

YouGov Survey: The American Dream



Sample 1102 U.S. adult citizens
Conducted August 9 - 12, 2024
Margin of Error ±3.9%

1. Do you think there is such a thing as the American Dream?

Yes, there is	64%
No, there is not	22%
Not sure	14%

2. Do you think there was such a thing as the American Dream for previous generations?

Yes, there was	85%
No, there was not	6%
Not sure	10%

3. Which of the following, if any, do you think are major barriers to attaining the American Dream today? Select all that apply.

Cost of living	74%
Housing costs	64%
Corruption	55%
Health-care costs	52%
Taxation	45%
Economic inequality	42%
Education costs	41%
Government	38%
Crime	38%
Prejudice and discrimination	37%
Addiction	34%
Immigration	33%
Democratic policies	32%
Americans' work ethic	29%
Access to jobs	29%
Americans' own choices	29%
Corporations	29%
Access to education	26%
Republican policies	26%
Regulation	21%
Capitalism	21%
None of the above	1%
Not sure	5%

4. Which of the following, if any, do you think were major barriers to attaining the American Dream for previous generations? Select all that apply.

Prejudice and discrimination	46%
Corruption	38%
Economic inequality	37%
Cost of living	30%
Access to education	29%
Taxation	27%
Access to jobs	27%
Government	26%
Americans' own choices	25%
Housing costs	23%
Health-care costs	19%
Education costs	19%
Democratic policies	18%
Corporations	18%
Crime	17%
Capitalism	15%
Regulation	15%
Republican policies	15%
Immigration	14%
Addiction	14%
Americans' work ethic	9%
None of the above	3%
Not sure	12%

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Interviewing Dates	August 9 - 12, 2024
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given prior to November 1, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (33% Democratic, 31% Republican). The weights range from 0.052 to 5.46, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.864.
Number of respondents	1102
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	84 questions not reported.

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1. American Dream Exists

Do you think there is such a thing as the American Dream?

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Yes, there is	64%	68%	59%	59%	55%	67%	72%	67%	50%	65%	57%
No, there is not	22%	20%	24%	24%	28%	22%	14%	21%	24%	20%	31%
Not sure	14%	12%	17%	16%	17%	12%	14%	12%	26%	15%	12%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,099)	(518)	(581)	(226)	(226)	(382)	(265)	(656)	(151)	(146)	(146)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Yes, there is	64%	63%	53%	76%	64%	77%	53%	71%	76%	60%	62%	65%	65%
No, there is not	22%	23%	28%	14%	23%	14%	30%	18%	14%	23%	24%	20%	22%
Not sure	14%	14%	19%	9%	13%	9%	17%	11%	9%	17%	14%	15%	13%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,099)	(365)	(449)	(285)	(436)	(394)	(439)	(312)	(208)	(188)	(223)	(430)	(258)

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2. American Dream Existed

Do you think there was such a thing as the American Dream for previous generations?

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Yes, there was	85%	87%	82%	80%	83%	84%	91%	91%	67%	79%	69%
No, there was not	6%	4%	8%	8%	8%	6%	2%	3%	10%	8%	22%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%	12%	8%	10%	8%	6%	23%	12%	10%
Totals	101%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	100%	99%	101%
Unweighted N	(1,101)	(519)	(582)	(226)	(227)	(383)	(265)	(657)	(152)	(147)	(145)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Yes, there was	85%	82%	82%	90%	85%	92%	82%	88%	91%	84%	90%	82%	84%
No, there was not	6%	7%	8%	3%	6%	3%	8%	4%	4%	6%	3%	7%	7%
Not sure	10%	11%	11%	7%	9%	5%	10%	8%	5%	10%	8%	11%	9%
Totals	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,101)	(365)	(450)	(286)	(436)	(394)	(441)	(313)	(208)	(187)	(223)	(432)	(259)

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3. American Dream Barriers Today

Which of the following, if any, do you think are major barriers to attaining the American Dream today? Select all that apply.

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Cost of living	74%	69%	79%	71%	74%	76%	74%	77%	66%	72%	63%
Housing costs	64%	56%	71%	55%	67%	63%	68%	66%	51%	62%	62%
Corruption	55%	52%	57%	52%	53%	55%	60%	58%	42%	54%	50%
Health-care costs	52%	49%	54%	51%	49%	56%	50%	54%	44%	47%	57%
Taxation	45%	45%	44%	37%	36%	49%	55%	48%	34%	37%	44%
Economic inequality	42%	35%	48%	44%	46%	37%	41%	41%	44%	42%	47%
Education costs	41%	37%	46%	50%	42%	35%	41%	42%	40%	34%	53%
Government	38%	35%	42%	31%	38%	41%	42%	44%	22%	30%	35%
Crime	38%	36%	40%	34%	38%	37%	45%	38%	41%	38%	33%
Prejudice and discrimination	37%	32%	43%	39%	37%	35%	39%	35%	53%	31%	43%
Addiction	34%	29%	39%	28%	33%	34%	40%	37%	29%	24%	31%
Immigration	33%	32%	34%	20%	32%	34%	45%	37%	24%	27%	28%
Democratic policies	32%	35%	28%	19%	23%	37%	45%	38%	13%	19%	24%
Americans' work ethic	29%	27%	31%	23%	27%	29%	38%	33%	20%	20%	24%
Access to jobs	29%	26%	32%	39%	33%	26%	21%	29%	32%	28%	29%
Americans' own choices	29%	31%	27%	28%	30%	26%	34%	32%	23%	25%	21%
Corporations	29%	28%	29%	32%	29%	31%	22%	29%	23%	27%	37%
Access to education	26%	23%	28%	34%	30%	20%	20%	25%	26%	24%	32%
Republican policies	26%	24%	27%	22%	27%	26%	26%	26%	26%	21%	27%
Regulation	21%	25%	17%	13%	20%	20%	31%	24%	10%	12%	26%
Capitalism	21%	17%	24%	27%	29%	16%	15%	21%	18%	20%	27%
None of the above	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%	8%	8%	4%	1%	3%	12%	6%	9%
Unweighted N	(1,102)	(520)	(582)	(226)	(228)	(383)	(265)	(657)	(152)	(147)	(146)

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	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Cost of living	74%	70%	76%	76%	73%	77%	78%	77%	66%	66%	82%	74%	72%
Housing costs	64%	66%	61%	64%	71%	62%	68%	68%	59%	62%	61%	65%	65%
Corruption	55%	48%	54%	63%	52%	64%	58%	55%	54%	53%	53%	59%	52%
Health-care costs	52%	61%	51%	43%	67%	42%	53%	54%	49%	48%	56%	50%	54%
Taxation	45%	30%	45%	60%	25%	61%	49%	46%	44%	38%	49%	46%	44%
Economic inequality	42%	60%	48%	16%	67%	16%	44%	43%	41%	49%	35%	42%	42%
Education costs	41%	51%	41%	32%	57%	31%	41%	48%	39%	41%	41%	40%	43%
Government	38%	21%	39%	57%	19%	60%	42%	38%	35%	31%	39%	43%	35%
Crime	38%	25%	39%	51%	24%	53%	37%	43%	36%	32%	37%	40%	40%
Prejudice and discrimination	37%	59%	36%	15%	63%	14%	40%	34%	39%	36%	37%	40%	34%
Addiction	34%	27%	30%	46%	30%	43%	37%	31%	37%	33%	39%	34%	30%
Immigration	33%	13%	32%	56%	11%	60%	36%	31%	31%	30%	30%	36%	33%
Democratic policies	32%	6%	24%	67%	6%	69%	31%	30%	37%	27%	36%	32%	30%
Americans' work ethic	29%	16%	26%	47%	17%	46%	29%	29%	32%	24%	38%	31%	21%
Access to jobs	29%	36%	31%	20%	35%	20%	32%	32%	20%	30%	24%	33%	27%
Americans' own choices	29%	20%	29%	38%	22%	37%	28%	28%	36%	26%	32%	33%	22%
Corporations	29%	40%	30%	15%	46%	17%	31%	29%	26%	25%	30%	29%	30%
Access to education	26%	37%	29%	10%	44%	11%	26%	25%	25%	21%	26%	27%	26%
Republican policies	26%	48%	24%	4%	53%	4%	26%	28%	26%	31%	24%	24%	25%
Regulation	21%	8%	21%	35%	9%	40%	22%	20%	23%	16%	22%	22%	22%
Capitalism	21%	27%	24%	11%	31%	10%	24%	21%	14%	22%	16%	22%	24%
None of the above	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%
Not sure	5%	4%	9%	2%	3%	1%	6%	4%	0%	5%	3%	6%	4%
Unweighted N	(1,102)	(366)	(450)	(286)	(437)	(394)	(441)	(313)	(208)	(188)	(223)	(432)	(259)

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4. American Dream Barriers Previous Generations

Which of the following, if any, do you think were major barriers to attaining the American Dream for previous generations? Select all that apply.

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Prejudice and discrimination	46%	42%	49%	42%	36%	48%	55%	45%	49%	42%	53%
Corruption	38%	40%	37%	36%	39%	38%	40%	39%	31%	38%	41%
Economic inequality	37%	35%	39%	33%	36%	40%	38%	36%	40%	37%	37%
Cost of living	30%	27%	33%	23%	29%	34%	33%	31%	28%	34%	26%
Access to education	29%	27%	31%	23%	26%	31%	34%	30%	26%	27%	28%
Taxation	27%	31%	24%	20%	19%	29%	38%	29%	21%	27%	22%
Access to jobs	27%	24%	30%	24%	26%	28%	28%	26%	33%	26%	22%
Government	26%	25%	26%	25%	23%	28%	27%	27%	25%	20%	25%
Americans' own choices	25%	26%	25%	26%	22%	22%	31%	27%	26%	22%	13%
Housing costs	23%	19%	27%	20%	21%	24%	26%	21%	27%	27%	23%
Health-care costs	19%	18%	20%	14%	16%	20%	25%	18%	25%	16%	18%
Education costs	19%	15%	22%	17%	14%	19%	25%	18%	23%	18%	17%
Democratic policies	18%	22%	15%	8%	16%	23%	24%	23%	5%	10%	12%
Corporations	18%	19%	18%	18%	14%	19%	21%	18%	16%	20%	21%
Crime	17%	17%	18%	19%	18%	18%	15%	16%	24%	17%	17%
Capitalism	15%	15%	16%	19%	18%	12%	14%	13%	19%	18%	20%
Regulation	15%	19%	11%	15%	12%	15%	17%	15%	11%	16%	22%
Republican policies	15%	16%	13%	14%	13%	16%	15%	14%	20%	12%	14%
Immigration	14%	15%	13%	20%	11%	13%	14%	15%	12%	14%	12%
Addiction	14%	12%	16%	20%	12%	10%	17%	11%	25%	18%	15%
Americans' work ethic	9%	9%	10%	11%	10%	6%	12%	9%	14%	7%	6%
None of the above	3%	4%	1%	1%	6%	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	4%
Not sure	12%	13%	12%	19%	18%	8%	7%	9%	27%	13%	14%
Unweighted N	(1,102)	(520)	(582)	(226)	(228)	(383)	(265)	(657)	(152)	(147)	(146)

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	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Prejudice and discrimination	46%	58%	43%	34%	62%	36%	44%	48%	50%	44%	48%	47%	43%
Corruption	38%	34%	40%	41%	39%	43%	41%	34%	41%	41%	33%	41%	37%
Economic inequality	37%	48%	38%	24%	55%	25%	38%	39%	35%	39%	32%	40%	36%
Cost of living	30%	29%	35%	27%	27%	30%	36%	28%	25%	33%	29%	32%	27%
Access to education	29%	36%	26%	24%	41%	26%	25%	32%	32%	30%	29%	31%	23%
Taxation	27%	17%	28%	37%	15%	37%	28%	28%	26%	25%	35%	26%	23%
Access to jobs	27%	31%	25%	24%	31%	25%	29%	26%	26%	33%	21%	31%	20%
Government	26%	16%	29%	33%	15%	35%	29%	25%	22%	23%	28%	27%	23%
Americans' own choices	25%	19%	25%	31%	23%	28%	26%	24%	26%	26%	27%	26%	22%
Housing costs	23%	25%	25%	18%	24%	20%	28%	23%	16%	26%	19%	22%	26%
Health-care costs	19%	23%	23%	11%	25%	14%	22%	19%	16%	24%	18%	17%	20%
Education costs	19%	22%	17%	16%	24%	18%	20%	18%	17%	22%	18%	18%	18%
Democratic policies	18%	3%	17%	36%	4%	39%	18%	17%	26%	15%	20%	19%	19%
Corporations	18%	21%	20%	13%	25%	13%	20%	18%	19%	13%	17%	18%	23%
Crime	17%	15%	19%	18%	17%	20%	20%	11%	20%	18%	12%	18%	21%
Capitalism	15%	18%	17%	10%	21%	8%	16%	14%	17%	17%	14%	15%	15%
Regulation	15%	9%	17%	19%	9%	20%	17%	12%	16%	10%	15%	16%	18%
Republican policies	15%	27%	12%	5%	28%	5%	14%	15%	19%	21%	14%	12%	14%
Immigration	14%	7%	17%	18%	9%	20%	16%	12%	14%	20%	10%	12%	16%
Addiction	14%	13%	16%	14%	15%	12%	17%	13%	10%	17%	15%	12%	14%
Americans' work ethic	9%	10%	8%	11%	9%	11%	11%	9%	9%	10%	12%	10%	7%
None of the above	3%	5%	1%	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	8%	1%	3%	1%
Not sure	12%	12%	16%	10%	10%	8%	15%	10%	7%	8%	11%	15%	12%
Unweighted N	(1,102)	(366)	(450)	(286)	(437)	(394)	(441)	(313)	(208)	(188)	(223)	(432)	(259)

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Number of respondents	1102
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	84 questions not reported.