

YouGov Survey: First and Middle Names



Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted August 26 - 29, 2022
Margin of Error ±3.3%

1. Have you ever talked to your parents about why they named you what they did?

Yes	58%
No	36%
Not sure	5%

2. Do other people usually refer to you by...

The first name you were assigned at birth	63%
A nickname for the first name you were assigned at birth	23%
A name based on the initials of your name	4%
The middle name you were assigned at birth	4%
A different name that was not assigned at birth	5%

3. Was your first name...?

Chosen to be named after something or someone	47%
Chosen because your parents just liked the way it sounded	30%
Not sure	22%

4. To your knowledge, was your first name named after any of the following? Select all that apply.

A family member	27%
A family friend	6%
An acquaintance	3%
A celebrity	5%
A literary, film, or musical reference	4%
A political or historical figure	2%
A religious reference	5%
A place	2%
A cultural reference	2%
A season, month, or holiday	2%
Parents just liked the way it sounded	30%
Something else	4%
None of the above	7%
Not sure	13%

5. Which of the following family members was your first name named after? Select all that apply.

Asked of people who were named after a family member

Mother	15%
Father	35%
Aunt	10%
Uncle	7%
Brother	1%
Sister	1%
Cousin	2%
Grandmother	16%
Grandfather	15%
Great-grandmother	5%
Great-grandfather	5%
Godparent	1%
Other relative	5%
Not sure	4%

6. When you were born, was the person or people your first name was named after alive or deceased?

Alive	62%
Deceased	25%
Some were alive, some deceased	5%
Not sure	8%

7. To your knowledge, when you were named were your initials chosen for a particular reason?

Yes, they were	15%
No, they were not	65%
Not sure	20%

8. Some first names are common in some cultures, with many people sharing the same name. Others are unique with almost no one else having that name. Is your first name more common or more unique?

Common	62%
Unique	26%
Not sure	12%

9. Who chose your first name?

Both of my parents	38%
My mother	27%
My father	11%
A sibling	3%
A doctor or nurse	1%
Someone else	2%
Not sure	18%

10. Did your parents know what gender you were going to be before you were born?

Yes, they did	28%
No, they did not	47%
Not sure	26%

11. How much do you like or dislike your first name?

Like a lot	41%
Like somewhat	19%
Neither like nor dislike	26%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	6%

12. How well do you feel your first name suits you?

Very well	47%
Somewhat well	35%
Not very well	11%
Not at all well	7%

13. How easy or difficult is it for people you haven't met before to spell your first name?

Very easy	49%
Somewhat easy	23%
Somewhat difficult	15%
Very difficult	8%
Not sure	5%

14. How easy or difficult is it for people you haven't met before to pronounce your first name?

Very easy	66%
Somewhat easy	15%
Somewhat difficult	10%
Very difficult	5%
Not sure	4%

15. Have you ever changed or considered changing your first name?

Yes, I have changed it	6%
Yes, I have considered changing it but haven't done so	16%
No	78%

16. Were you assigned a middle name at birth?

Yes	84%
No	16%

17. Was your middle name... ?

Asked of people with a middle name

Chosen to be named after something or someone	52%
Chosen because your parents just liked the way it sounded	24%
Not sure	24%

18. To your knowledge, was your middle name named after any of the following? Select all that apply.

Asked of people with a middle name

A family member	43%
A family friend	3%
An acquaintance	1%
A celebrity	2%
A literary, film, or musical reference	1%
A political or historical figure	3%
A religious reference	4%
A place	1%
A cultural reference	2%
A season, month, or holiday	1%
Just liked the way it sounded	24%
Something else	2%
None of the above	5%
Not sure	17%

19. Which of the following family members was your middle name named after? Select all that apply.

Asked of people with a middle name that was named after a family member

Mother	14%
Father	26%
Aunt	9%
Uncle	6%
Brother	1%
Sister	1%
Cousin	3%
Grandmother	17%
Grandfather	20%
Great-grandmother	6%
Great-grandfather	5%
Godparent	1%
Other relative	3%
Not sure	3%

20. When you were born, was the person or people your middle name was chosen for alive or deceased?

Asked of people with a middle name that was named after someone

Alive	73%
Deceased	21%
Some were alive, some deceased	3%
Not sure	3%

21. How much do you like or dislike your middle name?

Asked of people with a middle name

Like a lot	41%
Like somewhat	20%
Neither like nor dislike	26%
Dislike somewhat	7%
Dislike a lot	5%
I don't have a middle name	0%

22. If you had a child, would you consider naming them after yourself?

Yes	25%
No	61%
Not sure	13%

23. How do you feel about...

	All for it	OK with it	Not a fan
Gender-neutral names	19%	52%	30%
Girls being given names that traditionally have been used for boys	15%	46%	39%
Boys being given names that traditionally have been used for girls	13%	35%	52%

24. If you were naming a child, how important would the following be to you when selecting a name?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Unimportant	Not sure
Whether the name honors someone important to you	22%	36%	22%	14%	7%
Ease of spelling	26%	38%	19%	12%	6%
Ease of pronouncing	32%	40%	15%	7%	6%
Whether the name is unique	16%	31%	27%	20%	6%
Whether the name is traditional	11%	23%	34%	26%	6%
Whether the name is culturally meaningful	14%	23%	28%	27%	7%
Whether the name is trendy	6%	13%	25%	50%	7%
Whether the name is timeless	18%	26%	26%	23%	7%

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Whether the name is gender-neutral	13%	15%	24%	40%	9%
How it sounds paired with a certain last name	28%	35%	15%	15%	8%
The nicknames that apply to the name	19%	33%	23%	18%	7%
The initials of the name	13%	22%	29%	29%	7%
The length of the name	14%	36%	25%	19%	6%
Whether the name is easily confused with another name or word	21%	36%	20%	17%	6%
The origin of the name	23%	29%	21%	17%	10%
Whether the name is masculine or feminine	29%	32%	21%	13%	5%
Whether someone you don't like has the name	22%	24%	21%	25%	7%
Whether the name includes a religious reference	13%	14%	24%	40%	9%

Interviewing Dates

August 26 - 29, 2022

Target population

U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.

Sampling method

Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2019 American Community Survey.

Weighting

The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given prior to March 15, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (33% Democratic, 28% Republican). The weights range from 0.38 to 3.339, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.334.

Number of respondents

1000

Margin of error

± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)

Survey mode

Web-based interviews

Questions not reported

62 questions not reported.