

October 5, 2017

To: John Tierney, KGW News
From: John Horvick, DHM Research
Re: Portland Homeless Survey, #00638

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From September 27 to October 4, 2017, DHM Research conducted an online survey of Portland residents for KGW News. The purpose of the survey was to assess their opinions about homeless and tent camping in the city.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 300 respondents and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess residents' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were invited to participate through a professionally maintained online panel. Individuals "opt in" to the panel and are invited to participate in the survey based on their demographic profile to ensure a sample that is representative of the adult population in Portland. Quotas were set by age, gender, race, education level and area of the city to match the US Census figures.

In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing and validation.

Statement of Limitations: Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 5.7\%$.

DHM Research Background: DHM Research has been providing opinion research and consultation throughout the Pacific Northwest and other regions of the United States for 40 years. The firm is nonpartisan and independent and specializes in research projects to support public policy making.

KGW News Homeless Survey

N=300 Portland residents
15 minutes; margin of error $\pm 5.7\%$

DHM Research #00638

Thank you for participating in this survey. We are interested in hearing your opinions about the city where you live. We think you'll find the topics interesting, and the results will be shared with community leaders so that they better understand your concerns.

SCREENERS

1. Do you live in the official city limits of any of the following cities?

Response Category	n=300
Portland, Oregon	100%
Vancouver, Washington	--
Beaverton, Oregon	--
Tigard, Oregon	--
Gresham, Oregon	--
I do not live in any of these cities	--

These questions ensure our sample is representative of the population.

2. In which area of Portland do you live?

Response Category	n=300
Northwest	11%
Southwest	14%
North	8%
Northeast, west of 82 nd Ave	13%
Northeast, east of 82 nd Ave	15%
Southeast, west of 82 nd Ave	19%
Southeast, east of 82 nd Ave	20%
West	25%
Inner East	40%
Outer East	35%

3. In what year were you born? (Open)

Response Category	n=300
Under 18	0%
18-24	11%
25-34	24%
35-54	36%
55-64	15%
65+	14%

4. Do you describe your gender as:

Response Category	n=300
Male	49%
Female	49%
Another gender	1%

5. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? **(allow for multiple responses)**

Response Category	n=300
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%
Black/African American	3%
Hispanic/Latino	8%
Middle Eastern/North African	1%
Native American/American Indian	2%
Slavic	n=0
White/Caucasian	80%
Other	3%
White only	75%
Another race	25%

6. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

Response Category	n=300
Less than high school	3%
High school diploma	23%
Some college / 2-year degree	32%
College degree / 4-year degree	27%
Graduate/professional school	15%

7. Are you registered with a political party?

Response Category	n=300
Democrat	53%
Republican	9%
Non-affiliated	25%
Some other party	9%
I am not registered to vote	4%

8. All things considered, would you say that Portland is headed in the right direction, or are things off on the wrong track?

Response Category	n=300
Right direction	41%
Wrong track	44%
Don't know	16%

9. What is the one most important issue in Portland that you would like your local elected leaders to do something about? **(Open) Responses provided in separate verbatim file.**

Please indicate if you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following issues in Portland. **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
10. Cost of housing	3%	9%	23%	62%	3%
11. Traffic congestion	1%	10%	33%	49%	6%
12. Road maintenance	3%	28%	32%	32%	5%
13. Quality of K-12 public schools	4%	33%	23%	17%	22%
14. Crime and public safety	3%	43%	33%	16%	4%
15. Availability of good jobs	9%	39%	28%	12%	12%
16. Access to health care for low income people	13%	31%	26%	16%	14%
17. Shelter for people who are homeless	2%	8%	30%	55%	5%

18. From the same list of issues, which do you think is the most urgent for Portland's elected leaders to do something about? **(Randomize)**

Response Category	n=300
Cost of housing	37%
Shelter for people who are homeless	25%
Crime and public safety	11%
Traffic congestion	9%
Quality of K-12 public schools	6%
Availability of good jobs	5%
Access to health care for low income people	5%
Road maintenance	4%

How safe would you feel walking by yourself at night in the following places? **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Not too safe	Not at all safe	Don't know
19. Downtown	8%	45%	29%	15%	3%
20. Old Town/Chinatown	3%	25%	33%	29%	10%
21. Springwater Corridor	4%	13%	25%	32%	26%
22. Your neighborhood	37%	44%	12%	6%	1%

23. In some areas of the city individuals or groups will sit on the sidewalk outside of businesses asking pedestrians or customers for money. Which of the following best describes how safe you would feel if you came in contact with this behavior?

Response Category	n=300
Very safe	13%
Somewhat safe	43%
Not too safe	30%
Not at all safe	14%
Don't know	1%

24. In some areas of the city individuals or groups will sit on the sidewalk outside of businesses with their belongings and pets. Which of the following best describes how safe you would feel if you came in contact with this behavior?

Response Category	n=300
Very safe	12%
Somewhat safe	40%
Not too safe	31%
Not at all safe	16%
Don't know	2%

The following questions are about people experiencing homelessness in Portland and the ways that the City has responded.

25. When you think of homelessness in Portland, what are the first words or thoughts that come your mind? **(Open) Responses provided in separate verbatim file.**

Indicate how much you feel each of the following emotions when you think about or see others who are experiencing homelessness in Portland. **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Very much	Somewhat	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
26. Sad	45%	38%	11%	4%	3%
27. Fear	13%	35%	36%	16%	1%
28. Anger	17%	34%	24%	19%	7%
29. Compassion	30%	45%	17%	5%	2%
30. Confusion	6%	35%	31%	26%	3%
31. Embarrassment	12%	33%	25%	26%	5%

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with how the following people and groups in Portland are addressing homelessness in the city? **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
32. Ted Wheeler, City of Portland Mayor	4%	14%	30%	27%	25%
33. Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Chair	2%	14%	27%	19%	38%
34. Portland Police Bureau	5%	26%	30%	26%	14%
35. Portland's business community	3%	24%	30%	22%	20%
36. Local news organizations	4%	27%	33%	18%	17%
37. Local social service providers	6%	35%	24%	16%	19%

38. Do think homelessness is a bigger or smaller problem in Portland than it is in other American cities of about the same size?

Response Category	n=300
Much bigger problem in Portland	31%
Somewhat bigger problem in Portland	49%
Somewhat smaller problem in Portland	8%
Much smaller problem in Portland	1%
Don't know	10%

39. Do think homelessness is a bigger or smaller problem in Portland than it is in other cities along the I-5 corridor from Los Angeles to Seattle?

Response Category	n=300
Much bigger problem in Portland	22%
Somewhat bigger problem in Portland	44%
Somewhat smaller problem in Portland	17%
Much smaller problem in Portland	2%
Don't know	15%

Over the following periods, would you say that the number of people experiencing homelessness in Portland has increased, stayed about the same, or decreased?

Response Category	Increased	Stayed about the same	Decreased	Don't know
40. Six months	59%	32%	2%	8%
41. One year	66%	26%	1%	7%
42. Five years	78%	9%	3%	9%

In your typical week in Portland, about how many days per week do you personally see the following?
(Randomize)

Response Category	Mean	Zero days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 days	Don't know
43. Someone panhandling for money	5.1	3%	4%	10%	6%	7%	20%	5%	42%	3%
44. Someone sleeping in a public space, such as a park or sidewalk	4.9	3%	8%	6%	9%	12%	13%	10%	37%	3%
45. Someone who appears to be living in a car or RV	4.2	9%	10%	12%	7%	8%	10%	5%	33%	6%
46. Someone who appears to be living in a tent	5.2	2%	8%	7%	4%	9%	14%	6%	46%	3%
47. Someone in a public space who appears drunk or high on drugs	3.5	13%	12%	11%	13%	10%	11%	5%	19%	7%
48. Needles or other drug paraphernalia on the street	2.2	31%	17%	11%	7%	5%	8%	4%	9%	8%
49. Human urine or waste in a public area	2.7	28%	12%	9%	6%	7%	8%	3%	15%	11%

50. How many days in a typical week do you see someone who appears homeless in the neighborhood where you live? [0 – 7 days]

Response Category	n=300
Mean	4.1
Zero days	13%
1 day	8%
2 days	13%
3 days	9%
4 days	5%
5 days	11%
6 days	2%
7 days	37%
Don't know	2%

51. How many days in a typical week do you see someone who appears homeless in the parts of Portland where you regularly travel for work or errands?

Response Category	n=300
Mean	5.3
Zero days	3%
1 day	5%
2 days	8%
3 days	6%
4 days	5%
5 days	19%
6 days	3%
7 days	50%
Don't know	1%

Which of the following are true for you?

Response Category	True	Not true	Don't know
52. I have a friend or family member who is currently homeless	18%	80%	2%
53. I have a friend or family member who was previously homeless	41%	52%	7%
54. I have personally been homeless at some time in my life	21%	78%	1%

In the last year, have you done any of the following? **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Yes	No	Don't know
55. Talked to someone in Portland who is homeless about their experience	35%	64%	1%
56. Volunteered time for an organization that addresses homelessness in Portland	19%	79%	1%
57. Donated money to an organization that addresses homelessness in Portland	35%	64%	0%
58. Contacted a local elected official about homelessness in Portland	15%	85%	0%
59. Taken steps to learn more about the causes of, and solutions to, homelessness	44%	54%	2%

In the last year, have you done any of the following because of concerns you have about homelessness in Portland? **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Yes	No	Don't know
60. Considered moving to a different neighborhood within the city of Portland	23%	76%	0%
61. Considered moving outside the city of Portland	34%	64%	2%
62. Discouraged friends or family from visiting Portland	15%	84%	1%
63. Avoided visiting certain parts of Portland	48%	52%	0%

64. From the following list, what do you think are the three main causes of homelessness in Portland? **(Randomize)**

Response Category	n=300
Mental illness	62%
Lack of affordable housing	60%
Substance abuse	59%
Unemployment	32%
Personal choice	26%
Low-paying jobs	18%
Eviction	9%
Medical or health costs	7%
Family disputes	5%
Domestic violence	5%
Loss of home to fire or other disaster	3%
Foreclosure	2%
Other (Open)	1%
Don't know (Exclusive)	1%

65. Which of the following comes closest to your own views on homelessness, even if neither is exactly right? **(Randomize)**

Statement A: *The number of those experiencing homelessness in Portland is directly related to the cost of housing. Policies that focus on making housing more affordable for people with low incomes or people struggling with addiction or mental health problems are the best way to reduce homelessness in the state.*

Statement B: *Homelessness in Portland is best viewed as a separate issue from affordable housing. Policies that focus on making housing more affordable will not be as effective as those aimed at alleviating the real root causes of homelessness, such as drug addiction and mental health issues.*

Response Category	n=300
Statement A	51%
Statement B	43%
Don't know	7%

66. Which of the following comes closest to your own views on homelessness, even if neither is exactly right? **(Randomize)**

Statement A: *Homelessness is a solvable problem in Portland. There are things we can change about our city to end it completely.*

Statement B: *Homelessness is an intractable problem in Portland. Even if we make changes to our city, there will still be some people who are homeless.*

Response Category	n=300
Statement A	41%
Statement B	54%
Don't know	6%

In February 2016, former Mayor Charlie Hales implemented a policy to allow people to camp in public spaces during the night because there more people experiencing homelessness in the city than available shelter beds. The policy was ended in August 2016, but many people experiencing homelessness are continuing to live in tents throughout the city.

67. Do you support or oppose the City of Portland allowing people to camp in tents on public property until there enough shelter beds in the city to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness?

Response Category	n=300
Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	28%
Don't know	6%

68. In the last year, do you believe the number of people in Portland living in tents has increased, stayed about the same, or decreased?

Response Category	n=300
Increased	69%
Stayed about the same	25%
Decreased	2%
Don't know	4%

69. Are there people living in tents in your immediate neighborhood?

Response Category	n=300
Yes	48%
No	46%
Don't know	6%

Indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
70. It is better to allow people who are homeless to set up tents in public areas than to force them to seek shelter in abandoned buildings, under bridges, or to sleep out in the open.	19%	39%	21%	11%	10%
71. Allowing people who are homeless to set up tents in public areas only encourages them to stay on the streets rather than seek permanent housing.	29%	32%	17%	15%	7%
72. Without clean water, bathrooms, or trash collection, groups of people camping in tents is a public health hazard.	56%	36%	5%	3%	1%
73. Tent camping harms Portland's economy. Shoppers stay away from stores near campsites, and tourists don't want to visit a city with people living in tents.	39%	35%	14%	5%	6%

Indicate if you support or oppose the City of Portland taking the following actions when people illegally set up tents and camp in public spaces. **(Randomize)**

Response Category	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
74. Confiscate their tents and camping gear and require a fee to reclaim it	14%	8%	23%	50%	5%
75. Confiscate their tents and camping gear and dispose of it	11%	9%	22%	52%	6%
76. Arrest people who illegally camp	12%	15%	28%	38%	6%
77. Give bus tickets out of town to those who illegally camp	13%	22%	25%	27%	13%
78. Bring social service providers to camp sites to help direct people living there to shelters	58%	32%	3%	3%	4%
79. Bring social service providers to camp sites to deliver basic health care	48%	32%	9%	6%	5%
80. Provide trash and sanitation services at camp sites	40%	37%	10%	8%	4%
81. Ignore the law and allow people to camp if there are not enough shelter beds in the city	14%	28%	24%	29%	5%

Please indicate if you would support or oppose the following in your immediate neighborhood.

(Randomize)

Response Category	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
82. Allowing people experiencing homeless to camp in your neighborhood park	10%	16%	24%	43%	7%
83. Building a permanent shelter that provides beds and services for people experiencing homelessness	50%	32%	7%	7%	4%
84. Building a temporary shelter that provides beds for people experiencing homelessness during winter months only	39%	36%	13%	7%	1%

85. If someone in Portland is homeless and there are not enough shelter beds available, where do you think they should go to find a place to sleep? **(Open) Responses provided in separate verbatim file.**

86. The City of Portland allows individuals to sit or lie on the sidewalk, as long as they are not blocking a "pedestrian through-area." Do you support or oppose this policy?

Response Category	n=300
Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	27%
Strongly oppose	17%
Don't know	4%

87. Some cities have regulations that prohibit sitting or lying on any portion of the sidewalk. Would you support or oppose such a regulation in the City of Portland?

Response Category	n=300
Strongly support	21%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	28%
Strongly oppose	22%
Don't know	5%

DEMOGRAPHICS

88. Which category best describes your 2016 gross household income, before taxes? Remember to include everyone living in your household. Your best estimate will do.

Response Category	n=300
Less than \$25,000	20%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	30%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	17%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	11%
\$150,000 or more	7%
Don't know	2%

89. Do you rent or own your home?

Response Category	n=300
Rent	45%
Own	48%
Something else	7%