

Illinois Issues

IN-DEPTH

Methodology

The University of Illinois Springfield Survey Research Office (SRO) is dedicated to the principles of transparency in research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) [Transparency Initiative](#). Membership entails adherence to AAPOR's code of ethics as well as a commitment to promoting the understanding of survey methodology and how it relates to survey quality. For more information about project methodology, please contact the UIS Survey Research Office at sro@uis.edu.

The 2019 *Illinois Issues Survey* was designed and analyzed by the staff of the Center for State Policy and Leadership, the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies, and the Survey Research Office at the University of Illinois Springfield. This project is co-sponsored by the Center for State Policy and Leadership, NPR Illinois, and the Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield. The study was conducted in English by the Survey Research Office via the Qualtrics Research Suite. The online panel was provided by Qualtrics.

The survey was fielded from **September 13-September 23, 2019** among a sample of **1,012 registered voters, all at least 18 years or older, in Illinois**. For **all respondents** the **credibility interval** is plus or minus **3.5**. While a margin of error is often used to express uncertainty in polling, for online surveys credibility intervals are used to measure the accuracy, or uncertainty, of the survey. When examining subgroups, the credibility interval will increase. The survey includes quotas for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, income, and region of the state. The sample was weighted based on the demographic composition of these groups in Illinois using the most recent population estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey. For additional information on weighting, please click [here](#). All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, and measurement error.

The survey included various checks to ensure the validity of the data collected from respondents. Click [here](#) for an extended explanation for all the checks Qualtrics does for their panels.

Notes for reading the results:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Survey Sample Compared to Illinois

Group	Weighted Sample	Illinois
Male	48%	49%
Female	52%	51%
18 to 34	24%	24%
35 to 44	18%	18%
45 to 59	29%	29%
60 and Older	29%	29%
Cook County	40%	40%
Collar Counties	25%	25%
Downstate	35%	35%
White	62%	62%
Black	14%	14%
Hispanic	13%	17%
Other	10%	7%
High School Diploma or Less	31%	34%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	33%	32%
Four-Year Degree or More	36%	34%
Under \$45,000	46%	46%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	30%	30%
Greater than \$100,001	24%	24%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	53%	
Non-Leaning Independent	15%	
Republican/Republican Leaning	30%	

Analysis

Of the health issues presented, a lack of access to mental health services (55%) is the most common community health issue to be reported as “very serious” by respondents in the 2019 *Illinois Issues Survey*. 50% of respondents cite prescription pill abuse as a “very serious” issue. Obesity (40%) and gambling addiction (21%) have the lowest amount of respondents. Across political party lines, there are many similarities on every issue, but one difference is in the lack of access to mental health services. Democrats/Democrat-leaning voters (62%) are more likely to say that a lack of access to mental health services is a very serious issue in their community than their Republican/Republican-leaning (44%) and non-leaning independent (55%) counterparts. All three regions analyzed cite access to mental health services as one of the most pressing issues. For Cook County, the two topics with the highest levels of respondents are a lack of access to mental health services (59%) and a lack of access to healthcare (57%). Respondents in the collar counties are more like to cite prescription pill abuse (50%) and a lack of access to mental health services (48%) as very serious issues. Downstate voters are more likely to cite a lack of access to mental health services (57%) and heroin abuse (52%) as very serious issues. While men and women responded similarly to most health issues, they differ in their assessments on the lack of access to healthcare as a very serious issue (41% of men to 54% of women). Men and women also differ in their attitudes towards access to mental health services (49% of men to 61% of women). Lack of access to mental health services (51%) and prescription pill abuse (48%) are the two issues with the highest percentage of White respondents. For Black respondents, the most prominent issues reported are a lack of access to mental health services (75%) and a lack of access to healthcare (68%). Lack of access to healthcare (60%) and lack of access to mental health services (58%) are also the two issues to have the highest percentage of Hispanic voters.

A majority of 2019 respondents (59%) report that immigrants help Illinois rather than hurt it. This result is similar to responses in 2018 (63%). Perhaps the most substantial difference in opinion came when factoring party affiliation. Democrat/Democrat-leaning voters (75%) are significantly more likely to say immigrants help Illinois than Republicans/Republican-leaning voters (34%), with non-leaning independents (56%) responding somewhere in the middle. Cook County voters (69%) are more likely to say immigrants help Illinois than voters from collar counties (60%) and downstate counties (47%). When it comes to gender, female respondents (63%) are more likely than male respondents (56%) to say immigrants help Illinois. Over two thirds (71%) of people under the age of 35 believe that immigrants help Illinois. This finding is much higher than the responses from people ages 35 to 44 (60%), 45 to 59 (51%), and 60 and older (58%). When looking at race and ethnicity, White respondents (51%) are much less likely to say immigrants help Illinois than Black respondents (72%), and Hispanics (79%). About three quarters (74%) of voters who attained a four-year degree or more say immigrants help Illinois. This result compares to those who have between a high school diploma and a four-year degree (60%) and those who have a high school diploma or less (54%). All three income groups had similar rates report that immigrants help Illinois. Those who reported a household income of less than \$45,000 (58%), between \$45,001 and \$100,000 (60%), and over \$100,000 (62%) are all within a few percentage points of each other.

On the issue of “DREAMers,” the vast majority of Illinois voters (73%) support the right for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children to stay. A wide disparity lies within partisanship, where Democrats/Democrat-leaning respondents (86%) are far more likely than Republican/Republican-leaning respondents (50%) to say they support DREAMers’ right to stay. Support for DREAMers varies across regions of the state. Respondents in Cook County (81%) had the highest amount of support, collar counties (70%) the second, and downstate counties (63%) show considerably less support. Female respondents (76%) are more likely to support DREAMers remaining in the country than male respondents (69%) are. At least two-thirds of voters of all ages said they support DREAMers, but the highest support is held by those under the age of 35 (80%), with those ages 45 to 59 having the lowest level of support at 68%. About two-thirds (66%) of Whites in Illinois support DREAMers staying in America compared to Black respondents (87%) and Hispanic respondents (88%), who showed much higher amounts of support. 82% of voters with a four-year degree or more said they support DREAMers remaining in the country. This result compares to voters who have a high school diploma or less (73%) or something in between a high school diploma and a four-year degree (71%).

The survey also asked about the level of priority policymakers should give to global climate change, where a plurality responded that politicians should give it the top priority (44%). This rate is consistent with national polling¹. Democrats/Democrat-leaning voters (57%) are at odds with Republicans/Republican-leaning voters (22%) on whether global climate change should be a top priority for policymakers. Downstate and collar counties (each 40%) had similar sentiments towards addressing global climate change as a top priority, while Cook County (51%) had slightly over half of its respondents agree. Men (44%) and women (45%) reported at similar rates that policymakers should give climate change top priority. When it comes to age, most voters under the age of 35 (51%) say global climate change should be a top priority. Those between ages 45 to 59 (38%) had the least number of respondents say the same. There is some variance when it comes to race and ethnicity. White respondents (40%), Black respondents (47%), and Hispanic respondents (55%) all differed in whether global climate change should be a top priority for policymakers. People that have between a high school diploma and a four-year degree (51%), and those with a four-year degree or more (49%), had about half of respondents say climate change should be a top priority. This result compares to those who had a high school diploma or less (38%) at about a third.

Income inequality is widely regarded as a problem by the vast majority of respondents (82%). There is a variance when accounting for partisanship. Democrats/Democrat-leaning voters (94%) almost unanimously agree that income inequality is a problem, compared to Republican/Republican-leaning voters (63%). Voters across regions in the state have less variance in their evaluations, as voters in Cook County (86%), the collar counties (79%), and downstate (80%) counties all had similar results. Both women (87%) and men (76%) had at least three-quarters of respondents say income inequality is a problem. At least three-quarters of each age group also said they feel income inequality is a problem. The lowest level of support for this position is 77% from those ages 65 and up, and the highest is 87% for those respondents aged 35 to 44. White respondents had the least number of net respondents (78%) say they believe income inequality is a problem, while Black respondents had the most at 92%. Educational attainment

¹ Pew Research Center. 2018. [“Conflicting Partisan Priorities for U.S. Foreign Policy.”](#)

subgroups all had similar responses. Those with a high school diploma or less (84%), a high diploma or something less than a four-year degree (86%), and a four-year degree or more (82%) are all within a few points of each other. 86% of people who reported a household income of less than \$45,000 view income inequality as a problem, while 77% of people with an income of over \$100,000 report the same.

Less than half of Illinois voters are likely to say most people can be trusted (39%). Republican/Republican-leaning voters (45%) are more likely to say they can trust most people than their Democrat/Democrat-leaning counterparts (39%). Non-leaning independents are least likely to report people can be trusted (32%). Results across regions vary somewhat. Voters from the collar counties (43%) are most likely to say most people can be trusted, and downstate voters are the least likely (36%). Males (46%) are more likely to say people can be trusted than women are (33%). Over half of voters ages 60 and over (51%) say people can be trusted, while just 34% of those ages 45 to 59 hold the same view. Whites (42%) and “other” races (41%) had higher rates of trust in others than Black (30%) and Hispanic (31%) voters. Over half (51%) of voters who attained a four-year college degree or more say they tend to trust people. This result compares to those who have a high school diploma or less (35%) or something in between high school and a four-year degree (28%). Respondents who reported a household income under \$45,000 (32%) and those who report \$45,001 to \$100,000 (36%) express similar rates of trust, significantly lower than individuals who earn more than \$100,000 (56%).

While trust in most people is generally low, trust in the Illinois media is much more favorable (59%). Democrat/Democrat-leaning voters (73%) showed a much higher level of trust in the Illinois news media’s accuracy and fairness than Republican/Republican-leaning voters (42%). About two-thirds (65%) of Cook County respondents say they trust the Illinois media compared to only about half (52%) of people from downstate counties. Women (62%) are more likely to report trust in the Illinois news media than men are (56%). Of the age groups, people 35 to 44 (51%) had the lowest amount of trust in the Illinois media reporting fairly and accurately, compared to respondents ages 18 to 34 and 60 and older, both tied at 60%. White respondents (55%) are less likely to report trusting the media compared to Black respondents (72%), who are more likely to say they have trust in the press. When factoring in education, voters with a high school diploma or less (62%), a high school diploma or something less than a four-year degree (59%), and a four-year degree or more (63%) generally agreed in their trust of the Illinois news media.

While 59% of voters report trusting the Illinois media, a larger amount reports the local news media is important (83%). Democrats/Democrat-leaning voters (92%) are far more likely to give more importance to local news media than Republican/Republican-leaning voters (75%) and non-leaning independents (73%). Cook County (90%) respondents are most likely to report that local news media is important, while the lowest level of support came from downstate counties (78%). Women (86%) are slightly more likely than men (81%) to report local news media as important. People ages 60 and older (87%) had the highest score in terms of importance given to local news media, though voters of all ages had at least 80% in this category. Although 80% of White respondents say that the local news media is important to their community, this sentiment jumps to 93% for Black respondents and 92% for Hispanic respondents.

Crosstabs

The next few questions ask about health issues. For these questions, think just about your community. Currently, how serious of a problem do you consider each of the following health issues to be? **(Percentage is those who selected Very Serious)**

Group	Heroin Abuse	Prescription Pill Abuse	Lack of Access to Healthcare	Lack of Access to Mental Health Services	Gambling Addiction	Obesity
All Respondents	48%	50%	48%	55%	21%	40%
Male	48%	49%	41%	49%	20%	36%
Female	48%	52%	54%	61%	21%	44%
18 to 34	54%	52%	52%	56%	26%	43%
35 to 44	51%	56%	55%	60%	23%	44%
45 to 59	52%	52%	56%	65%	22%	43%
60 and Older	37%	43%	33%	42%	13%	34%
Cook County	49%	52%	57%	59%	26%	37%
Collar Counties	41%	50%	39%	48%	17%	44%
Downstate	52%	48%	45%	57%	17%	39%
White	47%	48%	41%	51%	17%	36%
Black	57%	61%	68%	75%	36%	56%
Hispanic	52%	53%	60%	58%	23%	46%
Other	36%	42%	48%	51%	20%	40%
High School Diploma or Less	55%	51%	51%	54%	23%	43%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	55%	58%	59%	63%	23%	47%
Four-Year Degree or More	31%	40%	44%	53%	15%	39%
Under \$45,000	54%	53%	53%	60%	24%	42%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	44%	48%	46%	50%	21%	41%
Greater than \$100,001	40%	48%	41%	53%	14%	36%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	49%	51%	57%	62%	21%	44%
Non-Leaning Independent	51%	47%	44%	55%	27%	37%
Republican/Republican Leaning	47%	52%	35%	44%	18%	34%

Illinois currently has an immigrant population of 1.8 million individuals, including 500,000 of whom are undocumented. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly correct?

Group	Immigrants Help Illinois	Immigrants Hurt Illinois
All Respondents	59%	41%
Male	56%	44%
Female	63%	37%
18 to 34	71%	29%
35 to 44	60%	40%
45 to 59	51%	49%
60 and Older	58%	42%
Cook County	69%	31%
Collar Counties	60%	40%
Downstate	47%	53%
White	51%	49%
Black	72%	28%
Hispanic	79%	21%
Other	73%	27%
High School Diploma or Less	54%	46%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	60%	40%
Four-Year Degree or More	74%	26%
Under \$45,000	58%	42%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	60%	40%
Greater than \$100,001	62%	38%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	75%	25%
Non-Leaning Independent	56%	44%
Republican/Republican Leaning	34%	66%

In general, do you support or oppose allowing undocumented immigrants who are brought to the United States as children, also known as DREAMers, to remain in the country?

Group	Support Net	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Oppose Net	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
All Respondents	73%	40%	33%	28%	16%	12%
Male	69%	38%	31%	31%	15%	16%
Female	76%	42%	34%	23%	16%	7%
18 to 34	80%	49%	31%	20%	12%	8%
35 to 44	71%	43%	28%	29%	19%	10%
45 to 59	68%	33%	35%	32%	17%	15%
60 and Older	71%	36%	35%	29%	16%	13%
Cook County	81%	49%	32%	18%	11%	7%
Collar Counties	70%	35%	35%	30%	18%	12%
Downstate	63%	32%	31%	37%	20%	17%
White	66%	32%	34%	33%	19%	15%
Black	87%	51%	36%	13%	9%	4%
Hispanic	88%	65%	23%	11%	8%	3%
Other	75%	44%	31%	25%	12%	13%
High School Diploma or Less	73%	38%	35%	26%	17%	9%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	71%	40%	31%	28%	15%	13%
Four-Year Degree or More	82%	47%	35%	18%	10%	8%
Under \$45,000	73%	42%	31%	27%	15%	12%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	71%	35%	36%	29%	17%	12%
Greater than \$100,001	72%	41%	31%	28%	16%	12%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	86%	57%	29%	13%	9%	4%
Non-Leaning Independent	70%	27%	43%	30%	16%	14%
Republican/Republican Leaning	50%	16%	34%	51%	26%	25%

How much priority, if any, do you think dealing with global climate change should be given by policymakers?

Group	Top Priority	Some Priority	No Priority
All Respondents	44%	41%	15%
Male	44%	41%	15%
Female	45%	41%	14%
18 to 34	51%	42%	7%
35 to 44	41%	45%	13%
45 to 59	38%	44%	18%
60 and Older	47%	35%	18%
Cook County	51%	40%	9%
Collar Counties	40%	43%	17%
Downstate	40%	42%	19%
White	40%	43%	17%
Black	47%	45%	9%
Hispanic	55%	33%	12%
Other			
High School Diploma or Less	38%	46%	15%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	51%	36%	14%
Four-Year Degree or More	49%	35%	16%
Under \$45,000	46%	39%	15%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	42%	44%	14%
Greater than \$100,001	44%	43%	14%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	57%	37%	6%
Non-Leaning Independent	41%	42%	17%
Republican/Republican Leaning	22%	49%	28%

How much of a problem do you think income inequality is in the United States today?

Group	Problem Net	Very Serious Problem	Somewhat Serious Problem	Not a Problem Net	Not Too Serious of a Problem	Not a Problem
All Respondents	82%	44%	38%	18%	13%	5%
Male	76%	38%	38%	23%	17%	6%
Female	87%	49%	38%	12%	9%	3%
18 to 34	85%	47%	38%	15%	11%	4%
35 to 44	87%	51%	36%	13%	9%	4%
45 to 59	83%	49%	34%	17%	13%	4%
60 and Older	77%	32%	45%	24%	17%	7%
Cook County	86%	51%	35%	13%	10%	3%
Collar Counties	79%	35%	44%	21%	13%	8%
Downstate	80%	43%	37%	21%	16%	5%
White	78%	39%	39%	21%	16%	5%
Black	92%	60%	32%	7%	5%	2%
Hispanic	85%	50%	35%	15%	11%	4%
Other	90%	47%	43%	10%	2%	8%
High School Diploma or Less	84%	44%	40%	16%	12%	4%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	86%	51%	35%	15%	10%	5%
Four-Year Degree or More	82%	43%	39%	18%	11%	7%
Under \$45,000	86%	53%	33%	14%	11%	3%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	80%	39%	41%	20%	15%	5%
Greater than \$100,001	77%	34%	43%	22%	14%	8%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	94%	56%	38%	6%	5%	1%
Non-Leaning Independent	80%	40%	40%	19%	14%	5%
Republican/Republican Leaning	63%	24%	39%	37%	27%	10%

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Group	Most People Can Be Trusted	Can't Be Too Careful
All Respondents	39%	61%
Male	46%	54%
Female	33%	67%
18 to 34	35%	65%
35 to 44	34%	66%
45 to 59	34%	66%
60 and Older	51%	49%
Cook County	39%	61%
Collar Counties	43%	57%
Downstate	36%	64%
White	42%	58%
Black	30%	70%
Hispanic	31%	69%
Other	41%	59%
High School Diploma or Less	35%	65%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	28%	72%
Four-Year Degree or More	52%	48%
Under \$45,000	32%	68%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	36%	64%
Greater than \$100,001	56%	44%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	39%	61%
Non-Leaning Independent	32%	68%
Republican/Republican Leaning	45%	55%

In general, how much trust do you have in the media in Illinois—such as local newspapers, TV, and radio— when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly?

Group	Positive Net	A Great Deal	A Fair Amount	Negative Net	Not Very Much	None at All
All Respondents	59%	12%	47%	41%	29%	12%
Male	56%	13%	43%	44%	29%	15%
Female	62%	12%	50%	38%	29%	9%
18 to 34	62%	15%	47%	38%	27%	11%
35 to 44	51%	8%	43%	49%	37%	12%
45 to 59	59%	9%	50%	41%	27%	14%
60 and Older	62%	17%	45%	38%	28%	10%
Cook County	65%	15%	50%	34%	29%	5%
Collar Counties	59%	10%	49%	40%	25%	15%
Downstate	52%	11%	41%	48%	32%	16%
White	55%	11%	44%	45%	31%	14%
Black	72%	19%	53%	28%	25%	3%
Hispanic	62%	12%	50%	37%	28%	9%
Other	66%	13%	53%	33%	24%	9%
High School Diploma or Less	62%	12%	50%	38%	26%	12%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	59%	13%	46%	41%	29%	12%
Four-Year Degree or More	63%	14%	49%	37%	31%	6%
Under \$45,000	60%	14%	46%	40%	30%	10%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	60%	10%	50%	40%	24%	16%
Greater than \$100,001	58%	12%	46%	42%	33%	9%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	73%	16%	57%	27%	23%	4%
Non-leaning Independent	56%	13%	43%	45%	25%	20%
Republican/Republican Leaning	42%	8%	34%	58%	38%	20%

And how important do you think local news media is to your community?

Group	Important Net	Very Important	Important	Unimportant Net	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
All Respondents	83%	31%	52%	16%	13%	3%
Male	81%	26%	55%	19%	15%	4%
Female	86%	36%	50%	14%	12%	2%
18 to 34	83%	25%	58%	17%	13%	4%
35 to 44	81%	26%	55%	18%	15%	3%
45 to 59	83%	34%	49%	16%	13%	3%
60 and Older	87%	37%	50%	13%	11%	2%
Cook County	90%	38%	52%	10%	8%	2%
Collar Counties	82%	28%	54%	17%	13%	4%
Downstate	78%	26%	52%	22%	19%	3%
White	80%	26%	54%	20%	16%	4%
Black	93%	48%	45%	7%	5%	2%
Hispanic	92%	37%	55%	9%	8%	1%
Other	85%	33%	52%	15%	11%	4%
High School Diploma or Less	86%	34%	52%	14%	12%	2%
Between a HS Diploma and Four-Year Degree	88%	39%	49%	13%	11%	2%
Four-Year Degree or More	85%	33%	52%	16%	13%	3%
Under \$45,000	86%	36%	50%	14%	12%	2%
\$45,001 and \$100,000	82%	27%	55%	18%	14%	4%
Greater than \$100,001	82%	29%	53%	17%	13%	4%
Democrat/Democrat Leaning	92%	40%	52%	7%	6%	1%
Independent	73%	21%	52%	27%	20%	7%
Republican/Republican Leaning	75%	22%	53%	24%	20%	4%