

Survey: Most Americans want government commitment to reduce inequality

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A new poll finds that a majority of Americans say that the federal government should commit to reducing economic inequality in this country over the next year, considering the spread of coronavirus in the United States and its impact on the economy and the American people.

A [national survey](#) conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of Lehigh University of 2,018 Americans, conducted between April 7-9, 2020, finds that 78 percent of Americans agree that "considering the spread of coronavirus in the United States and its impact on the economy and the American people," it is "somewhat" or "very important" that "the U.S. government commit to reducing [economic inequality](#)" over the next year, through things like "raising the [minimum wage](#)" and "taxing households making more than \$250,000 a year to guarantee health care coverage to all Americans who lack access." Only 22 percent feel reducing inequality through these actions is "not very important" or "not at all important."

As the [polling data show](#), public attitudes on inequality reduction vary by income, age, and between renters and homeowners. Support for inequality reduction is highest among Americans, age 35-44 (88%, compared to 82% of 18-34, 80% of 45-54, 74% of 55-64 and 67% of 65+), individuals with household incomes of less than \$100,000 a year (81% compared to 73% of those with HHI of \$100K+), and renters (84%, compared to 76% of homeowners).

Opinions about the inequality divide are divided. Fifty-seven percent of Americans agree that "in a time of growing [economic instability](#) and rising unemployment claims, the U.S. is increasingly divided between the 'haves' and 'have-nots.'" By comparison, 43 percent agree that "recent economic troubles are only temporary, and the economy will soon bounce back, so it makes little sense to speak of 'haves' and 'have-nots.'" Groups that are most likely to agree that the U.S. is divided include younger Americans, aged 18-34 (64%, compared to 54% of 35-54, and 51% of 65+), individuals with household incomes of less than \$50,000 a year (61%, compared to 53% of those with HHI of \$100k+), and women (60%, compared to 54% of men).

Provided by Lehigh University

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