



JA Teens and Careers Survey

2017 Executive Summary



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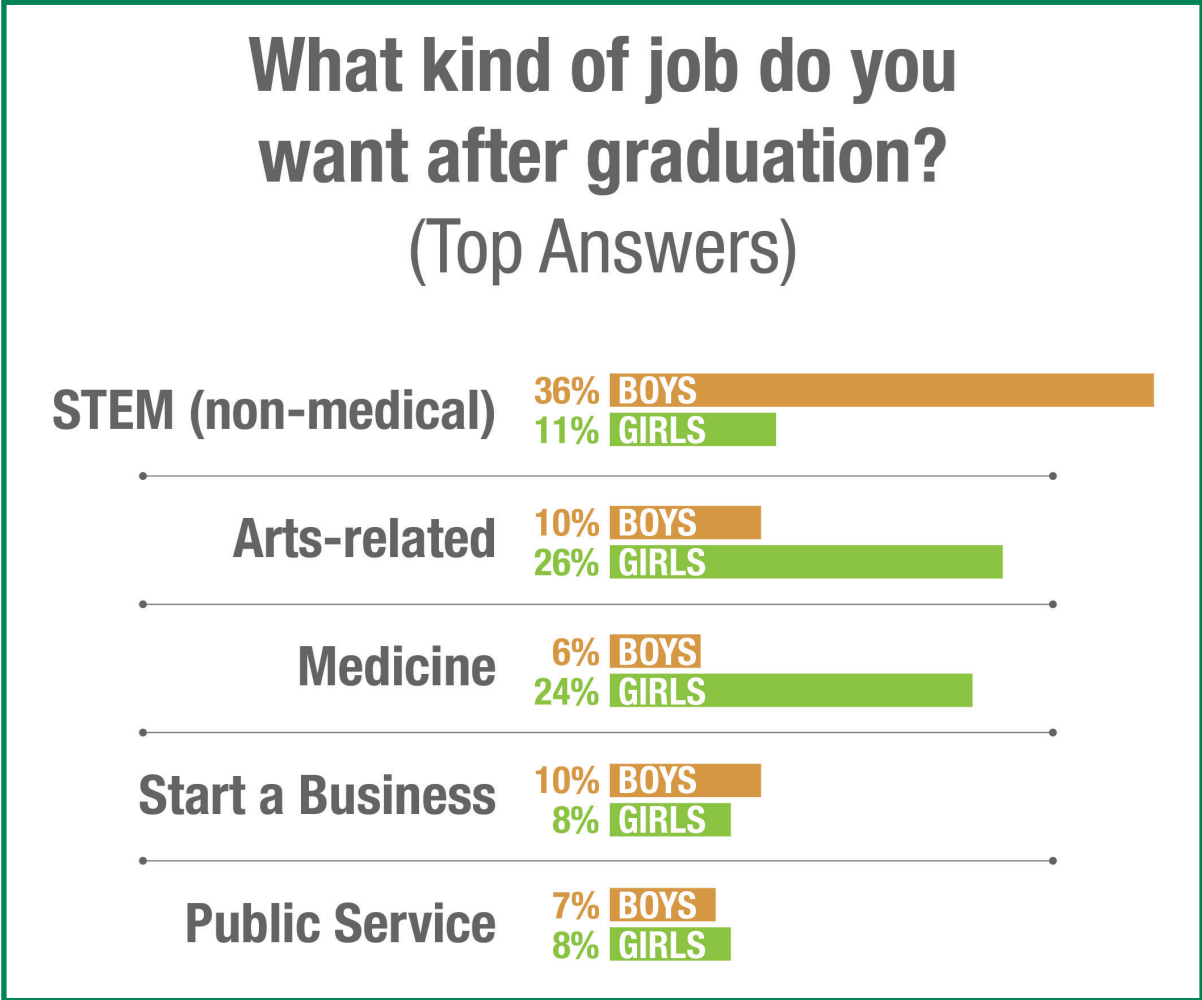


Introduction

The Junior Achievement 2017 Teens & Career Survey is presented with the support of EY. This survey of 1,000 teens from 13-17 was conducted live from February 28 to March 5, 2017. The survey focused on the career aspirations and how they differ among boys and girls.

Meaningful Work Uncovered

While boys and girls agree that they wish to be hired within a field where they can engage in meaningful work, the survey results prove that boys and girls interpret meaningful work in different ways. The information collected the survey shows that the career preferences remain drawn along gender lines, with more than one-third (33%) of boys pursuing careers in STEM while only 11% of girls plan on pursuing a career in this field. The survey results showed 26% of girls planned on studying for a career in the arts compared to the 10% of boys. Another 24% of girls wished to obtain careers in the medical/dental field, while only 6% of boys aspired to work within the same field.



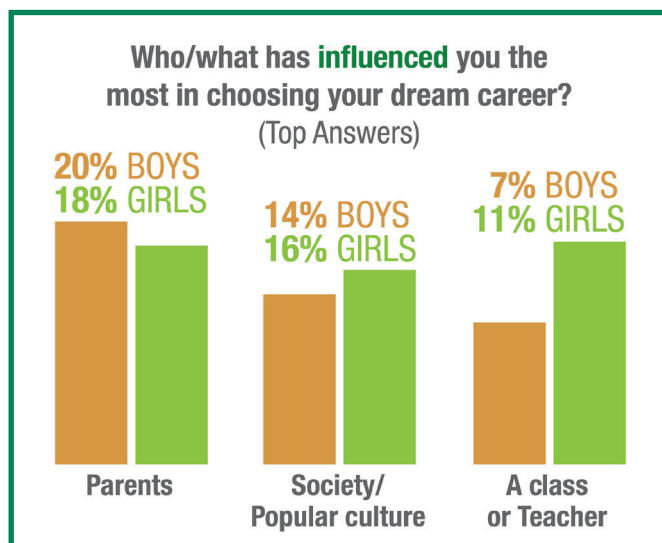
Career Attractions among Gender

One of the biggest differences between the girls and boys was that 28% of boys chose to pursue their career due to it being perceived as fun compared to only 20% of girls choosing a career based on this variable. Similar differences were found between girls and boys when money came into play. In all, 17% of boys chose their dream job as they expected it to provide a high income while only 10% of girls chose their dream job based on this principle. The two career factors that appealed the most to teenage girls was their expectation of being good at it (23%), while 21% of boys chose their ideal career based on this. The other factor for girls was their ability to help people (25%), while only 14% of boys chose their future career based on the same foundation.



Influencers among Boys and Girls

The workplace aspirations that influence boys' and girls' choice of career also differ. The ability to have a meaningful career and a family swayed 52% of girls, while influencing 46% of boys. Additionally, 45% of girls wanted to be able to be involved in a career that would be meaningful for the community or society, compared to 33% of boys. Another factor that showed a difference between boys and girls was when it came down to flexibility in a work schedule or work location. Thirty-nine percent of boys chose a career based on this while only 36% of girls allowed this factor to influence their career choice. The last influencer found centered on advancement, with 29% of boys choosing their career to allow professional advancement to become a leader or expert, while only 23% of girls chose their career path based on this principle. While the survey uncovered differences between boys and girls, virtually all teens picture a conventional route to their dream job: accepting paid/unpaid internships, volunteering for like-minded organizations or starting out in a related field. However, boys prioritize wanting to gain technology skills, while girls expect relationship building and teamwork to help them most in the workplace.



Conclusion

Junior Achievement USA is pleased to present the findings to the 2017 Teens & Careers Survey. The goal of this survey was to provide insight into the process in which teens determine their career. Junior Achievement's programs promote financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship with the intent of empowering young people to own their economic success. JA reached more than 4.8 million students in grades K-12 during the 2015-2016 school year. For more information about JA, visit www.ja.org.

Methodology

This report presents the findings of ORC International's Youth CARAVAN survey conducted among a sample of 1,000 13-17 year olds. This survey was live from February 28 to March 5, 2017.

Respondents for this survey are selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options.