

What Americans Think About Poverty, Wealth, and Work

by Emily Ekins

Attitudes Toward the Rich Fact Sheet

Nothing Wrong with Getting as Rich as You Can

84% **Agree** “there is nothing wrong with a person trying to make as much money as they honestly can”

Billionaires Should Be Allowed

82% **Agree** “people should be allowed to become billionaires”

People Admire Rich Too Much

75% **Agree** “people admire rich people too much”

Billionaires Earned Their Wealth

69% **Agree** “billionaires earned their wealth by creating value for other people, like inventing new technologies or starting new businesses that improve people’s lives”

The Rich Improve Lives

65% **Agree** “we are all better off when people get rich” because “they invest their money in new businesses that create jobs and new technology”

Inequality Is Unjust

55% **Agree** “inequality in the distribution of wealth is unjust.”

Most Don’t Feel Angry about Rich People

76% **Disagree** they “feel angry” when they “read or hear about very rich people”

Not Immoral for Society to Allow Billionaires

75% **Disagree** that “it’s immoral for society to allow people to become billionaires”

Billionaires Don’t Threaten Democracy

62% **Disagree** that “billionaires are a threat to democracy”

Let People Get Rich

57% **Disagree** that “we shouldn’t let people get too rich in this country because rich people have too much political power and threaten democracy”