What is the state of
U.S. HOUSEHOLD WEALTH?

30% decline in the median real net worth of American families between 2007 and 2016.

74% share of all wealth in 2016 owned by families headed by a four-year college graduate or higher degree earner.


Median Real Family Net Worth, 2016

- 30% decline in the median real net worth of American families between 2007 and 2016.

- 74% share of all wealth in 2016 owned by families headed by a four-year college graduate or higher degree earner.


KEY FINDING

Demographic factors out of one’s control strongly predict financial outcomes. For instance, whites born before 1960 to college-educated parents generally have much higher levels of income and wealth than those with different demographic characteristics.

Healthy balance sheets get an early start in life. They’re also well-diversified, with manageable debt levels and plenty of cash reserves.