%

20. Compared to ten years ago, would you say you read more books for personal enjoyment, fewer books, or is it about the same?

More books	23%
Fewer books	36%
About the same amount	40%

21. Why are you reading fewer books these days? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who are reading fewer books for personal enjoyment compared to ten years ago

Too busy/less free time	52%
Too many distractions	50%
Attention span has gotten worse	37%
There are other things I'd rather be doing	35%
Old fashioned/books aren't important anymore	3%

22. What sorts of activities are you doing more of in your free time instead of reading? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who are reading fewer books for personal enjoyment compared to ten years ago

Watching more movies/television	55%
Spending time on social media	53%
Playing more games	36%
Something else	36%
Doing more physical activities	32%
Listening to podcasts	21%
Not sure	3%

23. When you do read books, how do you usually read them?

Among those who read at least one book a year

Hardcover printed book	30%
Paperback printed book	39%
Digitally/E-reader	21%
Audio book	9%
Don't read books	1%

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



24. When you do read books, who do you go to for recommendations on which books to read? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Don't use recommendations/decide on my own	45%
Friends/Family	40%
Book reviews	28%
Social media/influencers	20%
Something else	14%
Talk shows/television	12%
Podcasts	10%
Book clubs	9%

25. Generally speaking, which type of book do you most prefer to read?

Fiction	28%
Non-fiction	18%
Both equally	40%
Don't read books	14%

26. Which of these are reasons you like to read fiction? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who prefer fiction

For entertainment	80%
To relax/to escape	77%
For good stories/characters	75%
To use my imagination	60%
To keep my brain alert and active	38%
To improve my knowledge	21%
To better understand other people/the world	18%
To impress other people	3%

27. Which of these types of fiction books do you read most often?

Among those who prefer fiction

Mystery	26%
Science fiction or fantasy	23%
Romance	15%
Historical fiction	7%
Horror	7%
Modern literature	7%
Graphic novels	5%
Classic literature	4%
Young adult/children's literature	1%
None of these/Other	5%

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



28. Which of these types of non-fiction books do you read most often?

Among those who prefer nonfiction

History	28%
Religion/philosophy/spirituality	18%
Self-help/wellness	14%
Biography/personal essays	12%
Politics/social science	6%
Science/popular science	6%
Cookbooks/Food	2%
Crafts/Hobbies	2%
None of these/Other	11%

* Questions held for future release.

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



19. Number of Books Read in a Year

In general, about how many books would you say you read in a year?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
None	24%	29%	19%	21%	24%	28%	22%	18%	23%	25%
One or two	23%	23%	22%	25%	22%	24%	20%	21%	22%	25%
Three to five	18%	20%	16%	17%	19%	18%	18%	17%	22%	19%
Six to twelve	16%	15%	18%	17%	16%	13%	19%	19%	17%	14%
Thirteen to twenty	7%	6%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	9%	7%	6%
More than twenty	12%	7%	17%	14%	10%	11%	14%	16%	9%	11%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,021)	(980)	(1,040)	(423)	(507)	(661)	(429)	(523)	(660)	(593)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
None	24%	22%	24%	24%	20%	31%	36%	27%	8%
One or two	23%	20%	23%	25%	22%	27%	24%	24%	19%
Three to five	18%	16%	20%	18%	19%	18%	17%	17%	23%
Six to twelve	16%	19%	15%	15%	17%	13%	13%	15%	20%
Thirteen to twenty	7%	9%	6%	7%	8%	6%	3%	5%	12%
More than twenty	12%	14%	12%	10%	14%	5%	6%	12%	18%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,021)	(588)	(695)	(602)	(1,271)	(253)	(320)	(790)	(482)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



20. Read More or Less Compared to 10 Years Ago

Compared to ten years ago, would you say you read more books for personal enjoyment, fewer books, or is it about the same?

	Gender			Age				Ideology		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
More books	23%	19%	27%	29%	26%	17%	24%	23%	24%	23%
Fewer books	36%	37%	35%	39%	35%	37%	34%	39%	34%	36%
About the same amount	40%	44%	38%	32%	39%	45%	42%	38%	42%	41%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,020)	(979)	(1,040)	(423)	(506)	(660)	(430)	(524)	(659)	(591)

	Party ID			Race			White by Education		
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
More books	23%	25%	22%	23%	24%	19%	23%	21%	30%
Fewer books	36%	38%	37%	34%	34%	40%	39%	34%	34%
About the same amount	40%	37%	40%	43%	42%	41%	38%	45%	36%
Totals	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,020)	(588)	(695)	(600)	(1,272)	(253)	(320)	(789)	(483)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



21. Why Reading Fewer Books

Why are you reading fewer books these days? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who are reading fewer books for personal enjoyment compared to ten years ago

	Gender			Age				Ideology		
	Total	Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Too busy/less free time	52%	49%	55%	73%	62%	44%	30%	51%	54%	50%
Too many distractions	50%	50%	50%	54%	55%	50%	39%	56%	54%	43%
Attention span has gotten worse	37%	38%	36%	45%	28%	39%	35%	44%	36%	31%
There are other things I'd rather be doing	35%	40%	31%	38%	30%	34%	41%	35%	31%	43%
Old fashioned/books aren't important anymore	3%	4%	3%	1%	3%	3%	6%	2%	5%	3%
Weighted N	(733)	(365)	(368)	(165)	(176)	(247)	(145)	(202)	(221)	(213)

	Party ID			Race			White by Education		
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Too busy/less free time	52%	47%	53%	53%	49%	41%	57%	47%	53%
Too many distractions	50%	55%	49%	41%	50%	46%	46%	49%	53%
Attention span has gotten worse	37%	44%	41%	25%	39%	41%	31%	36%	42%
There are other things I'd rather be doing	35%	36%	34%	39%	36%	34%	33%	41%	27%
Old fashioned/books aren't important anymore	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%	3%
Weighted N	(733)	(225)	(260)	(205)	(430)	(101)	(124)	(267)	(164)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



22. What Other Activities Instead of Reading

What sorts of activities are you doing more of in your free time instead of reading? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who are reading fewer books for personal enjoyment compared to ten years ago

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Watching more movies/television	55%	56%	54%	55%	55%	55%	55%	53%	60%	56%
Spending time on social media	53%	50%	55%	64%	48%	52%	47%	61%	52%	47%
Playing more games	36%	41%	31%	49%	37%	31%	30%	38%	33%	36%
Something else	36%	33%	38%	40%	34%	34%	35%	31%	36%	42%
Doing more physical activities	32%	35%	30%	34%	38%	29%	30%	28%	34%	33%
Listening to podcasts	21%	24%	19%	21%	28%	22%	13%	32%	21%	18%
Not sure	3%	2%	4%	2%	7%	2%	2%	1%	4%	1%
Weighted N	(733)	(365)	(368)	(165)	(176)	(247)	(145)	(202)	(221)	(213)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Watching more movies/television	55%	58%	54%	59%	56%	55%	55%	53%	61%
Spending time on social media	53%	61%	51%	54%	52%	58%	54%	52%	52%
Playing more games	36%	38%	36%	33%	35%	43%	37%	36%	33%
Something else	36%	29%	39%	39%	38%	31%	32%	40%	34%
Doing more physical activities	32%	30%	35%	31%	31%	33%	29%	29%	35%
Listening to podcasts	21%	26%	26%	14%	19%	29%	22%	15%	27%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Weighted N	(733)	(225)	(260)	(205)	(430)	(101)	(124)	(267)	(164)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



23. Format You Usually Read Books

When you do read books, how do you usually read them?

Among those who read at least one book a year

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hardcover printed book	30%	30%	30%	28%	24%	29%	40%	26%	33%	32%
Paperback printed book	39%	36%	41%	41%	38%	40%	35%	42%	34%	38%
Digitally/E-reader	21%	22%	20%	21%	24%	21%	18%	23%	21%	20%
Audio book	9%	10%	8%	9%	12%	9%	6%	7%	10%	10%
Don't read books	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(1,534)	(697)	(837)	(335)	(383)	(479)	(337)	(430)	(507)	(442)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Hardcover printed book	30%	27%	29%	34%	28%	40%	29%	28%	28%
Paperback printed book	39%	41%	39%	36%	39%	27%	43%	40%	39%
Digitally/E-reader	21%	21%	22%	20%	22%	19%	21%	21%	22%
Audio book	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	10%	5%	10%	11%
Don't read books	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	2%	1%	0%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,534)	(454)	(530)	(455)	(1,019)	(173)	(204)	(577)	(443)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



24. Sources of Book Recommendations

When you do read books, who do you go to for recommendations on which books to read? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Don't use recommendations/decide on my own	45%	49%	42%	34%	44%	51%	48%	36%	45%	48%
Friends/Family	40%	35%	45%	48%	42%	36%	39%	48%	41%	41%
Book reviews	28%	25%	31%	32%	28%	24%	31%	41%	28%	22%
Social media/influencers	20%	17%	23%	40%	28%	9%	8%	28%	20%	15%
Something else	14%	15%	13%	18%	14%	13%	11%	14%	16%	10%
Talk shows/television	12%	13%	11%	11%	16%	9%	12%	15%	11%	12%
Podcasts	10%	10%	10%	15%	16%	6%	5%	17%	7%	9%
Book clubs	9%	7%	11%	9%	14%	7%	8%	14%	7%	9%
Weighted N	(2,023)	(981)	(1,042)	(423)	(508)	(662)	(430)	(524)	(661)	(593)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Don't use recommendations/decide on my own	45%	39%	46%	48%	44%	43%	50%	51%	32%
Friends/Family	40%	45%	38%	42%	43%	38%	35%	35%	56%
Book reviews	28%	37%	30%	21%	28%	28%	25%	22%	38%
Social media/influencers	20%	26%	19%	16%	19%	26%	22%	15%	27%
Something else	14%	13%	18%	9%	13%	16%	12%	13%	14%
Talk shows/television	12%	16%	7%	13%	10%	18%	13%	8%	13%
Podcasts	10%	15%	9%	8%	8%	16%	15%	4%	14%
Book clubs	9%	12%	7%	10%	8%	16%	7%	5%	13%
Weighted N	(2,023)	(588)	(696)	(603)	(1,274)	(253)	(320)	(791)	(483)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



25. Preferred Type of Book

Generally speaking, which type of book do you most prefer to read?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Fiction	28%	22%	34%	36%	24%	24%	31%	35%	28%	27%
Non-fiction	18%	22%	14%	9%	23%	22%	16%	17%	15%	25%
Both equally	40%	39%	41%	46%	41%	37%	37%	38%	44%	34%
Don't read books	14%	17%	11%	9%	12%	17%	16%	9%	13%	14%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,019)	(978)	(1,041)	(423)	(504)	(662)	(430)	(524)	(658)	(593)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Fiction	28%	32%	29%	25%	31%	19%	24%	29%	34%
Non-fiction	18%	14%	18%	23%	18%	13%	22%	17%	21%
Both equally	40%	42%	39%	37%	38%	54%	34%	37%	39%
Don't read books	14%	12%	14%	15%	13%	14%	19%	17%	5%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,019)	(588)	(696)	(599)	(1,269)	(253)	(320)	(786)	(483)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



26. Why You Like to Read Fiction

Which of these are reasons you like to read fiction? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Among those who prefer fiction

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
For entertainment	80%	80%	81%	*	82%	77%	78%	83%	80%	77%
To relax/to escape	77%	69%	81%	*	83%	75%	78%	77%	73%	79%
For good stories/characters	75%	65%	82%	*	80%	76%	74%	81%	73%	72%
To use my imagination	60%	66%	56%	*	54%	55%	50%	65%	54%	58%
To keep my brain alert and active	38%	36%	38%	*	36%	40%	41%	40%	35%	40%
To improve my knowledge	21%	18%	22%	*	23%	22%	18%	21%	21%	18%
To better understand other people/the world	18%	17%	19%	*	21%	16%	11%	27%	17%	8%
To impress other people	3%	7%	1%	*	2%	2%	0%	7%	0%	1%
Weighted N	(572)	(214)	(358)	(153)	(123)	(162)	(133)	(183)	(183)	(158)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
For entertainment	80%	82%	85%	73%	81%	*	*	80%	83%
To relax/to escape	77%	75%	77%	79%	78%	*	*	76%	81%
For good stories/characters	75%	78%	79%	68%	75%	*	*	73%	78%
To use my imagination	60%	61%	61%	55%	59%	*	*	63%	53%
To keep my brain alert and active	38%	37%	41%	37%	40%	*	*	36%	44%
To improve my knowledge	21%	22%	27%	15%	21%	*	*	14%	31%
To better understand other people/the world	18%	21%	24%	6%	16%	*	*	11%	24%
To impress other people	3%	6%	3%	2%	2%	*	*	2%	2%
Weighted N	(572)	(188)	(199)	(149)	(394)	(47)	(77)	(229)	(164)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



27. Most Often Type of Fiction Read

Which of these types of fiction books do you read most often?

Among those who prefer fiction

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mystery	26%	21%	30%	*	21%	29%	39%	20%	29%	33%
Science fiction or fantasy	23%	42%	12%	*	28%	28%	15%	26%	20%	22%
Romance	15%	3%	22%	*	17%	8%	13%	9%	15%	17%
Historical fiction	7%	6%	7%	*	4%	5%	12%	7%	7%	7%
Horror	7%	7%	6%	*	7%	8%	4%	9%	7%	5%
Modern literature	7%	5%	8%	*	7%	9%	5%	11%	7%	2%
Graphic novels	5%	9%	3%	*	3%	2%	0%	7%	5%	2%
Classic literature	4%	5%	3%	*	7%	5%	1%	4%	4%	4%
Young adult/children's literature	1%	1%	1%	*	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%
None of these/Other	5%	1%	8%	*	5%	5%	10%	5%	4%	8%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	*	100%	99%	99%	100%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(571)	(214)	(357)	(153)	(123)	(162)	(132)	(183)	(182)	(158)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Mystery	26%	27%	22%	35%	29%	*	*	31%	27%
Science fiction or fantasy	23%	21%	26%	16%	23%	*	*	21%	24%
Romance	15%	15%	14%	19%	13%	*	*	16%	9%
Historical fiction	7%	8%	4%	9%	8%	*	*	6%	10%
Horror	7%	7%	9%	4%	8%	*	*	9%	7%
Modern literature	7%	10%	8%	2%	8%	*	*	4%	14%
Graphic novels	5%	4%	8%	3%	2%	*	*	3%	0%
Classic literature	4%	2%	5%	4%	3%	*	*	2%	4%
Young adult/children's literature	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	*	*	0%	0%
None of these/Other	5%	4%	2%	8%	6%	*	*	7%	5%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*	99%	100%
Weighted N	(571)	(188)	(199)	(148)	(393)	(47)	(77)	(229)	(163)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



28. Most Often Type of Non-Fiction Read

Which of these types of non-fiction books do you read most often?

Among those who prefer nonfiction

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
History	28%	40%	10%	*	*	25%	32%	34%	24%	29%
Religion/philosophy/spirituality	18%	16%	21%	*	*	15%	26%	7%	19%	21%
Self-help/wellness	14%	10%	20%	*	*	15%	8%	13%	12%	17%
Biography/personal essays	12%	11%	15%	*	*	17%	9%	15%	15%	10%
Politics/social science	6%	7%	4%	*	*	7%	7%	10%	3%	6%
Science/popular science	6%	6%	6%	*	*	4%	8%	14%	7%	1%
Cookbooks/Food	2%	2%	3%	*	*	3%	2%	0%	6%	2%
Crafts/Hobbies	2%	2%	3%	*	*	3%	1%	1%	2%	3%
None of these/Other	11%	6%	18%	*	*	9%	7%	6%	12%	10%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	*	*	98%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(365)	(220)	(145)	(38)	(114)	(144)	(69)	(90)	(99)	(151)

CBS News Poll – June 2-4, 2026
Adults in the U.S.



	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
History	28%	31%	28%	28%	26%	*	*	22%	31%
Religion/philosophy/spirituality	18%	11%	20%	21%	16%	*	*	19%	12%
Self-help/wellness	14%	12%	11%	17%	16%	*	*	17%	14%
Biography/personal essays	12%	16%	13%	10%	12%	*	*	13%	11%
Politics/social science	6%	9%	5%	5%	7%	*	*	6%	8%
Science/popular science	6%	8%	7%	4%	7%	*	*	5%	10%
Cookbooks/Food	2%	1%	4%	2%	3%	*	*	4%	2%
Crafts/Hobbies	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	*	*	3%	3%
None of these/Other	11%	9%	10%	10%	10%	*	*	11%	9%
Totals	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%
Weighted N	(365)	(83)	(126)	(140)	(235)	(33)	(72)	(132)	(103)

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED AND THE MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED

The CBS News/YouGov survey of 2,023 adults in the U.S. was conducted between June 2-4, 2026.

This sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, and education based on the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, and 2024 Presidential vote. Respondents were selected to be representative of adults nationwide. The weights range from 0.1 to 5.0, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.8.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based upon the entire sample is approximately ± 2.8 points. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and n is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.