

## 'Doc, this election's killing me!'

October 13 2016

---



(HealthDay)—As Donald and Hillary duke it out on the campaign trail, Americans are feeling pummeled, too, a new poll finds.

The 24/7 coverage of the acrimonious U.S. presidential election has caused stress for more than half of American adults, regardless of party affiliation, according to a survey conducted by the American Psychological Association (APA).

"We're seeing that it doesn't matter whether you're registered as a Democrat or Republican—U.S. adults say they are experiencing significant stress from the current election," said Lynn Bufka, APA's associate executive director for practice research and policy.

"Election stress becomes exacerbated by arguments, stories, images and video on social media that can heighten concern and frustration, particularly with thousands of comments that can range from factual to hostile or even inflammatory," she added in an association news release.

You can minimize your discomfort, however, by reducing your media exposure and avoiding political discussions, the association suggests.

Overall, 52 percent of Americans aged 18 and older said the election is a somewhat or very significant source of stress. That included 55 percent who align with Democrats and 59 percent with Republicans.

The survey also found that 38 percent of respondents said political and cultural discussions on social media causes them stress. More than half who use social media said the election is a very or somewhat significant source of stress, compared with 45 percent of those who don't use [social media](#).

Men and women were equally likely to feel stressed by the Trump-Clinton battle, but there were differences between generations.

Only 45 percent of Generation Xers—those born from 1965 to 1980—reported election stress, while nearly six out of 10 "Matures" did

so, according to the online survey conducted in August. Matures were born pre-1946.

In addition, 56 percent of millennials and half of baby boomers said the election is a very or somewhat significant source of stress.

Here are some tips from the APA for taking the election in stride:

- Turn off the newsfeed or take a digital break. Read just enough to stay informed. Take time for yourself, go for a walk, do things you enjoy and spend time with family and friends.
- Avoid discussing the election if there is a risk it may escalate to conflict. Be aware of how often you discuss the election with family, friends or co-workers.
- Worrying about the [election](#) outcome is not productive. Instead, take action on issues that concern you. For example, volunteer in your community, join a local group or advocate for an issue you care about.
- And finally, vote. That should help you feel that you're taking a proactive step.

**More information:** The U.S. National Institute of Mental Health has more about [stress](#).

Copyright © 2016 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: 'Doc, this election's killing me!' (2016, October 13) retrieved 13 January 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-10-doc-election.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.