AASM Sleep Prioritization Survey

Improve Alertness

Survey Methodology

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine commissioned an online survey of 2,006 adults throughout the United States. The margin of error for the overall sample is +/- 2 percentage points with a confidence level of 95 percent. Fieldwork took place between May 16 and May 24, 2024, by Atomik Research, an independent market research agency.

American Academy of SLEEP MEDICINE Sleep Prioritization Survey 2024

Question

When you feel sleepy during the daytime, how do you improve your alertness?

Results

• Nearly half of Americans use caffeine (49%) or take a nap (48%) to improve alertness when they feel sleepy in the daytime.

Overall Results

| Total | 2,006 |
|---|-----------|
| Caffeine | 983 (49%) |
| Exercise | 559 (28%) |
| Go outside | 724 (36%) |
| Take a nap | 954 (48%) |
| Other, please specify | 49 (2%) |
| I do not feel sleepy during the daytime | 112 (6%) |

Nearly half of Americans use caffeine (49%) or take a nap (48%) to improve alertness when they feel sleepy in the daytime.

Results by Gender

| | Male | Female | Transgender | Non-binary or gender non-conforming |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total | 1,002 | 1,001 | 1 | 2 |
| Caffeine | 478 (48%) | 502 (50%) | 1 (100%) | 2 (100%) |
| Exercise | 357 (36%) | 201 (20%) | 1 (100%) | 0 (0%) |
| Go outside | 378 (38%) | 344 (34%) | 1 (100%) | 1 (50%) |
| Take a nap | 452 (45%) | 501 (50%) | 1 (100%) | 0 (0%) |
| Other, please specify | 17 (2%) | 32 (3%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| I do not feel sleepy during the daytime | 53 (5%) | 59 (6%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |

Men (36%) are more likely than women (20%) to report using exercise to improve alertness.

Results by Age Group

| | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 234 | 382 | 360 | 360 | 351 | 319 |
| Caffeine | 85 (36%) | 192 (50%) | 192 (53%) | 225 (63%) | 176 (50%) | 113 (35%) |
| Exercise | 91 (39%) | 138 (36%) | 92 (26%) | 89 (25%) | 77 (22%) | 72 (23%) |
| Go outside | 93 (40%) | 145 (38%) | 119 (33%) | 134 (37%) | 126 (36%) | 107 (34%) |
| Take a nap | 133 (57%) | 178 (47%) | 173 (48%) | 137 (38%) | 169 (48%) | 164 (51%) |
| Other, please | | | | | | |
| specify | 2 (1%) | 6 (2%) | 11 (3%) | 9 (3%) | 9 (3%) | 12 (4%) |
| I do not feel | | | | | | |
| sleepy during | | | | | | |
| the daytime | 9 (4%) | 14 (4%) | 20 (6%) | 7 (2%) | 21 (6%) | 41 (13%) |

Individuals aged 18-24 (57%) are most likely to take a nap to improve alertness.



Results by Generation

| | Gen Z (18-27) | Millennial (28-43) | Gen X (44-59) | Baby Boomer (60-78) | Silent Generation (79+) |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total | 313 | 637 | 572 | 452 | 32 |
| Caffeine | 127 (41%) | 328 (51%) | 336 (59%) | 185 (41%) | 7 (22%) |
| Exercise | 112 (36%) | 202 (32%) | 139 (24%) | 102 (23%) | 4 (13%) |
| Go outside | 122 (39%) | 226 (35%) | 212 (37%) | 155 (34%) | 9 (28%) |
| Take a nap | 176 (56%) | 294 (46%) | 246 (43%) | 219 (48%) | 19 (59%) |
| Other, please specify | 4 (1%) | 12 (2%) | 17 (3%) | 15 (3%) | 1 (3%) |
| I do not feel sleepy during the daytime | 11 (4%) | 30 (5%) | 18 (3%) | 46 (10%) | 7 (22%) |

Gen X (59%) are most likely to use caffeine to improve alertness when they feel sleepy in the daytime.

Results by Region

| results by region | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| | Northeast | Midwest | South | West | | |
| Total | 348 | 427 | 776 | 455 | | |
| Caffeine | 163 (47%) | 222 (52%) | 358 (46%) | 240 (53%) | | |
| Exercise | 112 (32%) | 103 (24%) | 193 (25%) | 151 (33%) | | |
| Go outside | 122 (35%) | 165 (39%) | 252 (32%) | 185 (41%) | | |
| Take a nap | 174 (50%) | 200 (47%) | 375 (48%) | 205 (45%) | | |
| Other, please specify | 9 (3%) | 11 (3%) | 20 (3%) | 9 (2%) | | |
| I do not feel sleepy during | 24 (7%) | 22 (5%) | 46 (6%) | 20 (4%) | | |
| the daytime | | | | | | |

Individuals in the West (41%) are most likely to say they go outside to improve alertness when they feel sleepy in the daytime.

About the American Academy of Sleep Medicine

Established in 1975, the AASM advances sleep care and enhances sleep health to improve lives. The AASM has a combined membership of 12,000 accredited sleep centers and individuals, including physicians, scientists and other health care professionals who care for patients with sleep disorders. As the leader in the sleep field, the AASM sets standards and promotes excellence in sleep medicine health care, education and research (aasm.org).