

Income Inequality in America

America is the richest nation in the world, and Americans are – on average – the wealthiest people. But the word 'average' conceals the desperate reality. The wealthiest 1% of Americans own more than 90% of the rest of the country combined. More than 40% of Americans, if they received an unexpected bill, would be financially devastated. Unfortunately, tens of thousands die every year from diseases that are easily treated with a visit to a clinic and a prescription, because they cannot afford adequate healthcare. The income inequality is depressing. There are more than 500,000 homeless people in America, but more than 1.6 million empty houses owned by banks and corporate investors who would apparently rather leave them empty than charge affordable rent.

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Most Vietnamese people will never see this; Americans who visit Vietnam are, comparatively, wealthier, but even they may be struggling considerably with educational debts so large that they will die of old age before it can be repaid. And Hollywood film-makers never show the disturbing poverty in America. While America may be a land of abundance, most Americans can be accurately characterised as extremely poor, and with around 30% having recently become unemployed, it will only get worse.

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How many homeless people are there in America?

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How many Americans could not cope with an unexpected bill?

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If America is rich, why are most Americans not rich?