Resilience through the Youth Vote: A Practical Guide

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Go to PollEv.com/stephaniefon718 or text stephaniefon718 to 22333 to join Poll Everywhere
We have no financial disclosures or interests.
Objectives

1. Recognize unique aspects of youth civic participation

2. Discuss scripts and practical strategies to engage adolescents and young adults around voting in medical settings

3. Enhance your confidence and infrastructure to build youth and family self-efficacy around civic participation starting on Monday morning!
How comfortable do you feel engaging youth and caretakers around voting?

So uncomfortable that my hands are sweaty

Uncomfortable

Unsure

Comfortable

Totally comfortable! I do it regularly.
Voting impacts health

What is unique about young voters?
Developmental changes present opportunity
Adolescent Development

Voting is a developmentally-appropriate milestone!

- **Cognitive**
  - Concrete thinking
  - Emergence of abstract thinking
  - Ability to think hypothetically
  - Present-focused
  - Future-focused

- **Psychological**
  - Confidence
  - Competence
  - Industry
  - Identity development (individual, relational, and social)
  - Increasing empathy
  - Rising autonomy
  - Heightened sense of morality and idealism

- **Social**
  - Childhood
  - Early adolescence
  - Middle adolescence
  - Late adolescence

Steinberg (2013), Erikson (1968)
Youth are powerful
SNCC in the Civil Rights Movement

Little Miss Flint

Oakland Tech students for BLM

DACA recipients for DREAMers

Parkland students and others at the March for Our Lives
Youth believe they have political power

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement:

As a group, young people have the power to change things

- All Youth: 83%
- Asian Youth: 88%
- Black Youth: 78%
- Latino Youth: 85%
- White Youth: 83%

Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Pre-Election Youth Poll
Get the data
... yet voting still lags behind

The percentage of young people, ages 18-29, who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement

I feel part of a group or movement that will vote to express our views

60% 59% 56% 61% 60%

All Youth Asian Youth Black Youth Latino Youth White Youth

CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE/Tisch College 2020 Pre-Election Youth Poll
Get the data
Youth face unique barriers
**Voter trends**

Turnout among younger adults rose sharply in 2018

Percent of U.S. citizens who voted in the 2018 general election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages 18-29</th>
<th>Ages 30-44</th>
<th>Ages 45-59</th>
<th>Ages 60+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Bureau Current Population Survey

Young voters still lag significantly behind older age groups

Across ages, many groups are underrepresented:
- Communities of color
- Low income
- < College education
- Low English proficiency
- Unstably housed
- People with disabilities

Clement (2018)
# Barriers to Youth Voter Turnout

## More Youth of Color Face Barriers to Voting than White Youth

Among young people (ages 18-29) who registered but did not vote in 2016, the percentage who cited each option as a reason why they did not cast a ballot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>White Youth</th>
<th>Youth of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too busy/Had a conflict on election day</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had trouble locating polling place</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had no transportation to polling place</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines at polling place were too long</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with voter ID</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CIRCLE analysis of 2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAE)
Facilitators of Youth Civic Participation

- Direct encouragement from parents
- Peer interest and involvement
- Confidence in power of their vote
- Practical knowledge of how to vote
- Motivating issues
- Civic learning opportunities
- Engagement in health spaces!

Challenges:
- Misinformation
- Voter registration issues
- Forgot or too busy
- Difficulty getting off work
- Restrictive voting policies
- Transportation difficulties

A paradigm shift: mobilizing → growing young voters
How can we help patients build the healthy habit of voting?
Interpersonal advocacy
All your usual practices to emphasize youth voice!
Engage adolescents and families around voting in clinical encounters

Individual-level advocacy
Get ready to vote yourself
Learn more about civic engagement & health

Organizational advocacy
Educate providers & staff
Adopt tools to ease workflow & increase visibility of voter engagement efforts
Partner with community organizations
Collaborate with other disciplines
Ensure teens and families in the hospital can vote

Community-level advocacy
Outreach to groups marginalized by political systems

Legislative advocacy
Call and write legislators to ensure safe voting
Advocate against restrictive voting laws
Case 1

Your patient arrives. She is a 20-yo female, here for an annual check up.

How do you approach civic participation with them?
In the past year, how often did you ask adolescents about voting?

- Not at all
- Sometimes
- Frequently
- Always
How do you bring up civic participation + voting?

You have options!
- HEADSS assessment
- Anticipatory guidance
- Visit wrap up
1. Start the conversation

Yes!

Awesome! What questions do you have about voting?

Yes!

Nope

Thanks for sharing that. Why not?
2. Recognize where they are on their journey
3. Meet the patient there

Emphasize the importance of their voice, perspective, and power!

Connect voting to things that matter to them

Length and depth of discussion may depend on the clinical context and where the teen is on the roadmap

Are you registered?

What issues matter the most to you?

What's your voting plan? Do you plan to vote by mail or in person?
Do teens want to talk about voting at clinic visits?

Normalize this discussion (like we do with many other personal topics)
What if they ask me who or what to vote for?

Reflect the question back!

Empower them to use their life experiences and their developing critical thinking skills

Share nonpartisan resources like Ballotopedia and community forums
What if they tell me their vote doesn’t matter?
Case 2

You are working swing shift in the ED.

Your patient is a 18yo girl presenting with an acute ankle injury.
Can you bring up voting at a sick visit?

Yes! As long as the patient is well enough to engage in conversation comfortably.

Some adolescents may prefer to focus on acute needs, and that's okay, too.
What if I’m unsure about citizenship status?

Youth in mixed-status households are critical voices to amplify!

Civic engagement involves volunteering, registering and reminding eligible friends and family to vote, etc.

In some states, high school students with citizenship or green cards can work polls, with financial bonus if bilingual.

ACvote.gov, California Education Code Section 48205, Elections Code Section 12302
**GET READY: Voter registration tools**

- **Badge buddies** with QR code to online voter registration
- **Paper registration forms** with envelopes and stamps
- **In-person navigators & community partners**
**GET SET: Resources to take home**

- Use a **QR code on the AVS** that links to voter registration
- Use of **links** to Vote.gov, or League of Women Voters, or other reputable sites
- Message patients via **MyChart**
- Include **resources with next steps**
Sample text for after visit summaries

Key dates

Voter eligibility info

QR code to voter registration and additional resources

Nonpartisan disclaimer

Are you ready to vote?
Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd! Polls are open from 7am until 8pm. All voters registered by October 3rd in California will receive mail-in ballots for the 2020 General Election because of Covid-19.

Register or update your address by Monday, October 19th. If you miss the deadline, you may register in person and cast a provisional ballot in-person on Election Day.

You are eligible to vote if: you are a US citizen, 18+ years old, and not serving a sentence for a felony conviction. In California, young people ages 16 and 17 may preregister to vote so that they automatically receive a ballot after their 18th birthday.

To register to vote and learn more about issues that matter to you, please visit https://voiceproject.ucsf.edu or scan the QR code above.

Taking part in voter registration is up to you, and the decision not to participate will in no way affect the medical care you receive now or in the future. This nonpartisan information is brought to you by the VOICE Project, VotER, and UCSF Votes.
GO VOTE: Tips for turning in their ballots

• Talk about making a voting plan
  ○ Early voting, vote by mail, or election day voting

• Make it social!
  ○ Encourage the buddy system with voting
  ○ Recommend talking about voting at the family dinner
  ○ Ask them to help a senior or someone who may need help with transportation

• Remind them that their vote matters
What are the most common mistakes young voters make?

Mismatched signatures
Not blue or black ink
Lateness
--- Resources for providers: AAP #VoteKids ---

**Election 2020: Vote Kids**

Election Day 2020 is Tuesday, November 3. The American Academy of Pediatrics is leading a robust Get Out the Vote campaign focused on the connection between health equity and voting. Everyone deserves the opportunity to live to their full health potential. Voting is one of the main ways we can influence the public policies that address health inequities in our communities.

This election, we encourage pediatricians and those who care about children to vote like children's futures depend on it.

**Health equity 101**

- Racism
- Healthcare coverage & access
- Immigrant child health
- Climate change
- Gun violence

**GOTV tools**

**Social media messages**

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**Educate Yourself: What's At Stake & Voting Basics**
Resources for providers: VoteHealth2020.com

Toolkits
Toolkits can be used by those taking action in their clinics.

Legal guides

Social media messages
Resources for pediatricians: NonprofitVote.org

In 1954 Congress added a sentence to Treasury regulations requiring charities to remain nonpartisan in elections. However, nonprofits can still play a critical role in engaging communities and promoting equity in democracy.

Being nonpartisan is critical for 501(c)(3)s to maintain our status and also provides a distinct advantage for building trust in potential voters. Our guides and resources available below outline how to remain nonpartisan while engaging staff, clients, and community members in elections.

OUR RESOURCES

- Nonpartisan Election Activities Checklist for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits
  - English
  - Español
- Federal Funds and Voter Registration – Link Here
- Using Social Media to Promote Voting
  - English
  - Español
- What can Nonprofit Staff Say About the Election – Link Here
- HIPAA and Civic Engagement at Health Centers – Link Here

Checklists!

Recommendations about

Nonpartisan engagement

HIPAA compliance

Staff engagement

... and more!
What additional strategies have you found to be effective? (Include your name if you are open to sharing details out loud!)
What additional questions do you have about engaging young prospective voters?
Thank you for interest in growing young voters!

Questions, comments & feedback?

JOIN US!

Follow us on twitter @drfonggomez & @drstager | Learn more about the VOICE Project at https://voiceproject.ucsf.edu and @VOICE_OakSF
Insert more FAQs here!
How can youth under 18 contribute?

- Uplift stories and issues
- Register others to vote
- Volunteer for a campaign
- Drive friends and family to the polls
- Preregister if eligible
Case 2

Your primary care patient is here.

He is a 16-yo accompanied by his Spanish-speaking mother.

How do you approach civic participation with them?
Ask during the visit wrap up

Yes!

Are you ready to vote safely this election?

Awesome! What questions do you have about voting?

Nope

Thanks for sharing that. Tell me more!

If you change your mind, here's some information!
“[It] just seems like such a great idea and great opportunity... I like to see different community functions working together because there is no reason that voter registration and healthcare and student engagement should not all be tied into one thing.”

- Teen patient in interview
What is preregistration?

Some states allow 16-17 year olds to preregister!

This gets the paperwork out of the way so that they can automatically vote in the first eligible election.

Afterward, they should receive a confirmation postcard in the mail.
“As a DACA recipient, if a doctor told me that I can make change by voting], I would be like, "Yeah. Totally." Whether or not I feel comfortable giving my citizenship status. But that — then, initiating that conversation really shows that... they want to know what young people have to say about voting and... the impact in their communities. For me, it kind of shows like they actually want to listen what we have to say. And them taking initiative, bringing this conversation to the table, really shows that they really like really care about us in general.”

- Young adult patient who is undocumented in interview
What are the most effective ways to ensure that people actually vote?

Make a voting plan!
4. Wrap up with family & provide resources
Recognize where they are on their journey

Roadmap to Making YOUR VOICE COUNT

GO VOTE

TO US YOU MATTER!

GET READY

CONFIRM YOU ARE REGISTERED

REGISTER OR PHREATEN TO VOTE

STAY ENGAGED

COMPLETE AND TURN IN YOUR BALLOT

MAKE A SAFE VOTING PLAN

RESEARCH ISSUES AND CANDIDATES

UNDERSTAND THE BALLOT

DECIDE WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

GET SET

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

YOUR BEST METHOD FOR YOU

CONFIRM THE BEST OPTION FOR YOU

This graphic is brought to you by THE VOICE PROJECT and is adapted from the report "Conscience and Community: Mapping Latino Power" by the Tomás, Partnership.
What resources are available in clinic?

Badge buddies, postcards, auto-AVS (similar to ED)

You can refer to FIND in person or thru EPIC for extra support for teens & families!

In-person support with local youth leaders will resume after COVID
Share anticipatory guidance with caretakers!

Voting is a developmentally-appropriate milestone!

Concrete thinking  Emergence of abstract thinking  Present-focused

Confidence  Competence  Industry

Identity development (individual, relational, and social)

Rising autonomy

Heightened sense of morality and idealism

Childhood  Early adolescence  Middle adolescence  Late adolescence

Steinberg (2013), Erikson (1968)
What do I need to know about voter eligibility?
### Barriers to Youth Voter Turnout

Among young people (ages 18-29) who registered but did not vote in 2016, the percentage who cited each option as a reason why they did not cast a ballot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Youth with college experience</th>
<th>Youth without college experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t like the candidates/issues</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too busy/had a conflict on Election Day</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was out of town</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with voter ID</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with voter registration</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No transportation to polling place</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line at polling place was too long</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconvenient hours/location of polling place</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CIRCLE analysis of 2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAE)