



DATAPOST

U.S. Household Incomes

A Snapshot

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Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
Education & Outreach

Quick Start: Household (HH) Income in 2016

Households include all family and non-family members living in the same house or apartment.

Household income is the sum of all money income earned by all members of the household ages 15 and up.

Mean (average) HH income is a calculated value =

$$\frac{\text{Total \$ HH Income}}{\text{Total \# of HHs}}$$

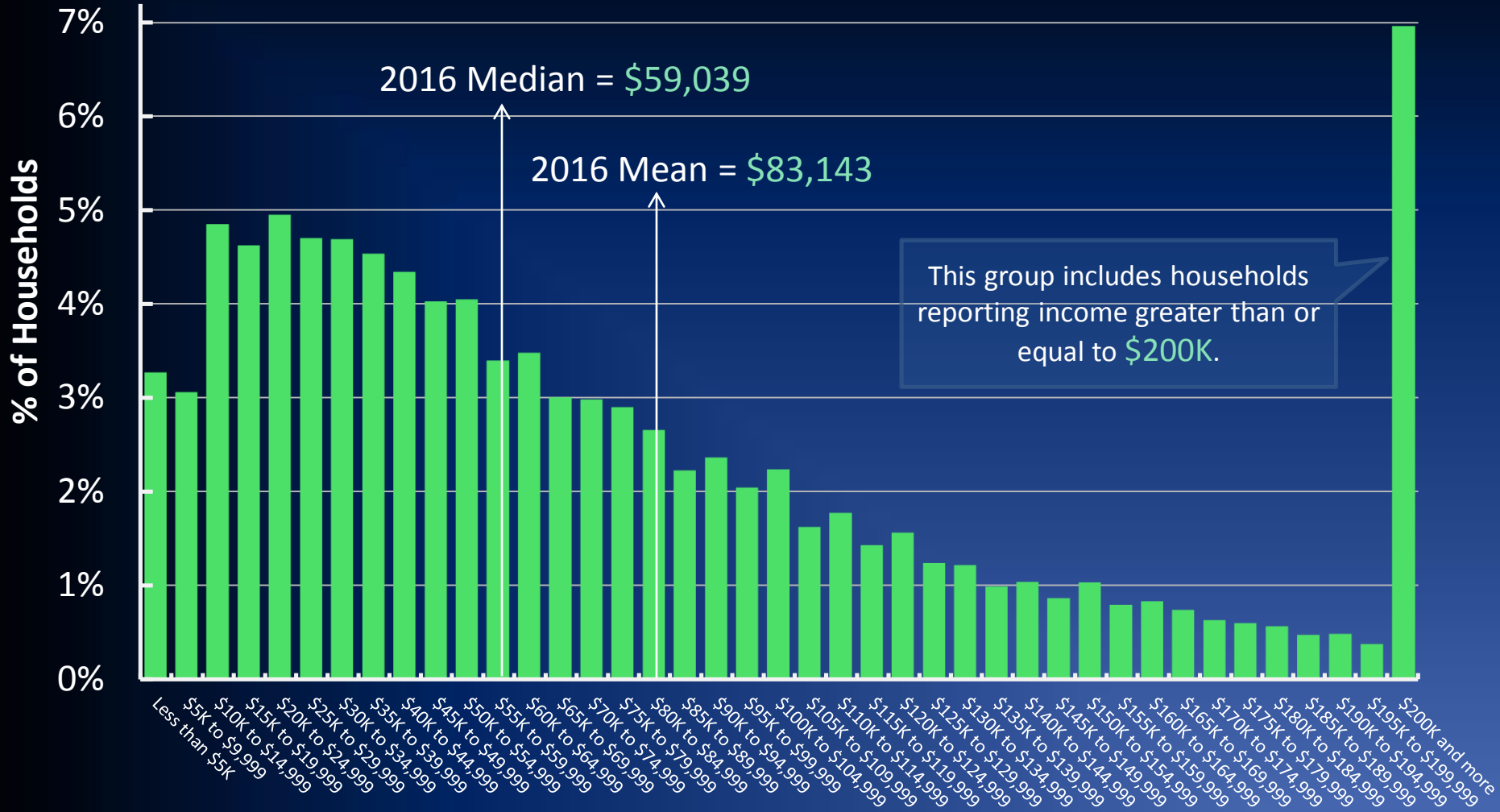
Median HH income is the value that lies at the center of all HH incomes (ranked from lowest to highest), where half the values lie above and half lie below.

The income distribution may be unbalanced or “skewed” in one direction (positive or negative), causing the mean and the median to be unequal.



Distribution of U.S. Household Income

Total Money Income in 2016



HH Income categories in \$5,000 increments

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement & FRBSF Calculations

What are the Facts?

1. If you ignore the last group (incomes equal to or greater than \$200,000), how would you describe the shape of the household income distribution? (See slide 3)
2. What percentage of U.S. households earned between \$75,000 and \$79,999 per year in 2016? (See slide 3)
3. What was the dollar amount difference between median and mean (average) household income in 2016? (See slide 3)
4. What percentage of U.S. households earned less than \$59,039? What percentage earned greater than \$59,039? (See slide 2 or 3)
5. Why do you suppose household incomes of \$200,000 or greater are grouped together?

View an [in-depth talk about income inequality](#) on our [YouTube Channel](#)