

## The "Participation Trophy" generation

By Aaron Blake

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A new study from the libertarian magazine *Reason* this week carried with it a pretty striking headline: "65% of Americans Say Millennials Are 'Entitled,' 58% of Millennials Agree" (<http://reason.com/poll/2014/08/19/65-of-americans-say-millennials-are-enti>)

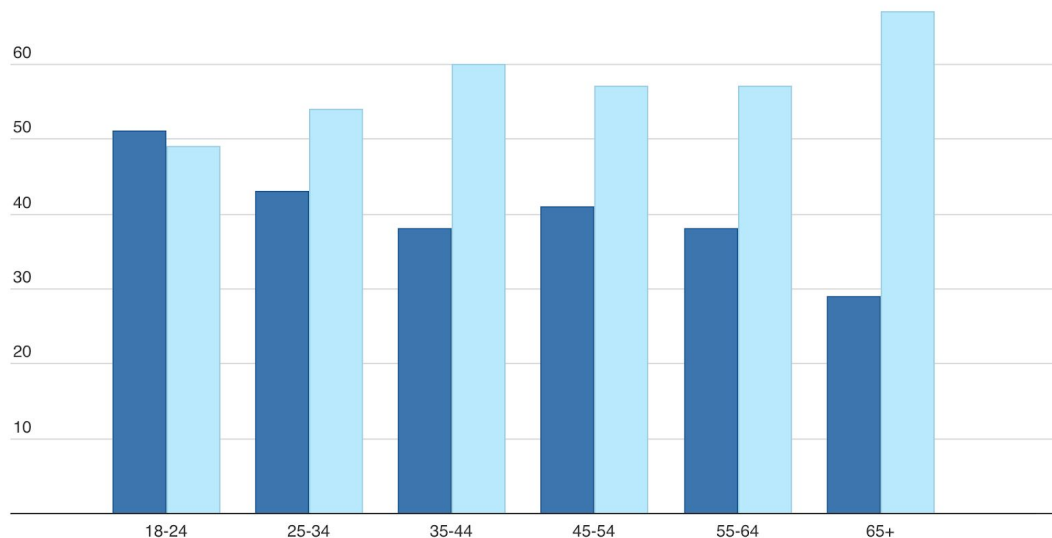
It seems that we have an entitlement issue without young adults -- an issue even those young adults wholly admit to.

But perhaps nothing betrays this point like the following chart. Reason and pollster Rupe asked Americans whether kids who participate in youth sports should get trophies just for playing, or only for winning. A strong majority of Americans (57 percent) said only the winners, but then you look at the age breakdown.

While older Americans are overwhelmingly in favor of trophies for winners only, those 18-24 prefer participation trophies -- albeit by a narrow 51-49 margin.

### Should kids get participation trophies?

■ All kids get trophies ■ Only winners get trophies



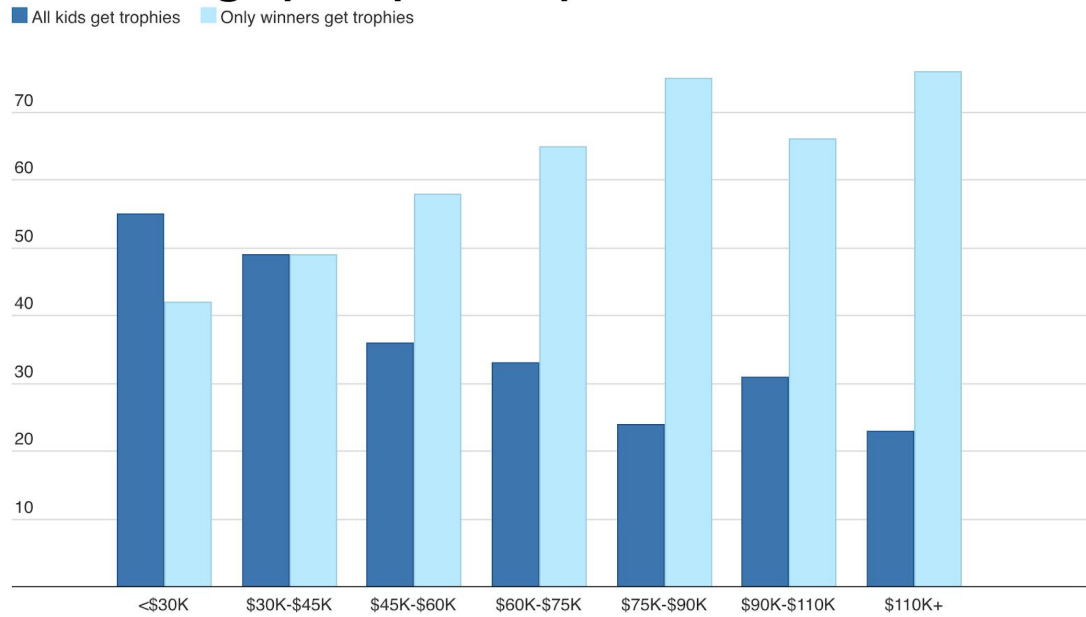
Source: [Reason-Rupe poll](#)

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Perhaps we should start calling those under 25 years old the "participation trophy generation."

It's not just age; as Reason notes, there are vastly different takes on this question when you look at income and education level, too. Here's how that looks:

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