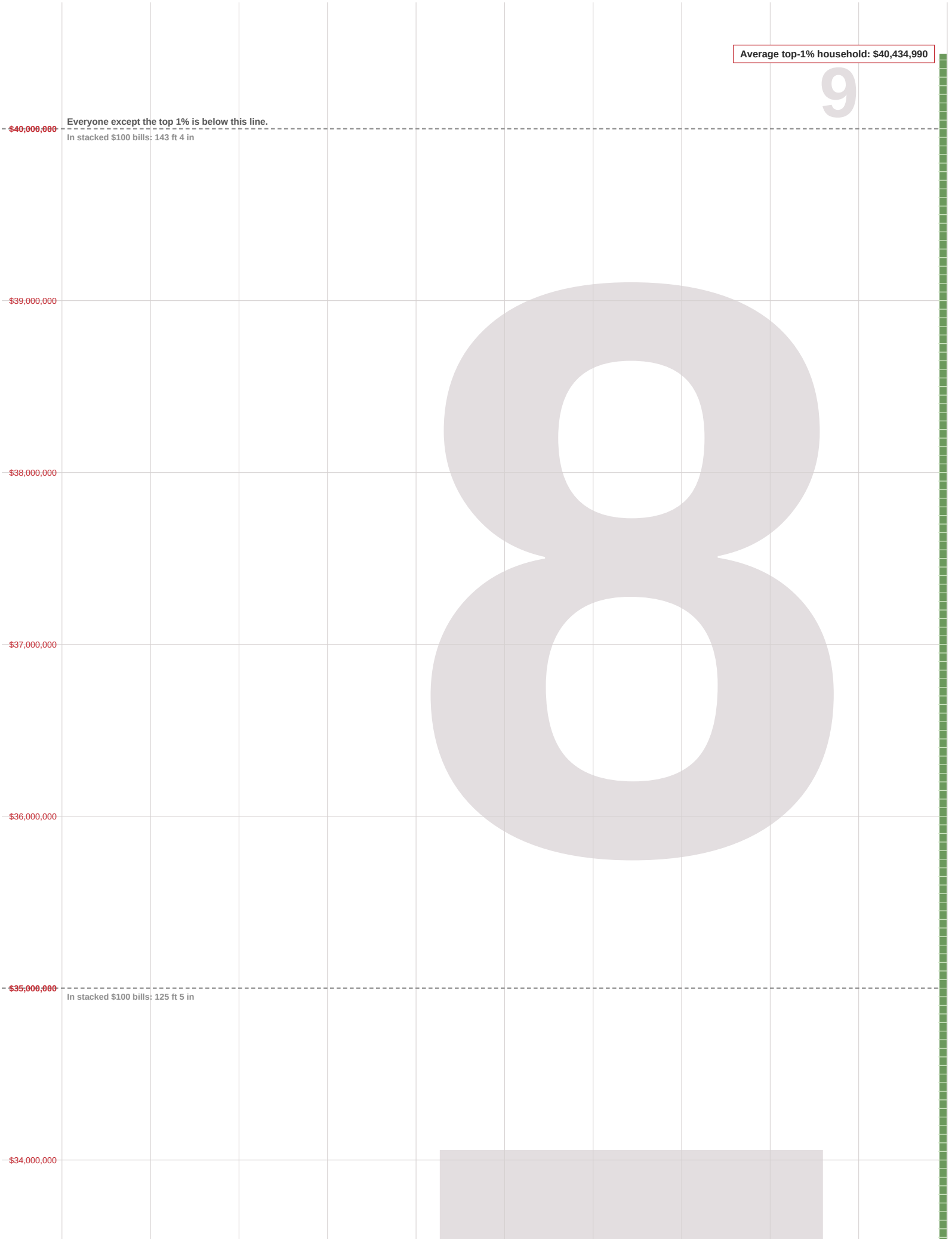

Average top-1% household: $40,434,990
9
Everyone except the top 1% is below this line.
$40,000,000
In stacked $100 bills: 143 ft 4 in
$39,000,000
$38,000,000
$37,000,000
$36,000,000
$35,000,000
In stacked $100 bills: 125 ft 5 in
$34,000,000
8

The Cost of Greed

The top 10% of U.S. earners now account for 49% of all consumer spending. What happens when there is nobody left with any money to buy all the things that get made?

$33,000,000

$32,000,000

$31,000,000

$30,000,000

In stacked $100 bills: 107 ft 6 in

IF WE STACKED BENJAMINS TO:

$30 Million = 107 ft 6 in

TIME Magazine, October 2025

"I'm a Millionaire. No One Needs More Than $30 Million."

$29,000,000

$28,000,000

IF WE STACKED BENJAMINS TO:

$28 Million = 100 ft 4 in

10 NBA Basketball Hoops

Stacking ten regulation NBA rims end-to-end (10 feet each) plus backboards.

$27,000,000

No, we're not lost.

The journey to the average 1%er really does climb. We're reaching a numbers range that is difficult to comprehend. Thus this graph.

$26,000,000

Everyone except the top 1% is below this line.

$25,000,000

In stacked $100 bills: 89 ft 7 in

$24,000,000

The Cost of Greed

Your kindergarten teacher is likely still paying for her college debt. She may never break even. The average borrower takes 20 years to pay off their loans.

$23,000,000

$22,000,000

$21,000,000

IF WE STACKED BENJAMINS TO:

$20 Million = 71 ft 8 in

A Standard U.S. Bowling Lane

The total length of an official bowling lane, including the approach area, lane, and pit. All those bills in the way of picking up the spare... change?

$20,000,000

In stacked $100 bills: 71 ft 8 in

$19,000,000

$18,000,000

$17,000,000

$16,000,000

$15,000,000

In stacked $100 bills: 53 ft 9 in

The 99th Percentile
$15,033,455

The top 2% would need a fourth screen to measure their wealth against the bottom 98%. You've scrolled past all of them.

The Cost of Greed

Even worse, another raise means they no longer qualify for childcare assistance. That costs more than each of them makes! One of them probably has to quit their job to take care of the kids, dropping their income in half, which ironically once again qualifies them for childcare!

$14,000,000

$13,000,000

IF WE STACKED BENJAMINS TO:

$12.6 Million = 45 ft 2 in

The Hollywood Sign

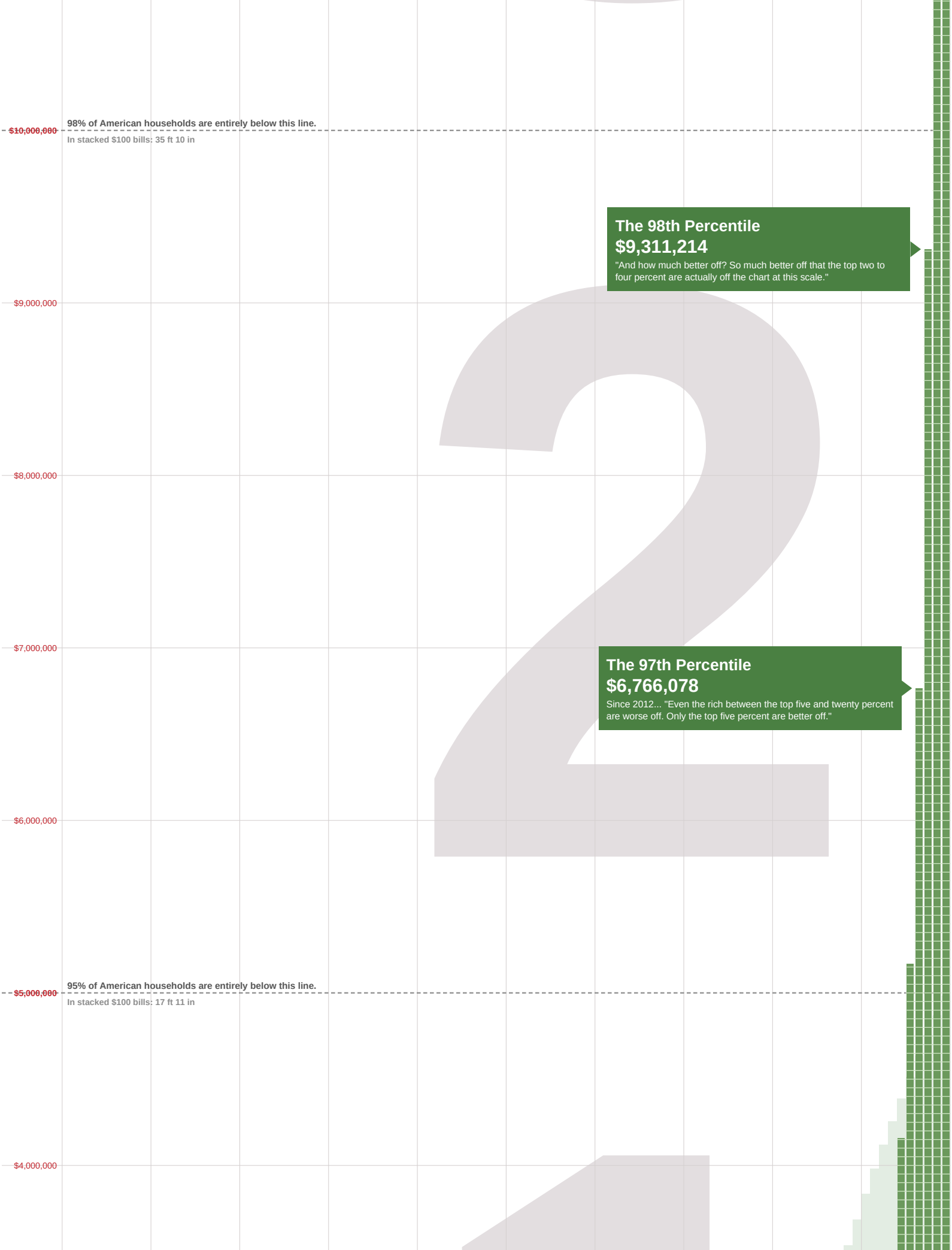
The height of the letters looking over the silver screen would stack up to a decent pile o' gold at 45 feet per letter.

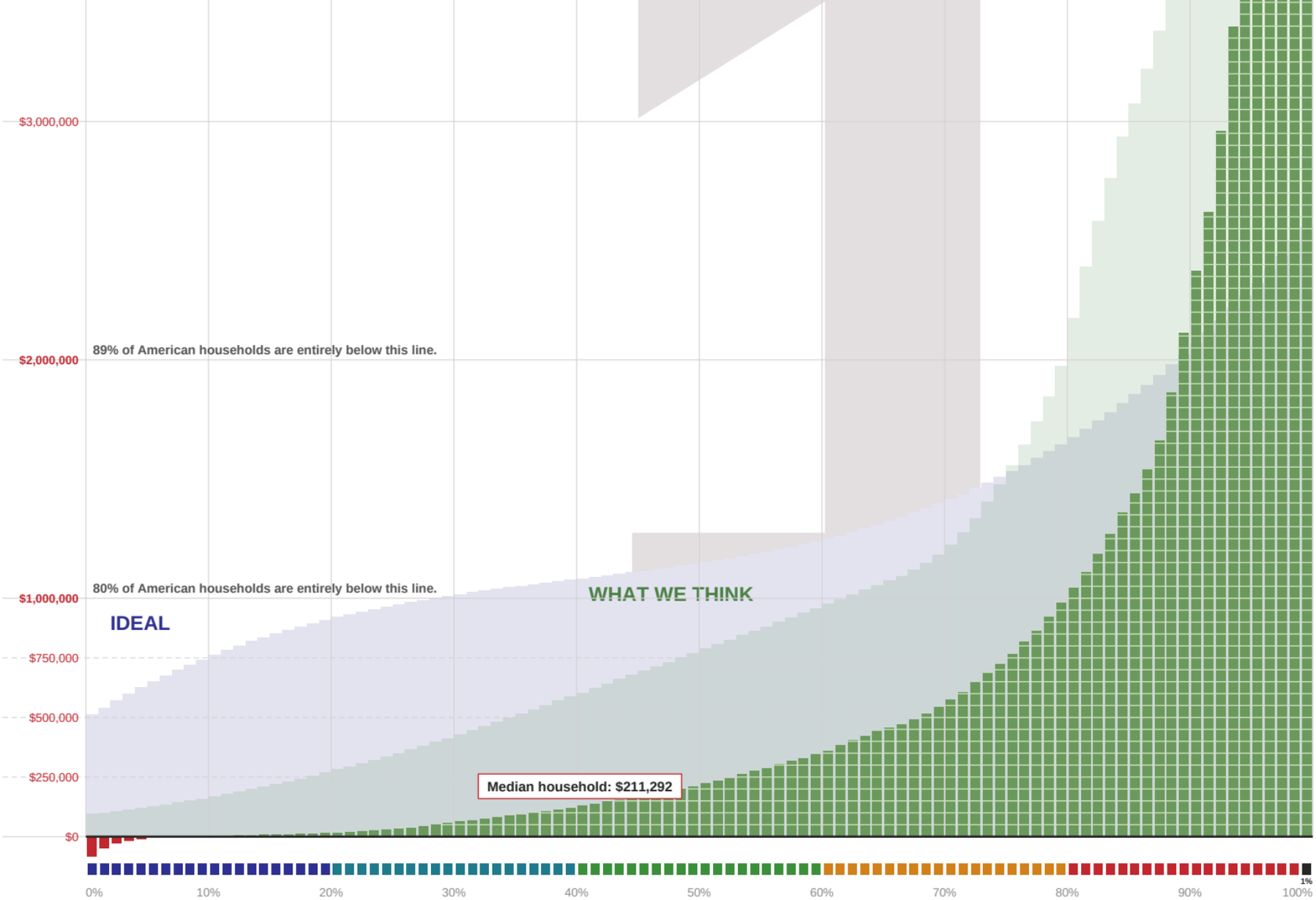
$12,000,000

The Cost of Greed

People work hard and get a modest raise. But now they no longer qualify for SNAP. That raise of $.25/hour costs them about $200/month. They'd need a raise of more than a dollar just to get back to where they were.

$11,000,000


98% of American households are entirely below this line.
In stacked $100 bills: 35 ft 10 in
$10,000,000
$9,000,000
$8,000,000
$7,000,000
$6,000,000
$5,000,000
$4,000,000
The 98th Percentile
$9,311,214
"And how much better off? So much better off that the top two to four percent are actually off the chart at this scale."
The 97th Percentile
$6,766,078
Since 2012... "Even the rich between the top five and twenty percent are worse off. Only the top five percent are better off."
95% of American households are entirely below this line.
In stacked $100 bills: 17 ft 11 in



Each bar = 1% of U.S. households, poorest to richest. Red = net debt.

dreamagainusa.org

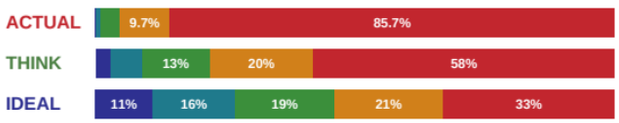
THE OBSCENE GRAPH

Wealth in America, to scale. Every bar is 1% of American households. 1 inch = $250,000. Every seam is a $50,000 stack of $100 bills.

DRAFT DATA - NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Who owns America?

Share of all wealth held by each fifth of households, bottom 20% to top 20%.



Bars 1-99: estimated net worth at each percentile, 2023 Survey of Consumer Finances, adjusted to 2026 dollars (x1.1); the poorest 8% are shown with their reported debt. Top 1%: average, Federal Reserve Distributional Financial Accounts, Q1 2026. "Think" and "Ideal": Norton & Ariely (2011), spread across percentiles for illustration. Shares are rounded. Sources and method: dreamagainusa.org/method