

OA.3 Links to surveys

- Survey U.S.: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5dxninfErZ246X3
- Survey U.K.: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_7TCttX32sJZGUnP
- Survey France: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_55Nxjd0VSEVnHBb
- Survey Italy: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_ezmyMMB2lTJgoeh
- Survey Sweden: https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cZxXzaGNNjn6w5L

OA.4 Detailed Survey Questionnaires

Answer options are in *italic*, separated by a semicolon.

1. See Figure OA3

Yes, I would like to take part in this study, and confirm that I AM A U.S. RESIDENT and am 18 or older; No, I would not like to participate.

2. What is your gender?

Male; Female

3. What is your age?

4. What was your TOTAL household income, before taxes, last year (2015)?

\$0 - \$9,999; \$10,000 - \$14,999; \$15,000 - \$19,999; \$20,000 - \$29,999; \$30,000 - \$39,999; \$40,000 - \$49,999; \$50,000 - \$69,999; \$70,000 - \$89,999; \$90,000 - \$109,999; \$110,000 - \$149,999; \$150,000 - \$199,999; \$200,000 +

5. Please indicate your marital status

Single; Married; Other

6. How many children do you have?

I do not have children; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5 or more

7. How would you describe your ethnicity/race?

European American/White; African American/Black; Hispanic/Latino; Asian/Asian American; Other

8. Were you born in the United States?

Yes; No

9. Were both of your parents born in the United States?

Yes; No

10. Where was your father born?

Unites States; South or Central America, or Mexico; Canada; Europe; Asia; Africa; Oceania

11. In which state do you live?
12. In which ZIP code do you live?
13. Which category best describes your highest level of education?
Eighth Grade or less; Some High School; High School degree / GED; Some College; 2-year College Degree; 4-year College Degree; Master's Degree; Doctoral Degree; Professional Degree (JD, MD, MBA)
14. Which category best describes your father's highest level of education?
Eighth Grade or less; Some High School; High School degree / GED; Some College; 2-year College Degree; 4-year College Degree; Master's Degree; Doctoral Degree; Professional Degree (JD, MD, MBA); I come from a single-parent family and my father was not present
15. Which category best describes your mother's highest level of education?
Eighth Grade or less; Some High School; High School degree / GED; Some College; 2-year College Degree; 4-year College Degree; Master's Degree; Doctoral Degree; Professional Degree (JD, MD, MBA); I come from a single-parent family and my mother was not present
16. What is your current employment status?
Full-time employee; Part-time employee; Self-employed or small business owner; Unemployed and looking for work; Student; Not in labor force (for example: retired, or full-time parent)
17. If you compare your job (or your last job if you currently don't have a job) with the job your father had while you were growing up, would you say that the level of status of your job is:
Much higher than my father's; Higher than my father's; About equal to my father's; Lower than my father's; Much lower than my father's; My father did not have a job while I was growing up OR I come from a single-parent family
18. If you compare your job (or your last job if you currently don't have a job) with the job your mother had while you were growing up, would you say that the level of status of your job is:
Much higher than my mother's; Higher than my mother's; About equal to my mother's; Lower than my mother's; Much lower than my mother's; My mother did not have a job while I was growing up OR I come from a single-parent family
19. When you were growing up, compared with American families back then, would you say your family income was:
Far below average; Below average; Average; Above average; Far above average
20. Right now, compared with American families, would you say your own household income is:
Far below average; Below average; Average; Above average; Far above average
21. On economic policy matters, where do you see yourself on the liberal/conservative spectrum?
Very liberal; Liberal; Moderate; Conservative; Very conservative
22. Before proceeding to the next set of questions, we want to ask for your feedback about the responses you provided so far. It is vital to our study that we only include responses from people who devoted their full attention to this study. This will not affect in any way the

payment you will receive for taking this survey. In your honest opinion, should we use your responses, or should we discard your responses since you did not devote your full attention to the questions so far?

Yes, I have devoted full attention to the questions so far and I think you should use my responses for your study; No, I have not devoted full attention to the questions so far and I think you should not use my responses for your study.

23. Do you think the economic system in the United States is:

Basically fair, since all Americans have an equal opportunity to succeed; Basically unfair, since all Americans do not have an equal opportunity to succeed

24. Which has more to do with why a person is poor?

Lack of effort on his or her own part; Circumstances beyond his or her control

25. Which has more to do with why a person is rich?

Because she or he worked harder than others; Because she or he had more advantages than others

26. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government to do what is right?

Never; Only some of the time; Most of the time; Always

27. If children from poor and rich backgrounds have unequal opportunities in life, do you think this is:

Not a problem at all; A small problem; A problem; A serious problem; A very serious problem

28. To reduce the inequality of opportunities between children born in poor and rich families, the government has the ability and the tools to do:

Nothing at all; Not much; Some; A lot

29. We would now like to ask you what you think about the life opportunities of children from very poor families.

For the following questions, we focus on 500 families that represent the U.S. population. We divide them into five groups on the basis of their income, with each group containing 100 families. These groups are: the poorest 100 families, the second poorest 100 families, the middle 100 families, the second richest 100 families, and the richest 100 families.

In the following questions, we will ask you to evaluate the chances that children born in one of the poorest 100 families, once they grow up, will belong to any of these income groups.

Please fill out the entries to the right of the figure below to tell us, in your opinion, how many out of 100 children coming from the poorest 100 families will grow up to be in each income group.

From our experience, this question will take you at the very least 1 minute to answer.

Please note that your entries need to add up to 100 or you will not be able to move on to the next page.

Figure 1 here.

30. Do you think the chances that a child from the poorest 100 families will grow up to be among the richest 100 families are:

Close to zero; Low; Fairly low; Fairly high; High

31. Do you think the chances that a child from the poorest 100 families will grow up to be among the second richest 100 families are:

Close to zero; Low; Fairly low; Fairly high; High

32. We are still interested in the life opportunities of children from very poor families, but we now focus on a different group of poor children.

From our experience, this question will take you at the very least 45 seconds to answer.

Consider 100 children coming from the poorest 100 families.

These children are very determined and put in hard work both at school and, later in life, when finding a job and doing that job.

Please fill out the entries to the right of the figure below to tell us, in your opinion, how many out of these 100 children will grow up to be in each income group.

Please note that your entries need to add up to 100 or you will not be able to move on to the next page.

Figure 1 here.

33. Do you think the chances that one of these hard working children will grow up to be among the richest 100 families are:

Close to zero; Low; Fairly low; Fairly high; High

34. Do you think the chances that one of these hard working children will grow up to be among the second richest 100 families are:

Close to zero; Low; Fairly low; Fairly high; High

35. We are still interested in the life opportunities of children from very poor families, but we now focus on a different group of poor children.

From our experience, this question will take you at the very least 45 seconds to answer.

Consider 100 children coming from the poorest 100 families.

These children are very talented.

Please fill out the entries to the right of the figure below to tell us, in your opinion, how many out of these 100 children will grow up to be in each income group.

Please note that your entries need to add up to 100 or you will not be able to move on to the next page.

Figure 1 here.

36. Do you think the chances that one of these talented children will grow up to be among the richest 100 families are:

Close to zero; Low; Fairly low; Fairly high; High

37. Do you think the chances that one of these talented children will grow up to be among the second richest 100 families are:

Close to zero; Low; Fairly low; Fairly high; High

38. How do you feel about the following statement?

"In the United States everybody has a chance to make it and be economically successful."

Strongly agree; Agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Disagree; Strongly disagree

39. Some people think that the government should not concern itself with making the opportunities for children from poor and rich families less unequal. Others think that the government should do everything in its power to make the opportunities for children from poor and rich families less unequal. Think of a score of 1 as meaning that the government should not concern itself with making the opportunities for children from poor and rich families less unequal, and a score of 7 meaning that the government should do everything in its power to reduce this inequality of opportunities.

What score between 1 and 7 comes closest to the way you feel?

1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7

40. What do you think would do more to make the opportunities for children from poor and rich families less unequal?

Lowering taxes on wealthy people and corporations to encourage more investment in economic growth; Raising taxes on wealthy people and corporations to expand programs for the poor.

41. Do you support more policies to increase the opportunities for children born in poor families and to foster more equality of opportunity, such as education policies? Naturally, to finance an expansion of policies promoting equal opportunity, it would have to be the case that either other policies are scaled down or taxes are raised.

I very strongly oppose more policies promoting equality of opportunity; I oppose more policies promoting equality of opportunity; I am indifferent; I support more policies promoting equality of opportunity; I very strongly support more policies promoting equality of opportunity.

42. In the next two questions, we ask you to think about the total level of funds that the government raises and spends today on various policies. For the purpose of these questions, suppose that the level of government spending is fixed at its current level and cannot be changed. We will ask about your views on two aspects:

- First, on the fair split of the tax burden to raise this level of funds.
- Second, on how you think the government should spend this level of funds.

43. See Figure OA1

44. We now ask you how you would like to spend the total government budget. Suppose that you are the person deciding on the U.S. budget for the next year. You can choose how you want to divide the budget (in percent) between the following 6 categories:

See Figure OA2

45. The estate tax is a tax on the transfer of wealth from a deceased person to her heirs. This tax applies only to individuals with wealth above a certain threshold. On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate your support for the estate tax, where 1 means do not support at all and 5 means strongly support?

1; 2; 3; 4; 5

46. Do you feel that this survey was biased?

Yes, left-wing bias; Yes, right-wing bias; No, it did not feel bias

47. Please feel free to give us any feedback or impression regarding this survey.