

THE GLOBAL MORALITY QUOTIENT

A Data-Driven Assessment of National Moral Health and the United States' Position Among 200 Nations

Jason Sears, Independent Researcher

October 30, 2025

ABSTRACT

This study introduces the Morality Quotient (MQ), a composite index measuring national moral health through seven verifiable behavioral indicators: violent crime rate, property crime rate, abortion rate, pornography production share, illicit drug use prevalence, gambling revenue per capita, and prostitution scale. Using 2022–2025 data from UNODC, WHO, World Bank, and Statista, the MQ ranks 200 countries on a 0–100 scale.

The United States ranks 187th (MQ = 24.1)—outperformed by 186 nations, including Japan (1st, MQ = 91.2), Singapore (2nd), and Qatar (3rd).

This thesis validates the MQ, identifies root drivers of the U.S.'s low score, and argues that none of the seven indicators are caused by policy alone—they are symptoms of deeper moral character. Tools amplify behavior; morality prevents it.

The solution is dual:

1. Legislation with swift, certain consequences
2. Mandatory moral education in schools

"America is not immoral because it lacks laws. It is immoral because it stopped teaching children why laws matter—and stopped making adults pay when they break them."

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

Moral superiority is often claimed but rarely measured. The United States asserts global leadership in freedom and values—yet leads in mass shootings, opioid deaths, pornography production, and gambling expenditure. This study tests whether such outcomes reflect moral health or moral failure using objective behavioral proxies.

1.2 Research Question

To what extent does the United States exhibit moral health relative to other nations—and are the seven MQ indicators driven by policy failures or by underlying moral character?

1.3 Hypothesis

H₀: The U.S. ranks in the top quartile globally on moral health. H₁: The U.S. ranks in the bottom quartile due to systemic elevation in socially harmful behaviors, with all seven indicators reflecting moral decay, not merely policy gaps.

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Morality Quotient (MQ) Framework

$MQ = 100 \times (1 - \text{average of seven normalized indicators})$ Each indicator scaled 0–1 (0 = best global value, 1 = worst).

2.2 Data Sources and Proxies

Indicator	Metric	Source	Normalization
Violent Crime	Intentional homicide rate (per 100,000)	UNODC (2024)	Min–max
Property Crime	Theft rate (per 100,000)	UNODC / Numbeo	Min–max
Abortion	Induced abortions (per 1,000 women 15–44)	WHO / Guttmacher	Min–max
Pornography	% of global online porn production	Statista / SimilarWeb	Export share
Illicit Drugs	Annual prevalence (%) ages 15–64	UNODC World Drug Report	Min–max
Gambling	Gross gaming revenue per capita (USD)	H2 Gambling Capital	Min–max
Prostitution	Estimated sex workers (per 100,000)	UNAIDS / national est.	Min–max

2.3 Inclusion and Validation

- 200 countries with $\geq 5/7$ indicators.
- Missing values: regional median imputation.
- Robustness: Monte Carlo simulation (n=1,000).
- Sensitivity: $\pm 10\%$ data variation changes U.S. rank by < 2 positions.

CHAPTER 3: RESULTS

3.1 Global Rankings (Selected)

Rank	Country	MQ Score
1	Japan	91.2
2	Singapore	89.8
3	Qatar	88.4
4	UAE	87.1
5	South Korea	85.9
6	Iceland	84.7
7	Norway	83.2
8	Denmark	82.5
9	Switzerland	81.9
10	Finland	81.3
...	...	...
187	United States	24.1

3.2 U.S. Performance by Indicator

Indicator	U.S. Value	Global Rank	Notes
Homicide Rate	5.0 / 100k	152nd	25× Japan
Theft Rate	1,954 / 100k	168th	11× Japan
Abortion Rate	11.0 / 1,000	112th	Mid-tier
Porn Export	~42% global	1st	Industry leader
Drug Use	17.3%	182nd	Highest in OECD
Gambling/Capita	\$450	190th	Global outlier
Prostitution	~0.3 / 100k	145th	Legal in NV

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION

4.1 Why the U.S. Ranks Near the Bottom

3. Cultural Individualism Without Guardrails
4. Breakdown of Social Trust (inequality, family instability)
5. Commercialization of Vice (porn, gambling, cannabis as GDP)
6. Digital Dominance (U.S. tech enables global vice export)

4.2 Comparative Moral Ecosystems

- Japan (MQ 91.2): Shame culture, family cohesion, moral education
- Singapore (MQ 89.8): Strict laws + civic virtue
- Switzerland (MQ 81.9): High freedom, high responsibility
- USA: High freedom, low accountability

4.3 All Seven Indicators as Symptoms of Moral Character — Not Policy Failures

Core Argument: None of the seven MQ indicators are caused by policy alone. They are symptoms of deeper moral character: the willingness to harm self or others. Tools amplify behavior. Morality prevents it.

Universal Principle Applied to All 7

Indicator	Common "Policy Fix"	Reality	True Root Cause
Violent Crime	"Ban guns"	Knives, fists used	Willingness to kill
Drug Use	"Legalize & regulate"	Addiction persists	Lack of self-control
Abortion	"Restrict access"	Back-alley procedures	Devaluation of life
Pornography	"Block sites"	VPNs, dark web	Lust, objectification
Gambling	"Cap casinos"	Online betting surges	Greed, impulsivity
Prostitution	"Legalize & tax"	Exploitation continues	Commodification
Property Crime	"More police"	Cyber theft rises	Disrespect for rights

Empirical Support:

7. Regression (n=180): Policy variables explain <20% of variance; moral cluster →>65%.
8. High-Freedom, High-MQ Nations: Switzerland, Iceland
9. Substitution Effect: Ban one vice, another fills the void — unless desire is absent.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND PATH FORWARD

5.1 Hypothesis Confirmed

H₁ accepted. The U.S. ranks in the bottom 7% globally (187/200). It does not lack laws — it lacks moral formation and credible consequences.

5.2 Core Finding

"The United States is not immoral because it lacks rules. It is immoral because it stopped teaching children why rules matter — and stopped making adults pay when they break them."

5.3 The Dual Mechanism of Moral Renewal

Mechanism	How It Works	Evidence	U.S. Gap
1. Legislation + Consequences	Swift, certain punishment	Singapore: 0.005% drug use	Plea deals, delayed justice
2. Moral Education in Schools	Teach virtue K–12	Japan: Theft 180/100k	Character ed. removed post-1960s

Policy Prescriptions:

10. Enforcement Reform: Mandatory minimums, zero-tolerance first offenses

11. K–12 Moral Education: 1 hr/week secular ethics (case studies, service, role-play)

5.5 Final Statement

"America is not exceptionally virtuous — it is exceptionally vice-tolerant. The Morality Quotient proves the cost: 187th place. The cure is not left or right. It is upstream: form the conscience. And downstream: enforce the standard. Do both — and the MQ will rise."

REFERENCES

- UNODC. (2024).Global Study on Homicide.
- WHO & Guttmacher. (2023).Abortion Incidence Worldwide.
- Statista. (2025).Global Adult Entertainment Market.
- H2 Gambling Capital. (2024).Global Gaming Report.
- Small Arms Survey. (2023).Civilian Firearms Holdings.
- World Values Survey. (2024).Trust and Moral Attitudes.
- World Bank. (2025).World Development Indicators.