

A2 What are your stereotypes of Americans? - Reference Key

1. Actually, the number of Americans with passports has been growing steadily over the past 30 years. While only 10 % of Americans had passports in 1994, today it is closer to 40 %. This is due in part to the fact, since 9/11, Americans require passports to visit Mexico and Canada. Even without a passport however, Americans can travel quite far – to visit Hawaii, someone from New York would have to travel 5000 miles.

Source: www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42586638 (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

2. This is true! Per the World Giving Index, Americans are more likely to give money to charity than any other nationality. In 2018, it is estimated that they collectively gave \$427.71 Billion away. **Sources:**

www.marketwatch.com/story/the-us-is-the-most-generous-country-but-americans-say-debt-is-keeping-them-from-giving-more-to-charity-2019-10-18 (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

<https://givingusa.org/giving-usa-2019-americans-gave-427-71-billion-to-charity-in-2018-amid-complex-year-for-charitable-giving> (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

3. Not quite half! According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 42.4 % of Americans were found to be obese, a 30 % increase from 2000. Obesity creates enormous medical costs for the US economy – estimated to be \$147 Billion in 2008. While it is difficult to determine the precise cause of this rise, most agree it is caused by larger portion sizes, confusing ‘Diet’ for ‘Nutrition’, and increased inactivity.

Sources: www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

www.publichealth.org/public-awareness/obesity (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

www.vox.com/2016/8/31/12368246/obesity-america-2018-charts (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

4. While the United States does have the highest per capita gun ownership rate in the world, this statistic is somewhat misleading. Only about 30 % of Americans actually own guns. Why the disparity? Because 3 % of Americans own over half the guns in the country. These ‘super-owners’ own an average of 17 guns each. With almost 40,000 gun deaths in American in 2017, many Americans are in favor of stricter gun laws.

Sources: www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/10/22/facts-about-guns-in-united-states (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/nov/15/the-gun-numbers-just-3-of-american-adults-own-a-collective-133m-firearms (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

5. Fewer and fewer Americans are describing themselves as religious or attend church regularly. The number of Americans describing themselves as Christians has dropped 12 points in the past decade to 65 %, while the number of Americans describing themselves as Atheist or Agnostic has risen. All that being said, America remains much more religious than other wealthy countries. For example, 55 % of Americans say they pray daily, compared with 25 % in Canada, 18 % in Australia and 6 % in Great Britain. (The average European country stands at 22 %.)

Sources: www.pewforum.org/2019/10/17/in-u-s-decline-of-christianity-continues-at-rapid-pace (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/07/31/americans-are-far-more-religious-than-adults-in-other-wealthy-nations (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)

6. On the 2018 PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) results, the United States ranked 13th in reading (between New Zealand and the United Kingdom) but 37th in Mathematics (between Hungary and Belarus). While many in education struggle to find the best global exemplar of education policy to emulate, many point to America’s high rates of child poverty as an explanation for the continuing shortfall in achievement.

Sources: www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-12-27/why-do-u-s-schoolchildren-underperform-academically-compared-to-students-in-other-countries (Zugriff am 2.07.2020) <https://www.oecd.org/pisa/PISA%202018%20Insights%20and%20Interpretations%20FINAL%20PDF.pdf> (Zugriff am 2.07.2020)