

YouGov Survey: Views on Homelessness



Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted April 19 - 25, 2022
Margin of Error ±3.3%

1. How much do you know about homelessness and its causes?

A lot	34%
A little	56%
None at all	10%

2. Do you personally know anyone who has ever been homeless, even for a short period of time? Select all that apply.

Yes, me	19%
Yes, a family member	18%
Yes, a friend	19%
Yes, an acquaintance	18%
No	43%
Prefer not to say	3%

3. How serious of a problem do you think homelessness is in the United States?

Very serious	54%
Somewhat serious	32%
Not very serious	6%
Not at all serious	2%
Not sure	5%

4. How serious of a problem do you think homelessness is in your local community?

Very serious	27%
Somewhat serious	33%
Not very serious	23%
Not at all serious	8%
Not sure	9%

5. Do you think the federal government should do more or less to address homelessness in the United States?

Should do much more	41%
Should do somewhat more	28%
Doing the right amount	11%
Should do somewhat less	4%
Should do much less	5%
Not sure	10%

6. Do you think your state and local governments should do more or less to address homelessness in your local community?

Should do much more	39%
Should do somewhat more	27%
Doing the right amount	17%
Should do somewhat less	5%
Should do much less	4%
Not sure	9%

7. How much, if at all, do you blame each of the following for homelessness in the U.S.?

	Blame a lot	Blame a little	Don't blame at all	Not sure
Local governments	31%	43%	12%	14%
State governments	36%	39%	11%	14%
The federal government	39%	36%	12%	12%
Real estate developers	28%	30%	25%	17%
Families of homeless people	13%	43%	25%	19%
Homeless people themselves	24%	44%	18%	15%
The mental health system	42%	35%	11%	12%
Landlords	26%	38%	20%	16%
Democrats	30%	29%	19%	22%
Republicans	30%	31%	19%	20%
Non-profits	12%	25%	39%	24%
Billionaires	30%	25%	27%	18%
The military	12%	24%	44%	20%

8. Which level of government do you believe is MOST responsible for addressing homelessness?

The local government	20%
The state government	24%
The federal government	28%
The government should not be involved at all	7%
Not sure	21%

9. Do you think each of the following is a major cause of homelessness, a minor cause, or not a cause?

	Major cause	Minor cause	Not a cause	Not sure
Drug and alcohol addiction	66%	20%	4%	10%
Mental illness	60%	26%	5%	9%
Disabilities	37%	40%	8%	14%
Poor health	35%	39%	11%	15%
Lack of jobs	32%	36%	23%	9%
Poverty	58%	25%	6%	11%

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Lack of personal responsibility	37%	39%	10%	14%
Poor personal-finance skills	35%	42%	10%	13%
Domestic violence	33%	42%	10%	15%
Lack of affordable housing	57%	24%	9%	11%
Lack of housing supply	41%	31%	16%	13%
Gentrification	23%	29%	17%	31%
Racism	25%	29%	32%	15%

10. Which of these comes closer to your view of government's role in addressing homelessness?

Something the government can do a lot about	63%
Something beyond the government's control	19%
Not sure	18%

11. Would you support or oppose the government taking the following action to address homelessness?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Funding more rehabilitation programs for people with addiction	74%	12%	14%
Funding more counseling programs for people with mental illness	78%	11%	11%
Funding more programs for people with disabilities	75%	12%	14%
Funding more services for veterans	79%	9%	12%
Spending more on social services	61%	20%	19%
Opening more domestic violence shelters	74%	12%	14%
Opening more homeless shelters	69%	14%	17%
Funding more subsidized housing programs	63%	18%	19%
Funding more emergency rental assistance programs	65%	17%	18%
Building housing for chronically homeless people to permanently live in	63%	17%	20%
Reducing zoning regulations to try to increase the supply of housing	53%	20%	27%
Incentivizing developers to build more housing	57%	17%	26%
Incentivizing developers to build more low-income housing	67%	18%	15%
Strengthening laws around renters' rights to reduce evictions	53%	25%	22%
Building architecture that prevents homeless people from sleeping or camping in public spaces	47%	33%	21%
Arresting homeless people and putting them in jail	17%	65%	18%
Banning homeless encampments	38%	35%	27%

12. Regardless of what you support or oppose it, do you think the following action will increase or decrease the number of people who are homeless in this country?

	Increase	No effect	Decrease	Not sure
Funding more rehabilitation programs for people with addiction	21%	18%	42%	18%
Funding more counseling programs for people with mental illness	24%	16%	42%	18%
Funding more programs for people with disabilities	23%	17%	42%	18%
Funding more services for veterans	22%	14%	45%	18%
Spending more on social services	21%	22%	34%	22%
Opening more domestic violence shelters	20%	19%	41%	20%
Opening more homeless shelters	24%	20%	38%	18%
Funding more subsidized housing programs	22%	17%	40%	21%
Funding more emergency rental assistance programs	22%	18%	41%	19%
Building housing for chronically homeless people to permanently live in	22%	18%	41%	18%
Reducing zoning regulations to try to increase the supply of housing	19%	24%	30%	27%
Incentivizing developers to build more housing	19%	26%	32%	24%
Incentivizing developers to build more low-income housing	21%	21%	38%	20%
Strengthening laws around renters' rights to reduce evictions	19%	23%	34%	25%
Building architecture that prevents homeless people from sleeping or camping in public spaces	21%	36%	23%	20%
Arresting homeless people and putting them in jail	18%	44%	19%	20%
Banning homeless encampments	22%	37%	18%	24%

13. Do you think that housing is a basic human right?

Yes	72%
No	28%

14. How much discrimination do people who are homeless face in America today?

A great deal	44%
A fair amount	37%
Not much	14%
None at all	6%

15. Which comes closer to your views on homelessness?

People who are homeless should first try to solve other problems they have (e.g., mental illness, addiction, etc.) before they try to secure housing	33%
Providing homeless people housing first helps them to solve their other problems (e.g., mental illness, addiction, etc.)	49%
Not sure	18%

16. If you saw someone living on the streets in your community, how do you think it would make you feel? Select all that apply.

Sad	62%
Angry	19%
Sympathetic	47%
Numb	7%
Scared	10%
Disgusted	10%
Disillusioned	9%
Embarrassed	9%
Guilty	10%
Concerned	49%
Annoyed	11%
Other	4%
None of the above	11%

Interviewing Dates	April 19 - 25, 2022
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2020 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.17 to 4.296, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.396.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	58 questions not reported.