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Interviews: 1,201 adults nationwide  
Dates: February 25-March 4, 2019

**FINAL**

Study #12590  
National Housing Survey  
February/March 2019

***Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.***

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S2. Does anyone in your household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, an advertising agency, or a market research firm?

No .....	100	<b>CONTINUE</b>	[115]
Yes.....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	
Not sure .....	-		

S3. For statistical purposes only, are you...?

Male.....	48	[116]
Female .....	52	

S4. Again, for statistical purposes only, please indicate how old you are.

Under 18.....	-	<b>TERMINATE</b>	
18-24.....	11	<b>CONTINUE</b>	[117-118]
25-29.....	9		
30-34.....	9		
35-39.....	9		
40-44.....	9		
45-49.....	8		
50-54.....	9		
55-59.....	9		
60-64.....	7		
65-69.....	8		
70-74.....	8		
75 and over.....	4		

S5a. Are you from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, from Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background .....	16	[119]
No, not from Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background .....	84	

S5b. Please indicate your race or ethnicity.

White .....	67	[120]
Black/African American .....	13	
Asian .....	5	
Hispanic.....	10	
Biracial or multiracial .....	3	
Other .....	2	

S6. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	-	[121-122]
Some high school .....	2	
High school graduate .....	36	
Some college, no degree .....	17	
Vocational training .....	4	
2-year college degree .....	8	
4-year college/bachelor's degree .....	21	
Some postgraduate work, no degree .....	1	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree .....	7	
PhD or professional degree (MD, JD, MBA) .....	4	

S7. In politics, are you a ... ?

Strong Republican .....	19	[123]
Leaning Republican .....	19	
Completely independent.....	17	
Leaning Democratic.....	19	
Strong Democrat .....	26	
<b>Total Republican</b>	<b>38</b>	
<b>Total Democratic</b>	<b>45</b>	

S8. Which of these best describes your current situation?

Employed full time .....	50	[124]
Employed part time.....	14	
Student .....	4	
Homemaker .....	6	
Retired.....	19	
Unemployed, looking for work .....	6	
Other .....	1	

**The next questions are going to focus on housing.**

1. When you think about the things that affect people's security and well-being here in the United States, how important is having stable affordable housing? Do you consider this to be...?

One of the most important things.....	49	[125]
Very important.....	42	
Fairly important.....	8	
Just somewhat important.....	1	
Not that important.....	-	

2. And when you think about the things that affect people's ability to achieve a secure middle-class life, how important is having stable affordable housing? Do you consider this to be...?

One of the most important things.....	42	[126]
Very important.....	46	
Fairly important.....	9	
Just somewhat important.....	3	
Not that important.....	-	

3. Compared with previous generations, do you think it is easier or harder today for people to find stable housing they can afford?

Much easier today .....	3	[127]
Somewhat easier today .....	9	
About the same .....	12	
Somewhat harder today .....	42	
Much harder today.....	34	
<b>Total Easier</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Total Harder</b>	<b>76</b>	

4. How easy or challenging do you think it is for each of the following to find stable housing they can afford?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY CHALLENGING*

	<b>Total Challenging</b>	Very Challenging	Somewhat Challenging	Somewhat Easy	Very Easy	
People with prior criminal records .....	<b>91</b>	59	32	6	3	[136]
Low-income families.....	<b>85</b>	55	30	10	5	[128]
Young people just starting out.....	<b>83</b>	40	43	13	4	[130]
People with disabilities .....	<b>79</b>	37	42	15	6	[134]
Senior citizens.....	<b>70</b>	28	42	21	9	[131]
People living in big cities .....	<b>71</b>	27	44	22	7	[132]
Racial and ethnic minorities .....	<b>73</b>	24	49	19	8	[137]
Veterans.....	<b>67</b>	23	44	24	9	[135]
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community members .....	<b>67</b>	19	48	23	10	[138]
People living in small towns and rural areas .....	<b>53</b>	14	39	39	8	[133]
Middle-income families.....	<b>55</b>	13	42	38	7	[129]

5ab. Do you think housing affordability is a problem or not really a problem in the area where you live? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "YES," ASK:)** Do you think housing affordability is a very serious problem, a fairly serious problem, just somewhat of a problem, or just a minor problem in the area where you live?

<b>Total Yes, Housing Affordability Is A Problem</b>	<b>73</b>	
A very serious problem.....	29	[139]
A fairly serious problem.....	31	
Just somewhat of a problem.....	11	
Just a minor problem .....	2	
Not sure.....	NA	
<b>No, housing affordability is not really a problem .....</b>	<b>27</b>	
Not sure.....	NA	

6. How important do you think it is for communities to have affordable, quality rental housing?

Very important .....	65	[141]
Fairly important.....	26	
Just somewhat important.....	7	
Not that important.....	1	
Not important at all .....	1	
<b>Total Important</b>	<b>91</b>	

7a. How easy or challenging is it to find affordable, quality rental housing in your community?

Very easy .....	7	[142]
Somewhat easy .....	27	
Somewhat challenging .....	44	
Very challenging .....	22	
Not sure .....	NA	
<hr/>		
<b>Total Easy</b>	<b>34</b>	
<b>Total Challenging</b>	<b>66</b>	

7b. Would you say that the availability of quality, affordable rental housing in the area where you live is an issue that is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Getting better .....	15	[143]
Getting worse .....	41	
Staying about the same .....	44	

7c. Over the next year, do you think the average cost of rent in the area where you live will increase, stay about the same, or decrease?

Increase a lot .....	19	[144]
Increase somewhat .....	53	
Stay about the same .....	26	
Decrease somewhat .....	1	
Decrease a lot .....	1	
<hr/>		
<b>Total Increase</b>	<b>72</b>	
<b>Total Decrease</b>	<b>2</b>	

8ab. To the best of your knowledge, are there any people experiencing homelessness in and around the area where you live? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "YES," ASK:)** How big of a concern is it for you that there are people experiencing homelessness in and around the area where you live?

<b>Total Yes, There Are People Experiencing Homelessness</b>	<b>75</b>	
A very big concern .....	33	[145]
A fairly big concern .....	26	
Just somewhat of a concern .....	13	
Not that much of a concern .....	3	
Not a concern at all .....	-	
<b>No, there are not people experiencing homelessness</b> .....	<b>25</b>	

9. For you personally, is the amount you pay for housing--either your monthly mortgage payment or your rent ...?

A very big concern .....	20	[147]
A fairly big concern .....	25	
Just somewhat of a concern .....	26	
Not that much of a concern .....	15	
Not a concern at all .....	14	
<hr/>		
<b>Total Big Concern</b>	<b>45</b>	
<b>Total Not That Much/Not A Concern</b>	<b>29</b>	

10a. Approximately what percentage of your total household monthly income would you say you spend on your rent or mortgage payment?

20% or less .....	26	[148]
21% to 30% .....	24	
31% to 40% .....	18	<b>Skip to Q.11</b>
41% to 50% .....	12	
More than 50% .....	12	
I am not sure.....	8	<b>CONTINUE</b>

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "I AM NOT SURE" IN Q.10a.)**

10b. Do you think you spend more than 30% of your total household monthly income or less than 30% of your total household monthly income on your rent or mortgage?

More than 30% .....	15	[149]
Less than 30% .....	20	
I am not sure .....	65	

11. If someone had to spend more than 50% of their monthly income to pay for their housing costs, do you think that would be...?

A very big problem.....	57	[150]
A fairly big problem.....	32	
Just somewhat of a problem.....	8	
Not that much of a problem .....	2	
Not a problem at all .....	1	
<b>Total Big Problem</b>	<b>89</b>	

12. Which of the following actions, if any, have you personally had to do in the past three years because you were struggling to be able to pay your rent or mortgage?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

Take on an additional job or work more at their current job.....	27	[151-152]
Cut back on healthy, nutritious food .....	27	
Accumulate credit card debt.....	26	
Stop saving for retirement .....	24	
Cut back on activities, learning materials, or out-of-school activities that support your child's learning .....	19	
Skip paying other important bills like electricity, water, or insurance.....	18	
Cut back on healthcare .....	15	
Move to a neighborhood that they feel is less safe.....	11	
Move to a place where the schools are not as good .....	5	
I have not had to do any of these .....	39	
Not sure.....	NA	

13a. Do you think government has an important role to play in making sure there are enough affordable places for people to live, or is that not an important role for government?

Yes, government has an important role to play.....	78	[153]
No, not an important role for the government.....	22	

13b. Do you think government is doing too much, too little, or the right amount to make sure there are enough affordable places for people to live?

Too much.....	11	[154]
Too little .....	68	
The right amount .....	21	

14. How important do you think it is for your elected leaders to address problems related to housing affordability and people's ability to buy or rent housing that meets their needs?

Very important.....	57	[155]
Fairly important .....	25	
Just somewhat important .....	12	
Not that important .....	6	

15. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY AGREE*

	<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
As one of the most prosperous nations in the world, we should do more to prevent homelessness. ....	<b>90</b>	62	28	7	3	[160]
Elected officials should take action to fund programs that end homelessness. ....	<b>86</b>	54	32	8	6	[161]
Ensuring that everyone has a safe, decent, affordable place to live should be a top national priority. ....	<b>85</b>	53	32	9	6	[156]
The president should take major action to make housing more affordable for low-income families. ....	<b>78</b>	50	28	14	8	[158]
Congress should take major action to make housing more affordable for low-income people. ....	<b>80</b>	49	31	14	6	[157]
Elected officials are not paying enough attention to the cost of housing and the need for more affordable housing. ....	<b>83</b>	47	36	12	5	[159]

16. Suppose a candidate running for office in your state had a detailed plan for making housing more affordable. Would you be more likely to vote for this candidate, less likely to vote for this candidate, or would it not make a difference to your vote either way?

Much more likely to vote for candidate.....	39	[162]
Somewhat more likely to vote for candidate.....	37	
Somewhat less likely to vote for candidate .....	5	
Much less likely to vote for candidate .....	3	
No difference either way .....	16	
<b>Total More Likely</b>	<b>76</b>	
<b>Total Less Likely</b>	<b>8</b>	

17a. Below are some approaches elected officials could take to address the problems of housing affordability. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY FAVOR*

	<b>Total Favor</b>	<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Favor</b>	<b>Somewhat Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	
Ensure that families with young children who are receiving rental assistance can live in neighborhoods that are safe, have good schools, and have job prospects .....	<b>90</b>	52	38	7	3	[164]
Ensure that many newly constructed housing units are affordable for households earning less than \$25,000 and are located in neighborhoods that are safe, have good schools, and have job prospects. * .....	<b>85</b>	51	34	11	4	[168]
Provide emergency crisis assistance for households with the lowest incomes to help cover the rent if they experience an unexpected economic hardship, such as losing a job or a medical emergency that is not covered by insurance. ** .....	<b>88</b>	48	40	9	3	[173]
Expand stability services for households experiencing an unforeseen economic crisis so that they can avoid eviction and homelessness .....	<b>89</b>	47	42	8	3	[167]
Ensure that many newly constructed housing units are affordable for households with the lowest incomes and are located in neighborhoods that are safe, have good schools, and have job prospects. ** .....	<b>88</b>	47	41	8	4	[171]
Expand investments in housing development programs that will build more housing units that are affordable for low-income people .....	<b>86</b>	46	40	10	4	[163]
Provide emergency crisis assistance for households earning less than \$25,000 to help cover the rent if they experience an unexpected economic hardship, such as losing a job or a medical emergency that is not covered by insurance. * .....	<b>83</b>	46	37	12	5	[170]
Expand funding for rental assistance to ensure that the approximately 17 million households who currently qualify for rental assistance but are not receiving it, get it .....	<b>82</b>	43	39	12	6	[166]
Give renters a tax break, similar to the federal tax break homeowners currently receive when they deduct the interest they pay on their mortgage .....	<b>81</b>	43	38	14	5	[165]
Expand funding for federal housing policies to ensure that households earning less than \$25,000 receive rental assistance for their housing costs. * .....	<b>78</b>	42	36	16	6	[169]
Expand funding for federal housing policies to ensure that households with the lowest incomes receive rental assistance for their housing costs. ** .....	<b>80</b>	41	39	15	5	[172]

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).  
\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

17b. Below is the same list of approaches to address the problem of housing affordability. This time, please rank the three that you think should be the most important priorities for elected officials to enact.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF COMBINED TOP THREE*

	Combined Top Three Most Important	Combined Top Two Most Important	Most Important	
Ensure that families with young children who are receiving rental assistance can live in neighborhoods that are safe, have good schools, and have job prospects .....	49	34	18	[174-175]
Provide emergency crisis assistance for households [earning less than \$25,000/with the lowest incomes] to help cover the rent if they experience an unexpected economic hardship, such as losing a job or a medical emergency that is not covered by insurance .....	46	29	13	>
Expand stability services for households experiencing an unforeseen economic crisis so that they can avoid eviction and homelessness .....	40	24	11	
Ensure that many newly constructed housing units are affordable for households [earning less than \$25,000/with the lowest incomes] and are located in neighborhoods that are safe, have good schools, and have job prospects. ....	39	26	13	
Give renters a tax break, similar to the federal tax break homeowners currently receive when they deduct the interest they pay on their mortgage .....	36	26	16	
Expand investments in housing development programs that will build more housing units that are affordable for low-income people .....	32	22	12	
Expand funding for rental assistance to ensure that the approximately 17 million households who currently qualify for rental assistance but are not receiving it, get it .....	32	22	10	
Expand funding for federal housing policies to ensure that households [earning less than \$25,000/with the lowest incomes] receive rental assistance for their housing costs.....	26	16	7	



18a. Below are some statements describing reasons that some people give for why it is important that we enact policies and make changes to address the problems of housing affordability that many families are dealing with. For each statement, please indicate how important a reason it is to take action to address the problems of housing affordability.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY IMPORTANT REASON

	<b>Total Important Reason</b>	<u>Very Important Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Important Reason</u>	<u>Just Somewhat Important Reason</u>	<u>Not An Important Reason</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Over the past several years, more than half of government resources for housing have gone to households making more than \$100,000 per year. But only one-quarter of government resources for housing have gone to households making less than \$40,000 per year. This means that those most in need have received the least amount of help.....	<b>84</b>	53	31	11	5	NA	[210]
Investing in affordable, quality housing is investing in kids and their future. Research shows that children whose parents spend less than a third of their income on housing are more likely to be healthy at birth, have enough food to eat as they grow up, and do well in school. And their parents are better able to spend on activities that improve their children's mental and physical development.....	<b>84</b>	50	34	13	3	NA	[176]
When individuals with chronic health issues have stable, affordable homes, it reduces the need for all kinds of services. Providing seniors and people who are homeless with stable and affordable housing can reduce emergency room visits, nursing home stays, and other supportive services. This saves valuable tax dollars.....	<b>84</b>	48	36	13	3	NA	[178]
Families need affordable, quality housing in order for their members to be healthy, contributing members of their community. Unstable, poor-quality housing situations and frequent moves make it difficult for adults to secure and maintain jobs, and can take a negative toll on their physical and mental health.....	<b>84</b>	47	37	12	4	NA	[177]
In communities throughout the country, home sales and rental prices are increasing at a much faster rate than wages and incomes. Nearly 40 million households in America spend more than 30% of their income on housing.....	<b>84</b>	47	37	13	3	NA	[180]

Q.18a (cont'd)

	<b><u>Very Important Reason</u></b>	<u>Very Important Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Important Reason</u>	<u>Just Somewhat Important Reason</u>	<u>Not An Important Reason</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Affordable housing is necessary to ensure a strong regional economy. When even one community within a region lacks safe, decent, affordable housing, it impacts everyone. Communities that have good affordable housing, reliable transit, and quality schools attract employers who create jobs and economic growth.....	<b>84</b>	45	39	12	4	NA	[208]
Housing affordability is a problem across the country, both in urban and rural areas alike. Many rural areas are experiencing shortages of affordable rental housing. In fact, one in four renters who live in rural areas spend more than half their income on rent.....	<b>83</b>	45	38	13	4	NA	[211]
The problem of economic and racial segregation has gotten worse in recent decades, trapping low-income families in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty and crime and low performing schools. We need policies that allow all people to live in neighborhoods that provide opportunity and encourage upward mobility for families and kids.....	<b>77</b>	43	34	15	8	NA	[179]
Strong neighborhoods are like puzzles. They require many different resources that fit together, such as good homes people can afford along with quality healthcare, schools, and transportation. When a community is missing good affordable homes, it is missing a key piece of the puzzle, and thus will not be successful.....	<b>79</b>	36	43	16	5	NA	[209]

19. Below are some factual statements about housing affordability in the country today. For each one, please indicate how important a reason it is to take action to address the problems of housing affordability.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY IMPORTANT REASON

	<b>Total Important Reason</b>	<b>Very Important Reason</b>	<b>Fairly Important Reason</b>	<b>Just Somewhat Important Reason</b>	<b>Not An Important Reason</b>	
Since 1960, renters' incomes have gone up 5% while rents have gone up by 61%.....	<b>85</b>	56	29	11	4	[219]
A full-time minimum wage earner would have to work approximately 122 hours per week, every week of the year, to afford a decent two-bedroom apartment, or 99 hours per week to afford a decent one-bedroom apartment. ....	<b>82</b>	55	27	12	6	[213]
More than 10 million households with extremely low incomes either pay unaffordable and unsustainable rental costs, or are homeless. ....	<b>85</b>	54	31	11	4	[212]
Out of over 3,000 counties in America, there are only 22 where a full-time worker earning minimum wage can afford a one-bedroom rental home. There are no counties where they can afford a two-bedroom rental home. ** .....	<b>81</b>	51	30	14	5	[225]
Building 100 affordable homes generates \$11.7 million in local income, 161 local jobs, and \$2.2 million in taxes for local government. ....	<b>84</b>	50	34	12	4	[215]
Unstable housing among families with children will cost the nation \$111 billion in avoidable health-related costs over the next 10 years.....	<b>84</b>	50	34	12	4	[214]
Nearly half of all renters in America are cost-burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of their income toward housing costs. * .....	<b>81</b>	48	33	15	4	[221]
Low-income families receiving housing assistance experience greater food security and their children are 52% less likely to be seriously underweight compared with families who do not. ....	<b>83</b>	47	36	13	4	[216]
Of the households who qualify for and need housing assistance, only 25% will receive it. ** .....	<b>82</b>	47	35	13	5	[223]
Long-term housing assistance reduces by 50% the number of families that are homeless or doubled-up living with other families. ....	<b>82</b>	45	37	14	4	[218]
Of the households who qualify for and need housing assistance, only one in four will receive it. * .....	<b>81</b>	45	36	14	5	[220]
The average renter nationally can afford to rent a modest two-bedroom apartment in less than 11% of counties throughout the country, and can afford a one-bedroom apartment in less than half of all counties.* ....	<b>82</b>	43	39	14	4	[222]
There are 35 available and affordable rental units for every 100 extremely low-income renter households.** ..	<b>80</b>	43	37	16	4	[224]
Younger low-income children whose families use a housing voucher to move to a neighborhood with better opportunities earn an average of \$302,000 more over their lifetime.....	<b>78</b>	40	38	16	6	[217]

\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

\*\* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

20. Which two or three of the following are the most important reasons you think we should enact policies and make changes that will help ensure that more people and families have quality affordable housing?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

Reducing homelessness.....	59	[226]
The impact on children’s healthy development.....	46	>
The impact on people’s ability to secure and maintain jobs....	42	
The impact on people’s physical and mental health .....	36	
Helping neighborhoods thrive .....	24	
Saving tax dollars (e.g., fewer ER visits and reliance on other supportive social services).....	24	
Reducing economic and racial segregation .....	22	
Improving regional economies .....	21	

**FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.**

- F1. Do you own or rent your current residence? For the purpose of the survey, you own your home even if you have outstanding debt that you owe on your mortgage loan.

Own .....	64	[227]
Rent .....	32	
Other .....	4	

- F2. Which of the following describes you?

Unmarried, not living with partner .....	25	[228]
Unmarried, living with a partner .....	11	
Married .....	50	
Separated.....	2	
Widowed.....	4	
Divorced .....	8	

- F3. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household?

Yes, kids under 18 in household .....	31	[229]
No, no kids under 18 in household ..	69	

- F4. How would you describe the area in which you live?

City .....	32	[230]
Suburb near a city .....	32	
Small town not near a city .....	14	
Rural or country area .....	22	

- F5. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes, registered to vote .....	98	[231]
No, not registered to vote.....	2	
Not sure about registration status .....	-	

F6. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be very conservative, somewhat conservative, middle of the road, somewhat liberal, or very liberal?

Very conservative .....	16	[232]
Somewhat conservative .....	23	
Middle of the road .....	29	
Somewhat liberal .....	18	
Very liberal .....	14	
<b>Total Conservative</b>	<b>39</b>	
<b>Total Liberal</b>	<b>32</b>	

F7. For statistical purposes only, if you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, what would the total be?

Less than \$10,000 .....	4	[233-234]
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000 .....	7	
Between \$20,001 and \$30,000 .....	11	
Between \$30,001 and \$40,000 .....	9	
Between \$40,001 and \$50,000 .....	10	
Between \$50,001 and \$75,000 .....	15	
Between \$75,001 and \$100,000 .....	21	
Between \$100,001 and \$150,000 .....	13	
More than \$150,000 .....	6	
I am not sure .....	4	

REGION		
Northeast .....	22	[181]
South .....	35	
Midwest .....	21	
West .....	22	