

The American Dream!

James Truslow Adams (1878 -1949) American writer and historian :

"The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position." *The epic of America*

United States' Declaration of Independence: "All Men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."
Drafted by Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Wolfe American novelist (1900-1938) :"To every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity – the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him"

George Carlin, humourist (1937-2008) : "It's called the American Dream because you have to be asleep to believe it."

Defining the NEW American Dream

It used to be a home in the suburbs that defined the American Dream, but these days we will be happy just to have enough money to retire on, according to a new survey by Harris Interactive produced on behalf of MainStreet and the National Endowment for Financial Education.

57%

feel that in thinking about their financial situation they are achieving the "American Dream"

62% 53%

62%

think their parents financially achieved the "American Dream"



54%

say a significant obstacle to achieving the "American Dream" is managing debt

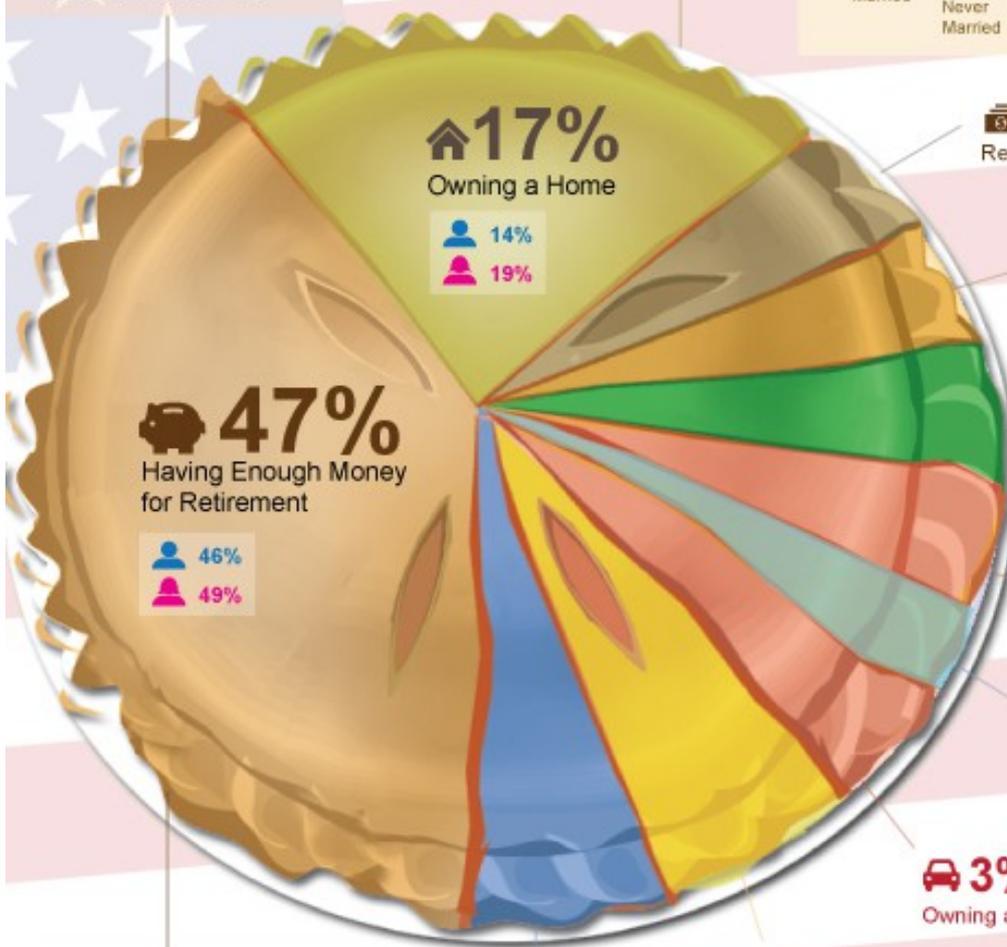
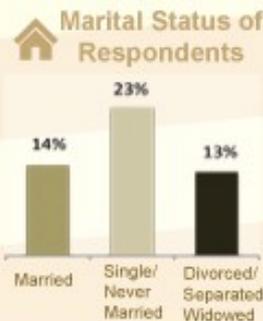
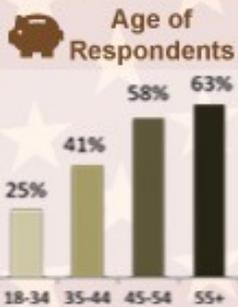
18-34: 59% 35-44: 65%
45-54: 59% 55+: 40%

70%

say a significant obstacle to achieving the "American Dream" is an inability to save enough



Which financial goal is most important for you to achieve?



6%
Something Else

6%
Nothing Important Financial Goals

3%
Owning a Car

3%
Starting My Own Business

4%
Having Money to Invest

4%
Paying Off My College Loans

5%
Paying for My Kids' Education

5%
Retiring Early

The **American dream** is the notion that **the American social, economic, and political system** makes _____ possible for every _____.

Someone who manages to _____ their version of the American dream is said to be « living the dream ».

Many people _____ the idea of the American dream because they say that it is _____ for everyone to be able to _____ their dreams – there are still inequalities in class, race, religion and ethnicity _____ people _____ « living the dream ».

The idea of the American dream is older than the creation of the USA itself – it dates back to the 1600s, when people began to have _____ for what was a _____ and largely _____ continent to European immigrants.

People dreamt of owning _____ and _____ a prosperous business and hoped that this would make them _____.

Today the definition of the American dream is much _____.

Most people nowadays hope that they will get _____, have two children and live in a three-bedroom traditional _____.

Rather than looking for great _____ or success, people hope to _____ poverty or _____.

Complete with the following words

happier, establishing, unknown, impossible, individual, criticize, fulfil, preventing ... from, new, land, married, wealth, avoid, hopes, loneliness, success
achieve, different, home.