

Fannie Mae

*Homelessness in America
Americans' Perceptions, Attitudes and Knowledge*

General Population Survey & City Surveys

November, 2007

Submitted by:

Gallup, Inc.
502 Carnegie Center
Princeton, NJ 08540

These findings may be released to others according to Gallup's publication guidelines contingent on the client, Fannie Mae, submitting to Gallup, Inc., the final drafts of materials in which the findings for these survey questions will appear, before printing or distribution. Gallup has the right to review and edit these materials before approving their publication. In addition, a copy of the printed version will be sent to Gallup for its files. It is also understood that Gallup, Inc. will not release the information unless authorized by the client, or as described in Gallup's letter of agreement.

Contents

Methodology	1
Survey Highlights	3
Detailed Findings	8
Most Important Problem Facing Country	9
Perception of Homeless People Today vs. Ten Years Ago.....	10
Perceptions of Homeless People in Community vs. Ten Years Ago.....	12
Factors That Might Contribute To Homelessness/Primary Cause of Homelessness..	14
Primary Cause of Homelessness in America	17
Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans.....	19
Rating the Nation’s Efforts In Dealing With Homelessness	21
Rating of Community In Dealing With Homelessness	23
Perceptions of Homeless People – Adult Individuals vs. Families.....	25
Change In Homelessness Among Veterans	27
Likelihood of Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Wars To Become Homeless.....	29
Role Specific Groups and Organizations Should Play in Addressing Homelessness.	31
The Community and Homelessness.....	34
Personal Concerns Over Possibility of Homelessness.....	37
Personal Worry Over Not Having a Place To Live	39
Hardships Encountered During Past 12 Months.....	41
Incidence of Providing Shelter for Friend or Relative.....	43
Can Homelessness in America Be Totally Eliminated?	45
Public Willingness To Help Homeless People.....	47
Technical Appendix.....	49
Sampling Tolerances	52

Methodology

The following report presents the findings of a quantitative survey research program conducted by Gallup, Inc. on behalf of Fannie Mae. The overall objective of the study was to examine adults' perceptions and knowledge of homelessness in America. The study also measures public opinion as to who and why some people may become homeless, and in particular, why U.S. veterans may be homeless.

To achieve this goal, Gallup, Inc. conducted more than 5200 interviews with adults residing in telephone households in the United States. The studies included a national survey of 1,005 veterans who had served in any military service, the findings of which were released on November 8, 2007, in Washington, D.C. and included in a separate report. Gallup also conducted a national survey of 1002 adults, among the U.S. general population age 18 and over (included in this report). In addition, Gallup surveyed 3,216 adults living in eight major U.S. cities (approximately 400 in each city's metropolitan statistical area (MSA), included in this report). The eight cities selected for this study have partnered with the Fannie Mae Foundation to raise awareness and funds through the Foundation's 20th annual Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 17, 2007. Each of these cities has engaged organizations and civic leadership to help address the unique issues surrounding homelessness in their local communities. The cities surveyed include:

- Atlanta, GA
- Boston, MA
- Charlotte, NC
- Dallas, TX
- Denver, CO
- Los Angeles, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Washington, DC

The surveys were conducted beginning on September 4 through October 17, 2007. Of note, interviewing was conducted prior to the fires in California. Up to five calls were made to each household to reach an eligible respondent, that is, one initial call plus four additional calls if necessary. The sampling frames used for this study included (1) a random-digit dial (RDD) sampling frame designed to include both listed telephones and unlisted telephones in each of the eight cities, and (2) a national sample of U.S. adults residing in households with telephones drawn from Gallup's proprietary in-house probability sampling frame and (3) a cross-section sample of U.S. veterans residing in households with telephones drawn from Gallup's national probability

sampling frame. The national general population data set was statistically adjusted (weighted) using the following variables: race/ethnicity, region, gender, education and age as defined by the most recent CPS (Current Population Survey) data. The final results of the general population survey are representative of all adults age 18 and over residing in households with telephones. The eight city data sets were weighted by the following variables: gender, age, race and ethnicity according to their demographic distribution in the respective city's MSA.

The questionnaire was developed in consultation with representatives from Fannie Mae and Gallup, Inc. All interviewing was supervised and conducted by Gallup, Inc.'s full-time interviewing staff. All questions asked of the general public were also asked of veterans who have served in one of the nation's military branches.

For results based on the general population sample size of 1,002, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be plus or minus three percentage points. For the city surveys the overall sampling error based on approximately 400 interviews, each is ± 5 percentage points. For sub-groups within these populations, e.g. gender, age, etc. the sampling error would be greater. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the finding of opinion polls.

The profile of the respondents interviewed and tables of recommended sampling tolerances are located in the Technical Appendix to this report.

The following presents key findings of the general population survey. Included in the detailed findings are the results of the city surveys.

Survey Highlights

While A Majority Believe Homelessness Is Increasing, Homelessness Ranks Far Behind the War in Iraq and Economic Problems As the Country's Most Important Problem

- Nearly six in ten (58%) of the public believe homelessness in the U.S. has increased over the past ten years. Approximately one-third (32%) think the number is staying about the same, while one in fourteen (7%) feel homeless is decreasing. Those more likely than others to believe homelessness is increasing include:
 - Women (62% say homelessness is increasing)
 - Adults age 50 and over, especially those age 65 and over (69%)
 - Those who have not attended college (65%)
 - Adults reporting household incomes of less than \$40,000/year (68%)
- When adults are asked what they consider to be the most important problem facing the nation today, the war in Iraq and economic problems are mentioned most frequently. And, while homelessness in some cases may be related to economic problems, it is not an issue that first comes to the public's mind when thinking of the most important issue facing the country. Only one percent, unprompted, mention homelessness as the country's most important problem.

Public Less Likely To Say Homelessness is Increasing In Their Own Neighborhood

- Respondents were asked if the number of homeless people in their community is increasing or decreasing. Those surveyed were less likely to believe the number of homeless people in their community was increasing than in the nation as a whole. Among the general public, 31% said homelessness is increasing in their community, 49% staying the same and 12% decreasing.
- Adults reporting household incomes of \$75,000 or more are less likely than their counterparts less affluent to say the that the number of homeless people in their community is increasing (20% vs. 36%).

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Tops List of Factors Public Feels Is Major Reason For Homelessness

- Drug and alcohol abuse tops the list among the general public as a major factor why some people might be homeless. More than eight in ten (85%) adults feel this is a major factor.
- Mental illness or related mental disorders such as post traumatic stress disorder are cited by two-thirds (67%). Insufficient income is also cited by two-thirds, followed by a job loss or unemployment (65% say this could be a major reason why people might be homeless).
- In a follow-up question, respondents were asked which they considered to be the primary cause of homelessness today. One in four (26%) believe drug and alcohol abuse is the primary cause and 21% cite mental disabilities/post traumatic stress disorder. A job loss or unemployment ranks third, mentioned by 18%. No other reason is mentioned by more than eight percent.

Mental Health Issues/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Seen by Public As Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans

- Mental health issues including post-traumatic stress disorder are most frequently cited as the primary cause of homelessness among veterans. Four in ten (39%) of the public mentioned mental health issues, while 16% cite drug and alcohol abuse. A physical disability is the third most frequently mentioned factor considered to be the primary cause of homelessness among veterans.

Majority Feel Nation is Doing a Poor Job in Addressing Homelessness – Perceptions Are That Homeless People Are Mainly Individuals and Not Families

- Four in ten of the public believe the nation is doing a very good job (6%) or a good job with more effort needed (34%). However, a majority (58%) say the nation is doing a poor job and much more effort is needed.
- When asked about their community's efforts, the public tends to rate their own community as doing a better job than the nation as a whole. One in five (19%) say their community is doing a very good job. Forty-nine percent say their community is doing a good job, but acknowledge that more effort is needed. Roughly one in four (23%) rate their community as doing a poor job. Eight percent say they don't have an issue of homelessness in their community.
- More than three in every four (77%) adults perceive homeless people as being adult individuals. Sixteen percent believe that homeless people are

mainly families, and six percent say that there are both individuals and families who are homeless.

More Than Four in Ten Believe Homeless Among Veterans Has Increased Over Past 10 Years

- Forty-six percent of the general public believe that homelessness among veterans has increased over the past ten years.
- Roughly one in five (22%) of the public believes that veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are more likely to become homeless than their counterparts from previous conflicts. Four in ten (41%) think these more recent veterans are less likely to be homeless, and 36% believe their chances are about the same as those of veterans from previous conflicts.

Federal Government Most Often Named As Most Responsible for Addressing Homelessness

- Everyone was read a list of organizations and groups that might play a role in addressing homelessness. From a list of six organizations/groups, the federal government is most often cited by the public as the organization that should play a lead role (35% say the federal government should take a leading role). One in four believe the state government (25%) should take a lead role, while one in five say the city or local governments and/or community groups should take a leading role.
- When asked which one organization or group should be the most responsible in addressing homelessness, the public most often cites the federal government, mentioned by 44%.

Communities and Homelessness - Public Attitudes

Everyone was read a number of statements and asked to what extent they agreed with each:

- One in very two adults surveyed (51%) completely agree that “communities are safer when people don’t have to live on the streets.”
- Fewer than half (44%) completely agree that they “want to live in a community that provides for the care of its homeless citizens.”
- Four in ten (41%) completely agree that “communities should construct more affordable housing to serve all of its citizens.”

- Twenty-seven percent completely agree that “people who are properly housed use fewer public services and reduce burdens on police and hospitals.”
- One in five (19%) completely agree that “many homeless people could get back on their feet and become self-sufficient if only they could receive proper housing.”
- Fifteen percent completely agree that “communities should enforce laws to prohibit the homeless from public areas such as parks and libraries.”

Nearly Three in Every Ten Adults Report A Time When They Were Worried They May Not Have a Place To Live

- Close to three in ten (28%) of the general public surveyed report that there has been a time when they, themselves, were worried that they may not have a place to live.

Sizable Numbers of the Public Report Having Taken in a Friend or Relative Facing Homelessness

- Forty-four percent of the adult public report that at some time they had taken in a friend or relative who was facing homelessness had they not provided shelter.

Medical Expenses, Job Loss and Price of Housing Cited Most Frequently as Possible Causes for Worry About Homelessness

- Approximately four in ten of the public cite medical expenses (43%) and or a job loss (38%) as things that might cause them to be worried that they and/or their family could become homeless. One-third say the price of housing could be a cause for worry, while one in four think a change in their family situation such as death or divorce (26%) could cause them to worry they might become homeless.

Roughly One in Ten of the Public Report There Have Been Times In Past 12 Months When They Did Not Have Enough Money To Buy Food

- Approximately one in ten (9%) adults report that there had been times in the previous 12 months when they did not have enough money to buy food that they or their family needed. About half as many (5%) report they did not have enough money to provide housing for themselves and their family.

Vast Majority Say Homelessness Will Never Be Totally Eliminated/Most Willing To Help Cause of Homeless in Their Community

- The large majority of the public (91%) are of the opinion that homelessness can never be totally eliminated and that there will always be some people who remain homeless.
- Eight in ten (80%) adults report a willingness to volunteer their time to a local organization that helps homeless people. Even more (87%) report that they would be willing to make donations to organizations that are working with homeless people.
- Seven in ten (70%) of the public say they would be willing to volunteer their time to work directly with people who are homeless.
- Fewer (54%), but still more than half, say they would be willing to pay additional taxes to fund programs that help the homeless.

Detailed Findings

Most Important Problem Facing Country

Q1: *What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?*

When the public is asked what they believe to be the most important problem facing the country today, specific mentions of homelessness is extremely low. Only one percent, unprompted, cite homelessness/poverty/hunger as the country's most important problem. Sixteen percent, however, do mention some economic problem. The war in Iraq (17%) and economic problems closely tie for first place, followed by the war in the Middle East (13%) and healthcare (11%). The economy (8%), terrorism (5%), immigration issues (5%), and poor leadership (5%) are other problems the public considers as most important in the country today.

There was little variation in the responses of adults living in major cities and among those in the national general population survey as to what is the most important problem facing the country today. More than three-quarters in each city surveyed cite non-economic problems.

Most Important Problem Facing Nation

	GP %	Atlanta %	Boston %	Charlotte %	Dallas %	Denver %	Los Angeles %	Seattle %	D.C. %
Net economic	16	18	14	13	14	13	16	14	12
Net non-economic	80	77	80	82	83	83	78	82	83
War in Iraq	17	10	22	14	17	17	15	19	18
War in Middle East	13	15	12	16	15	10	14	10	16
Healthcare	11	6	8	8	7	9	6	6	8
Terrorism	5	7	5	4	4	7	3	3	6
Immigration	5	7	5	6	9	9	9	4	6
Poor leadership	5	2	4	2	2	6	5	7	3

*List includes mentions of 5% or more in the GP sample.

**GP sample n = 1002

***Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.

Perception of Homeless People Today vs. Ten Years Ago

Q2: Compared to ten years ago, would you say the number of homeless people in America is increasing, decreasing or staying about the same.

Nearly six in ten (58%) American adults believe homelessness in the U.S. has increased over ten years ago. Three in ten (32%) believe it is about the same. One in fourteen (7%) feel homelessness is decreasing.

There is some variation in responses to this question among the various demographic groups:

- Women are more likely than men to say that homelessness is increasing (62% vs. 52%).
- Perceptions vary significantly by age of the respondent, ranging from 50% among those under age 35 who say homelessness is increasing to 69% among adults age 65 and over (a 19-percentage point difference).
- Adults who have not attended college are more likely to believe the number of homeless people is increasing (65%) vs. 52% among those who have attended college).
- Others more likely than average to say homelessness is increasing include adults who later tell us they at some point in time had personally worried that they may not have a place to live (70%), those who said they had experienced a family hardship such as not enough money to buy food in the past 12 months (84% among this group believe homelessness is increasing).
- Least likely to say homelessness is increasing are adults reporting annual household incomes of \$75,000 or more (42% say homelessness is increasing vs. 68% among those with incomes of less than \$40,000).
- Among the eight cities surveyed, adults residing in Seattle and Los Angeles are the most likely to say that the number of homeless people in America is increasing (71% and 66% respectively). Still more than half in each major city surveyed believe the number of homeless people in America is increasing.

Perceptions of Whether Homelessness in America is Increasing

	Increasing %	Staying Same %	Decreasing %	DK/RF %	Total %	# Interviews
Total (GP Sample)	58	32	7	3	100	(1002)
GENDER						
Male	52	34	10	4	100	(425)
Female	62	30	6	2	100	(577)
AGE						
18-34	50	42	6	2	100	(288)
35-49	55	34	10	1	100	(267)
50-64	62	27	6	5	100	(246)
65+	69	19	7	5	100	(196)
EDUCATION						
College (Total)	52	36	9	3	100	(624)
College Inc.	53	35	8	4	100	(254)
Graduate/Post grad.	52	36	9	3	100	(370)
No college	65	27	6	2	100	(376)
REGION OF COUNTRY						
East	61	30	7	2	100	(236)
Midwest	56	34	8	2	100	(252)
South	59	31	6	4	100	(299)
West	53	34	10	3	100	(215)
ANNUAL HH INCOME						
Under \$40,000	68	23	6	3	100	(324)
\$40-74,999	62	32	5	1	100	(305)
\$75,000+	42	43	12	3	100	(312)
CITY						
Atlanta	57	31	7	5	100	(401)
Boston	62	30	5	3	100	(400)
Charlotte	62	30	5	3	100	(402)
Dallas	52	33	10	5	100	(400)
Denver	56	34	9	1	100	(406)
Los Angeles	66	25	6	3	100	(401)
Seattle	71	23	3	3	100	(403)
Washington D.C.	57	34	6	3	100	(403)

Perceptions of Homeless People in Community vs. Ten Years Ago

Q3: And what about the community in which you live, would you say the number of homeless people in your community is increasing, decreasing or staying about the same as it was ten years ago?

The public is more likely to believe the number of homeless people in the nation is increasing than in their own community (58% vs. 31%). Respondents were asked if the number of homeless people in their community was increasing, decreasing or staying the same as it was ten years ago. Three in every ten (31%) believe the number of homeless people in their community is increasing. Nearly half (49%) say this hasn't changed, and 12% report it is increasing. Five percent report that they have never had homeless people in their community.

There was some variation in responses by income levels in opinions as to whether homelessness is increasing in their neighborhood with one-third of the less affluent believing it is increasing (33%) versus one in five (20%) among those with annual household incomes of \$75,000 or more. Still, among all groups, fewer believe homelessness is increasing in their neighborhood than in the nation as a whole.

Adults living in Seattle are more likely than those living in the other seven cities surveyed to say that the number of homeless people in their community is increasing (43%).

Perceptions of Whether Homelessness in Community Increasing

	In-creasing %	Staying Same %	De-creasing %	None in Comm. %	DK/RF %	Total %	# Inter-views
Total (GP Sample)	31	49	12	5	3	100	(1002)
GENDER							
Male	25	52	13	7	3	100	(425)
Female	37	46	11	3	3	100	(577)
AGE							
18-34	30	50	13	3	4	100	(288)
35-49	34	47	14	3	2	100	(267)
50-64	32	51	10	5	2	100	(246)
65+	27	48	10	12	3	100	(196)
EDUCATION							
College (Total)	31	50	11	4	4	100	(624)
College Inc.	33	48	10	5	4	100	(254)
Graduate/Post grad.	29	53	12	3	3	100	(370)
No college	30	47	14	7	2	100	(376)
REGION OF COUNTRY							
East	28	56	10	4	2	100	(236)
Midwest	28	50	14	4	4	100	(252)
South	35	41	14	7	3	100	(299)
West	32	52	9	4	3	100	(215)
ANNUAL HH INCOME							
Under \$40,000	33	45	12	6	4	100	(324)
\$40-74,999	41	43	11	4	1	100	(305)
\$75,000+	20	58	15	4	3	100	(312)
CITY							
Atlanta	27	43	15	7	8	100	(401)
Boston	25	51	14	7	3	100	(400)
Charlotte	34	42	11	6	7	100	(402)
Dallas	24	48	17	6	5	100	(400)
Denver	30	41	16	7	6	100	(406)
Los Angeles	34	40	11	8	7	100	(401)
Seattle	43	44	5	3	5	100	(403)
Washington D.C.	29	47	10	6	8	100	(403)

Factors That Might Contribute To Homelessness/Primary Cause of Homelessness

Q4: I am going to read some factors that might contribute to homelessness. As I read each, please tell me if this is a major reason why people might be homeless, a minor reason, or not a reason for homelessness. (Order in which factors were read to respondents was randomly rotated.):

- Drugs/alcohol abuse*
- Insufficient income*
- Mental illness/post traumatic stress disorder*
- Job loss/unemployment*
- A physical disability*
- Unable to pay medical expenses*
- Unable to find affordable housing*
- Poor education/lack of skills*
- Home foreclosure*
- Domestic violence*
- Changes in family (divorce/death)*

Everyone was read a list of factors that might contribute to homelessness and asked if each was a major factor why people might be homeless, a minor reason, or not a reason. Leading the list is drug and alcohol abuse, cited by more than eight in ten (85%) of the adult public as a major reason for homelessness.

Mental illness, a mental disability or post traumatic stress disorder and insufficient income are each mentioned by 67% of the public as a major reason that might contribute to homelessness. Rounding out the top four factors cited as major reasons that one could be homeless is a job loss or unemployment. Approximately half of the public thought a physical disability or medical condition (51%) could be a major cause of homelessness as was the inability to pay medical expenses (51%).

Other factors mentioned by more than four in ten as potentially being a major factor in homelessness include: being unable to find affordable housing (48%), having a poor education or lack of skills (47%), a home foreclosure (45%) or domestic violence (43%).

**Perceptions Regarding The Extent to Which Factors
Could Cause Homelessness
(n=1002)**

GP	MAJOR REASON %	MINOR REASON %	NOT A REASON %
Drugs/alcohol abuse	85	13	2
Insufficient income	67	27	6
Mental illness/post traumatic stress disorder	67	28	4
Job loss/unemployment	65	29	5
A physical disability	51	41	8
Unable to pay medical expenses	51	40	8
Unable to find affordable housing	48	42	10
Poor education/lack of skills	47	42	10
Home foreclosure	45	45	9
Domestic violence	43	47	9
Changes in family (divorce/death)	36	53	10

More than eight in ten in each of the cities surveyed cite drug and alcohol abuse as a major reason why people might be homeless.

% Saying MAJOR Reason

	Atlanta %	Boston %	Charlotte %	Dallas %	Denver %	Los Angeles %	Seattle %	D.C. %
Unable to pay medical expenses	43	44	48	45	49	54	49	53
Job loss/unemployment	65	64	66	54	60	56	62	63
Home foreclosure	39	42	44	39	43	41	34	44
Insufficient income	66	68	66	60	63	63	68	71
Unable to find affordable housing	43	60	42	43	43	54	59	53
Poor education/lack of skills	53	47	59	53	43	51	52	57
Drugs/alcohol abuse	81	82	84	81	83	86	85	82
Mental illness/post traumatic stress disorder	59	77	63	65	64	73	73	72
A physical disability	48	52	44	57	44	58	50	56
Domestic violence	38	47	46	39	37	43	42	42
Changes in family (divorce/death)	40	34	35	37	31	34	38	37
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.								

Primary Cause of Homelessness in America

Q5: *And which of those factors do you believe is the primary cause of homelessness today?*

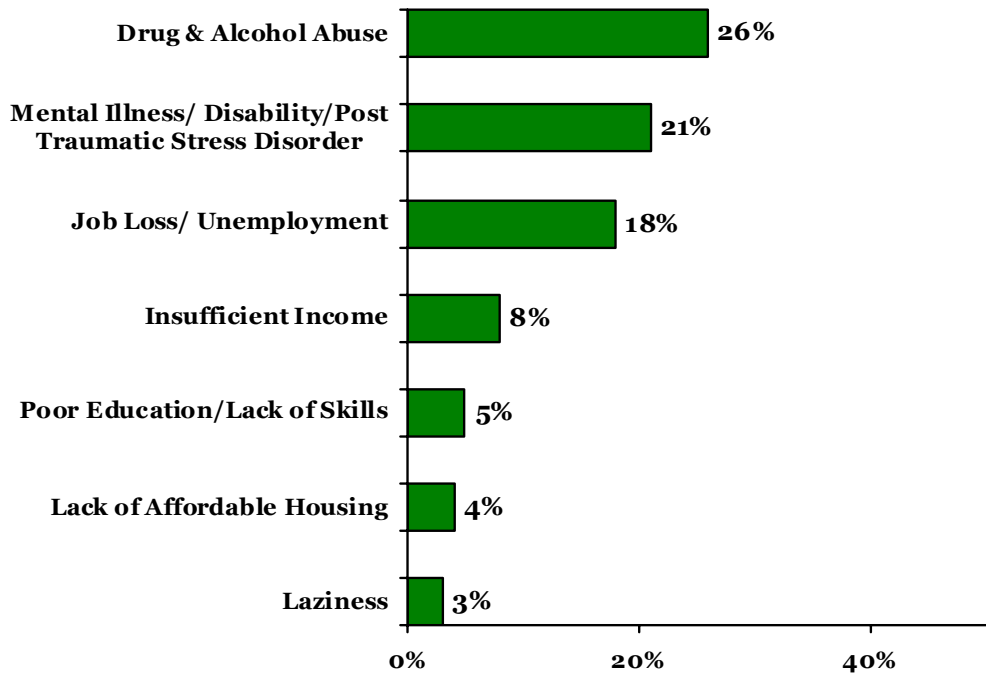
- Unable to pay medical expenses*
- A job loss or unemployment*
- Their home was foreclosed*
- Insufficient income*
- They were unable to find affordable housing*
- Poor education, lack of skills*
- Drug and alcohol abuse*
- A mental illness or mental disability (post-traumatic stress disorder)*
- A physical disability or medical condition*
- Domestic violence*
- Changes in their family structure, such as divorce or death*

In a follow-up question, the public confirms its perceptions of what it believes to be the primary cause of homelessness – drug and alcohol abuse (26%) and mental illness/mental disability/post-traumatic stress disorder (21%) top the list of what they consider to be primary causes of homelessness. Job loss or unemployment ranks third (18%). No other reason is mentioned by more than eight percent.

- There was little to no variation in responses among the demographic groups analyzed. Across all demographic groups, and in the major cities surveyed, drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness are perceived as the leading causes of homelessness.

Perceptions of Primary Cause of Homelessness in America Today

GP (n=1002)



*Charts lists mentions of 3% or more.

Perceptions of Primary Cause of Homelessness in America Today

	Drugs/ Alcohol %	Mental Illness %	Job Loss %	Insufficient Income %	Poor Education %
Atlanta	25	14	15	10	13
Boston	22	28	10	10	5
Charlotte	30	16	18	9	6
Dallas	21	20	17	5	10
Denver	26	22	17	10	5
Los Angeles	32	19	13	5	10
Seattle	25	19	10	12	8
Washington D.C.	17	24	14	13	9

**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.

Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans

Q6: And thinking now just about homelessness among veterans. Which of those factors do you believe is the primary cause of homelessness among veterans?

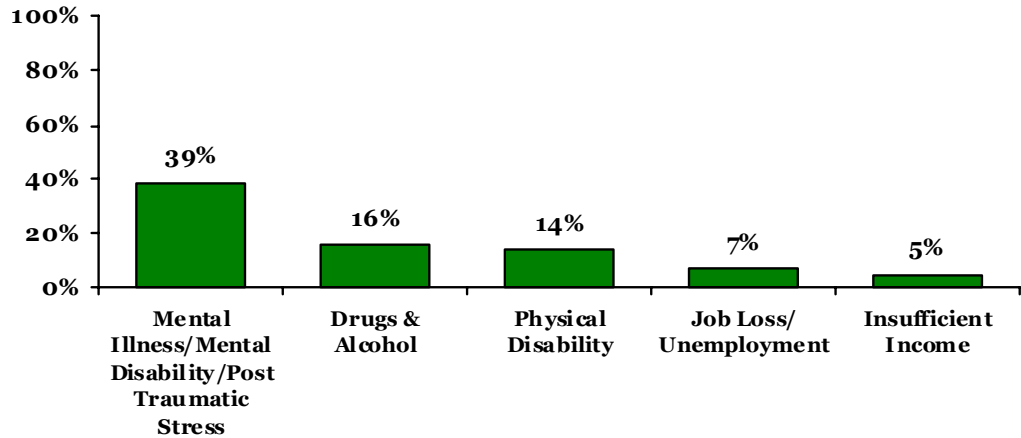
- Mental illness/mental disability/post traumatic stress*
- Drugs & alcohol*
- Physical disability*
- Job loss/unemployment*
- Insufficient income*

When the public is asked about what they believed was the primary cause of homelessness among veterans, mental health issues including post-traumatic stress disorder are most frequently cited as the primary cause of homelessness among veterans. Four in ten (39%) of the public mentioned mental health issues and 16% cite drug and alcohol abuse. A physical disability is third.

In all eight cities surveyed, mental illness including post traumatic stress disorder leads the list as the primary cause of homelessness among veterans.

Perceptions of Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans

GP (n=1002)



*Chart lists mentions of 5% or more.

Perceptions of Primary Cause of Homelessness Among Veterans

	Mental Illness %	Drugs & Alcohol %	Physical Disability %	Job Loss/Unemployment %	Insufficient Income %
Atlanta	36	16	11	5	7
Boston	42	18	10	6	4
Charlotte	37	16	12	7	4
Dallas	39	10	13	5	6
Denver	38	21	11	5	4
Los Angeles	39	18	11	3	2
Seattle	42	15	9	7	5
Washington D.C.	47	11	10	4	8
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.					

Rating the Nation's Efforts In Dealing With Homelessness

Q7: Now I'd like to ask you about the nation's efforts in dealing with homelessness. From what you've seen, heard or read, how would you rate the nation's efforts in this regard? Is the nation doing a very good job, doing everything it can; a good job, but more effort is needed; a poor job, much more effort is needed?

Four in ten of the public believe the nation is doing a very good job (6%) or a good job with more effort need (34%). Still, a majority (58%) say the nation is doing a poor job.

Adults under age 35 are more likely than their counterparts age 35 and over to say the nation is doing a good job, but more effort is needed.

Across all eight major cities surveyed, the vast majority state that either more effort or much more effort is needed in dealing with homelessness.

Opinion of Nation's Efforts in Dealing With Homelessness

	Very Good Job %	Good, More Effort %	Poor Job Much More Effort %	Very Poor Job %	DK/RF %	Total %	# Interviews
Total (GP Sample)	6	34	58	1	1	100	(1002)
GENDER							
Male	8	35	55	1	1	100	(425)
Female	6	33	60	*	1	100	(577)
AGE							
18-34	7	44	48	0	1	100	(288)
35-49	9	29	61	*	1	100	(267)
50-64	4	32	62	1	1	100	(246)
65+	5	29	64	1	1	100	(196)
EDUCATION							
College (Total)	6	38	54	*	2	100	(624)
College Inc.	7	36	55	0	2	100	(254)
Graduate/Post grad.	5	39	54	1	1	100	(370)
No college	7	30	62	1	*	100	(376)
REGION OF COUNTRY							
East	5	38	56	1	0	100	(236)
Midwest	3	32	61	0	2	100	(252)
South	7	33	58	1	1	100	(299)
West	11	31	57	1	0	100	(215)
ANNUAL HH INCOME							
Under \$40,000	2	33	62	1	2	100	(324)
\$40-74,999	6	37	56	0	1	100	(305)
\$75,000+	10	33	57	0	*	100	(312)
CITY							
Atlanta	6	31	59	1	3	100	(401)
Boston	3	32	60	1	4	100	(400)
Charlotte	6	34	57	1	2	100	(402)
Dallas	5	33	59	*	3	100	(400)
Denver	9	33	53	2	3	100	(406)
Los Angeles	5	29	63	2	1	100	(401)
Seattle	4	30	64	1	1	100	(403)
Washington, D.C.	4	26	66	*	4	100	(403)
*Less than 1%.							

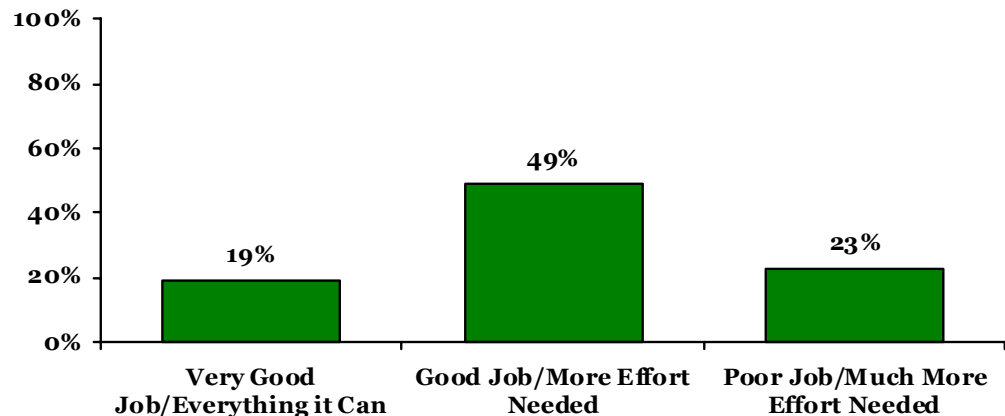
Rating of Community In Dealing With Homelessness

Q8: And what about the community in which you live, how would you rate your community's efforts in dealing with homelessness? Is your community doing a very good job, doing everything it can; a good job, but more effort is needed; or a poor job, much more effort is needed?

When asked about their own community's efforts in dealing with homelessness, respondents tend to rate their community as doing a better job than the nation as a whole. One in five (19%) say their community is doing a very good job, doing everything it can and half (49%) report their community is doing a good job, but acknowledge there more effort is needed. Roughly one in four (23%) rate their community as doing a poor job. Eight percent say they don't have an issue of homelessness in their community.

Opinion of Community's Efforts in Dealing With Homelessness

GP (n=1002)



Approximately one in every two adults in the eight cities surveyed say that their community is doing a good job, but that more effort is needed in dealing with homelessness in their community. Opinion that their community is doing a poor job and much more effort is needed ranges from 17% and 19% among those residing in the Boston and Denver metropolitan statistical areas to close to three in ten in the other six city MSAs studied.

Opinion of Community's Efforts in Dealing With Homelessness

	Very Good Job/ Everything it Can %	Good Job/More Effort Needed %	Poor Job/Much More Effort Needed %
Atlanta	17	44	26
Boston	21	47	17
Charlotte	14	49	28
Dallas	14	47	27
Denver	19	51	19
Los Angeles	10	45	27
Seattle	14	49	29
Washington D.C.	13	50	26
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.			

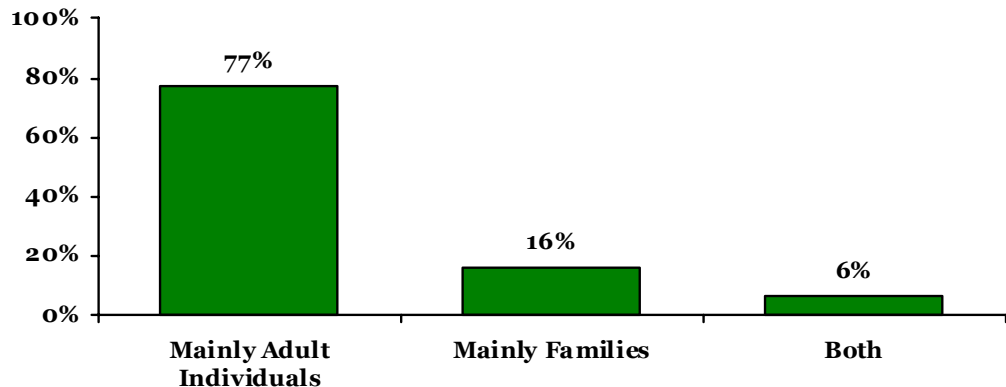
Perceptions of Homeless People – Adult Individuals vs. Families

Q9: We've been talking about homelessness, when you think about homeless people, what first comes to mind? Do you think of homeless people as mainly adult individuals or mainly families?

More than three in every four (77%) adults in the general public perceive homeless people as being adult individuals. Sixteen percent believe that homeless people are mainly families and six percent say there are both individuals and families who are homeless.

Top-Of-Mind Image of Homeless People

GP (n=1002)



There were no significant differences in responses across the eight cities surveyed. At least seven in ten perceive people who are homeless as mainly adults and not families.

Top-of-Mind Image of Homeless People

	Mainly Adult %	Mainly Families %	Both %
Atlanta	74	18	7
Boston	71	21	7
Charlotte	70	21	8
Dallas	74	20	5
Denver	73	18	8
Los Angeles	76	17	6
Seattle	74	19	6
Washington D.C.	72	21	7
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.			

Change In Homelessness Among Veterans

Q10: From what you've heard, read or seen, would you say homelessness among veterans is increasing, decreasing, or has it not changed over the past 10 years?

Nearly half (46%) of the general public report that homelessness among veterans has increased over the past ten years.

- Opinions as to whether homelessness is increasing among veterans is related to educational levels and relatedly income. About half (48%) having less than \$40,000 in household income believe homelessness among veterans has increased vs. 38% among those with household incomes of \$75,000 or more.
- Adults age 50 and over are more likely to believe homelessness among veterans is increasing (52% vs. 37% among those under age 35).
- Regionally, adults in the Western region of the country are less likely to perceive homelessness among veterans is increasing (36% vs. 53% among those in the East who say it is increasing).
- In Washington, D.C. and Boston more than half (55% and 53% respectively) of the respondents say homelessness among veterans is increasing vs. 40% among adults in Atlanta. Those in Atlanta are three times as likely as those in D.C. to say that homelessness has decreased over the past ten years (16% vs. 5% in D.C.).

Perceptions of Whether Homelessness Among Veterans Is Increasing

	Increasing %	Staying Same %	Decreasing %	DK/RF %	Total %	# Interviews
Total (GP Sample)	46	38	10	6	100	(1002)
GENDER						
Male	44	41	11	4	100	(425)
Female	47	36	9	8	100	(577)
AGE						
18-34	37	41	17	5	100	(288)
35-49	45	42	7	6	100	(267)
50-64	51	39	7	3	100	(246)
65+	53	29	8	9	100	(196)
EDUCATION						
College (Total)	49	39	7	5	100	(624)
College Inc.	46	41	7	6	100	(254)
Graduate/Post grad.	52	37	7	4	100	(370)
No college	41	37	15	7	100	(376)
REGION OF COUNTRY						
East	53	30	11	6	100	(236)
Midwest	48	37	10	5	100	(252)
South	45	38	13	4	100	(299)
West	36	49	7	8	100	(215)
ANNUAL HH INCOME						
Under \$40,000	48	32	12	8	100	(324)
\$40-74,999	50	34	11	5	100	(305)
\$75,000+	38	50	7	5	100	(312)
CITY						
Atlanta	40	35	16	9	100	(401)
Boston	53	34	7	6	100	(400)
Charlotte	48	34	10	8	100	(402)
Dallas	44	41	10	5	100	(400)
Denver	46	38	11	5	100	(406)
Los Angeles	43	37	9	11	100	(401)
Seattle	46	36	7	11	100	(403)
Washington D.C.	55	28	5	12	100	(403)

Likelihood of Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Wars To Become Homeless

Q11: Compared to veterans from previous wars, do you think veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are more likely, less likely, or as likely to become homeless as veterans from previous conflicts?

Roughly one in five (22%) of the general public believe that veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are more likely to become homeless than their counterparts from previous conflicts. Four in ten (41%) think it is less likely to happen, and 36% say the chances for these more recent veterans are about the same as those veterans from previous conflicts.

Men are more likely than women to say it is less likely for the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to become homeless than their counterparts in previous conflicts (46% vs. 37% among women).

Adults under age 35 are less likely to believe that recent veterans are more likely to become homeless (13% vs. 37% among adults age 65 and over).

Those under age 35 are more likely to believe that veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are less likely (53%) to become homeless.

Among adults surveyed in Atlanta, Dallas and Charlotte more than four in ten say they think veterans of more recent conflicts (Iraq and Afghanistan) are less likely to become homeless than veterans from previous conflicts. In Denver and Los Angeles, 38% say they are less likely. Still, a majority of respondents in each city surveyed feel that recent veterans' chances are either more likely or as likely to become homeless as their counterparts from previous conflicts.

**Compared to Veterans of Previous Conflicts:
Likelihood of Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Wars Becoming Homeless**

	More Likely %	Less Likely %	As Likely %	DK/RF %	Total %	# Interviews
Total (GP Sample)	22	41	36	1	100	(1002)
GENDER						
Male	21	46	32	1	100	(425)
Female	22	37	40	1	100	(577)
AGE						
18-34	13	53	33	1	100	(288)
35-49	23	38	38	1	100	(267)
50-64	19	36	44	1	100	(246)
65+	37	34	27	2	100	(196)
EDUCATION						
College (Total)	20	41	38	1	100	(624)
College Inc.	18	44	37	1	100	(254)
Graduate/Post grad.	22	37	40	1	100	(370)
No college	25	42	32	1	100	(376)
REGION OF COUNTRY						
East	21	37	41	1	100	(236)
Midwest	22	43	34	1	100	(252)
South	22	42	35	1	100	(299)
West	22	42	34	2	100	(215)
ANNUAL HH INCOME						
Under \$40,000	29	37	32	2	100	(324)
\$40-74,999	22	39	38	1	100	(305)
\$75,000+	15	48	36	1	100	(312)
CITY						
Atlanta	21	47	27	5	100	(401)
Boston	25	33	41	1	100	(400)
Charlotte	22	42	32	4	100	(402)
Dallas	19	46	31	4	100	(400)
Denver	19	38	41	2	100	(406)
Los Angeles	26	38	31	5	100	(401)
Seattle	25	29	43	3	100	(403)
Washington D.C.	26	33	37	4	100	(403)

Role Specific Groups and Organizations Should Play in Addressing Homelessness

Q12: I am going to read some groups or organizations that might play a role in addressing homelessness or in finding a way to reduce homelessness. As I read each, please tell me if you think the group or organization should take the lead in addressing homelessness, take major role but not the lead role, take a minor role or not be involved at all? (Order in which groups were read to respondents was randomly rotated.)

Q13: Which of those groups or organizations do you feel should be most responsible in addressing homelessness?

- The federal government*
- Your state government*
- Your city or local government*
- Community groups, such as charitable groups including religious organizations*
- The business community*
- Private citizens*

When read a list of organizations and groups that might play a role in addressing homelessness, the federal government is most often cited by the public as the organization that should play a lead role (35% say the federal government should take a leading role). One in four believe the state government (25%) should take a leading role, and one in five the city or local governments (20%) and/or community groups such as charitable groups (20%). Eight percent believe the business community should take a leading role and six percent think private citizens should take a leading role.

When asked which one organization or group should be the most responsible in addressing homelessness, the public most often cites the federal government, mentioned by 44%.

One in every two adults in Boston and D.C., 34% in Atlanta, and roughly four in ten in the remaining five cities surveyed, say it is the federal government who is most responsible in addressing homelessness.

**Role of Various Groups in Addressing Homelessness
(n=1002)**

	Lead Role %	Major Supporting Role %	Minor Role %	Not Be Involved %
GP				
The Federal Government	35	42	18	5
Your State Government	25	56	16	3
Your City or Local Government	20	53	24	2
Community Group/ Charitable Groups	20	56	24	*
The Business Community	8	42	43	6
Private Citizens	6	36	51	6
*Less than 1%.				

**Role of Various Groups in Addressing Homelessness
% Lead Role**

City	Atlanta %	Boston %	Charlotte %	Dallas %	Denver %	Los Angeles %	Seattle %	Wash. D.C. %
The Federal Government	31	40	34	33	29	34	34	37
Your State Government	26	26	29	23	23	31	25	34
Your City or Local Government	28	18	31	22	19	24	19	30
Community Group/ Charitable Groups	22	14	22	16	18	16	19	19
The Business Community	14	11	11	8	6	13	6	8
Private Citizens	11	3	13	5	5	9	4	8
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.								

**Group That Should Be MOST Responsible For
Addressing Homelessness**

	Federal Govt. %	State Govt. %	City/Local Govt. %	Comm. Group %	Bus. Comm. %	Private Citizens %
Total (GP Sample)	44	17	15	19	2	2
GENDER						
Male	44	11	18	22	1	4
Female	44	22	13	16	2	1
AGE						
18-34	39	18	17	24	0	2
35-49	51	12	15	16	1	3
50-64	46	19	11	18	2	2
65+	37	20	20	17	4	2
EDUCATION						
College (Total)	38	17	17	22	2	4
College Inc.	39	16	16	24	2	3
Graduate/Post grad.	38	19	18	19	2	4
No college	51	16	13	15	1	1
REGION OF COUNTRY						
East	54	21	12	10	1	1
Midwest	47	20	12	17	1	2
South	36	15	18	25	1	3
West	41	11	20	21	3	2
ANNUAL HH INCOME						
Under \$40,000	47	16	18	14	1	2
\$40-74,999	43	20	11	20	3	3
\$75,000+	43	14	16	23	1	2
CITY**						
Atlanta	34	17	18	22	2	4
Boston	50	19	12	11	2	3
Charlotte	41	19	21	15	1	2
Dallas	36	17	24	12	2	4
Denver	38	20	16	20	1	3
Los Angeles	37	28	15	12	1	3
Seattle	39	23	17	13	2	3
Washington D.C.	51	17	14	10	1	3
*GP sample n=1002						
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.						

The Community and Homelessness

Q14: *And to what extent, do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Order of statements read to respondents was randomly rotated.) Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree?*

- Communities are safer when people do not have to live on the streets.*
- I want to live in a community that provides for the care of its homeless citizens.*
- People who are properly housed use fewer public services and reduce burdens on police and hospitals.*
- Communities should enforce laws to prohibit the homeless from public areas such as parks and libraries.*
- Many homeless people could get back on their feet and become self-sufficient if only they could receive proper housing.*
- Communities should construct more affordable housing to serve all of its citizens.*

One in every two adults surveyed (51%) completely agree that “communities are safer when people do not have to live on the streets.”

Fewer than half (44%) completely agree that they “want to live in a community that provides for the care of its homeless citizens.”

Four in ten (41%) completely agree that “communities should construct more affordable housing to serve all of its citizens.”

Twenty-seven percent completely agree that “people who are properly housed use fewer public services and reduce burdens on police and hospitals.

One in five (19%) completely agree that “many homeless people could get back on their feet and become self-sufficient if only they could receive proper housing.”

Fifteen percent completely agree that “communities should enforce laws to prohibit the homeless from public areas such as parks and libraries.”

In general, responses of the adults residing in the eight cities closely mirrored those of the national general population. Agreement was highest with the statements: “Communities are safer when people do not have to live on the streets” and “I want to live in a community that provides for the care of its homeless citizens.”

**Agreement With Statements Concerning Communities and Homelessness
(n=1002)**

(GP) Statement:	Completely Agree %	Mostly Agree %	Mostly Disagree %	Completely Disagree %	Neutral/ DK %
<i>Communities are safer when people do not have to live on the streets.</i>	51	38	8	2	1
<i>I want to live in a community that provides for the care of its homeless citizens.</i>	44	49	4	2	1
<i>People who are properly housed use fewer public services and reduce burdens on police and hospitals.</i>	27	53	14	4	2
<i>Communities should enforce laws to prohibit the homeless from public areas such as parks and libraries.</i>	15	28	32	23	2
<i>Many homeless people could get back on their feet and become self-sufficient if only they could receive proper housing.</i>	19	52	22	5	2
<i>Communities should construct more affordable housing to serve all of its citizens</i>	41	40	13	5	1

**Agreement with Statements Concerning Communities and Homelessness
(Percent Completely Agree)**

(City) Statement:	Atlanta %	Boston %	Charlotte %	Dallas %	Denver %	Los Angeles %	Seattle %	Wash. D.C. %
<i>Communities are safer when people do not have to live on the streets.</i>	52	50	55	47	46	54	53	54
<i>I want to live in a community that provides for the care of its homeless citizens.</i>	45	52	46	44	42	46	48	50
<i>People who are properly housed use fewer public services and reduce burdens on police and hospitals.</i>	28	35	32	32	30	30	33	26
<i>Communities should enforce laws to prohibit the homeless from public areas such as parks and libraries.</i>	19	15	15	25	12	21	13	16
<i>Many homeless people could get back on their feet and become self-sufficient if only they could receive proper housing.</i>	23	23	24	23	19	29	21	24
<i>Communities should construct more affordable housing to serve all of its citizens</i>	33	42	38	37	34	45	51	46
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.								

Personal Concerns Over Possibility of Homelessness

Q15: Please tell me to what extent you, yourself, worry that (items listed below were randomly rotated when read) could cause you or your family to be homeless? Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried or not worried at all?

-Mortgage payment increases

-The price of housing

-Medical expenses

-A job loss, unemployment, or insufficient income

-Lack of education or skills

-A change in your family situation, such as a death or divorce

Of possible factors that might contribute to homelessness on a personal level, medical expenses and/or a job loss are causes for worry for approximately four in ten saying they are very or somewhat worried this could cause them and/or their family to be homeless. The price of housing ranks third on this list of worries.

There was little variation in responses across the eight cities surveyed.

**Worry Over Specific Factors That Might
Contribute to Homelessness
(n=1002)**

GP	Very Worried %	Somewhat Worried %	Not Too Worried %	Not Worried at All %	NA %
Mortgage Payment Increases	10	14	21	52	2
The Price of Housing	12	20	22	46	*
Medical Expenses	15	28	25	32	*
A job loss, unemployment or insufficient income	14	24	25	37	*
Lack of education/skills	5	13	22	59	1
A change in your family situation (divorce, death)	8	18	24	50	*

**Worry Over Specific Factors That Might
Contribute to Homelessness
(Percent Very/Somewhat Worried)**

City	Atlanta %	Boston %	Charlotte %	Dallas %	Denver %	Los Angeles %	Seattle %	Wash. D.C. %
Mortgage Payment Increases	30	26	27	28	26	37	29	32
The Price of Housing	33	35	33	33	33	40	41	34
Medical Expenses	41	38	43	37	40	48	44	36
A job loss, unemployment or insufficient income	43	40	43	42	41	42	42	34
Lack of education/skills	20	14	16	14	15	21	16	17
A change in your family situation (divorce, death)	23	24	26	24	25	30	23	25

**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.

Personal Worry Over Not Having a Place To Live

Q16: Was there ever a time when you, personally, were worried that you may not have a place to live?

Close to three in ten (28%) of the general public surveyed report that there has been a time when they, themselves, were worried that they may not have a place to live.

- Approximately one-third among the following groups report that there has been a time when they worried they may not have a place to live:
 - Adults between the age of 35-64
 - Adults with no college education
 - Adults residing in the West
 - Adults reporting household incomes of less than \$40,000

Seventy-two percent said there was not a time when they were worried about this.

In the cities surveyed, the percentage who reported ever worrying about not having a place to live ranged from 26% in Charlotte and Dallas to one-third in LA and Seattle.

**Ever a Time Personally Worried About Not
Having a Place to Live**

	Yes %	No %
Total (GP Sample)	28	72
GENDER		
Male	28	72
Female	27	73
AGE		
18-34	26	74
35-49	31	69
50-64	32	68
65+	20	80
EDUCATION		
College (Total)	24	76
College Inc.	29	71
Graduate/Post grad.	19	81
No college	33	67
REGION OF COUNTRY		
East	24	76
Midwest	24	76
South	28	72
West	34	66
ANNUAL HH INCOME		
Under \$40,000	38	62
\$40-74,999	26	74
\$75,000+	18	82
CITY**		
Atlanta	28	71
Boston	27	73
Charlotte	26	74
Dallas	26	74
Denver	29	71
Los Angeles	33	66
Seattle	34	66
Washington D.C.	27	73
*GP sample n=1002		
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.		

Hardships Encountered During Past 12 Months

Q18: *Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to:*

- Buy food that you or your family needed*
- Provide housing for you and your family*

Approximately one in ten (9%) adults report that there had been times in the previous 12 months when they did not have enough money to buy food that they or their family needed. About half as many (5%) report they did not have enough money to provide housing for themselves and their family. The vast majority said they had not experienced either of these hardships.

- 14% of females said there were times in the past 12 months when they did not have enough money to buy food for themselves or their family. This percentage drops to four percent among males.
- Not surprisingly, respondents less affluent and/or those with lower educational levels were also more likely to report this type of hardship.

The findings among the eight cities are very similar to those of the national population.

**Personal Hardships Encountered in Past 12 Months
Did Not Have Enough Money**

	To Buy Food		To Provide Housing For Family	
	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %
Total (GP Sample)	9	91	5	95
GENDER				
Male	4	96	4	96
Female	14	86	6	94
AGE				
18-34	12	88	4	95
35-49	11	89	7	93
50-64	6	94	5	95
65+	7	93	2	98
EDUCATION				
College (Total)	6	94	3	96
College Inc.	7	93	4	95
Graduate/Post grad.	5	95	2	98
No college	14	86	7	93
REGION OF COUNTRY				
East	9	91	1	99
Midwest	8	92	6	93
South	9	91	5	95
West	11	89	6	94
ANNUAL HH INCOME				
Under \$40,000	19	81	9	91
\$40-74,999	6	94	3	97
\$75,000+	1	99	1	99
CITY**				
Atlanta	15	85	7	93
Boston	8	92	4	96
Charlotte	13	87	8	92
Dallas	12	88	7	93
Denver	12	88	8	92
Los Angeles	13	86	10	89
Seattle	9	91	7	93
Washington D.C.	6	94	4	96
*GP sample n=1002				
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.				

Incidence of Providing Shelter for Friend or Relative

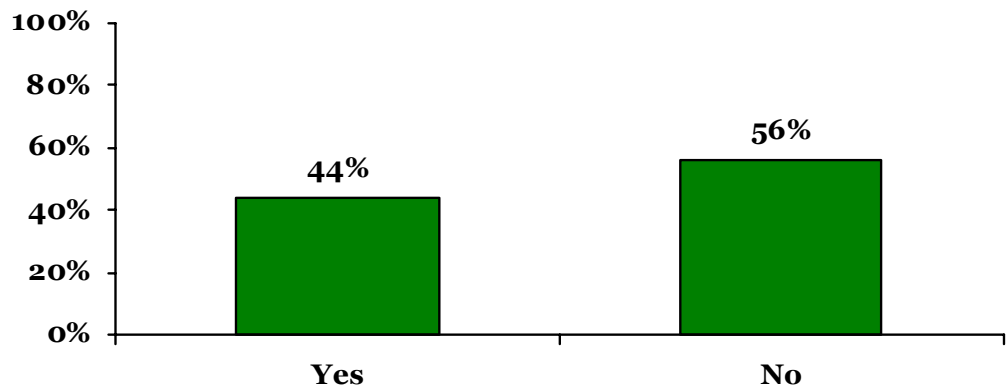
Q17: Have you, at any time, taken in a friend or relative who was facing homelessness had you not provided shelter?

Forty-four percent of the adult public reports that at some time they had taken in a friend or relative who was facing homelessness had they not provided shelter. The remaining half said they had not.

With the exception of respondents in D.C. and Boston, approximately one in every two adults in six of the eight cities surveyed say they have at some time taken in a friend or relative who was facing homelessness had they not provided shelter.

Ever Taken in a Friend or Relative Facing Homelessness?

GP (n=1002)



Ever Provided Shelter For Friend or Relative

	Yes %	No %
Total (GP Sample)	44	56
GENDER		
Male	41	59
Female	47	53
AGE		
18-34	40	60
35-49	42	58
50-64	53	47
65+	41	59
EDUCATION		
College (Total)	40	60
College Inc.	41	59
Graduate/Post grad.	38	62
No college	50	50
REGION OF COUNTRY		
East	42	58
Midwest	40	60
South	44	56
West	50	50
ANNUAL HH INCOME		
Under \$40,000	56	44
\$40-74,999	46	54
\$75,000+	32	68
CITY**		
Atlanta	53	47
Boston	40	60
Charlotte	51	49
Dallas	48	51
Denver	52	48
Los Angeles	50	49
Seattle	54	46
Washington D.C.	44	55
*GP sample n=1002		
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.		

Can Homelessness in America Be Totally Eliminated?

Q19: Overall, based on everything you have seen or heard, do you think that homelessness in America can be totally eliminated, or do you think that no matter what is done there will always be some people who remain homeless?

The large majority of the public (91%) are of the opinion that homelessness can never be totally eliminated and that there will always be some people who remain homeless. Approximately one in ten are optimistic saying homelessness can be eliminated.

Adults in the eight cities surveyed concur (ranging from 82% in LA to 91% in Denver) that there will always be some people who remain homeless.

Can Homelessness Be Eliminated?

	Yes Totally %	No, Always Be Some %
Total (GP Sample)	9	91
GENDER		
Male	10	90
Female	9	91
AGE		
18-34	9	91
35-49	13	87
50-64	9	91
65+	5	95
EDUCATION		
College (Total)	9	90
College Inc.	11	89
Graduate/Post grad.	8	92
No college	9	91
REGION OF COUNTRY		
East	9	91
Midwest	9	90
South	9	91
West	10	90
ANNUAL HH INCOME		
Under \$40,000	10	90
\$40-74,999	10	89
\$75,000+	8	92
CITY**		
Atlanta	14	84
Boston	13	87
Charlotte	9	91
Dallas	10	89
Denver	9	91
Los Angeles	17	82
Seattle	13	87
Washington D.C.	11	88
*GP sample n=1002		
**Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.		

Public Willingness To Help Homeless People

Q20: Which of the following, if any, would you be willing to do to help the cause of the homeless in your community? (Order in which items were read to respondents were rotated.)

- Volunteer your time to a local organization that helps homeless people
- Make donations to organizations that are working with homeless people
- Volunteer my time to work directly with people who are homeless
- Pay additional taxes that would be used to fund programs to help the homeless

Eight in ten (80%) adults said they would be willing to volunteer their time to a local organization that helps homeless people. Even more (87%) report that they would be willing to make donations to organizations that are working with homeless people.

Seven in ten (70%) of the public say they would be willing to volunteer their time to work directly with people who are homeless. Fewer, but still at least half (54%) report that they would be willing to pay additional taxes to fund programs that help the homeless.

**Willingness to Help Cause of Homelessness in Community
Percent Saying “Yes”**

	QA	B	C	D
	Volunteer Time To Local Org. %	Make Donations %	Work Directly With %	Pay Added Taxes %
Total (GP Sample)	80	87	70	54
GENDER				
Male	74	86	65	50
Female	85	88	74	57
AGE				
18-34	84	88	76	57
35-49	79	86	73	52
50-64	82	89	71	55
65+	72	86	56	50
EDUCATION				
College (Total)	79	89	68	56
College Inc.	80	90	72	50
Graduate/Post grad.	79	88	64	61
No college	81	84	72	51
REGION OF COUNTRY				
East	81	90	68	55
Midwest	80	84	74	58
South	84	91	76	53
West	74	81	60	49
ANNUAL HH INCOME				
Under \$40,000	84	86	74	56
\$40-74,999	78	88	68	56
\$75,000+	79	88	67	51
CITY**				
Atlanta	80	86	72	46
Boston	70	84	63	55
Charlotte	81	84	74	52
Dallas	75	84	63	55
Denver	73	81	63	51
Los Angeles	73	84	64	58
Seattle	76	86	67	58
Washington D.C.	78	86	71	63
*GP sample n=1002 **Based on approximately 400 interviews in each of the eight cities.				

- A – Volunteer time to a local organization that helps homeless people
- B – Make donations to organizations that are working with homeless people
- C – Volunteer time to work directly with people who are homeless
- D – Pay additional taxes that would be used to fund programs to help the homeless

Technical Appendix

Profile of Survey Respondents

	GP %
TOTAL	100.0
GENDER	
Male	46.7
Female	53.3
Total	100.0
AGE	
18-34	28.9
35-49	30.1
50-64	21.5
65+	19.2
Undesignated	0.3
Total	100.0
EDUCATION	
H.S. grad/Tech school or less	43.0
College incomplete	29.0
College graduate	27.7
Undesignated	0.3
Total	100.0
REGION OF COUNTRY	
East	22.6
Midwest	23.8
South	31.9
West	21.6
Undesignated	0.1
Total	100.0
ANNUAL HH INCOME	
Under \$40,000	33.4
\$40-74,999	29.7
\$75,000+	30.5
Undesignated	6.4
Total	100.0

Profile of Survey Respondents (cont.)

	GP %
EVER SERVED IN MILITARY	12.7
Army/Army Reserve	45.8
Navy/Navy Reserve	31.9
Air Force/Air Force Reserve	12.9
Marine Corps/Marine Corps Reserve	6.7
Guard (Coast Guard/ National Guard)	2.2
Undesignated	0.5
Total	100.0
YEAR SERVICE BEGAN/ENDED	
Pre-Korean/Korean War (1950-1955)	26.8/19.9
Post Korean (1956-1963)	12.0/8.1
Vietnam (1961-1975)	20.9/22.1
Post Vietnam (1976-1979)	6.6/3.2
1980-1988 (Iran/Iraq)	10.6/10.5
Pre/First Gulf War (1989-1991)	7.5/3.1
Afghanistan/Second Gulf War/Operation Freedom (1992-2007)	14.6/28.1
Operation Freedom only (2003-2007)	(3.9/4.7)
Still in Service	NA/4.6
Undesignated	1.0/0.4
Total	100.0

Sampling Tolerances

In interpreting survey results, it should be borne in mind that all sample surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the extent to which the results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of such sampling errors depends largely on the number of interviews.

The following tables may be used in estimating the sampling error of any percentage in this report. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95 percent of the time, assuming the same sampling procedures, the same interviewers, and the same questionnaire.

The first table shows how much allowance should be made for the sampling error of a percentage:

Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error of a Percentage

		In Percentage Points (at 95 in 100 confidence level)*					
		Sample Size					
		1000	800	600	400	300	200
PERCENTAGES NEAR	10	2	2	3	3	4	5
PERCENTAGES NEAR	20	3	3	4	4	5	6
PERCENTAGES NEAR	30	3	3	4	5	6	7
PERCENTAGES NEAR	40	3	4	4	5	6	7
PERCENTAGES NEAR	50	3	4	4	5	6	8
PERCENTAGES NEAR	60	3	4	4	5	6	7
PERCENTAGES NEAR	70	3	3	4	5	6	7
PERCENTAGES NEAR	80	3	3	4	4	5	6
PERCENTAGES NEAR	90	2	2	3	3	4	5

* THE CHANCES ARE 95 IN 100 THAT THE SAMPLING ERROR IS NOT LARGER THAN THE FIGURE SHOWN.

The table would be used in the following manner: Let us say a reported percentage is 33 for a group which includes 1000 respondents. Then we go to row "percentages near 30" in the table and go across to the column headed "1000". The number at this point is 3, which means that the 33 percent obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 3 points. Another way of saying it is that very probably (95 chances of 100) the true figure would be somewhere between 30 and 36, with the most likely figure the 33 obtained.

In comparing survey results in two samples, such as, for example, men and women, the question arises as to how large a difference between them must be before one can be reasonably sure that it reflects a real difference. In the tables below, the number of points which must be allowed for in such comparisons is indicated.

Two tables are provided. One is for percentages near 20 or 80; the other for percentages near 50. For percentages in between, the error to be allowed for is between those shown in the two tables.

Recommended Allowance for Sampling
Error of the Difference
In Percentage Points
(at 95 in 100 confidence level)*

TABLE A		Percentages near 20 or percentages near 80					
	1000	800	600	400	300	200	
1000	4						
800	4	4					
600	4	5	5				
400	5	5	6	6			
300	6	6	6	7	7		
200	7	7	7	7	8	9	

TABLE B		Percentages near 50					
	1000	800	600	400	300	200	
1000	5						
800	5	5					
600	6	6	6				
400	6	7	7	8			
300	7	7	8	8	9		
200	8	9	9	9	10	11	