



Cato Institute 2019 Welfare, Work, and Wealth Survey

Cato Institute/YouGov

N=1,700

Margin of error +/- 2.2%. Columns may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Of the following, which three reasons do you think are the most important in determining a person's wealth or success? Select up to three.

■ Hard work and grit	50%
■ Ambition	38%
■ Family connections	31%
■ Risk taking	29%
■ Education	27%
■ Inheritance	27%
■ Self-discipline and delayed gratification	27%
■ Getting lucky	20%
■ Natural intelligence	18%
■ Race and gender	11%
■ Government favors	9%

2. Of the following, which three reasons do you think are most responsible for the problem of poverty in this country? Select up to three.

■ Poor life choices	42%
■ Drugs/alcohol	40%
■ Lack of job opportunities	29%
■ Breakdown of families	29%
■ Lack of a work ethic	29%
■ Lack of educational opportunities	27%
■ Discrimination (e.g. racism, sexism)	25%
■ The country's economic system is unfair	22%
■ Government programs keeps people poor	14%
■ Lack of government help	13%
■ Lack of role models	8%
■ Lack of delayed gratification	7%

3. Do you think government spending on food assistance to low-income people, such as food stamps or SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

■ <i>Net-decrease</i>	25%
■ <i>Keep same</i>	33%
■ <i>Net-increase</i>	41%
■ Decrease a great deal	10%
■ Decrease somewhat	15%
■ Keep about the same	33%
■ Increase somewhat	21%
■ Increase a great deal	21%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

4. In your opinion, what is more often the cause if people are poor?

■ Lack of effort or discipline on their own part	41%
■ Circumstances beyond their control	58%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

5. Do you think that most poor people who receive welfare benefits...

■ Prefer to stay on welfare	45%
■ Would rather earn their own living	54%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

6. What would you say is the main purpose behind welfare?

■ To help poor people climb out of poverty	39%
■ To simply provide for peoples' basic needs while they are poor	60%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

7. In general, do you think that welfare benefits...

■ Give poor people a chance to stand on their own two feet and get started again	54%
■ Make poor people dependent and encourage them to stay poor	45%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

8. Do you think it's better to spend what money we have trying to eliminate the causes of poverty or to give what money we have to poor people so they can get on their feet?

■ Eliminate the causes of poverty	70%
■ Give money to poor people so they can get on their feet	29%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

9. How effective would you say government efforts to fight poverty have been over the past 10-15 years?

■ <i>Net-effective</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-not effective</i>	77%
■ Not effective	34%
■ Not very effective	43%
■ Somewhat effective	18%
■ Very effective	5%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

10. If the government were willing to spend whatever is necessary to eliminate poverty in the United States, do you think the government knows enough about how to accomplish that?

■ Yes	26%
■ No	72%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

11. Which do you believe will do more to help people get out of poverty?

■ More economic growth	79%
■ More welfare spending	19%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

12. If you were looking for a job, would you be willing to move to another state to find work?

■ Yes	64%
■ No	35%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) Hard work is its own reward

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	80%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	18%
■ Strongly disagree	4%
■ Somewhat disagree	15%
■ Somewhat agree	40%
■ Strongly agree	40%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

b) I feel like I have purpose in my life; my life has meaning

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	83%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	16%
■ Strongly disagree	5%
■ Somewhat disagree	10%
■ Somewhat agree	37%
■ Strongly agree	46%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

14. Which do you think is more important?

■ Planning for the future and giving up things now if necessary	59%
■ Taking one day at a time and living it to the fullest	40%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

15. What do you think is more important in your life?

- Working hard and doing what is expected of you 52%
- Doing the things in life that give you personal satisfaction and pleasure 47%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

16. Do you think all kids who play sports should receive a trophy for their participation, or should only the winning players be awarded trophies?

- All the kids who play should receive trophies 27%
- Only the winning players should receive trophies 72%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

Summary Table 1

	NET FAVORABLE	NET UNFAVORABLE
Would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of...?		
■ Capitalism	59%	39%
■ Socialism	39%	59%

17. Would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of...?

a) Capitalism

- *Net-favorable* 59%
- *Net-unfavorable* 39%
- Very unfavorable 14%
- Somewhat unfavorable 25%
- Somewhat favorable 30%
- Very favorable 30%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

b) Socialism

- *Net-favorable* 39%
- *Net-unfavorable* 59%
- Very unfavorable 39%
- Somewhat unfavorable 20%
- Somewhat favorable 29%
- Very favorable 10%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

18. Do you favor or oppose raising taxes on families with incomes over \$200,000 per year?

- *Net-favor* 61%
- *Net-oppose* 38%
- Strongly oppose 18%
- Somewhat oppose 21%
- Somewhat favor 33%
- Strongly favor 28%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

19. Do you favor or oppose a recent proposal to increase the marginal tax rate on income over \$10 million a year to 70%?

- *Net-favor* 53%
- *Net-oppose* 46%
- Strongly oppose 24%
- Somewhat oppose 21%
- Somewhat favor 24%
- Strongly favor 29%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) Wealth should be taken from the rich and given to the poor

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	37%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	62%
■ Strongly disagree	34%
■ Somewhat disagree	29%
■ Somewhat agree	23%
■ Strongly agree	13%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) Inequality in the distribution of wealth is unjust

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	55%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	44%
■ Strongly disagree	22%
■ Somewhat disagree	22%
■ Somewhat agree	31%
■ Strongly agree	25%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

21. On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates you feel very cold and unfavorable and 100 indicates you feel very warm and favorable, how would you rate your feelings toward...

a) Attitudes toward the rich (Median: 51)

■ <i>Net-unfavorable</i>	32%
■ <i>Net-favorable</i>	46%
■ Very unfavorable (0-24)	12%
■ Somewhat unfavorable (25-48)	20%
■ Neutral (49-51)	22%
■ Somewhat favorable (52-75)	25%
■ Very favorable (76-100)	21%
■ Total	100%

b) Attitudes toward the poor (Median: 70)

■ <i>Net-unfavorable</i>	8%
■ <i>Net-favorable</i>	70%
■ Very unfavorable (0-24)	2%
■ Somewhat unfavorable (25-48)	6%
■ Neutral (49-51)	21%
■ Somewhat favorable (52-75)	30%
■ Very favorable (76-100)	40%
■ Total	100%

22. Do you think people should be allowed to become billionaires?

■ Yes	82%
■ No	17%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

Summary Table 2

	NET AGREE	NET DISAGREE
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?		
■ There is nothing wrong with a person trying to make as much money as they honestly can	84%	15%
■ People admire rich people too much	75%	24%
■ Billionaires earned their wealth by creating value for other people, like inventing new technologies or starting businesses that improve people's lives	69%	30%
■ We are all better off when people get rich because they invest their money in new businesses that create jobs and new technology	65%	34%
■ We shouldn't let people get too rich in this country because rich people have too much political power and threaten democracy	42%	57%
■ Billionaires are a threat to Democracy	37%	62%
■ It's immoral for society to allow people to become billionaires	23%	75%
■ I feel angry when I read or hear about very rich people	23%	76%

23. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) There is nothing wrong with a person trying to make as much money as they honestly can

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	84%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	15%
■ Strongly disagree	4%
■ Somewhat disagree	12%
■ Somewhat agree	30%
■ Strongly agree	54%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) We are all better off when people get rich because they invest their money in new businesses that create jobs and new technology

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	65%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	34%
■ Strongly disagree	12%
■ Somewhat disagree	22%
■ Somewhat agree	38%
■ Strongly agree	27%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

c) Billionaires earned their wealth by creating value for other people, like inventing new technologies or starting businesses that improve people's lives

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	69%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	30%
■ Strongly disagree	9%
■ Somewhat disagree	21%
■ Somewhat agree	42%
■ Strongly agree	26%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) We shouldn't let people get too rich in this country because rich people have too much political power and threaten democracy

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	42%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	57%
■ Strongly disagree	27%
■ Somewhat disagree	29%
■ Somewhat agree	25%
■ Strongly agree	17%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

e) People admire rich people too much

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	75%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	24%
■ Strongly disagree	6%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Somewhat agree	41%
■ Strongly agree	34%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

f) Billionaires are a threat to Democracy

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	37%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	62%
■ Strongly disagree	30%
■ Somewhat disagree	32%
■ Somewhat agree	25%
■ Strongly agree	12%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

g) It's immoral for society to allow people to become billionaires

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	75%
■ Strongly disagree	46%
■ Somewhat disagree	29%
■ Somewhat agree	15%
■ Strongly agree	8%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

h) I feel angry when I read or hear about very rich people

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	76%
■ Strongly disagree	42%
■ Somewhat disagree	34%
■ Somewhat agree	17%
■ Strongly agree	6%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

24. If you had to choose, do you feel more admiration or resentment of rich people?

■ Admiration	71%
■ Resentment	28%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

25. Do you think citizens taking violent action against the rich is ever justified?

■ Yes, sometimes justified	17%
■ No, never justified	82%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

26. Do you think most rich people in this country earned their wealth or do you think that most rich people in this country got rich by taking advantage of other people?

■ Most earned their wealth	60%
■ Most took advantage of other people	39%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

27. During the past 12 months, did you volunteer your time, or donate money, food, or clothing to charity or a community group?

■ Volunteered or donated in the last 12 months	71%
■ Neither in the past 12 months	28%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

Summary Table 3

	GOOD	BAD
Thinking about where you live, how would you rate the conditions for each of the following?		
■ Finding decent, affordable housing	55%	44%
■ Moving up financially	60%	39%
■ Finding good jobs	63%	36%
■ Accessing a decent education for your children	73%	25%

28. Thinking about where you live, how would you rate the conditions for each of the following?

a) Finding good jobs

■ <i>Net-good</i>	63%
■ <i>Net-bad</i>	36%
■ Very bad	10%
■ Somewhat bad	26%
■ Somewhat good	43%
■ Very good	19%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

b) Finding decent, affordable housing

■ <i>Net-good</i>	55%
■ <i>Net-bad</i>	44%
■ Very bad	17%
■ Somewhat bad	27%
■ Somewhat good	37%
■ Very good	18%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

c) Accessing a decent education for your children

■ <i>Net-good</i>	73%
■ <i>Net-bad</i>	25%
■ Very bad	6%
■ Somewhat bad	19%
■ Somewhat good	47%
■ Very good	27%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) Moving up financially

■ <i>Net-good</i>	60%
■ <i>Net-bad</i>	39%
■ Very bad	11%
■ Somewhat bad	28%
■ Somewhat good	43%
■ Very good	17%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

Summary Table 4

	MORE DIFFICULT	SAME	EASIER
Thinking over the past few years, has it become easier or more difficult to afford the following, or has it stayed about the same?			
■ Education costs	48%	40%	10%
■ Food	42%	41%	15%
■ Monthly utility bills	41%	43%	14%
■ Your rent or mortgage	38%	45%	15%
■ Gas/other transportation costs	37%	40%	20%
■ Credit card bills	37%	44%	17%
■ Childcare	35%	49%	12%

29. Thinking over the past few years, has it become easier or more difficult to afford the following, or has it stayed about the same?

a) Education costs

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	10%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	40%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	48%
■ Much more difficult	23%
■ Somewhat more difficult	25%
■ Stayed about the same	40%
■ Somewhat easier	5%
■ Much easier	5%
■ Don't v/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

b) Gas/other transportation costs

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	20%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	40%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	37%
■ Much more difficult	11%
■ Somewhat more difficult	26%
■ Stayed about the same	40%
■ Somewhat easier	15%
■ Much easier	5%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

c) Monthly utility bills

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	14%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	43%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	41%
■ Much more difficult	12%
■ Somewhat more difficult	29%
■ Stayed about the same	43%
■ Somewhat easier	9%
■ Much easier	5%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

d) Your rent or mortgage

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	15%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	45%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	38%
■ Much more difficult	14%
■ Somewhat more difficult	24%
■ Stayed about the same	45%
■ Somewhat easier	9%
■ Much easier	6%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

e) Food

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	15%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	41%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	42%
■ Much more difficult	12%
■ Somewhat more difficult	31%
■ Stayed about the same	41%
■ Somewhat easier	10%
■ Much easier	6%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

f) Childcare

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	12%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	49%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	35%
■ Much more difficult	15%
■ Somewhat more difficult	21%
■ Stayed about the same	49%
■ Somewhat easier	6%
■ Much easier	7%
■ Don't know/Refused	3%
■ Total	100%

g) Credit card bills

■ <i>Net-easier</i>	17%
■ <i>Stayed about the same</i>	44%
■ <i>Net-more difficult</i>	37%
■ Much more difficult	14%
■ Somewhat more difficult	23%
■ Stayed about the same	44%
■ Somewhat easier	9%
■ Much easier	8%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

30. Have you ever received any form of government welfare assistance such as food stamps, cash welfare (TANF), housing assistance or other form of assistance?

■ No	68%
■ Yes	32%
■ Total	100%

31. [IF Q30=YES] Are you currently receiving any form of government welfare assistance such as food stamps (SNAP), cash welfare (TANF), housing assistance or other form of assistance?

■ Yes	53%
■ No	47%
■ Total	100%

32. Have you ever experienced any of the following? Select all that apply.

■ Taken out a mortgage on a home, of any duration	40%
■ Received any form of government welfare assistance such as food stamps, cash welfare (TANF), housing assistance or other form of assistance	32%
■ Taken out a student loan for any portion of education, including private primary school, secondary education, or a graduate degree	27%
■ Received a sum of money, property, or other assets valued at more than \$10,000 from an inheritance	17%
■ Received a more than 10 percent pay raise from taking a new position at a new company	16%

33. Was there any time during the past 12 months when you were worried that income from all the members of your household would not be enough to meet all the expenses and bills, or not?

■ Yes worried, and I could not pay expenses/bills	21%
■ Yes worried, but was able to pay expenses/bills	42%
■ No, not worried about meeting expenses/bills	36%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

34. Has the lack of a credential or license ever prevented you, or someone you know, from getting a job you, or they, were capable of doing?

■ Yes	34%
■ No	48%
■ Not sure	17%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

35. If the costs were the same, where would you prefer to send your kids to school?

- Private school 55%
- Public school 44%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

36. Do you favor or oppose offering higher salaries to school teachers who teach math and science classes?

- *Net-favor* 65%
- *Net-oppose* 34%
- Strongly oppose 10%
- Somewhat oppose 24%
- Somewhat favor 43%
- Strongly favor 22%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

37. A proposal has been made to offer a tax credit for people and businesses who donate towards scholarships to help parents send their children to private school if they choose. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?

- *Net-favor* 61%
- *Net-oppose* 37%
- Strongly oppose 15%
- Somewhat oppose 22%
- Somewhat favor 40%
- Strongly favor 21%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

38. A proposal has been made that would give all families with children in public school a wider choice, by allowing them to use a voucher to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

- *Net-support* 58%
- *Net-oppose* 40%
- Strongly oppose 17%
- Somewhat oppose 22%
- Somewhat support 32%
- Strongly support 26%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

39. Do you think that giving parents more ability to choose which school their child attends, public or private, would help reduce poverty?

- Yes 38%
- No 34%
- Don't know 27%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

40. Would you favor or oppose building more houses, condos, and apartment buildings in your community?

- *Net-favor* 59%
- *Net-oppose* 39%
- Strongly oppose 12%
- Somewhat oppose 27%
- Somewhat favor 40%
- Strongly favor 20%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

41. Would you favor or oppose building more houses, condos, and apartments in your community if it meant it would be easier for people to afford housing in your neighborhood?

- *Net-favor* 71%
- *Net-oppose* 28%
- Strongly oppose 10%
- Somewhat oppose 18%
- Somewhat favor 40%
- Strongly favor 30%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

42. Have expensive housing costs ever prevented you from moving to a better location?

- Yes 56%
- No 42%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

43. Has a criminal record ever been a barrier to finding a job for you or someone you know?

- Yes, for me 7%
- Yes, for someone I know 21%
- No 65%
- Not sure 8%

44. Do you believe that the criminal justice system treats people like you fairly?

- Yes 37%
- No 40%
- Not sure 22%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

45. Would you favor or oppose re-categorizing drug offenses from felonies to civil offenses, meaning they would be treated like minor traffic violations rather than crimes?

- *Net-favor* 55%
- *Net-oppose* 44%
- Strongly oppose 20%
- Somewhat oppose 25%
- Somewhat favor 27%
- Strongly favor 27%
- Don't know/Refused 1%
- Total 100%

46. How good a job would you say our criminal justice system does in preparing prison inmates for finding a job and being a productive member of society after they get out of prison??

- Poor 52%
- Fair 32%
- Good 11%
- Excellent 3%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

47) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

- Strongly approve 26%
- Somewhat approve 20%
- Somewhat disapprove 10%
- Strongly disapprove 43%
- Total 100%

48) Has Donald Trump made you like capitalism more, less, or had no impact on your view of capitalism?

- Like capitalism less 26%
- No impact on my opinion of capitalism 58%
- Like capitalism more 16%
- Don't know/Refused 0%
- Total 100%

49) Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

- The government should promote traditional values in our society 55%
- The government should not favor any particular set of values 43%
- Don't know/Refused 2%
- Total 100%

50) If you had to choose, would you rather have a:

- Smaller government providing fewer services with low taxes 59%
- Bigger government providing more services with high taxes 37%
- Don't know/Refused 3%
- Total 100%

DISPOSITIONS TOWARD ENVY

Summary Table 5

	NET-FRUSTRATED	NET-NOT FRUSTRATED
Recall a situation in which someone else was better off than you were. For example, someone who got a better grade than you, made more money, got promoted above you, or won a prestigious award, etc. When you think about this situation did you feel...		
■ Frustrated at not obtaining what they have?	51%	49%
■ Frustrated at the other person and their advantage?	43%	56%

51. Recall a situation in which someone else was better off than you were. For example, someone who got a better grade than you, made more money, got promoted above you, or won a prestigious award, etc. When you think about this situation did you feel...

a) Frustrated at the other person and their advantage?

■ <i>Net-frustrated</i>	43%
■ <i>Net-not frustrated</i>	56%
■ Extremely frustrated	6%
■ Very frustrated	9%
■ A little frustrated	28%
■ Not very frustrated	26%
■ Not at all frustrated	30%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) Frustrated at not obtaining what they have?

■ <i>Net-frustrated</i>	51%
■ <i>Net-not frustrated</i>	49%
■ Extremely frustrated	6%
■ Very frustrated	9%
■ A little frustrated	36%
■ Not very frustrated	22%
■ Not at all frustrated	26%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

Summary Table 6

	NET-DESCRIBES WELL	NET-DOES NOT DESCRIBE WELL
Recall a situation in which someone else was better off than you were. For example, someone who got a better grade than you, made more money, got promoted above you, or won a prestigious award, etc. How well do the following statements describe how you felt during that situation?		
■ I tried harder to achieve my goals	82%	16%
■ I admired the other person	76%	22%
■ I did not really like the other person at that time	32%	66%
■ I hoped that the other person would fail at something	25%	73%
■ I was angry at the other person	23%	75%
■ I wanted to hurt the other person	13%	85%

52. Recall a situation in which someone else was better off than you were. For example, someone who got a better grade than you, made more money, got promoted above you, or won a prestigious award, etc. How well do the following statements describe how you felt during that situation?

a) I did not really like the other person at that time

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	32%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	66%
■ Extremely well	5%
■ Very well	8%
■ Somewhat well	19%
■ Not very well	26%
■ Not at all well	41%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

b) I was angry at the other person

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	75%
■ Extremely well	4%
■ Very well	6%
■ Somewhat well	13%
■ Not very well	23%
■ Not at all well	52%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

c) I hoped that the other person would fail at something

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	25%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	73%
■ Extremely well	5%
■ Very well	7%
■ Somewhat well	14%
■ Not very well	24%
■ Not at all well	49%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

d) I wanted to hurt the other person

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	13%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	85%
■ Extremely well	4%
■ Very well	4%
■ Somewhat well	6%
■ Not very well	11%
■ Not at all well	74%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

e) I tried harder to achieve my goals

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	82%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	16%
■ Extremely well	21%
■ Very well	31%
■ Somewhat well	31%
■ Not very well	10%
■ Not at all well	6%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

f) I admired the other person

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	76%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	22%
■ Extremely well	13%
■ Very well	25%
■ Somewhat well	38%
■ Not very well	13%
■ Not at all well	9%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

Summary Table 7

	NET-DESCRIBES WELL	NET-DOES NOT DESCRIBE WELL
<p>Recall a situation in which someone else was better off than you were. For example, someone who got a better grade than you, made more money, got promoted above you, or won a prestigious award, etc. Imagine that person would suffer a minor misfortune such as stumbling clumsily in a busy street for everyone to see, or spilling wine on his or her shirt at a fancy party. How well do the following statements describe how you might feel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I would feel sympathy for him/her ■ I would be a little amused by what happened to him/her ■ I would be pleased by the little misfortune that happened to him/her 	<p style="text-align: right;">82%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">42%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25%</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">57%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">73%</p>

53. Recall a situation in which someone else was better off than you were. For example, someone who got a better grade than you, made more money, got promoted above you, or won a prestigious award, etc. Imagine that person would suffer a minor misfortune such as stumbling clumsily in a busy street for everyone to see, or spilling wine on his or her shirt at a fancy party. How well do the following statements describe how you might feel?

a) I would be a little amused by what happened to him/her

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	42%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	57%
■ Extremely well	6%
■ Very well	10%
■ Somewhat well	26%
■ Not very well	27%
■ Not at all well	30%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) I would be pleased by the little misfortune that happened to him/her

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	25%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	73%
■ Extremely well	5%
■ Very well	6%
■ Somewhat well	14%
■ Not very well	26%
■ Not at all well	47%
■ Don't know/Refused	2%
■ Total	100%

c) I would feel sympathy for him/her

■ <i>Net-describes well</i>	82%
■ <i>Net-does not describe well</i>	17%
■ Extremely well	21%
■ Very well	31%
■ Somewhat well	30%
■ Not very well	9%
■ Not at all well	8%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

DISPOSITIONS TOWARD HIGH ACHIEVERS

Summary Table 8

	NET-AGREE	NEITHER	NET-DISAGREE
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
■ It's very important for society to support and encourage people who are very successful	40%	41%	19%
■ People at the top usually deserve their high position	38%	34%	26%
■ One ought to be sympathetic to very successful people when they experience failure	36%	41%	22%
■ It's good to see very successful people fail occasionally	30%	35%	34%
■ People who always do a lot better than others need to learn what it's like to fail	30%	36%	34%
■ Very successful people sometimes need to be brought a peg or two, even if they have done nothing wrong	18%	28%	52%

54. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) It's good to see very successful people fail occasionally

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	30%
■ <i>Neither</i>	35%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	34%
■ Strongly disagree	16%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	35%
■ Somewhat agree	23%
■ Strongly agree	7%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) People at the top usually deserve their high position

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	38%
■ <i>Neither</i>	34%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	26%
■ Strongly disagree	9%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	34%
■ Somewhat agree	28%
■ Strongly agree	10%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

c) Very successful people sometimes need to be brought a peg or two, even if they have done nothing wrong

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	18%
■ <i>Neither</i>	28%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	52%
■ Strongly disagree	28%
■ Somewhat disagree	25%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	28%
■ Somewhat agree	12%
■ Strongly agree	7%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) It's very important for society to support and encourage people who are very successful

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	40%
■ <i>Neither</i>	41%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	19%
■ Strongly disagree	7%
■ Somewhat disagree	12%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	41%
■ Somewhat agree	25%
■ Strongly agree	14%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

e) People who always do a lot better than others need to learn what it's like to fail

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	30%
■ <i>Neither</i>	36%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	34%
■ Strongly disagree	16%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	36%
■ Somewhat agree	21%
■ Strongly agree	9%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

f) One ought to be sympathetic to very successful people when they experience failure

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	36%
■ <i>Neither</i>	41%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	22%
■ Strongly disagree	8%
■ Somewhat disagree	14%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	41%
■ Somewhat agree	28%
■ Strongly agree	9%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

LOCUS OF CONTROL

Summary Table 9

	NET-AGREE	NEITHER	NET-DISAGREE
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
■ When I get what I want, it's usually because I worked hard for it	78%	16%	6%
■ My life is determined by my own actions	74%	16%	9%
■ I am usually able to protect my personal interests	71%	20%	8%
■ When I make plans, I am almost certain to make them work	66%	23%	11%
■ Whether or not I get to be a leader depends mostly on my ability	65%	22%	12%
■ How many friends I have depends on how nice a person I am	43%	30%	26%
■ Whether or not I get into a car accident depends mostly on how good a driver I am	42%	28%	29%
■ People like myself have very little chance of protecting our personal interests when they conflict with those of strong pressure groups	34%	34%	30%
■ I feel like what happens in my life is mostly determined by powerful people	23%	29%	47%

55. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) Whether or not I get to be a leader depends mostly on my ability

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	65%
■ <i>Neither</i>	22%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	12%
■ Strongly disagree	5%
■ Somewhat disagree	7%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	22%
■ Somewhat agree	38%
■ Strongly agree	27%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) Whether or not I get into a car accident depends mostly on how good a driver I am

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	42%
■ <i>Neither</i>	28%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	29%
■ Strongly disagree	10%
■ Somewhat disagree	19%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	28%
■ Somewhat agree	29%
■ Strongly agree	12%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

c) When I make plans, I am almost certain to make them work

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	66%
■ <i>Neither</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	11%
■ Strongly disagree	3%
■ Somewhat disagree	8%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	23%
■ Somewhat agree	44%
■ Strongly agree	22%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) How many friends I have depends on how nice a person I am

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	43%
■ <i>Neither</i>	30%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	26%
■ Strongly disagree	11%
■ Somewhat disagree	15%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	30%
■ Somewhat agree	29%
■ Strongly agree	14%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

e) I am usually able to protect my personal interests

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	71%
■ <i>Neither</i>	20%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	8%
■ Strongly disagree	2%
■ Somewhat disagree	5%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	20%
■ Somewhat agree	49%
■ Strongly agree	22%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

f) When I get what I want, it's usually because I worked hard for it

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	78%
■ <i>Neither</i>	16%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	6%
■ Strongly disagree	2%
■ Somewhat disagree	4%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	16%
■ Somewhat agree	35%
■ Strongly agree	43%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

g) My life is determined by my own actions

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	74%
■ <i>Neither</i>	16%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	9%
■ Strongly disagree	3%
■ Somewhat disagree	6%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	16%
■ Somewhat agree	37%
■ Strongly agree	37%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

i) People like myself have very little chance of protecting our personal interests when they conflict with those of strong pressure groups

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	34%
■ <i>Neither</i>	34%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	30%
■ Strongly disagree	12%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	34%
■ Somewhat agree	24%
■ Strongly agree	10%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

h) I feel like what happens in my life is mostly determined by powerful people

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	23%
■ <i>Neither</i>	29%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	47%
■ Strongly disagree	21%
■ Somewhat disagree	27%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	29%
■ Somewhat agree	16%
■ Strongly agree	7%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

DISPOSITIONAL ENVY

Summary Table 10

	NET-AGREE	NEITHER	NET-DISAGREE
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
■ It is so frustrating to see some people succeed so easily	35%	22%	42%
■ I am troubled by feelings of inadequacy	28%	22%	49%
■ The bitter truth is that I generally feel inferior to others	23%	21%	55%
■ Feelings of envy constantly torment me	12%	16%	71%
■ Frankly, the success of my neighbors makes me resent them	7%	16%	76%

56. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) I am troubled by feelings of inadequacy

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	28%
■ <i>Neither</i>	22%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	49%
■ Strongly disagree	32%
■ Somewhat disagree	17%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	22%
■ Somewhat agree	20%
■ Strongly agree	8%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) Feelings of envy constantly torment me

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	12%
■ <i>Neither</i>	16%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	71%
■ Strongly disagree	52%
■ Somewhat disagree	19%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	16%
■ Somewhat agree	8%
■ Strongly agree	4%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

c) The bitter truth is that I generally feel inferior to others

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	23%
■ <i>Neither</i>	21%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	55%
■ Strongly disagree	37%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	21%
■ Somewhat agree	16%
■ Strongly agree	7%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) It is so frustrating to see some people succeed so easily

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	35%
■ <i>Neither</i>	22%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	42%
■ Strongly disagree	26%
■ Somewhat disagree	16%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	22%
■ Somewhat agree	25%
■ Strongly agree	10%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

e) Frankly, the success of my neighbors makes me resent them

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	7%
■ <i>Neither</i>	16%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	76%
■ Strongly disagree	58%
■ Somewhat disagree	18%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	16%
■ Somewhat agree	4%
■ Strongly agree	3%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

DISPOSITIONAL COMPASSION

Summary Table 11

	NET-ACCURATE	NEITHER	NET-INACCURATE
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
■ I feel sympathy for those who are worse off than myself	71%	16%	12%
■ I sympathize with the homeless	67%	17%	15%
■ I suffer from others' sorrows	44%	29%	26%
■ I can't stand weak people	21%	27%	51%
■ I am not interested in other people's problems	21%	20%	58%
■ I try not to think about the needy	17%	23%	59%
■ I tend to dislike soft-hearted people	9%	22%	68%

57. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) I tend to dislike soft-hearted people

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	9%
■ <i>Neither</i>	22%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	68%
■ Very inaccurate	41%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	27%
■ Neither	22%
■ Somewhat accurate	6%
■ Very accurate	3%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) I suffer from others' sorrows

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	44%
■ <i>Neither</i>	29%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	26%
■ Very inaccurate	12%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	15%
■ Neither	29%
■ Somewhat accurate	33%
■ Very accurate	10%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

c) I try not to think about the needy

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	17%
■ <i>Neither</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	59%
■ Very inaccurate	26%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	32%
■ Neither	23%
■ Somewhat accurate	13%
■ Very accurate	4%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) I feel sympathy for those who are worse off than myself

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	71%
■ <i>Neither</i>	16%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	12%
■ Very inaccurate	5%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	7%
■ Neither	16%
■ Somewhat accurate	36%
■ Very accurate	35%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

e) I can't stand weak people

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	21%
■ <i>Neither</i>	27%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	51%
■ Very inaccurate	27%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	24%
■ Neither	27%
■ Somewhat accurate	17%
■ Very accurate	5%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

g) I am not interested in other people's problems

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	21%
■ <i>Neither</i>	20%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	58%
■ Very inaccurate	24%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	34%
■ Neither	20%
■ Somewhat accurate	14%
■ Very accurate	7%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

f) I sympathize with the homeless

■ <i>Net-accurate</i>	67%
■ <i>Neither</i>	17%
■ <i>Net-inaccurate</i>	15%
■ Very inaccurate	6%
■ Somewhat inaccurate	9%
■ Neither	17%
■ Somewhat accurate	34%
■ Very accurate	33%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

PREFERENCES FOR JUST DESERTS

Summary Table 12

	NET-AGREE	NEITHER	NET-DISAGREE
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
■ Rewards and benefits in society should be distributed according to what people need, not what they produce	31%	28%	39%
■ People should be allowed to keep what they produce, even if there are others with greater needs	52%	26%	21%
■ It's more important to help meet the needs of people than let people keep what they make	30%	32%	38%
■ Our society would have fewer problems if people focused more on earning and producing and less about how equal everybody is	50%	23%	26%

58. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) Rewards and benefits in society should be distributed according to what people need, not what they produce

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	31%
■ <i>Neither</i>	28%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	39%
■ Strongly disagree	23%
■ Somewhat disagree	16%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	28%
■ Somewhat agree	22%
■ Strongly agree	10%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

b) People should be allowed to keep what they produce, even if there are others with greater needs

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	52%
■ <i>Neither</i>	26%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	21%
■ Strongly disagree	6%
■ Somewhat disagree	16%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	26%
■ Somewhat agree	27%
■ Strongly agree	24%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

c) It's more important to help meet the needs of people than let people keep what they make

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	30%
■ <i>Neither</i>	32%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	38%
■ Strongly disagree	21%
■ Somewhat disagree	17%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	32%
■ Somewhat agree	20%
■ Strongly agree	10%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

d) Our society would have fewer problems if people focused more on earning and producing and less about how equal everybody is

■ <i>Net-agree</i>	50%
■ <i>Neither</i>	23%
■ <i>Net-disagree</i>	26%
■ Strongly disagree	12%
■ Somewhat disagree	14%
■ Neither agree nor disagree	23%
■ Somewhat agree	22%
■ Strongly agree	28%
■ Don't know/Refused	1%
■ Total	100%

59. Thinking about the primary for the Democratic candidate for president in 2020, if the Democratic primary were held today, who would you vote for?

■ Bernie Sanders	19%
■ Joe Biden	17%
■ Kamala Harris	8%
■ Elizabeth Warren	6%
■ Beto O'Rourke	6%
■ Cory Booker	3%
■ Amy Klobuchar	3%
■ Kirsten Gillibrand	1%
■ Tulsi Gabbard	1%
■ Julian Castro	1%
■ Michael Bloomberg	1%
■ Pete Buttigieg	1%
■ John Delaney	0%
■ Other/None of these	31%
■ Total	100%

60. Who did you vote for in the election for President?

■ Hillary Clinton	35%
■ Donald Trump	34%
■ Gary Johnson	2%
■ Jill Stein	1%
■ Evan McMullin	1%
■ Other	1%
■ Did not vote for President	26%
■ Total	100%

61. Are you registered to vote?

■ Yes	88%
■ No	11%
■ Don't know	1%
■ Total	100%

62. Party ID 3-Way (Ind Not Sorted)

■ Democrat	33%
■ Independent	36%
■ Republican	31%
■ Total	100%

63. What is your gender?

■ Male	48%
■ Female	52%
■ Total	100%

64. What is your current employment status?

■ Full time (30 or more hours per week)	46%
■ Part time (Less than 30 hours per week)	11%
■ Self-employed	1%
■ Unemployed	8%
■ Full-time Student	6%
■ Retired	21%
■ Homemaker	7%
■ Prefer not to answer	0%
■ Total	100%

65. Household income

■ <\$20K	17%
■ \$20K-\$39K	23%
■ \$40K-\$59K	20%
■ \$60K-\$99K	20%
■ \$100K-\$199K	16%
■ \$200K+	3%
■ Total	100%

66. Age

■ 18-29	18%
■ 30-44	26%
■ 45-54	16%
■ 55-64	17%
■ 65+	22%
■ Total	100%

67. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

■ White	65%
■ Black	12%
■ Latino	15%
■ Asian	3%
■ Other	5%
■ Total	100%

68. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

■ High School or Less	39%
■ Some College	31%
■ College Degree	19%
■ Post-Grad	11%
■ Total	100%

69. How would you describe the place where you live?

■ City	32%
■ Suburb	35%
■ Town	15%
■ Rural area	18%
■ Other	<1%
■ Total	100%

70. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

■ Very liberal	13%
■ Liberal	16%
■ Moderate	28%
■ Conservative	22%
■ Very conservative	15%
■ Not sure	6%
■ Total	100%

71. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement or not?

■ Supporter	30%
■ Not a supporter	70%
■ Total	100%

72. Would you describe yourself as libertarian, or not?

■ Yes	15%
■ No	61%
■ Not sure	24%
■ Total	100%

73. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

■ Yes	33%
■ No	67%
■ Total	100%

74. What is your present religion, if any?

■ Protestant	29%
■ Roman Catholic	20%
■ Mormon	2%
■ Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
■ Jewish	3%
■ Muslim	1%
■ Buddhist	1%
■ Hindu	0%
■ Atheist	6%
■ Agnostic	5%
■ Nothing in particular	22%
■ Something else	9%
■ Total	100%

75. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

■ More than once a week	10%
■ Once a week	16%
■ Once or twice a month	8%
■ A few times a year	12%
■ Seldom	21%
■ Never	32%
■ Don't know	2%
■ Total	100%

76. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...

■ Most of the time	49%
■ Some of the time	29%
■ Only now and then	13%
■ Hardly at all	6%
■ Don't know	3%
■ Total	100%

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Cato Institute 2019 Welfare, Work, and Wealth Survey was conducted by the Cato Institute in collaboration with YouGov. YouGov collected responses March 5 to 8, 2019 from 1,700 Americans 18 years of age and older. These were then matched into a nationally representative sample to produce the final dataset. The survey included 257 respondents who report currently receiving means-tested government assistance, 250 who previously received such assistance, and 1,191 who say they have not received welfare benefits. Results have been weighted to be representative of the national adult sample. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.2 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. This does not include other sources of non-sampling error, such as selection bias in panel participation or response to a particular survey.

YouGov conducted the surveys online with its proprietary Web-enabled survey software, using a method called Active Sampling. Restrictions are put in place to ensure that only the people selected and contacted by YouGov are allowed to participate.

The respondents in each survey were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education, party identification, ideology, and

political interest. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). Data on voter registration status and turnout were matched to this frame using the November 2010 Current Population Survey. Data on interest in politics and party identification were then matched to this frame from the 2007 Pew Religious Life Survey as well as other media polls.

Each set of matched cases were weighted to its sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, ideology, non-identification with a major party, political interest, and census region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. For the final dataset sample weights were post-stratified to match the full stratification of a five category age, four category race, two category gender, and four category education.