

FRONT PAGE HEALTH POLITICS

# Survey confirms previous research: Left-wingers more prone to mental illness

**WND EXCLUSIVE****Previous Gallup study found Republicans had 'significantly' better mental health than Democrats**

By David Kupelian

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A recently completed survey correlating political orientation with mental illness confirmed the findings of previous studies: Those on the political left are significantly more likely to have been diagnosed with mental illness than those on the right.

The new survey of over 8,000 people, conducted by science blog Slate Star Codex, found that those embracing leftwing political beliefs are more likely to have been diagnosed with a mental illness.

The results, reports Summit News, reveal that the farther left people are, the more likely they are to have been “formally diagnosed with depression, borderline personality disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia.”

“In addition, the results show that the highest percentage of respondents (38%) who admit being diagnosed with forms of mental illness also identify politically as Marxists,” said the report. “In comparison, just 12.1% of conservatives say they have been diagnosed with a mental disorder.”

These findings confirm those of previous studies.

In an extensive series of surveys involving more than 4,000 interviews conducted over the course of four years, Gallup pollsters in 2007 reported that Republicans had "significantly" better mental health than Democrats, with Independents ranking in-between the two parties.

"One could be quick to assume," said Gallup's analysis, "that these differences [in mental health] are based on the underlying demographic and socioeconomic patterns related to party identification in America today," noting that "men, those with higher incomes, those with higher education levels, and whites are more likely than others to report excellent mental health. Some of these patterns describe characteristics of Republicans, of course." However, Gallup revealed, “an analysis of the relationship between party identification and self-reported excellent mental health within various categories of age, gender, church attendance, income, education, and other variables shows that the basic pattern persists regardless of these characteristics. In other words, party identification appears to have an independent effect on mental health even when each of these is controlled for.”

Likewise, a 2013 SurveyMonkey study commissioned by left-leaning website BuzzFeed News found that Democrats suffered mental illness notably more than Republicans in almost every category:

*Does being a Democrat – or a Republican – mean you’re more prone to depression, anxiety, or other mental ailments? To find out, BuzzFeed partnered with SurveyMonkey to ask Americans about their political affiliation and whether or not they’d ever been diagnosed with any of 12 mental health conditions and learning disabilities. SurveyMonkey Audience conducted the online survey exclusively for BuzzFeed, gathering a randomly selected, nationally representative sample of 1,117 people.*

Key survey results, which showed that Democrats were roughly *twice as likely* to have been diagnosed with a mental disorder as Republicans, included: Post-traumatic stress disorder (Democrats 7.95%, Republicans 3.97%), ADD/ADHD (Democrats 9.13%, Republicans 3.97%), anxiety (Democrats 20.84%, Republicans 10.26%), depression (Democrats 34.43%, Republicans 23.51%).

In fact, in every category polled – dyslexia, ADD/ADHD, Asperger's/autism, depression, anxiety, OCD, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, PTSD, narcissistic personality disorder, anorexia and bulimia – Democrats reported higher incidences than Republicans, except for dyslexia.

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**David Kupelian**

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David Kupelian is an award-winning journalist, vice president and managing editor of WND, editor of Whistleblower magazine and widely read columnist. He is also the best-selling author of "The Marketing of Evil" (2005), "How Evil Works" (2010) and most recently, "The Snapping of the American Mind" (2015). Follow him on Facebook.