

# Understanding Economic Policies: What Do People Know and How Can They Learn?

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# How Do People Understand Economic Policies?

What do people **know** about economic policies?

How do they **reason** about them?

What are the effects of **economics** lessons?

Can we improve the policy debate with better understanding of economic policies?

Six major policies: i) income tax; ii) estate tax; iii) health insurance; iv) trade; v) monetary policy; vi) transfers.

This talk: mostly income and estate tax.

## Method: Online Surveys and Experiments

Large-scale surveys & experiments:  $\approx$  2,000 respondents per survey.

Done through commercial survey companies in Jan -September 2019.

Representative samples.

Surveys are a key tool:

- Customizable, controllable, interactive;

- Some things can not be seen in other data, no matter how good it is: Perceptions, attitudes, knowledge, views.

- Unlike old-style surveys measuring variables now better captured in admin data.

# Survey Outline

## 1. Background of respondent

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Standard: income, education, family situation...

Political Views

Media exposure

# Survey Outline

- 1. Background of respondent**
- 2. Own exposure to policy**

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Do people feel personally affected?

# Survey Outline

- 1. Background of respondent**
- 2. Own exposure to policy**
- 3. Open-ended questions**

# Survey Outline

- 1. Background of respondent**
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Main considerations?

Goals of 'good' system

Shortcomings of the system.

Goal: identify topics without priming.

# Survey Outline

1. Background of respondent
2. Own exposure to policy
3. Open-ended questions
4. Knowledge about policy and underlying economic phenomena

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Factual, quantitative questions (top tax rate, concentration of wealth...)

Goal: get an idea of how much the respondent knows about the economic policies.

## Survey Outline

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5. Mechanisms.

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Efficiency: Ask how people react to the economic policies?

How do they impact the economy?

Fairness: Who benefits and who loses? Fairness considerations?

Randomize: How would **YOU** react? How does a tax cut on families with income levels similar to **yours**...?

Randomize: How would high-income **women** react? How does a tax cut on high-income **women**.. ?

Goal: Assess whether views about mechanisms affect policy support and whether people think differently about themselves and women vs. men.

# Survey Outline

1. Background of respondent
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5. Mechanisms
6. Mini Video courses

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**Redistribution:** Distributional impacts of policy.

**Efficiency:** Efficiency costs of policy.

**Economist:** Trade-off between redistribution and efficiency.

# Survey Outline

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- 5. Mechanisms**
- 6. Mini Video courses**
- 7. Questions on Policy Outcomes**

# Survey Outline

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Some specific, some general.

Perceptions of fairness of the economic policy

Satisfaction with current policies

# Survey Outline

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7. Questions on Outcomes
8. Government Questions

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- 1. Background of respondent**
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Specific & general. Do you trust government to do what is good ...?

Does the government have the tools to...?

Do you support increased intervention along dimension...?

# Survey Outline

1. Background of respondent
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7. Mini Video courses
8. Questions on Outcomes
9. Government Questions
10. Feedback

# Survey Outline

1. Background of respondent
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8. Questions on Outcomes
9. Government Questions
10. Feedback

Willingness to pay for correct information

Feedback on survey, self-reported attention.

## Ensuring Comprehension and Attention

Appeal to people's social responsibility. [▶ Detail](#)

Warn that “careless answers” will be flagged.

Incentivize correct answers with randomized amounts (includes no incentives).

Use of multiple choices, then text entry; sliders; images.

Time spent on separate questions & overall survey. [▶ Time Distributions](#)

Ask for feedback post survey, whether felt survey was biased.

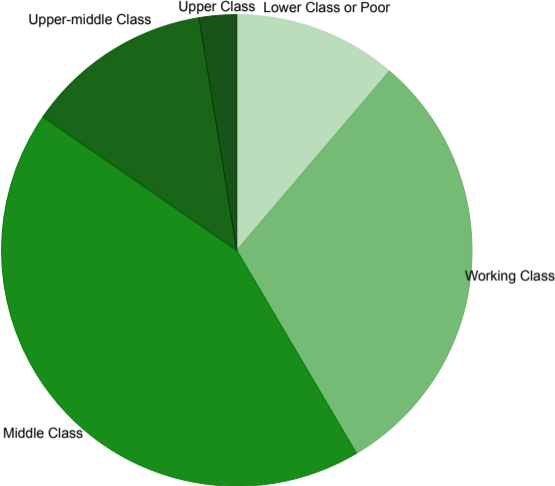
Check careless response patterns (clicking same “middle” answer).

Screening questions, interspersed throughout survey.

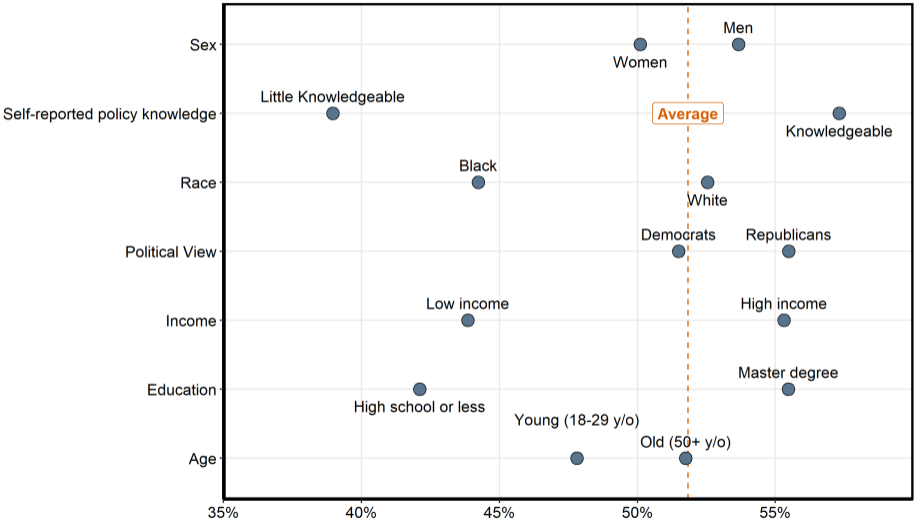
# Representativeness of the Survey Sample

	US Population	Income Tax Survey	Estate Tax Survey	Health Insurance	Trade
Male	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.45	0.50
18-29 years old	0.26	0.24	0.24	0.18	0.23
30-39 years old	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.21
40-49 years old	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.20
50-59 years old	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.18
60-69 years old	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.18
\$0-\$19,999	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.13	0.15
\$20,000-\$39,999	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.18
\$40,000-\$69,999	0.21	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23
\$70,000-\$109,999	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.19
\$110,000+	0.25	0.23	0.20	0.24	0.25
Four-year college degree	0.22	0.33	0.31	0.29	0.28
High-school Graduate or Less	0.39	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19
Employed	0.58	0.57	0.61	0.66	0.68
Unemployed	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.05
Married	0.49	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.56
White	0.61	0.76	0.76	0.80	0.78
Black/ African-American	0.13	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06
Hispanic/Latino	0.18	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06
Asian/Asian American	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.06
Sample size		2784	2360	1826	1771

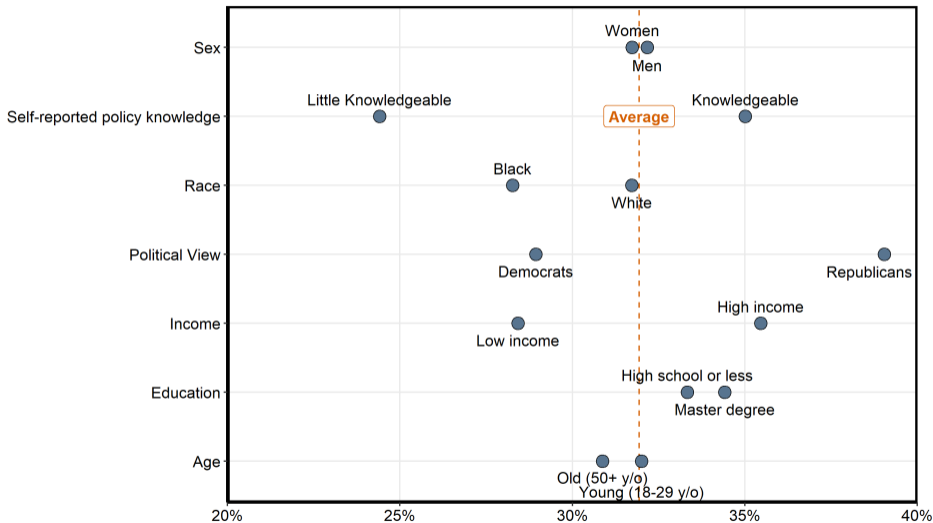
# Self-reported Social Class – We are all “middle class”



# Share of Respondents who Feel Personally Affected by the Income Tax



# Share of Respondents who Feel Personally Affected by the Estate Tax



## Outline of this Talk

Project generated a lot of data: available online (shortly) to explore.

Full set of very detailed tables, figures available online.

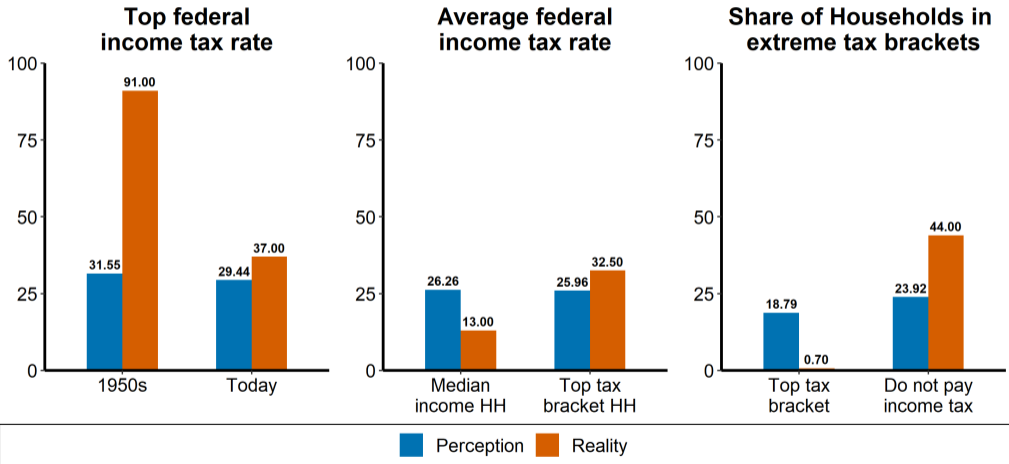
This talk: Focus on some key findings for income and estate taxes only.

1. Misperceptions about income and estate tax
2. What are people's main considerations and perceived goals & shortcomings of these taxes? Textual Analysis of Open-Ended Questions
3. Perceived Mechanisms: Behavioral responses and distributional effects.
4. Effects of short "Economics Lessons"

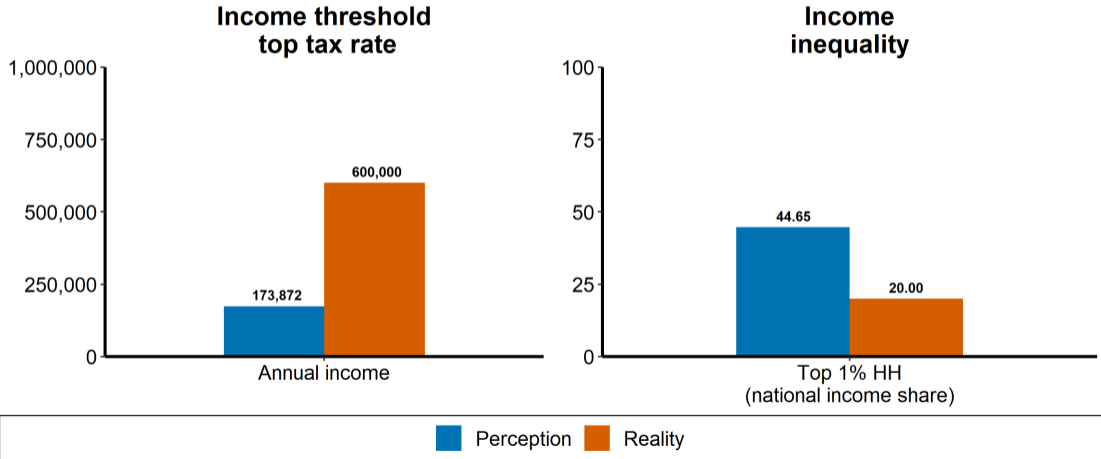
# Part 1: Income and Estate Tax

# Misperceptions about Income and Estate Taxes

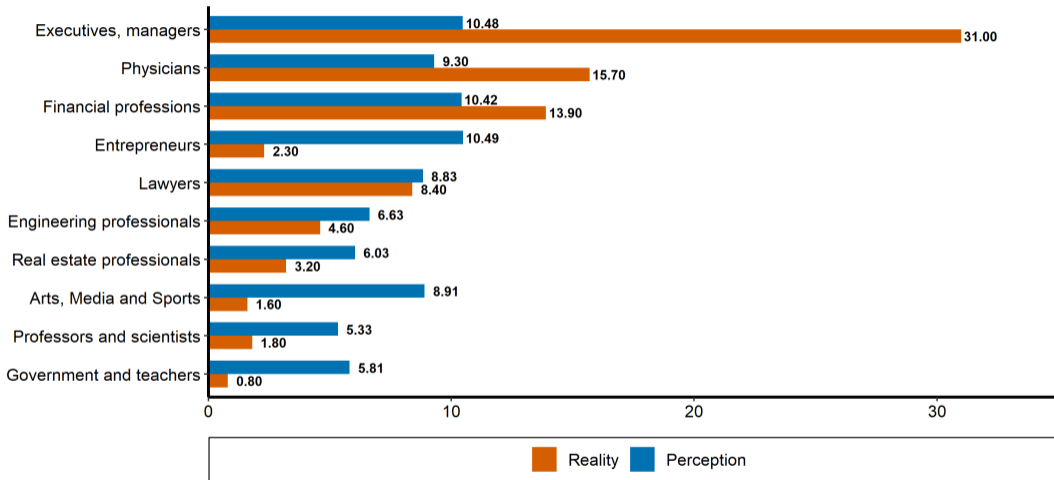
# Misperceptions about the Income Tax



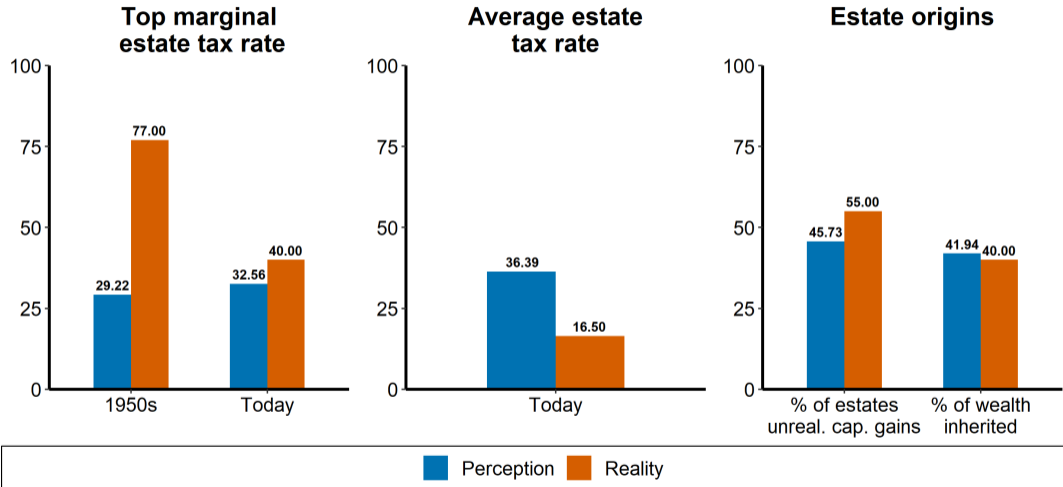
## Misperceptions about the Income Tax (II)



# Misperception about Composition of Top 1%



# Misperceptions about the Estate Tax



## Misperceptions about the Estate Tax (II)



## Just for Fun: The Step-Up of Basis

- 8.73% of respondents say they know what the step-up cost basis at death is.
- 38.7% of respondents get the correct answer at the first technical question on how the stepped-up cost basis at death works. 51% get second question about plain capital gains right. 18.5% of respondents are correct for both.

Let's work through a concrete example about the federal estate tax now. Jack inherits a house from his father. His father paid **\$50,000** for the house **30 years ago**. This house is now **worth \$350,000** at the time of the father's death. But Jack manages to sell the house for **\$400,000**.

What is the amount that the IRS will consider as capital gains that Jack made and that will be **taxed at the capital gains tax rate**?

Imagine now that the father had sold the house for **\$350,000** before his death.

What is the amount that the IRS will consider as capital gains that Jack's father made and that will be **taxed at the capital gains tax rate**?

# All Misperceptions by Groups

## Income Taxation

- ▶ Republicans vs. Democrats
- ▶ Liberals vs. Conservatives
- ▶ High Incomes vs. Low Incomes
- ▶ Young vs. Old
- ▶ College Educated vs. Non College Educated

## Estate Tax

- ▶ Republicans vs. Democrats
- ▶ Liberals vs. Conservatives
- ▶ High Incomes vs. Low Incomes
- ▶ Young vs. Old
- ▶ College Educated vs. Non College Educated

## Willingness to Pay for Information about Policies

	Income	Estate	Health	Trade
Accuracy Index	0.21*** (0.07)	0.09 (0.06)	0.20** (0.09)	0.01 (0.04)
Women	-0.06*** (0.02)	-0.03 (0.02)	-0.04 (0.02)	-0.09*** (0.03)
College Degree	0.03 (0.02)	0.06** (0.02)	0.03 (0.03)	0.05* (0.03)
Economics related major	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.08** (0.04)	-0.09** (0.04)	-0.03 (0.04)
Policy knowledge	0.07*** (0.02)	0.11*** (0.02)	0.10*** (0.03)	0.07*** (0.03)
Clinton Moderates	-0.10*** (0.03)	-0.06** (0.03)	-0.05 (0.04)	0.05 (0.04)
Trump Moderates	-0.14*** (0.03)	-0.03 (0.03)	-0.01 (0.04)	0.02 (0.04)
Trump Conservatives	-0.14*** (0.03)	-0.09*** (0.03)	-0.08** (0.03)	-0.05 (0.03)
Cost of information: 2 dollars	-0.03 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.01 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)
Cost of information: 5 dollars	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.09*** (0.03)	-0.00 (0.03)	-0.05* (0.03)
Cost of information: 10 dollars	-0.09*** (0.03)	-0.05* (0.03)	-0.03 (0.03)	-0.06* (0.03)
Control Group Mean	0.37	0.40	0.34	0.40
Observations	2783	2360	1825	1771

< 50% of respondents willing to pay for info. Accuracy & self-declared knowledge positively related to WTP.  
 Republicans less willing to pay.

# Text Analysis of Open-Ended Questions

# Text Analysis Roadmap

Questions asked: Main Considerations? Goal of a good system? Shortcomings? Who wins/who loses? What are the effects?

**Topic Analysis:** Wordclouds, Keynes graphs, Probability distribution of “topics.”

**Keyness:** Which words are typical of a group of respondents? Score for a n-gram is  $\chi^2$ -test statistic testing null that use is equal across groups.

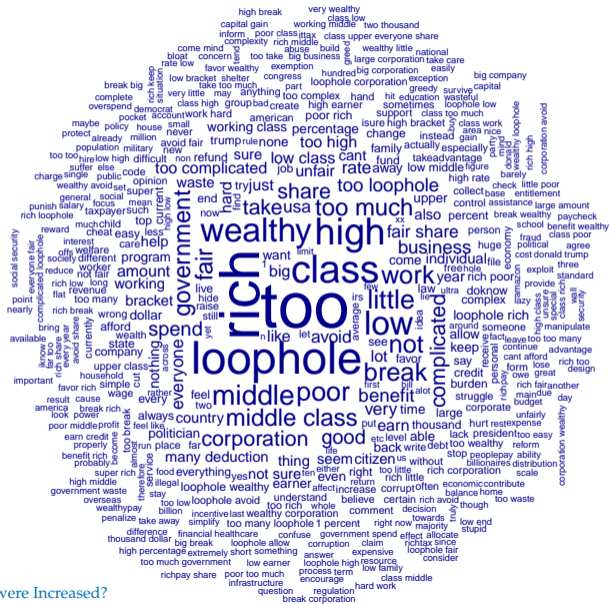
**Topic Modeling:** Keywords-count based model. Identify a set of topics and associated keywords. Extract Document-Term Matrix (DTM) and define topic dummies based on the presence of keywords.

**Sentiments:** Positive or Negative Tone? Analytic or Emotional? Use the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LWIC) algorithm by Pennebaker, Booth, Boyd, and Francis.

# What would be the Goal of a Good Income Tax System?

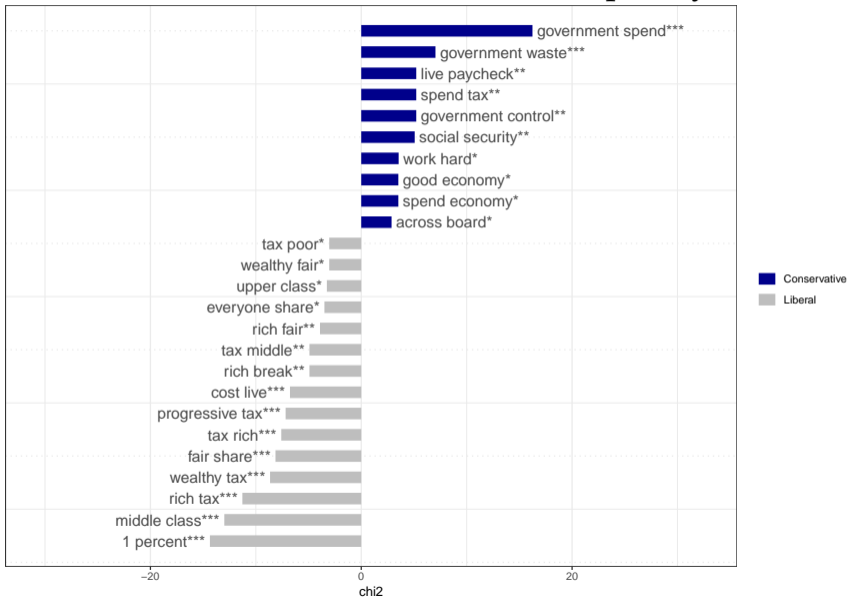


# What are the Shortcomings of the US Income Tax System?



▶ Who Gains if Taxes on High Earners were Increased?

# Main Considerations about the Income Tax? Topics by Political Views



## Main Topics Identified: Keywords

**Distribution:** “middle class”, “working class”, “low income”, “wealthy”, “millionaire”, “rich”, “corporations”, “poor”, “inequality”

**Fairness:** “fair”, “unfair”

**Gov. spending:** “government spending”, “deficit”, “debt”, “government & waste”, “government & budget”, “government & control & spend”

**Public goods:** “infrastructure”, “education”, “health care”

**Efficiency:** “hurt & economy”, “work hard”, “flat”

**Loopholes:** “loophole”, “lawyer”, “account”, “evade”, “avoid taxes”, “evasion”

**Double taxation [only for Estate]:** “already taxed”, “already paid”, “account”, “twice & pay”, “twice & tax”, “already been & taxed”, “already been & paid”

**Grieve [only for Estate]:** “grieve”, “bury”, “funeral”

**Flat tax [only for Income Tax]:** “flat tax”

**Social safety net programs [only for Income Tax]:** “social services”, “government services”, “social programs”, “government programs”, “help & poor”, “poor & pay”, “live & paycheck”, “poor & work”

**Don't know:** “enough knowledge”, “really know”, “idk”, “not sure”, “not informed enough”, “know enough”, “unsure”

# Main Considerations about the Income Tax? Example Answers by Topic

## Distribution:

*“That the rich and wealthy do not pay their fair share of taxes.”*

*“Everyone, including the rich and corporations should pay their fair share.”*

*“I would want working class and middle class people to get tax cuts and I’d be willing to pay more in taxes for that to happen.”*

## Fairness:

*“I have trouble with the concept of tax brackets that punish an individual for being successful”;*

*“I believe Everyone should be taxed fairly and the most wealthy should not escape carrying their weight.”*

## Gov. spending:

*“Current tax rates being raised are a result of government mismanagement of funds and over spending without appropriate oversight. Taxes really can’t effectively be lowered until government spending is properly controlled.”;*

*“I am okay with raising personal income tax to reduce deficit but not for entitlement programs.”*

# Main Considerations about the Income Tax? Example Answers by Topic

## Social safety net:

*“What are the taxes going towards? I strongly believe in funding going towards education and infrastructure.”*

*“Cut government spending on social welfare programs for lower taxes and privatize most government services for lower taxes e.g. mail, law enforcement, parks, schools...”*

## Efficiency:

*“I am concerned about the push to raise taxes on persons with higher incomes. I do believe in trickle down economics and that government should pretty much keep their hands off.”*

*“I want the US to be competitive for businesses, but also know there needs to be an appropriate amount of money to fund the government necessities”*

## Flat Tax:

*“We need a flat tax. Tax forms are complex.” ; “I think tax Rates are not fairly representative for most taxpayers. I support a flat tax rate for all except the totally disabled and indigent.”*

## Loopholes:

*“I think the more you make, the more you should pay. We need to close the loopholes that are there to make sure that those who make more actually pay more.”*

## Shortcomings of the Federal Income Tax System? Example Answers by Topic

**Distribution:** *"It favors the wealthy. The tax brackets are ridiculous."*

**Fairness:** *"It's always unfair to those that make the least."*

**Gov. spending:** *"Government waste of taxpayer funds."*

**Social services:** *"Too much of our taxes are wasted on social programs."*

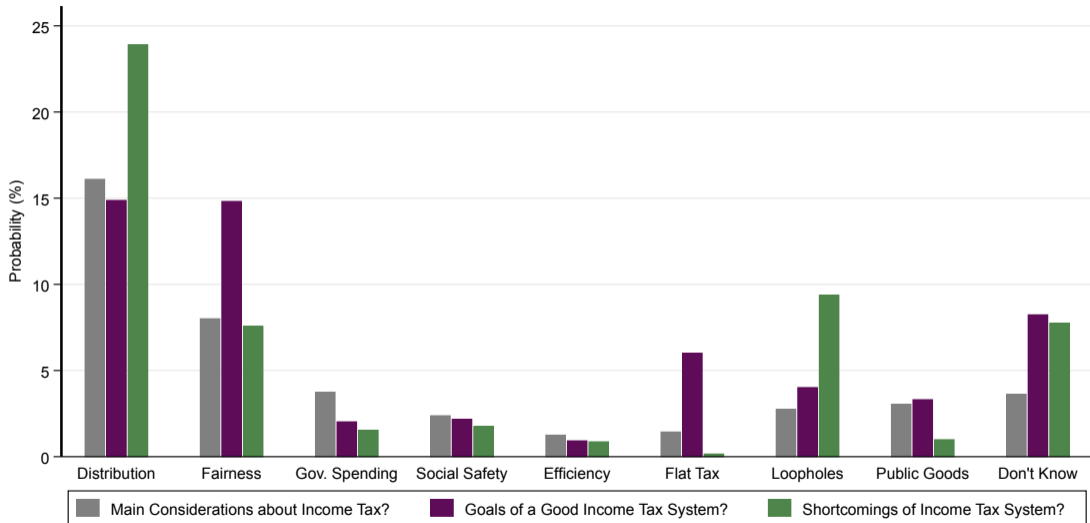
**Public goods:** *"Rich people avoid paying their share and hence we have a huge national debt, unfunded pension/social security systems, underfunded education and health care systems, and a crumbling infrastructure."*

**Efficiency:** *"Taxing the wealthy too much will hurt the economy!"*

**Flat tax:** *"People who don't even work get tax refunds. This is a ridiculous system. Flat tax rate would make it fair."*

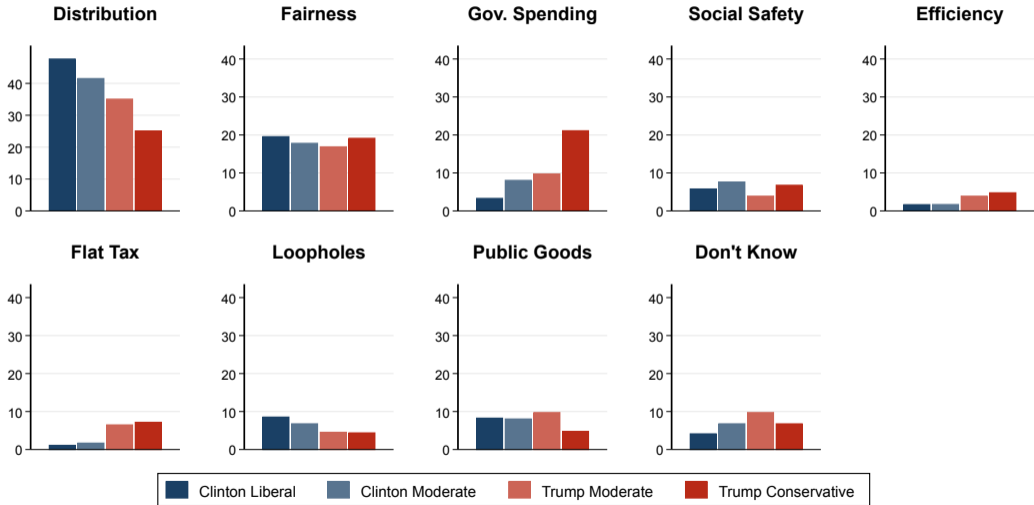
**Loopholes:** *"Too complex for the layman to understand with countless loopholes that specifically favor the rich." "Loopholes : how'd Amazon pay \$0?"*

# Income Taxation - Probability of Topics Appearing in Answers

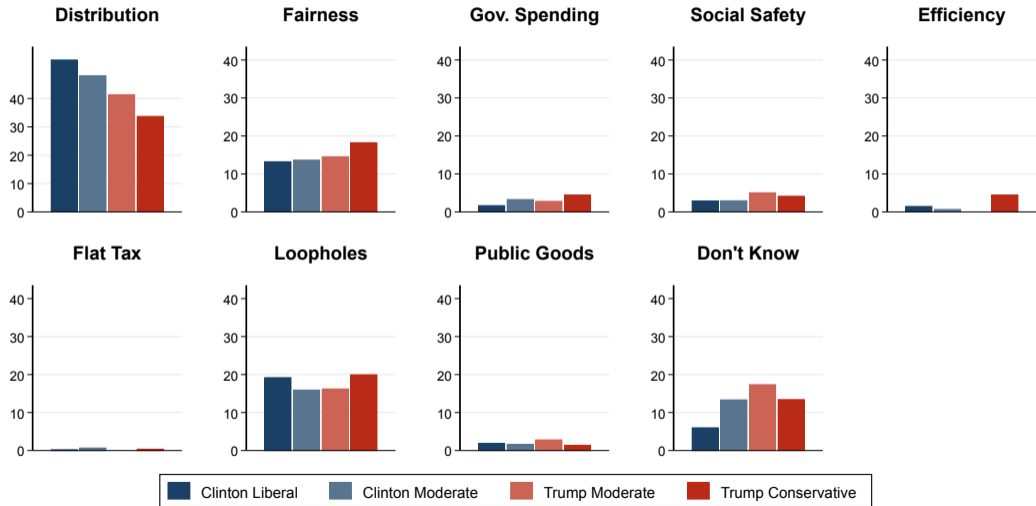


# What are your Main Considerations about the Income Tax?

## Within-political Views Frequency of Topics



# What are the Shortcomings of the Federal Income Tax System? Within-political Views Frequency of Topics



# Topic Analysis: All Figures

## What are your Main Considerations on Federal Personal Income Taxation?

- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Age
- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Income
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Political View
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Age
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Income

## What are the Goals of a Good Income Tax System?

- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Age
- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Income
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Political View
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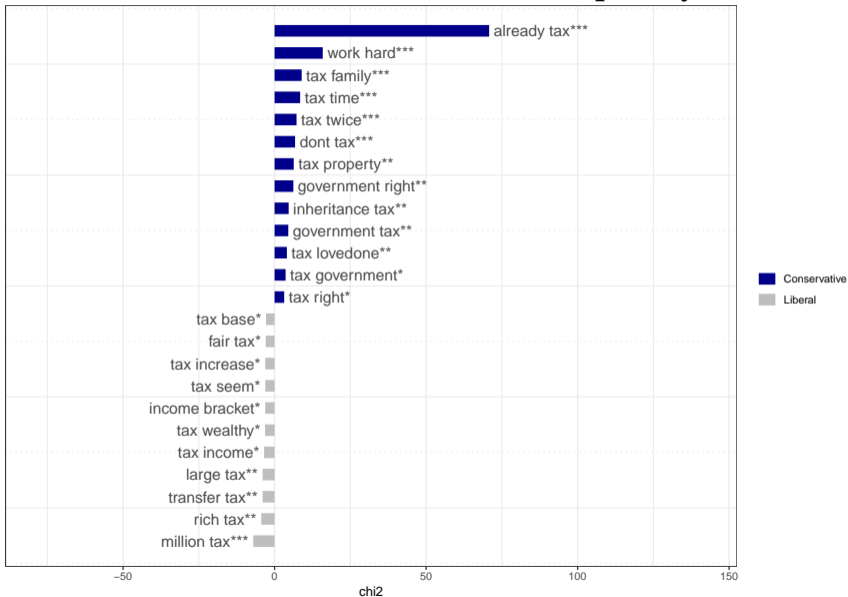
## What are the shortcomings of the U.S. federal income tax system?

- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Age
- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Income
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Political View
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Age
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Income





# Main Considerations about the Estate Tax? Topics by Political Views



# Main Considerations about the Estate Tax? Example Answers by Topic

## **Distribution:**

*"It can help keep the ultra wealthy accountable for their wealth."*

*"Passing wealth from one generation to the next contributes to wealth inequality. Federal estate tax should be much higher."*

## **Fairness:**

*"I don't think there should be a federal estate tax because it's kind of unfair to have to pay taxes on money that already belongs to your family and has most likely had taxes paid on it already."*

## **Gov. spending:**

*"I believe in smaller government, so all taxes should be lower. I actually think we should have a flat tax for income - period. Then estate taxes wouldn't even be an issue."*

## **Public goods:**

*"I would like higher taxes to pay for more domestic spending such as education, healthcare, etc."*

# Main Considerations about the Estate Tax? Example Answers by Topic

## Efficiency:

*“Lower taxes mean I have more disposable income to spend therefore more products can be made and more jobs created. I feel it is wrong to penalize people for increased wealth”*

## Loopholes:

*“The wealthy don’t usually pay these taxes, they find a loophole. Why should my children have to pay taxes on things I’ve already paid taxes on during my lifetime?”*

## Double taxation:

*“I think it is ridiculous, you pay taxes twice.”*

## Grief:

*“I don’t think we should have one at all. You’re taxing a family member for the death of their loved one? That’s messed up.”*

## Shortcomings of the U.S. Federal Estate Tax? Example Answers by Topic

**Distribution:** *"Tax the poor and middle class too much and the wealthy not enough."*

**Fairness:** *"It's not taxing enough and some people find sneaky ways to hide the money which isn't fair."*

**Gov. spending:** *"The entire scheme of it to line the government with more money to wastefully spend."*

**Public goods:** *"If taxes were higher maybe free healthcare could be accomplished."*

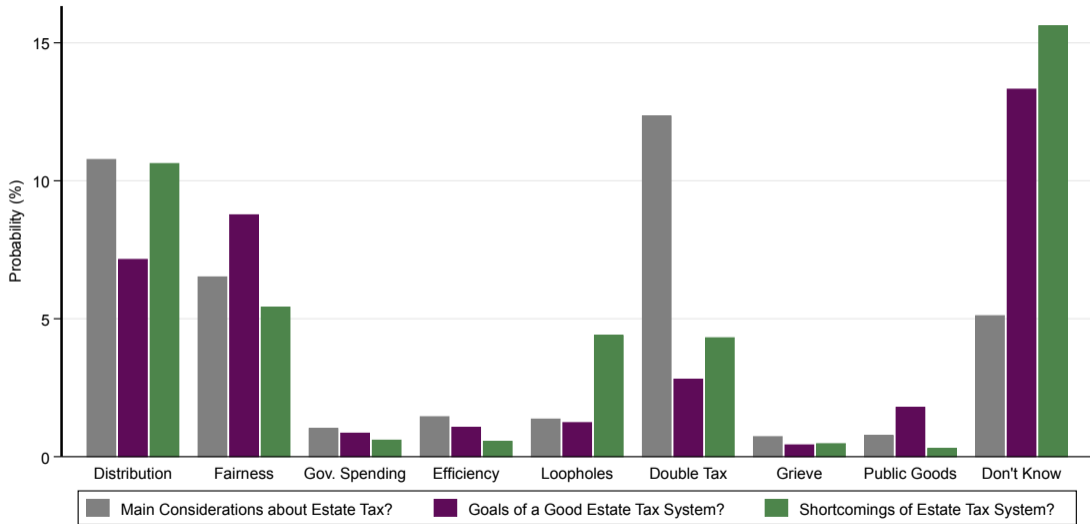
**Efficiency:** *"It's just another way for liberals to try and redistribute wealth to those who do not want to work hard to better their lives they just want Government handouts."*

**Loopholes:** *"The rich know ways to avoid this tax or have accountants who do it for them. This is a great shortcoming I see as totally unfair."*

**Double taxation:** *"You're paying taxes on money that was already taxed."*

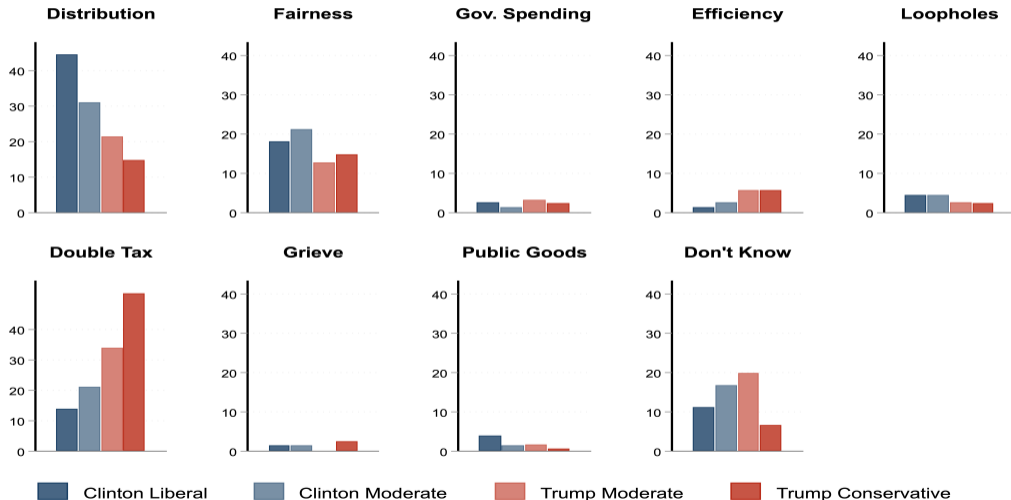
**Grieve:** *"I think it's a way to get money out of grieving families."*

# Estate Tax - Topic Frequencies



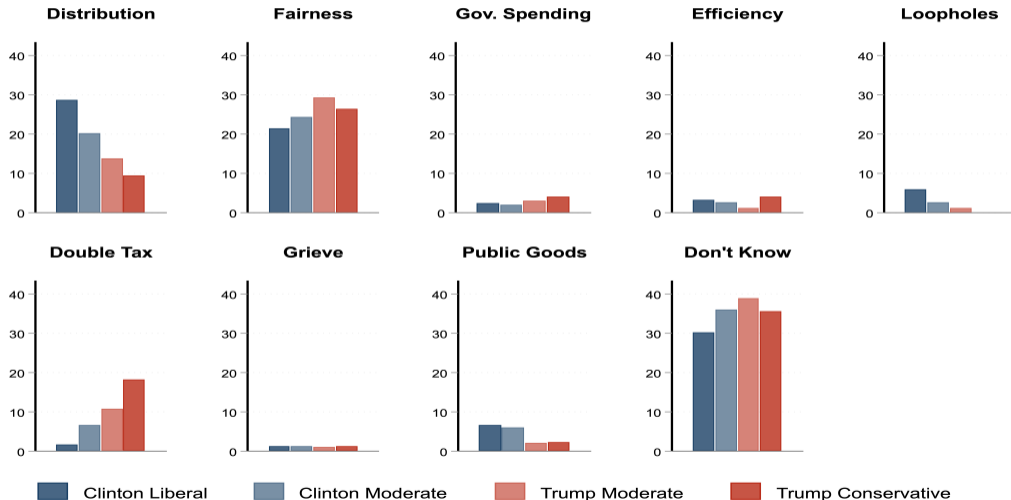
# What are your Main Considerations about the Estate Tax?

## Within-political Views Frequency of Topics



# What would be the Goal of a Good Estate Tax System?

## Within-political Views Frequency of Topics



# Topic Analysis: All Figures

## What are your Main Considerations on the Federal Estate Taxation?

- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Age
- ▶ Within-group Frequency of Topics: By Income
- ▶ Prob. of Mentioning Topics: By Political View
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## What are the Goals of a Good Estate Tax System?

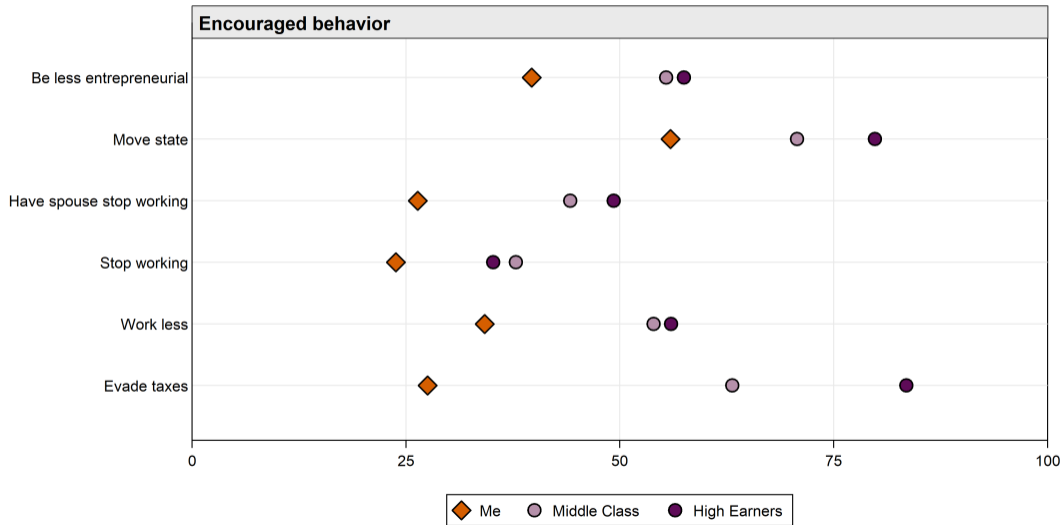
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## What do you think are the shortcomings of the U.S. federal estate tax?

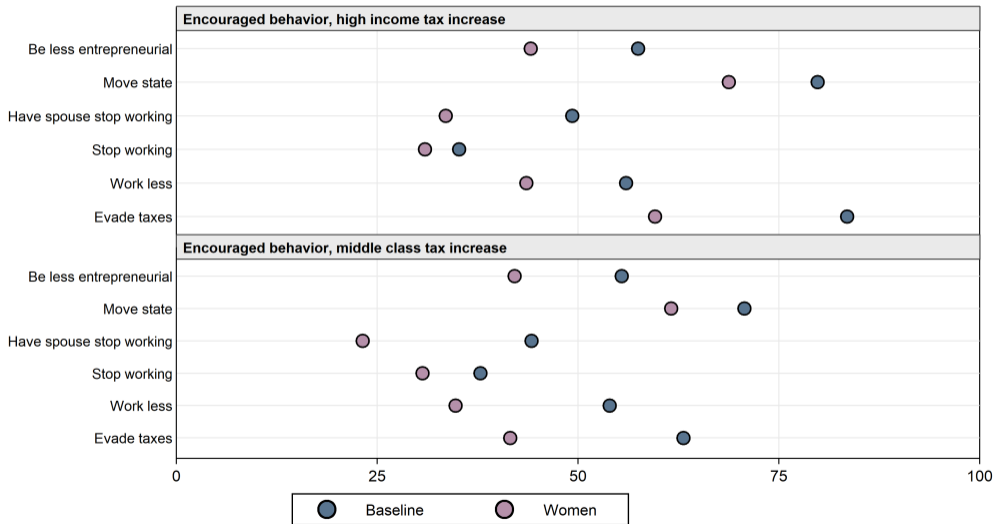
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# Perceived Mechanisms of Income and Estate Taxes

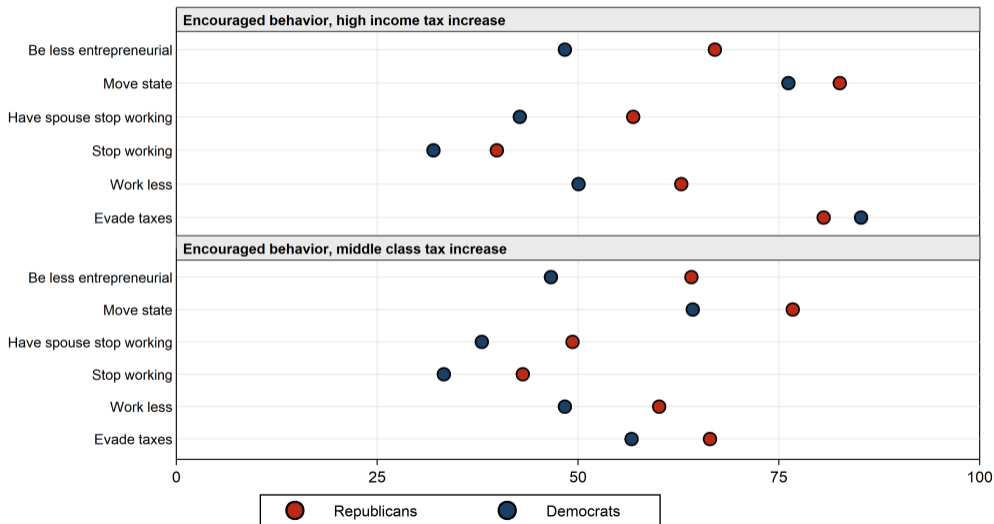
# If the Income Tax Rate were to Increase for the Middle Class/High Earners/You, Would it Encourage the following?



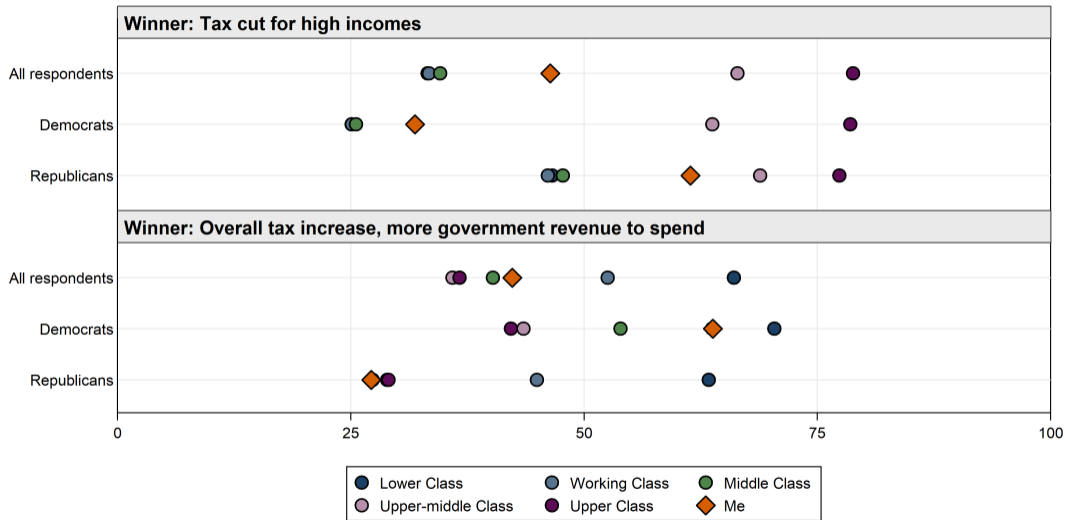
# If the Income Tax Rate were to Increase for the Middle Class/High Earners/Women, Would it Encourage the following?



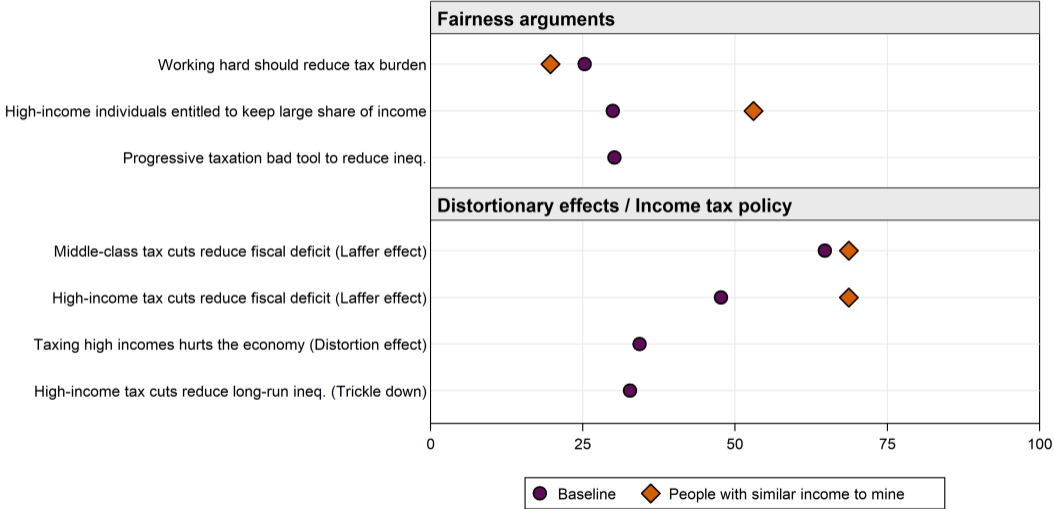
# If the Income Tax Rate were to Increase for the Middle Class/High Earners/You, Would it Encourage the following? - By Political View



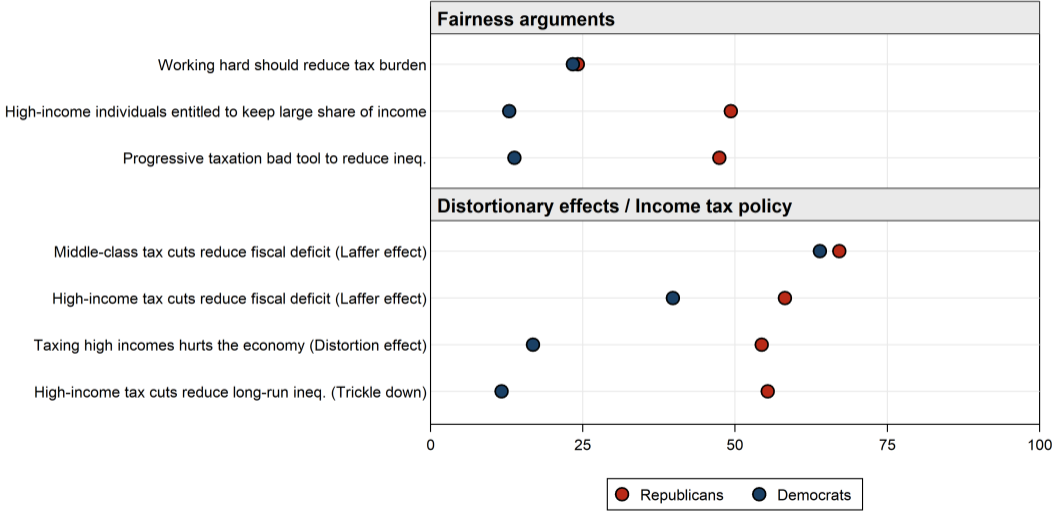
# Would the following Groups/You Win if the Income Tax were Cut?



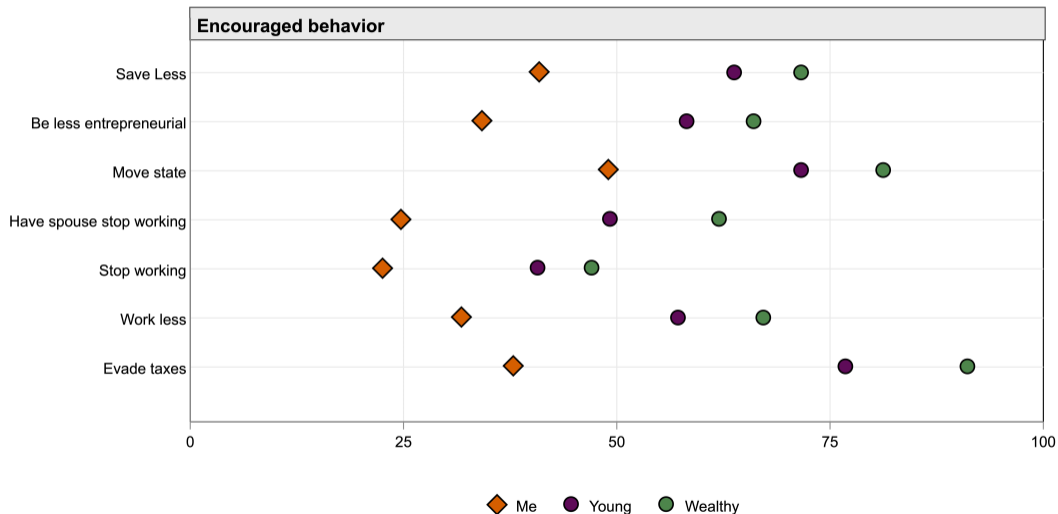
# Fairness of and Distortionary Effects of Income Tax



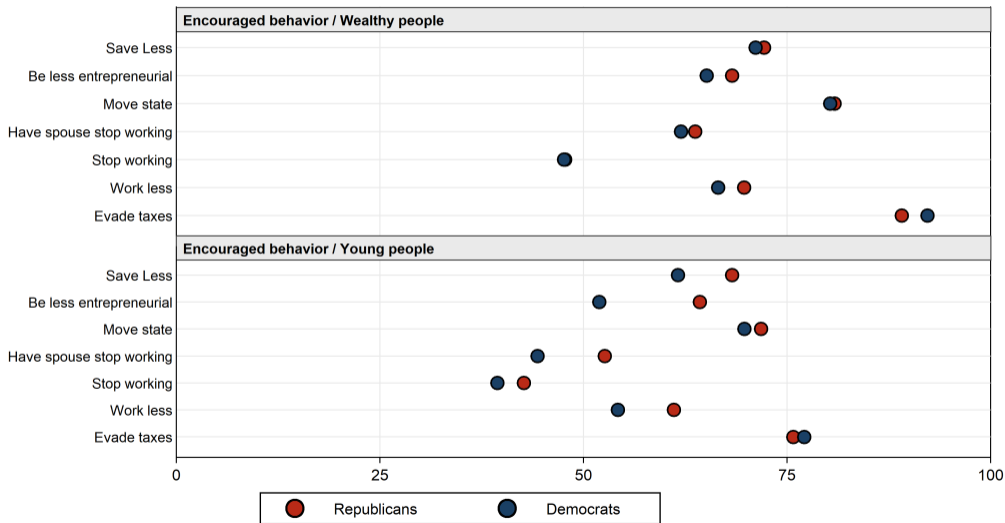
# Fairness of and Distortionary Effects of Income Tax by Political View



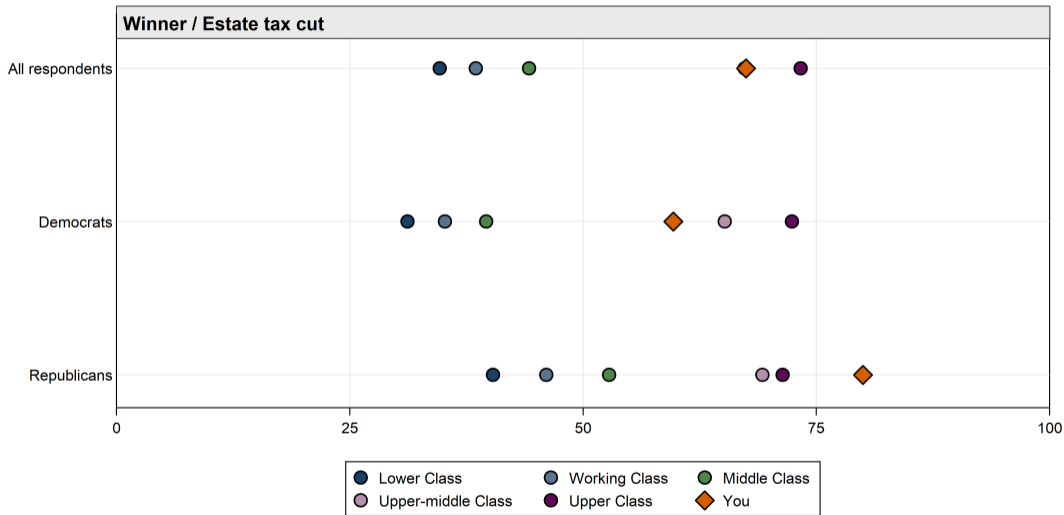
# If the Estate Tax were to Increase, Would it Encourage the Young/Wealthy/You towards towards the following?



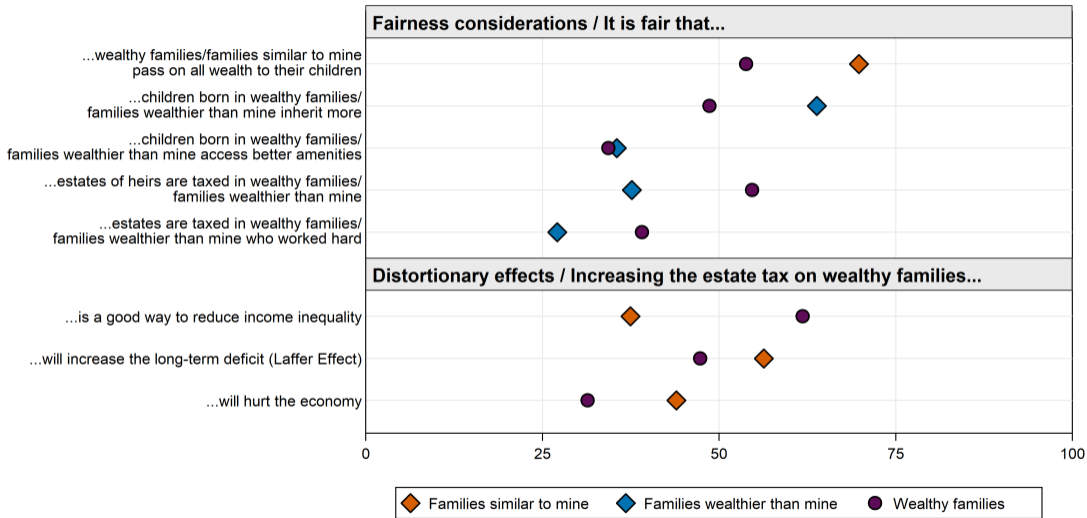
# If the Estate Tax were to Increase, Would it Encourage the Young/Wealthy towards the following? - By Political View



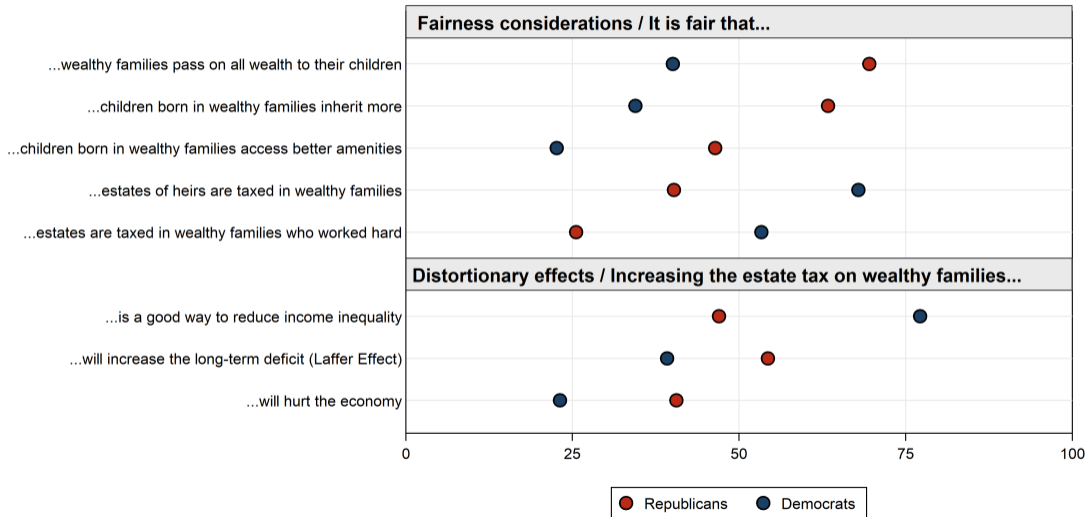
# Would the following Groups/You Win if the Estate were Cut?



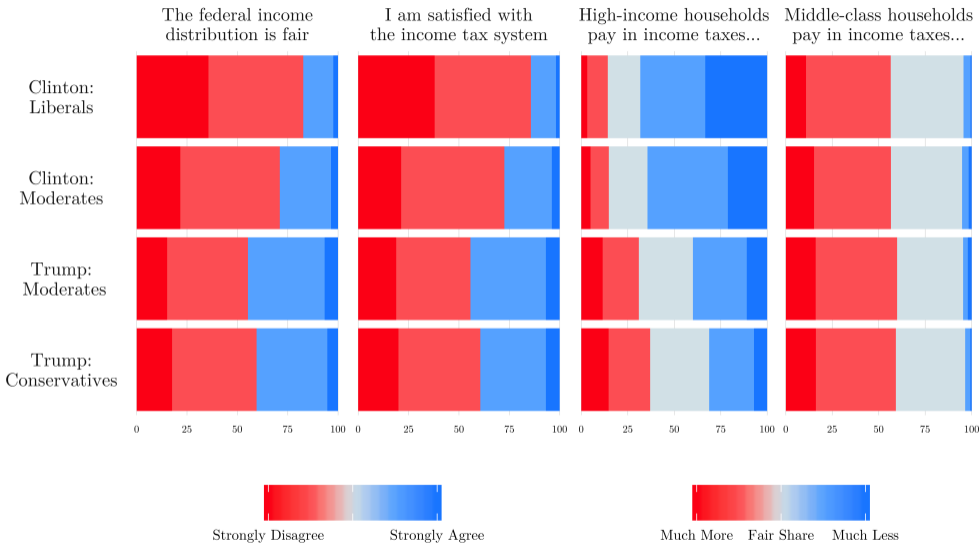
# Fairness of Inheritance and Distortionary Effects of Estate Tax



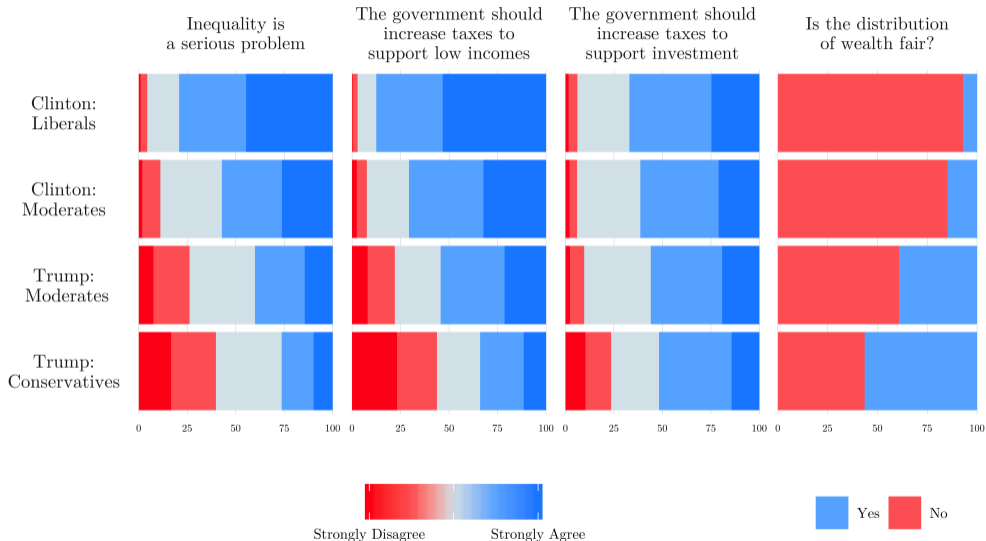
# Fairness of Inheritance and Distortionary Effects of Estate Tax by Political View



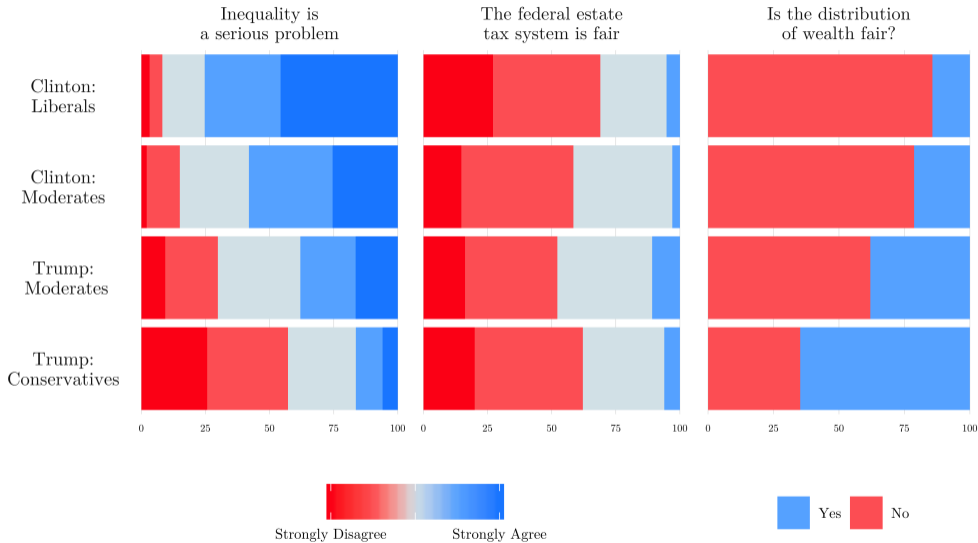
# Views on Income Taxation



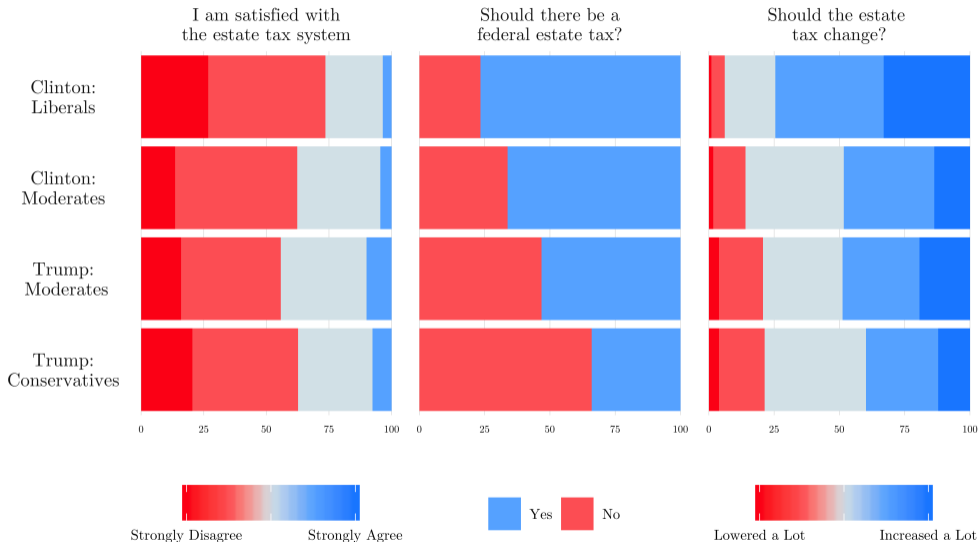
# Views on Income Taxation (II)



# Views on the Estate Tax



## Views on the Estate Tax (II)



# Effects of Video Courses of Income and Estate Tax

## Three different video courses

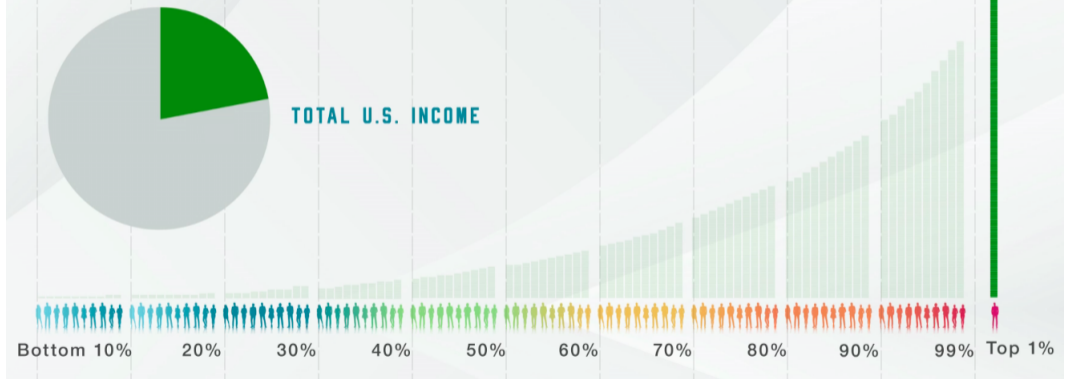
**Redistribution:** Distributional impacts of policy.

**Efficiency:** Efficiency costs of policy.

**Economist:** Trade-off between redistribution and efficiency.

## Income Tax: Redistribution Treatment (I)

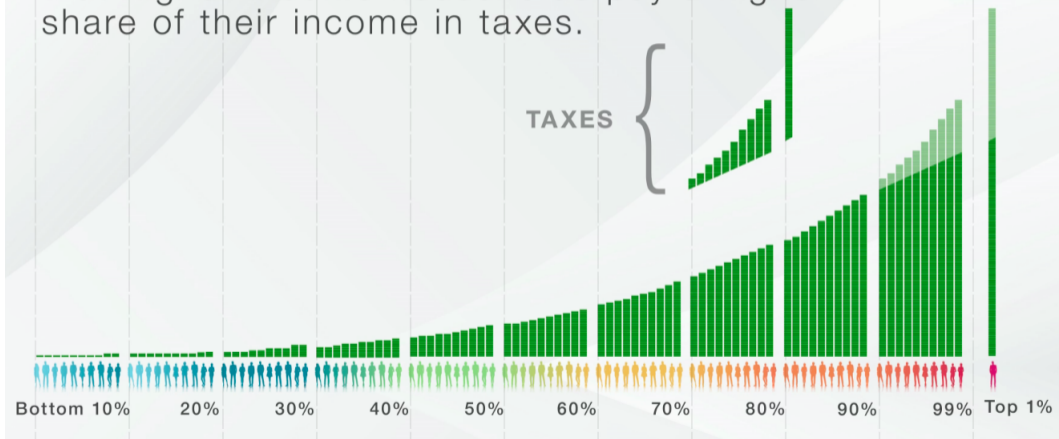
The top 1% richest agents, just one person in 100, earn around 22% or almost one quarter of all income in the U.S.



[Link to the video here](#)

## Income Tax: Redistribution Treatment (II)

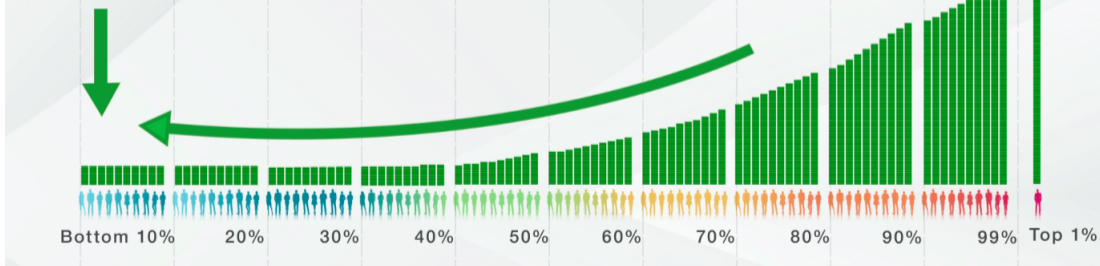
A progressive income tax system means that higher income households pay a higher share of their income in taxes.



## Income Tax: Redistribution Treatment (III)

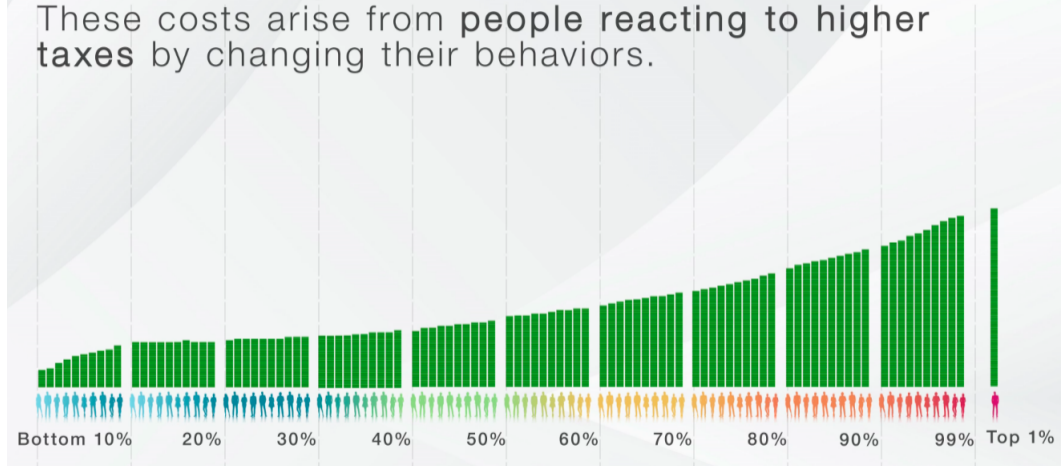
Revenues from the income tax go to fund tax cuts or transfers for lower income families.

**TRANSFERS**



## Income Tax: Efficiency Treatment (I)

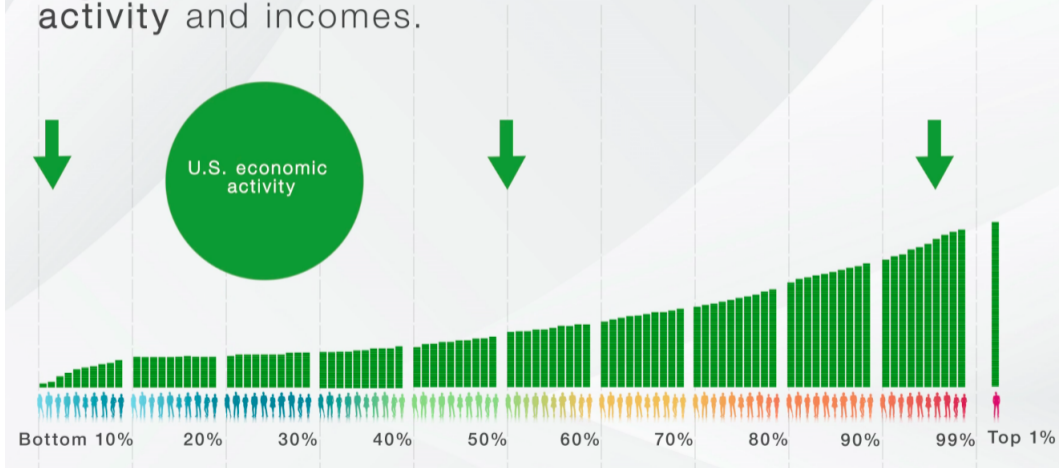
However, raising taxes has some economic costs. These costs arise from **people reacting to higher taxes** by changing their behaviors.



[Link to the video here](#)

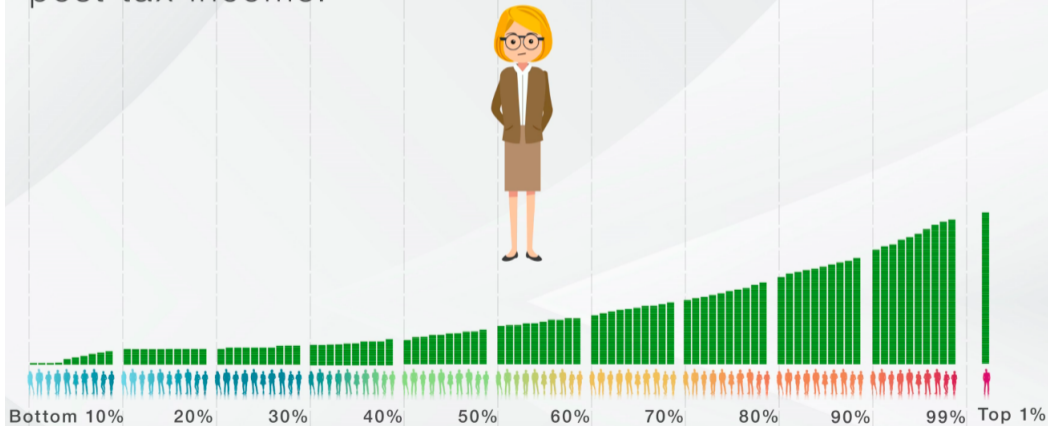
## Income Tax: Efficiency Treatment (II)

Higher taxes could thus reduce overall economic activity and incomes.



## Income Tax: Efficiency Treatment (III)

When the tax rate rises, Martha may decide to not look for a job anymore, since the cost of searching and working may no longer be worth the lower post-tax income.



## Income Tax: Economist Treatment (I)

All taxes have an **economic cost** and too high taxes can discourage economic activity.

But there are also **benefits**. Progressive taxes make the income distribution **more equal and fair** by redistributing some income from richer to poorer people. The ideal income tax system will be the one that balances these costs and benefits.

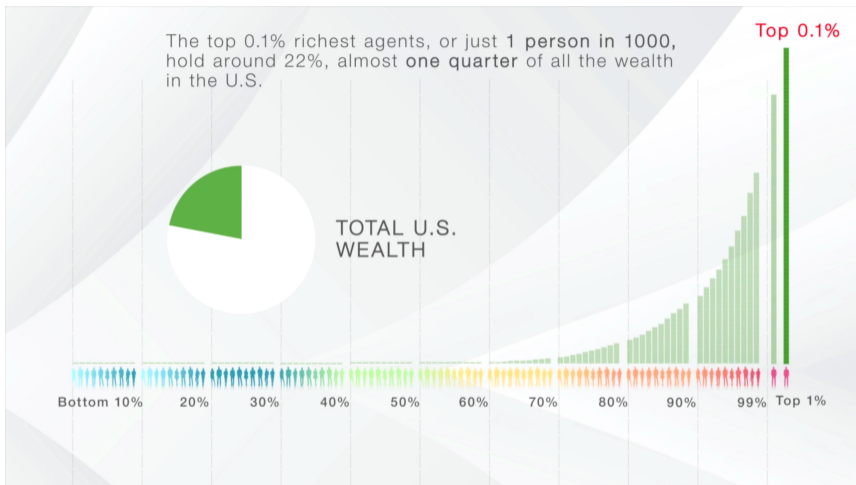
RAISE TAXES



LOWER TAXES

[Link to the video here](#)

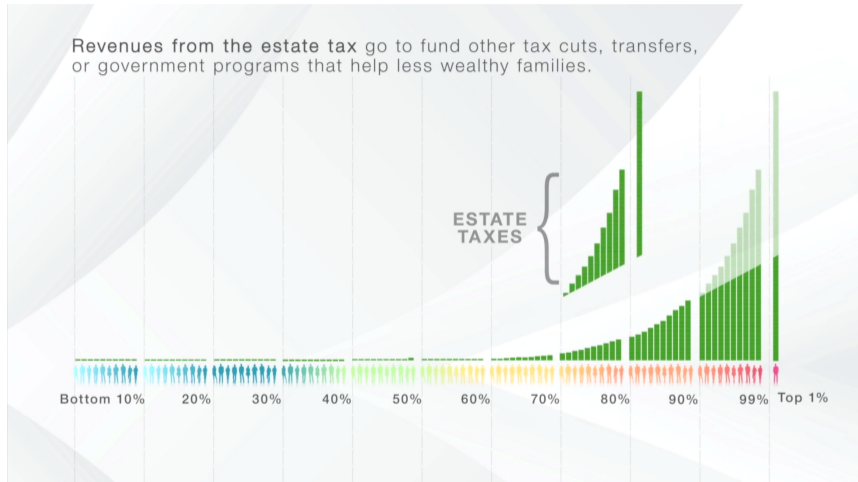
## Estate Tax: Redistribution Treatment (I)



[Link to the video here](#)

## Estate Tax: Redistribution Treatment (II)

Revenues from the estate tax go to fund other tax cuts, transfers, or government programs that help less wealthy families.



## Estate Tax: Redistribution Treatment (III)

Leveling the playing field through the estate tax is even more important since children from wealthy families already start with many more advantages in life, such as:



better schools



better health



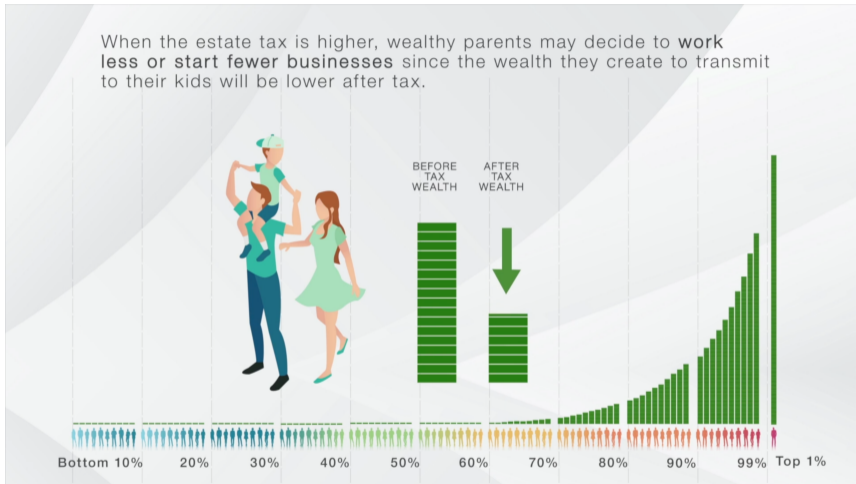
better neighborhoods



better social and professional networks

# Estate Tax: Efficiency Treatment (I)

When the estate tax is higher, wealthy parents may decide to **work less or start fewer businesses** since the wealth they create to transmit to their kids will be lower after tax.

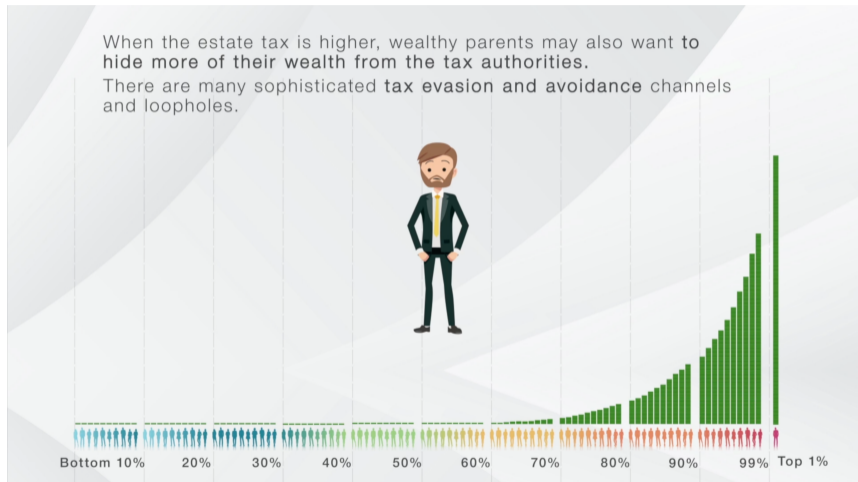


[Link to the video here](#)

## Estate Tax: Efficiency Treatment (II)

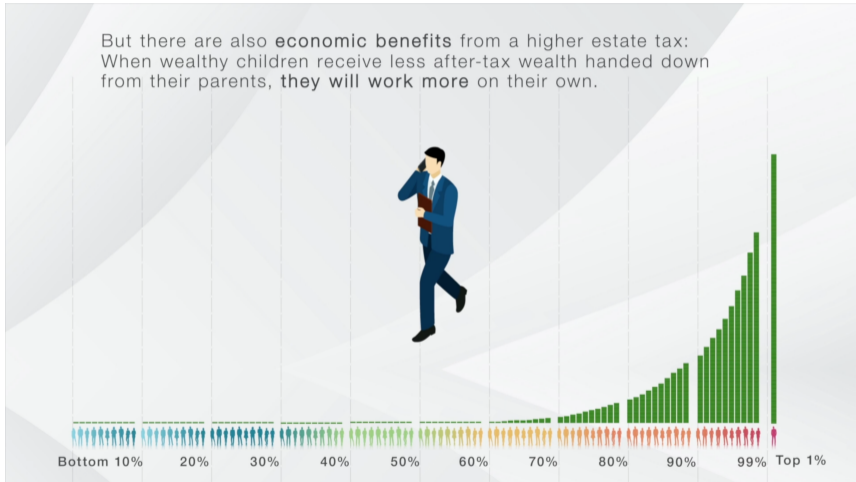
When the estate tax is higher, wealthy parents may also want to hide more of their wealth from the tax authorities.

There are many sophisticated tax evasion and avoidance channels and loopholes.



## Estate Tax: Efficiency Treatment (III)

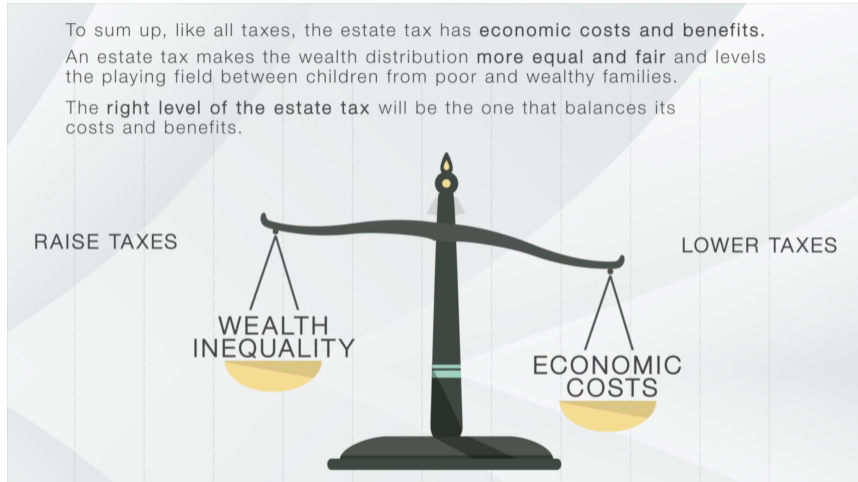
But there are also economic benefits from a higher estate tax:  
When wealthy children receive less after-tax wealth handed down from their parents, they will work more on their own.



## Estate Tax: Economist Treatment (I)

To sum up, like all taxes, the estate tax has economic costs and benefits. An estate tax makes the wealth distribution more equal and fair and levels the playing field between children from poor and wealthy families.

The right level of the estate tax will be the one that balances its costs and benefits.



[Link to the video here.](#)

## Effects of Economics Courses

### “First Stages:”

Efficiency and Economist courses increase perceived responses to taxes; strengthen view that taxes on high incomes are bad for the economy.

Distribution course increases perception of inequality as an issue.

### “Second Stages.”

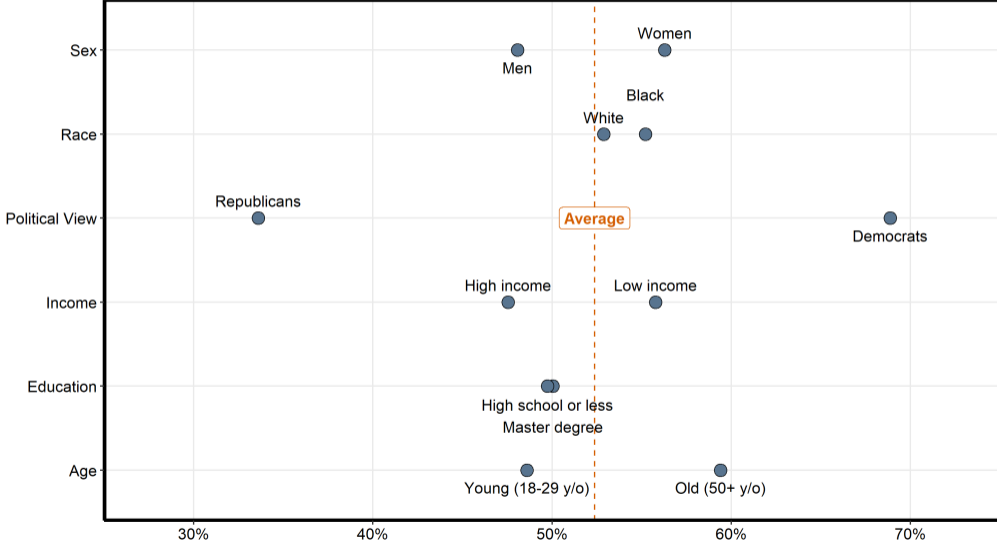
Distribution and Economist courses increase perception of income tax as a good tool to reduce inequality (despite efficiency costs); increase perceived scope of government and role of government in reducing inequality.

Means that distributional concerns dominate the efficiency concerns when both are shown.

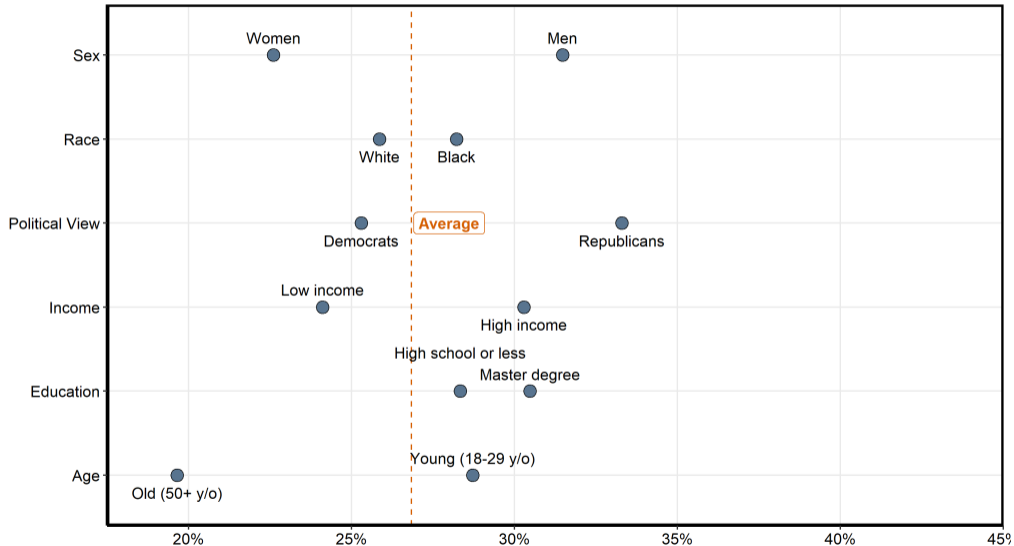
Different results for different policies. For trade and health insurance, “efficiency” arguments are more effective in increasing support (for free trade with compensating policies for losers; and for more generous, government-provided health insurance).

# Part 4: Overview of Policy Views

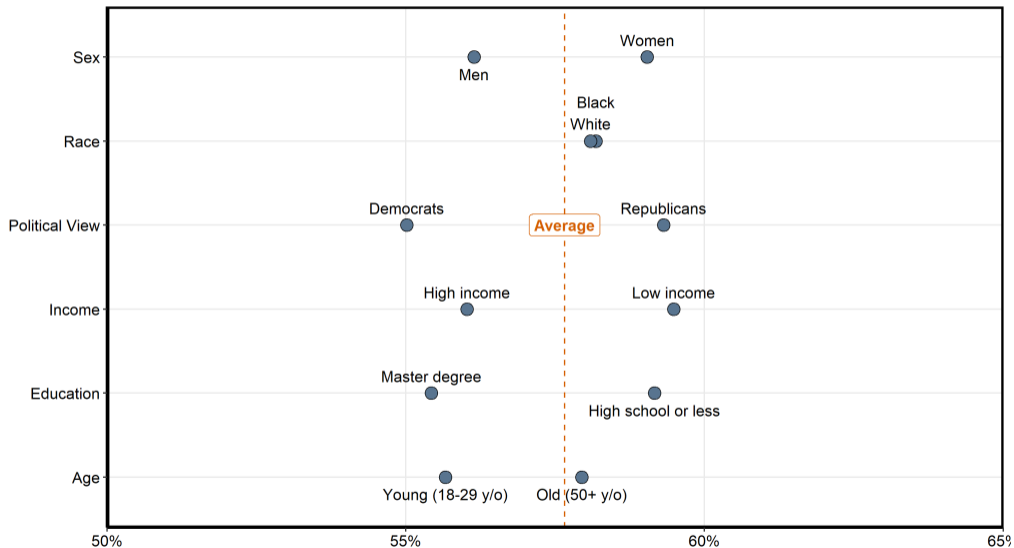
# Share of Respondents who think that High-income Households pay less than Fair Share in Income Taxes



# Share of Respondents who Trust the Government



# How many Cents of each Dollar of Tax are wasted by the Government?



**To be continued..**

Comments very welcome!

**THANK YOU!**

# Appendix

# Consent page

**Academic Research Survey** We are a non-partisan group of academic researchers from the Economics Department at Harvard University. Our goal is to learn about people's attitudes on several issues. Please read the information below before consenting to begin the research study.

- This survey is voluntary. You have the right to not answer any question, and to stop the survey at any time or for any reason (to exit the survey, simply close this window). We expect that it will take about 20 minutes. You will likely learn a lot!

- Your name will never be recorded by researchers. Results may include summary data, but you will never be identified. The data will be stored on Harvard servers and will be kept confidential. The collected anonymous data may be made available to other researchers for replication purposes.

- You will be compensated for this interview conditional upon (i) completing the survey and (ii) passing our survey quality checks, which use sophisticated statistical control methods to detect incoherent and rushed responses. **Responding without adequate effort may result in your responses being flagged for low quality and you may not receive your payment.**

Please note that it is very important for the success of our research that you **answer honestly** and **read the questions very carefully** before answering. If at any time you don't know an answer, please give your best guess **without consulting any external sources**. However, please be sure to spend enough time reading and understanding the questions.

You are encouraged to print or take a screenshot of this page for your records. If you have any questions about this study, you may contact us at [studysocialsciences2018@gmail.com](mailto:studysocialsciences2018@gmail.com).

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Harvard University Area Institutional Review Board ("IRB"). You may talk to them at (617) 496-2847 or [cuhs@harvard.edu](mailto:cuhs@harvard.edu) if:

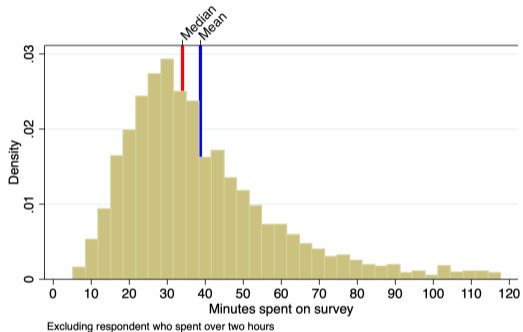
- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

Yes, I would like to take part in this study, and confirm that I LIVE IN THE U.S., and I am 18 or older

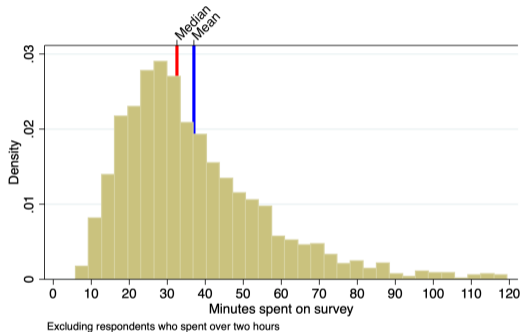
No, I would not like to participate

# Distribution of Survey Times - Income and Estate Tax

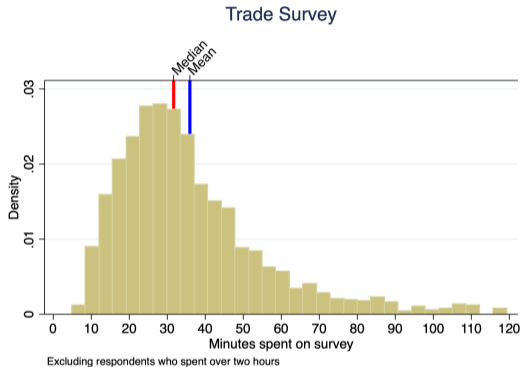
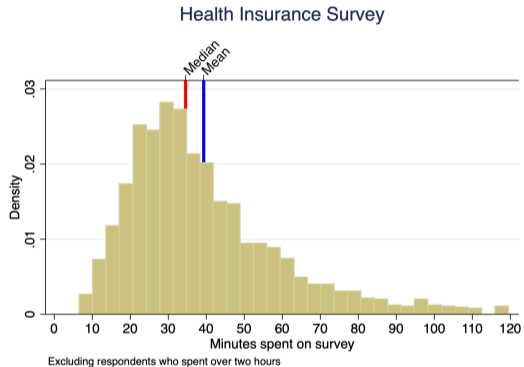
## Income Taxation Survey



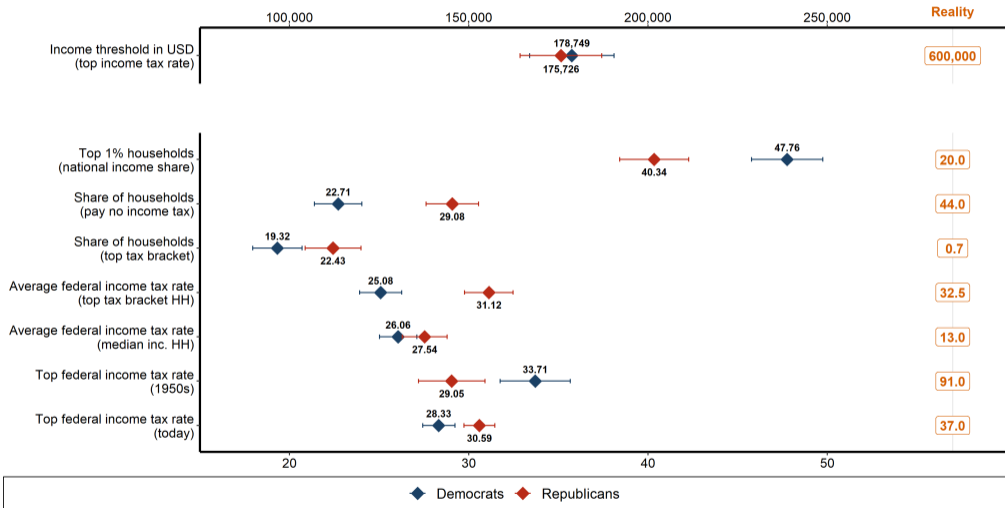
## Estate Tax Survey



# Distribution of Survey Times - Health Insurance and Trade

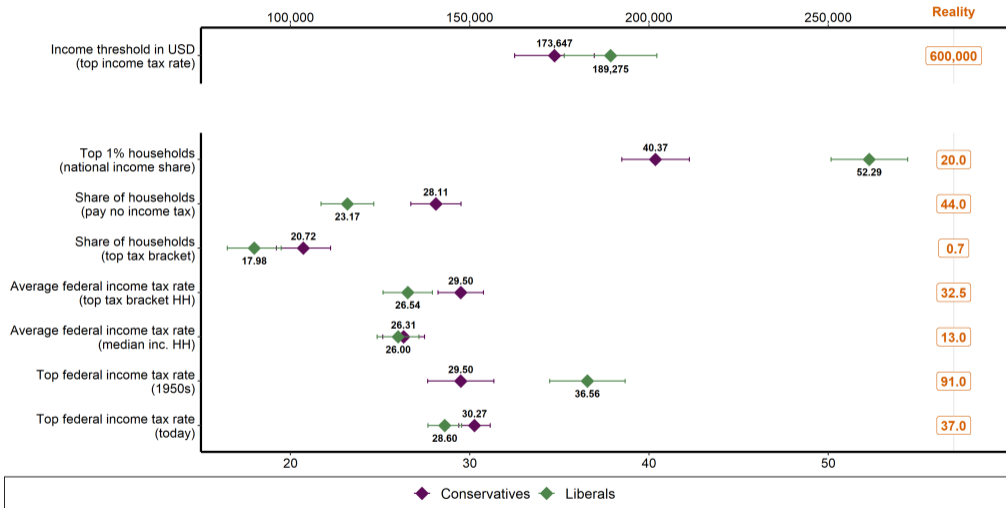


# Income Taxation Perceptions: Republicans vs. Democrats



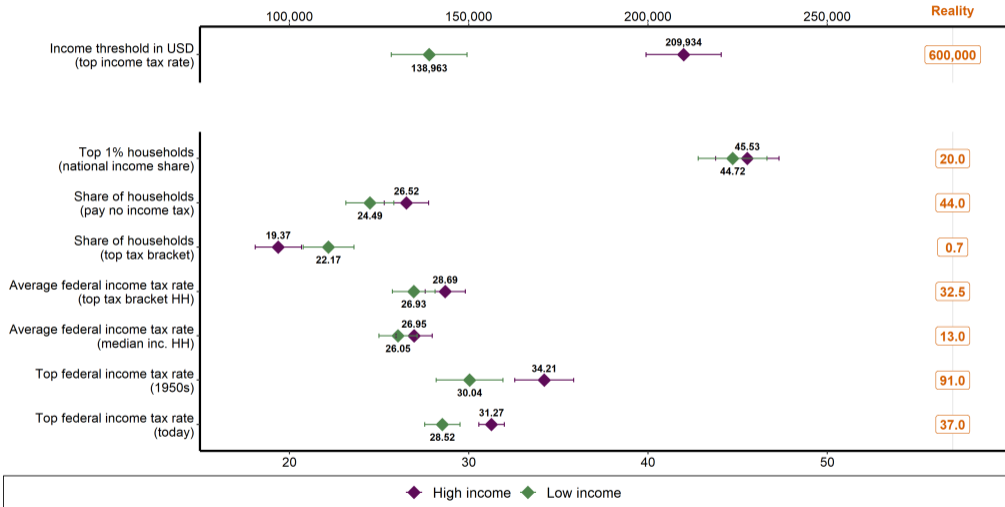
▶ [Back](#)

# Income Taxation Perceptions: Liberals vs. Conservatives



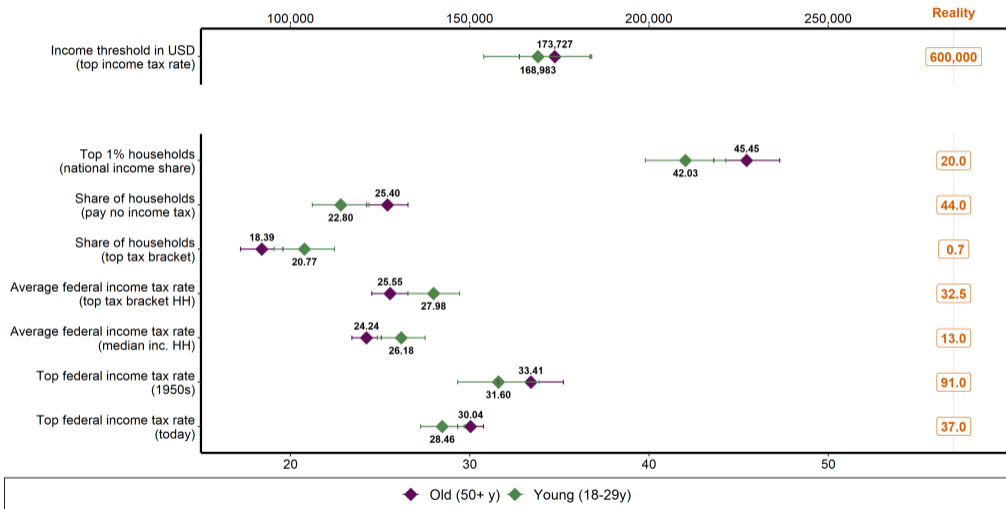
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# Income Taxation Perceptions: High Incomes vs. Low Incomes



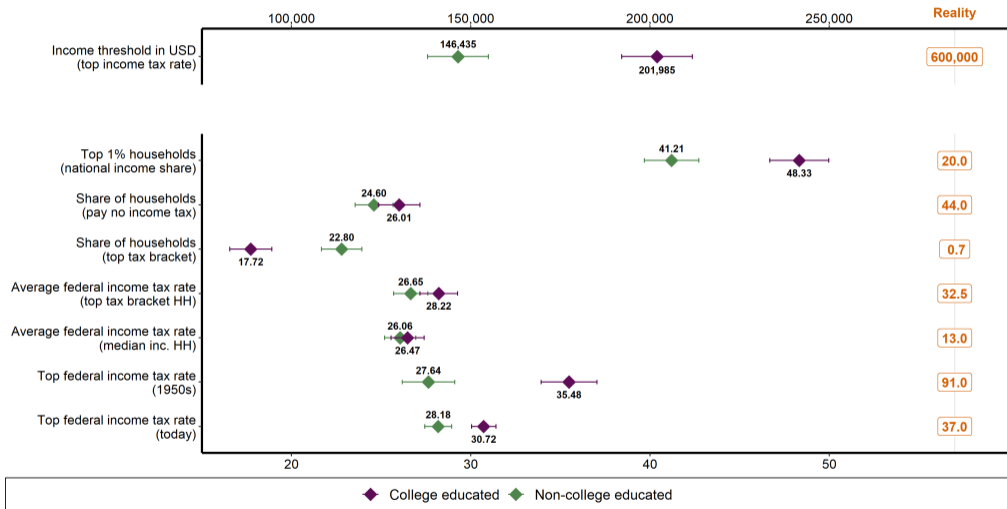
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# Income Taxation Perceptions: Young vs. Old



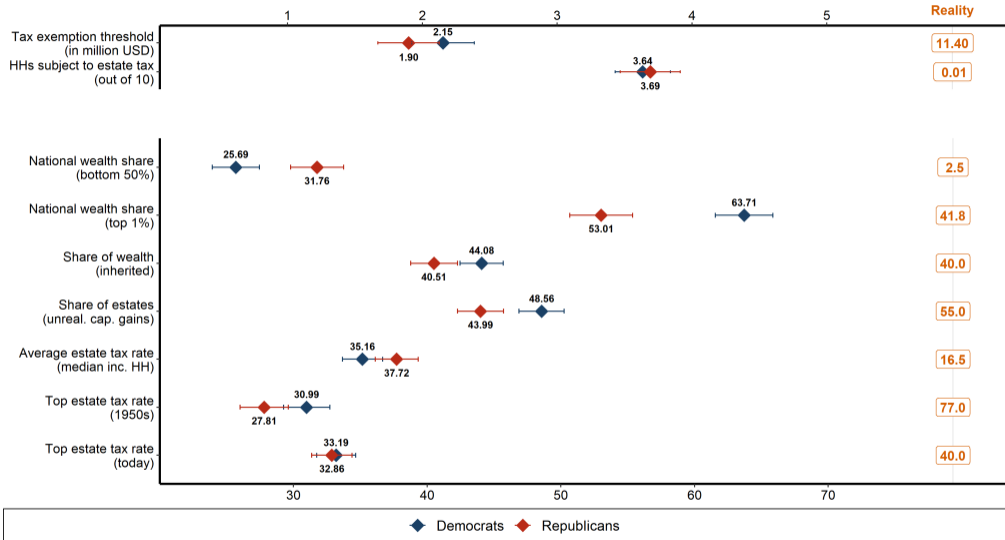
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# Income Taxation Perceptions: College Educated vs. Non College Educated

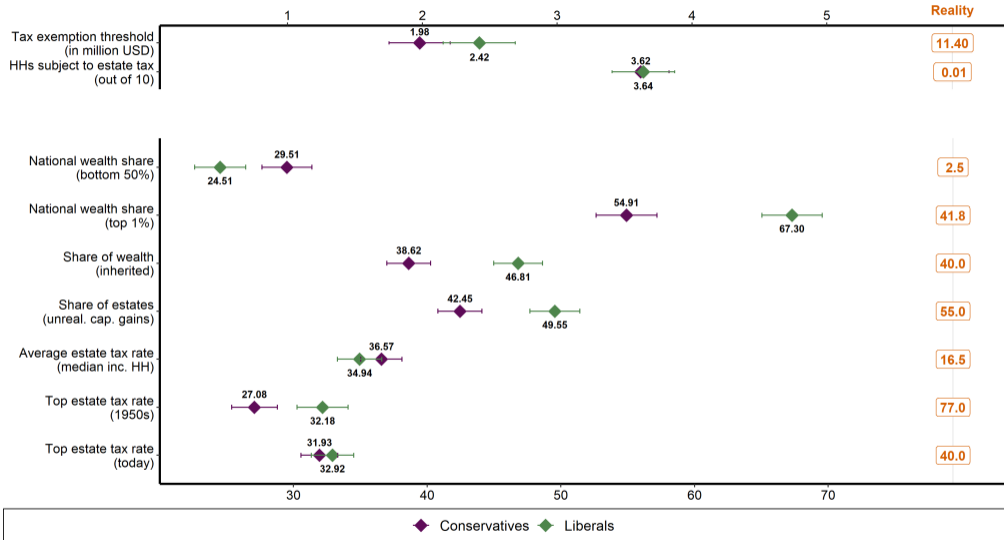


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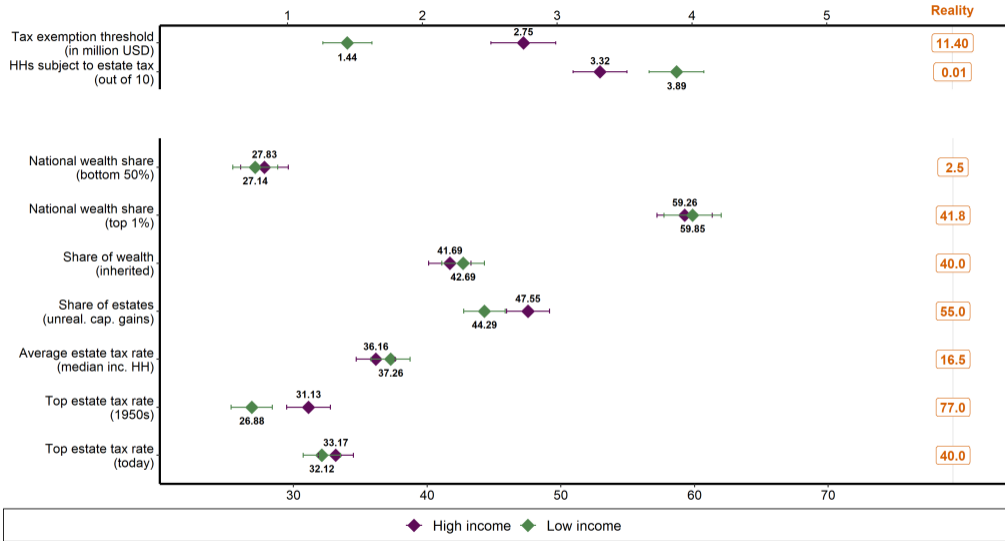
# Estate Tax Perceptions: Republicans vs. Democrats



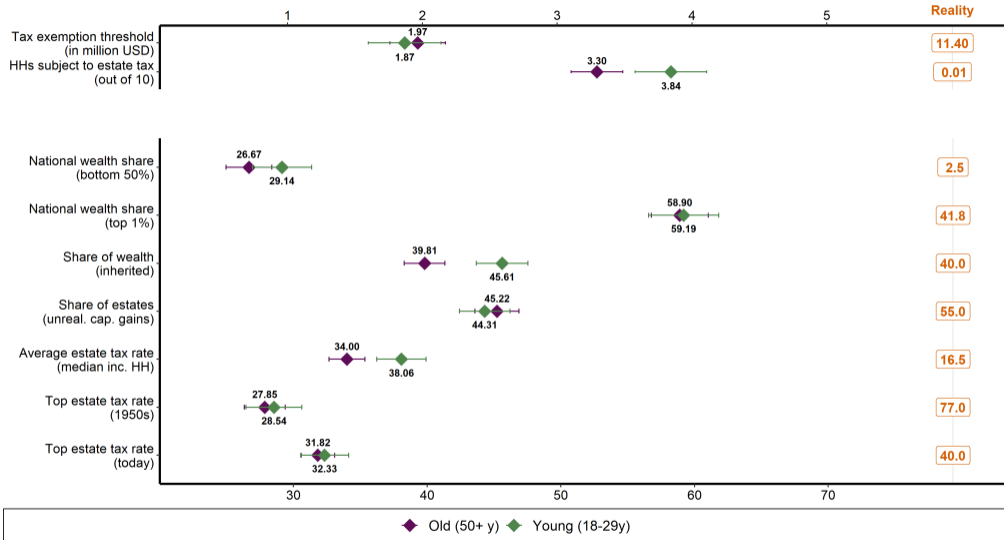
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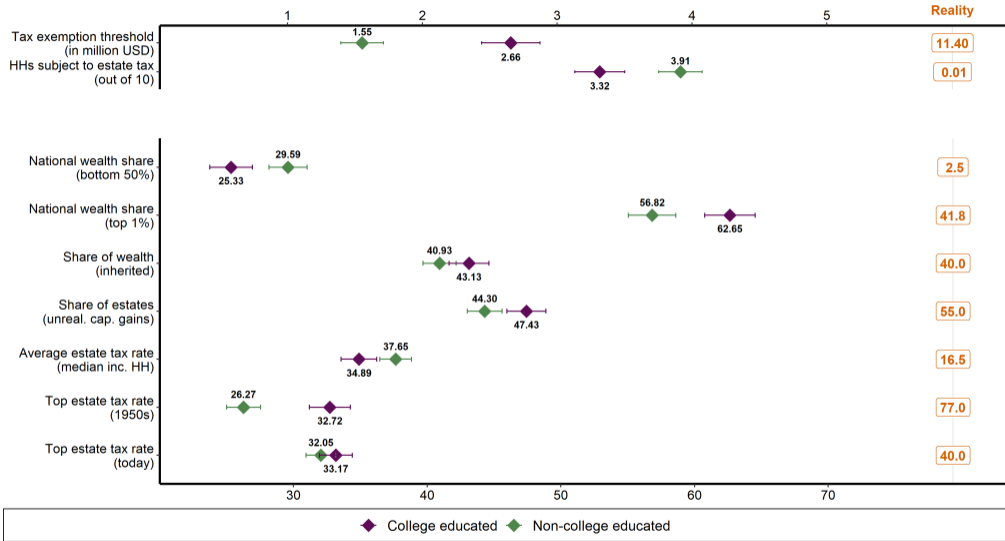
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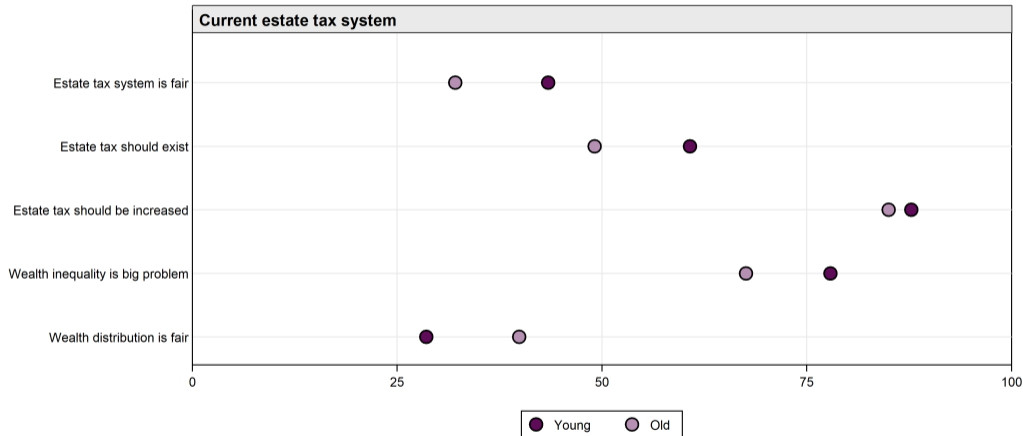
# Estate Tax Perceptions: Young vs. Old



# Estate Tax Perceptions: College Educated vs. Non College Educated

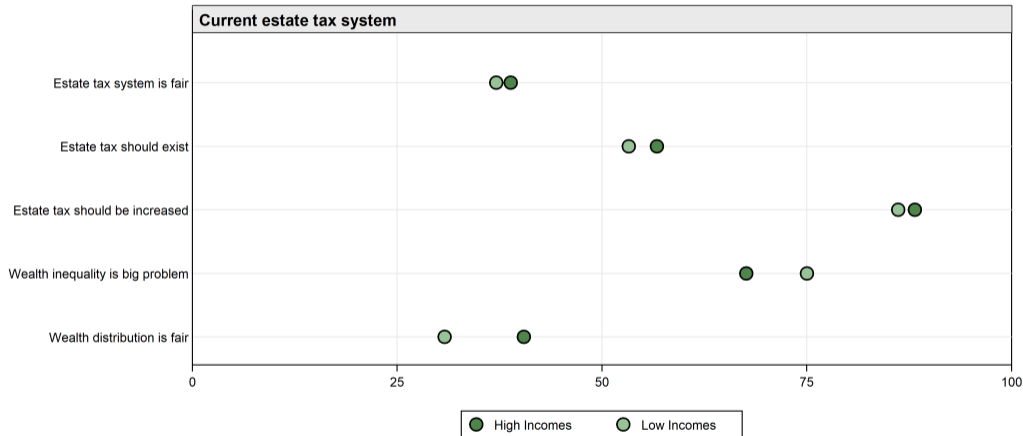


# Outcome questions: Perception of the current estate tax system - By Age



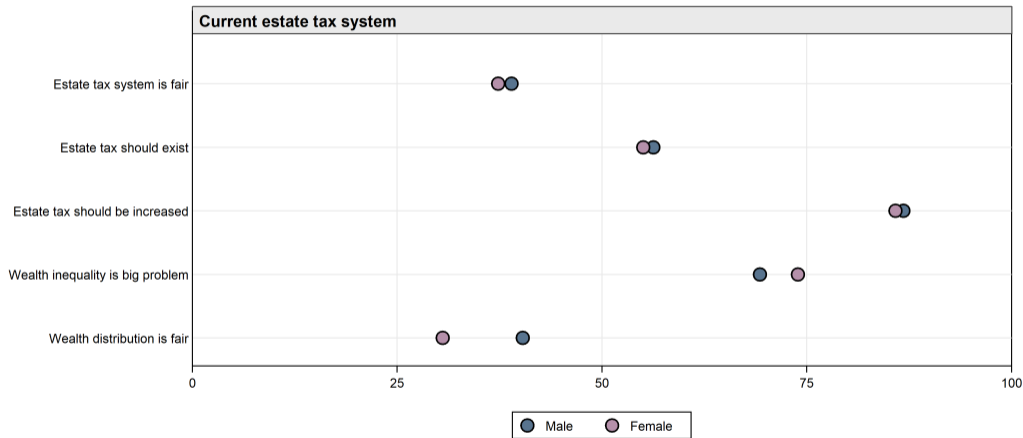
[▶ Back](#)

# Outcome questions: Perception of the current estate tax system - By Income



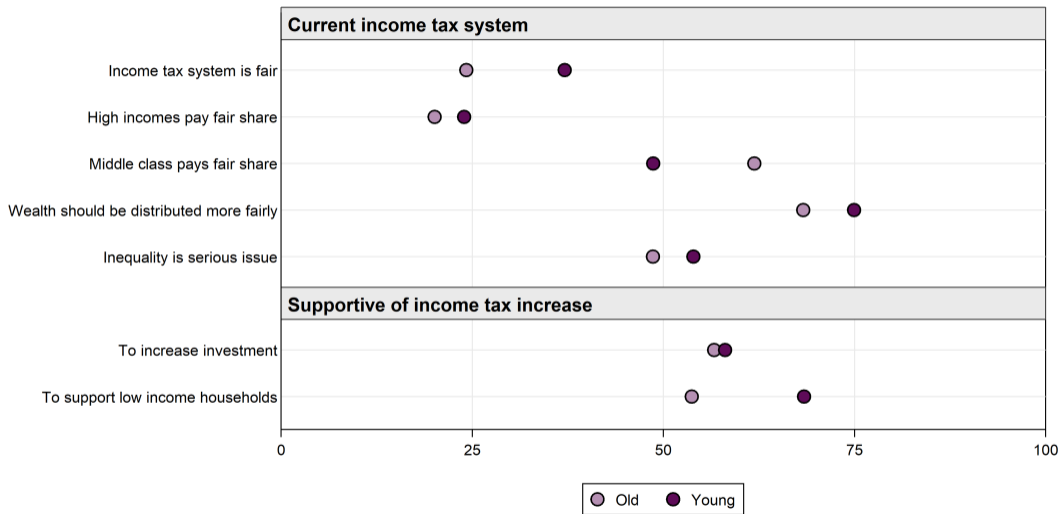
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# Outcome questions: Perception of the current estate tax system - By Male/Female

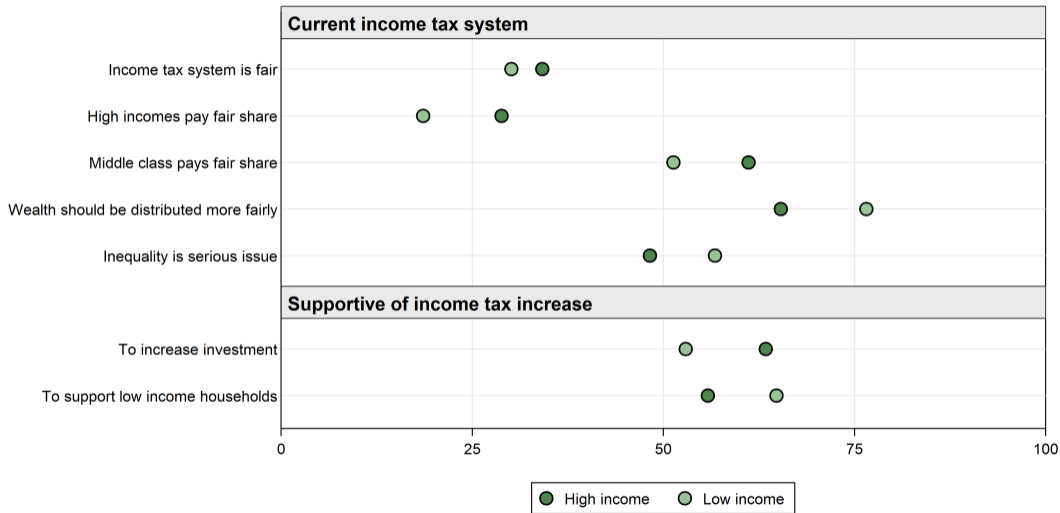


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# Outcome questions: Perception of the current income tax system - By Age



# Outcome questions: Perception of the current income tax system - By Income



# Outcome questions: Perception of the current income tax system - By Male/Female

