



The Opportunity Survey: Key Findings

The findings in the Opportunity Survey paint a rich picture of a nation yearning for greater opportunity and increasingly interested in fundamental social change toward that end.

Findings include:

- ▶ A whopping 9 in 10 Americans see discrimination against one or more groups as a serious problem, and over 60 percent believe inequality of opportunity is unacceptable.
- ▶ Americans are concerned about inequality and a super-majority, 8 in 10, believe that society functions better when all groups have an equal chance in life.
- ▶ A majority of Americans, 6 in 10, say that they have personally experienced unequal treatment based on race, ethnicity, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or accent.
- ▶ The survey finds that those who have experienced discrimination are more likely to view discrimination as a serious problem in our country and more willing to take action to improve opportunities for various groups.
- ▶ Policies for reducing poverty garner wide support, with 75 percent of Americans thinking unequal treatment of poor people is a problem.
- ▶ The vast majority of Americans are open to major change, and 71 percent believe that trying new ways of doing things is more important than maintaining tradition.
- ▶ There is a robust pattern of cross-issue support for opportunity-expanding solutions, indicating the potential for broad coalitions and voting blocs that transcend specific policy arenas.
- ▶ Particular life experiences and values predict willingness to take action on behalf of groups or on specific issues. These include frequency of contact with members of other groups, the perceived seriousness of unequal treatment, a sense of personal and group efficacy, and personal experience of unfair treatment based on group identity.
- ▶ By identifying how attributes and experiences correspond with support for social justice policies and willingness to take action, the survey profiles key audiences—totaling a remarkable 60 percent of the American public—that can be moved to support social justice issues and act to advance greater and more equal opportunity.

Every couple of generations, national values, demographic change, attitudes, and experiences converge to create the potential for transformative social change. Taken together, this survey's findings indicate a profound public openness to addressing the challenges that perpetuate inequality.