



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

The American Identity: Points of Pride, Conflicting Views and a Distinct Culture

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Interviews: 2/16-20/2017

1,004 adults

Margin of error: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. Which of these statements best describes your opinion about the United States?

	AP-NORC 6/23-27/2016	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Stands above all other countries in the world	26	33
One of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others	55	56
There are other countries better than the United States	19	11
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*	*
N=	1,008	1,004

If “Stands above all other countries in the world” in Q1

Q1A. Some people say the United States has a unique character that makes it the greatest country in the world. Others say that every country is unique, and it’s possible for other countries to be as great as the United States.

Which is closer to your view?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Unique character makes the U.S. the greatest	76
Possible for other countries to be as great as the U.S.	22
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
N=	314

Q1/Q1A COMBINED.

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Stands above all other countries in the world	33
Unique character makes the U.S. the greatest	25
Possible for other countries to be as great as the U.S.	7
One of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others	56
There are other countries better than the United States	11
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
N=	1,004

Q2. Do you think that the United States is losing its national identity - by that I mean the beliefs and values the country represents--or do you think its national identity is pretty much secure?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Losing identity	71
Identity secure	28
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

Q3. The United States has a diverse population, with people of many different races, ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. Do you think this diversity makes the country:

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 6/23-27/2016	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Much/Moderately stronger NET	56	65
Much stronger	29	44
Moderately stronger	27	21
Neither stronger nor weaker	28	23
Much/Moderately weaker NET	16	11
Moderately weaker	12	9
Much weaker	4	2
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,004</i>

Q4. How proud are you of the United States in each of the following?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017	Extremely/ Very proud	Extremely proud	Very proud	Moderately proud	Not proud at all/Not very proud	Not very proud	Not proud at all	DK	SKP /REF
Its armed forces	78	41	36	14	7	5	2	*	1
Its scientific and technological achievements	69	27	41	25	6	5	1	*	*
Its achievements in sports	58	24	34	30	12	7	5	*	*
Its history	58	25	34	26	15	11	4	-	*
Its achievements in the arts and literature	51	18	33	37	10	8	2	1	1
Its economic achievements	45	14	31	38	16	12	4	*	*
The way democracy works	42	13	29	36	21	14	7	1	1
Its political influence in the world	34	12	22	39	27	18	9	*	*
Its Social Security system	29	8	21	42	29	21	8	*	*
Its treatment of groups in society	27	7	19	37	35	23	12	*	1

N=1,004

Q5. Which of the following statements is closer to your opinion about what kind of country you think the United States should be?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
A country with an essential American culture and values that immigrants take on when they arrive	57
A country made up of many cultures and values that change as new people arrive	42
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

Q6. Thinking specifically about recent immigrants, that is people who have come to the United States to live and work in the past ten years or so, which of the following statements is closer to your opinion about these immigrants coming to the United States?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
They mostly adopted essential American culture and values when they got here	41
They mostly retained their own cultures and values	57
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

Q7. How important is each of the following to the United States' identity as a nation?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017	Not impt. at all/ Not very impt. NET	Not impt. at all	Not very impt.	Moderately impt.	Extremely /Very impt. NET	Very impt.	Extremely impt.	DK	SKP /REF
A fair judicial system and the rule of law	3	1	2	9	88	34	53	*	*
Individual liberties and freedoms as defined by the Constitution	3	*	3	11	84	34	51	*	1
The ability of people living here to get good jobs and achieve the American dream	5	1	4	16	79	46	33	*	*
Shared use of the English language	6	2	4	20	73	35	37	*	1
The country's government institutions	5	1	4	23	71	44	27	*	1
A shared American culture and set of values	8	2	6	27	65	40	24	*	1
The ability of people to come from other places in the world to escape violence and persecution	8	2	6	26	65	40	24	1	1
The ability of people to come from other places in the world to find economic opportunities	11	3	8	33	55	37	18	*	1
The mixing of cultures and values from around the world	14	4	11	34	50	33	17	*	1
A culture grounded in Christian religious beliefs	34	18	16	25	40	21	19	*	*
A culture established by the country's early European immigrants	26	9	17	40	33	22	11	1	1

N=1,004

**Q8. For each of the following, please rate how threatening you think it is to the American way of life?
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

Influence from foreign governments

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Extremely/Very threatening NET	39
Extremely threatening	18
Very threatening	21
Moderately threatening	38
Not threatening at all/Not too threatening NET	23
Not too threatening	17
Not threatening at all	6
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
N=	1,004

Legal immigration

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Extremely/Very threatening NET	15
Extremely threatening	7
Very threatening	8
Moderately threatening	23
Not threatening at all/Not too threatening NET	62
Not too threatening	31
Not threatening at all	31
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
N=	1,004

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Economic inequality

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Extremely/Very threatening NET	46
Extremely threatening	18
Very threatening	28
Moderately threatening	34
Not threatening at all/Not too threatening NET	19
Not too threatening	13
Not threatening at all	6
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,004

Illegal immigration

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Extremely/Very threatening NET	47
Extremely threatening	27
Very threatening	20
Moderately threatening	25
Not threatening at all/Not too threatening NET	28
Not too threatening	20
Not threatening at all	8
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,004

The nation's political leaders

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Extremely/Very threatening NET	48
Extremely threatening	24
Very threatening	25
Moderately threatening	33
Not threatening at all/Not too threatening NET	17
Not too threatening	12
Not threatening at all	5
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,004

The political polarization of the nation

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Extremely/Very threatening NET	53
Extremely threatening	25
Very threatening	28
Moderately threatening	34
Not threatening at all/Not too threatening NET	11
Not too threatening	8
Not threatening at all	3
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,004

Q9. When immigrants come legally to the United States, how much of a benefit is each of the following?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017	Major benefit	Minor benefit	Not a benefit at all	DK	SKP /REF
It enhances the reputation of the United States as a land of opportunity	61	31	7	*	1
American companies get the expertise of skilled workers in fields like science and technology	59	31	8	*	1
They help the country's economy by investing in new businesses	53	38	9	*	1
They enrich American culture and values	50	36	13	*	*
They take jobs Americans don't want	36	41	22	*	1

N=1,004

Q10. When immigrants come legally to the United States, how much of a risk is each of the following?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017	Major risk	Minor risk	Not a risk at all	DK	SKP /REF
Welfare and safety net programs will be burdened	34	46	19	*	1
The number of jobs available to American workers will be reduced	25	49	25	*	1
They will reject important American customs and values	25	49	25	*	1
They will commit acts of political or religious violence in the United States	22	54	23	*	1
They will commit crimes in the United States	19	60	20	*	1

N=1,004

Q11. In general, do you think the benefits the United States gets from legal immigration outweigh the risks, or are the risks to the United States great enough so that legal immigration should be further limited?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Benefits outweigh risks	67
Risks great enough to further limit	31
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N=

1,004

Q12. What about refugees, that is, people trying to escape violence or political persecution?

In general, do you think the benefits the United States gets from admitting refugees outweigh the risks, or are the risks to the United States great enough so that allowing refugees into the country should be further limited?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Benefits outweigh risks	46
Risks great enough to further limit	52
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,004

Q13. Were you born a United States citizen, or not?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Yes	92
No	7
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

If "No," "Don't know," skipped, or refused in Q13

Q13A. Are you now a United States citizen, or not?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Yes	67
No	31
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	3
<i>N=</i>	<i>79</i>

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Democrat	38
Republican	23
Independent	24
None of these	14
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Strong Democrat	44
Moderate Democrat	56
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>390</i>

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If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Strong Republican	38
Moderate Republican	62
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	220

If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1

PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Lean Democrat	28
Lean Republican	28
Don't lean	44
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	394

POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDi, PIDa, and PIDb.

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Democrat NET	49
Strong Democrat	17
Moderate Democrat	21
Lean Democrat	11
Independent/None – Don't lean	17
Republican NET	34
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	15
Strong Republican	9
Unknown	*
<i>N=</i>	1,004

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Urban area	28
Suburban area	47
Rural area	23
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,004

RELIG_1. What is your religious preference?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Protestant	41
Catholic	21
Mormon	1
Jewish	2
Muslim	1
Other religion	4
Don't belong to any religious denomination	30
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,004

If "Other religion," "Don't belong to any religious denomination," "Don't know," skipped, or refused in RELIG_1

RELIG_2. Do you consider yourself a Christian, or not?

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Yes, a Christian	88
No, not a Christian	11
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

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AGE

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
18-24	12
25-34	17
35-44	16
45-54	18
55-64	17
65-74	14
75+	6
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

GENDER

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Married	50
Widowed	5
Divorced	10
Separated	2
Never married	26
Living with partner	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,004</i>

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EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Employed	57
Not employed	43

N= 1,004

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Less than a high school diploma	12
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	28
College graduate or above	32

N= 1,004

INCOME

	AP-NORC 2/16-20/2017
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	16
\$150,000 or more	8

N= 1,004

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC at the University of Chicago’s probability based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face to face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between February 16 and 20, 2017, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,004 completed the survey—786 via the web and 218 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 30.2 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 34.4 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 94.7 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 9.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2016 Current Population Survey. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

For more information, visit www.apnorc.org or email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

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The founding principles of the AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.