

## Hunger Free America – A Place at the Table

*Action for Opportunity Forum: Poverty, Hunger and Homelessness Survey*

**TOPLINE RESULTS – November 8, 2019**

**Prepared By Kupersmit Research**

This survey of 1,000 Likely Voters in the 2020 election was conducted online. Quotas were utilized to ensure representation by age, geography and gender identity; the survey has been weighted to approximate party ID in publicly available national surveys (45% Dem, 39% GOP, 14% Ind/Other; this includes 29% Strong Dem and 24% Strong GOP).

The survey was conducted November 1-5, 2019 and carries a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$  at the 95% confidence level.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE WAS ADMINISTERED ONLINE. AN ANSWER WAS REQUIRED FOR EACH QUESTION, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

ALL RESPONDENTS ARE FROM AN ONLINE PANEL. WE RECRUITED LIKELY VOTERS AGE 18+ FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, WITH QUOTAS USED TO ENSURE GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC (AGE, GENDER IDENTITY) REPRESENTATION.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PROGRAMMER ARE IN CAPS. RESPONDENTS DID NOT SEE SECTION HEADERS.

## Screener

Thank you for taking the time to take our survey today. Before you begin, we have a few questions to see if you qualify:

1. Which of the following best describes your age?

Under 18	(TERMINATE)
18-24	8%
25-34	19
35-44	18
45-54	17
55-64	18
65+	19
Not sure/Refused	(TERMINATE)

2. Thinking about next year's elections for President of the United States, as well as other offices at the state and local level:

How likely is it that you will vote in the 2020 elections?

Certain	83%
Very likely	17
Pretty likely	TERMINATE
Not very likely	TERMINATE
Not at all likely	TERMINATE

3. Which of the following best describes your gender identity?

Female	53%
Male	46
Transgender	.5%
Non-Binary	.5%
Prefer not to say	(TERMINATE)

4. Please select the state where you currently live from the drop down list:

CODED REGION:

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22
South	34
West	26

## Attitudes Toward Poverty and Those in Need

### *Actions*

In the past year, have you or anyone in your household donated, volunteered or otherwise supported any of the following types of charities/events?

	Yes	No
5. Charities that help Americans in poverty	48%	52
6. Charities for senior citizens	25%	75
7. Charities for veterans	38%	62
8. Charities that address hunger and/or homelessness	47%	53
9. Charities that aim to cure a disease	42%	58

### *Defining/Sympathizing*

Do you think that someone experiencing the following is poor, lower middle class, middle class, upper middle class or wealthy?

If this is happening to someone, are they...	Poor	Lower middle class	Middle class	Upper middle class	Wealthy	NS
10. Living check to check with no savings	20%	44	24	3	4	4
11. Having a full-time job that does not cover basic necessities (rent, food, health care)	32%	38	18	5	3	3
12. Being unable to afford co-pays for doctors and medicines	26%	37	24	5	4	4
13. Skipping meals or choosing between food and prescriptions because they can't afford enough food	53%	26	11	4	3	2
14. Living on couches, or in a motel or a car, for more than three months	68%	14	7	3	4	3

*Values*

15. There are currently 96 million Americans – nearly one-third of all Americans – living in or near poverty. In your view, how important is this issue relative to the other challenges we face as a nation? Is it:

The #1 most important issue	21%
Extremely important	40
Very important	24
Somewhat important	10
Not very important	2
Not at all important	1
Not sure	1

Do you agree or disagree:	Agree			Neither	Disagree			NS
	100%	Strongly	A little		A little	Strongly	100%	
16. The rise in poverty, and the high number of people who live check-to-check or near poverty, is another symptom of the decline of the middle class and the loss of economic security most Americans once enjoyed.	34%	35	16	5	3	2	1	3
17. Too many middle class Americans live in fear of falling into poverty if they lose their job, get sick or have something else happen that is out of their control.	38%	32	17	6	3	1	1	2
18. Being poor should not mean misery, hunger and preventable illness in the richest nation on Earth.	45%	27	15	7	3	1	1	2
19. Everyone should have dignity, including children, adults and seniors who are poor, hungry or homeless.	53%	27	11	5	1	1	1	2
20. Taking care of children, the elderly, people with disabilities and others who suffer through no fault of their own is a basic tenet of every religious, spiritual or moral belief system.	43%	28	12	8	2	1	1	3
21. Tens of millions of Americans earning too little to afford basic goods and services drags down our entire economy.	23%	27	19	11	5	5	5	4
22. People who work full-time and follow the law should be able to get ahead in America and enjoy a comfortable middle class life.	36%	33	18	7	2	1	1	2
23. Allowing poverty, declining economic opportunity, and despair to run unchecked allows division and partisanship to seize our politics and our way of life.	31%	29	17	12	3	2	1	5

## Role of Government

24. Some say that the best approach to issues like poverty, hunger and homelessness is to rely on private charities, that government shouldn't raise minimum wages, and that government programs like SNAP (food stamps), unemployment insurance, or Medicaid should be cut or eliminated.

Some say that the best approach to issues like poverty, hunger and homelessness is having government ensure living wages and strong, well-funded programs like SNAP (food stamps), unemployment insurance, and Medicaid and then private charities can fill in the gaps. Which comes closer to your view?

Private charities should take the lead, the private sector should be able to set wages as low as they like, and we should cut or eliminate government programs	27%
We need a combination of higher wages and strong government programs, and then private charities can fill in the gaps.	62
Not sure	11

25. If a candidate for elected office made it their main focus to increase economic opportunity, with a vision and plans to make the middle class more secure and reduce hunger and homelessness among those in or near poverty, would that make you more likely, less likely, or not affect whether you would vote for that candidate?

Much more likely	34%	<b>MORE LIKELY</b>	<b>71%</b>
Somewhat more likely	37		
Neither more likely nor less likely	17		
Somewhat less likely	3		
Much less likely	2	<b>LESS LIKELY:</b>	<b>5%</b>
Not sure	7		

The following is a list of some groups that are currently receiving government aid or benefits. Do you want to see government programs that support these groups increased, kept at current levels or cut?

	Increase these programs	Keep these programs the same	Cut these programs	NS
26. Seniors living in or near poverty	59%	30	4	6
27. Children living in or near poverty	60%	28	6	6
28. Working parents living in or near poverty	49%	37	7	7
29. Veterans living in in or near poverty	61%	27	5	7
30. People with disabilities	51%	38	5	7
31. Small farmers harmed by global trade decisions	41%	39	10	9
32. Large corporate agriculture companies harmed by global trade decisions	20%	37	30	13

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:	Agree			Neither	Disagree			NS
	100%	Strongly	A little		A little	Strongly	100%	
33. Government programs should not be structured so that people lose all their benefits if they get a job or a raise. Rather, they should help people find a path back to self-sufficiency so they do not need benefits in the future.	32%	31	19	7	3	2	2	4
34. Government programs should become more efficient and streamlined and use modern technologies, so people struggling to work their way out of poverty aren't wasting valuable time filling in the same forms over and over, or fighting red tape and waiting on hold on phone trees all day, just to figure out their benefits.	37%	33	16	6	1	1	1	4

*SNAP*

Currently, the food stamp program (known as SNAP) costs taxpayers less than 2% of the total federal budget.

On average, food stamps provide about \$1.40 per meal for those who receive SNAP benefits.

35. Do you think spending on food stamps as a percent of the federal budget should be:

Increased significantly	32%	<b>TOTAL “INCREASED”....58%</b>
Increased slightly	26	
Kept about the same	24	
Cut slightly	5	<b>TOTAL “CUT”.....11%</b>
Cut significantly	6	
Not sure	8	

36. Do you think the current benefit of \$1.40 per meal is way too much, a bit too much, about right, a bit too low, or much too low?

Way too much	8%
A bit too much	8
About right	23
A bit too low	23
Much too low	29
Not sure	9

## Demographics

The following questions are used for statistical purposes only:

Do any of the following apply to you, people you know personally or both?

Please check all that apply:	Applies to you personally	Applies to someone you know personally	Does not apply
37. Have skipped meals or otherwise experienced hunger in the past 12 months	20%	22%	62%
38. Have experienced homelessness in the past 12 months	8	22	72
39. Have had trouble paying bills for necessities in the past 12 months	27	32	49
40. Have had trouble paying medical bills in the past 12 months	24	30	52

41. Are you currently:

Employed full time	52%
Employed part-time	9
A homemaker	6
Retired	23
A student	1
Unemployed and looking for a job	4
Unemployed and not looking for a job	2
Other	2
Not sure/Prefer not to say	1

IF FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME EMPLOYED, CONTINUE HERE; OTHERS SKIP TO PARTY AFFILIATION:

Thinking about the next 2-3 years...

42. How worried are you that you could lose your job if the economy were to get worse in your area over the next few years? (n=617)

Very worried	21%
A bit worried	31
Not very worried	22
Not at all worried	23
Not sure	4

43. How long could you live without working before you worried about facing a major crisis in terms of being able to afford basic necessities like rent/mortgage, food or health care?  
(n=617)

Less than a month	21%
2-3 months	24
4-6 months	17
7 months-12 months	8
1 year	8
2-3 years	4
More than 3 years	11
Not sure	6

ALL RESUME HERE:

44. Thinking about your political affiliation, would you say you consider yourself to be a Democrat, Republican, another party or Independent?

Strong Democrat	29%
Lean Democrat	16
Lean Republican	15
Strong Republican	24
Independent	12
Libertarian Party	1
Other party	1
None of these	1
Not sure/Prefer not to say	1

45. How often do you vote?

Always	71%
Most of the time	23
Sometimes	4
Never	1
Not sure/Prefer not to say	1

46. What is your current marital status?

Single	27%
Married	54
Widowed	3
Divorced	9
Living with a domestic partner	6
Not sure/Prefer not to say	0

47. Do you currently have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

Yes	28%
No	72
Not sure/Prefer not to say	1



48. Which of these best describes where you live?
- |                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| In a large city            | 26% |
| Suburbs of a large city    | 46  |
| A small town or rural area | 28  |
| Not sure/Prefer not to say | 0   |
49. Are you from a Hispanic, Latino or Spanish-Speaking background?
- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Yes              | 9% |
| No               | 90 |
| Not sure/Refused | 1  |
50. With which race do you identify yourself?
- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| White                            | 81% |
| Black, African-American          | 10  |
| Asian                            | 4   |
| Multi-racial                     | 2   |
| Native American, American Indian | 1   |
| Other race                       | 1   |
| Not sure/Refused                 | 0   |
51. Which of the following best describes your household income for the year 2019?
- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Less than \$19,999 per year | 10% |
| \$20-\$29,999               | 8   |
| \$30-\$39,999               | 9   |
| \$40-\$49,999               | 8   |
| \$50-\$74,999               | 17  |
| \$75-\$99,999               | 16  |
| \$100-\$149,999             | 16  |
| \$150,000 or more           | 11  |
| Not sure/Prefer not to say  | 5   |

Thank you for your time.

## About Kupersmit Research

Kupersmit Research is a Colorado-based market research firm founded in 2001. We can be found at [www.KupersmitResearch.com](http://www.KupersmitResearch.com).

## About the Dynata (formerly Research Now SSI) Online Panel

Dynata uses a multi-sourcing panel recruitment model which maximizes reach and capacity, as well as improving consistency and minimizing bias. Dynata's online sample is made up of a number of different brands across the globe.

To increase diversity, Dynata uses a variety of contact methods to recruit: loyalty partnerships, online banners, TV ads, e-mails, apps, social media influencers, websites are among the many channels used. Dynata's massive combined panel size helps studies to fill quickly and easily and improves representivity. With a large number of diverse frames, sample is less vulnerable to the loss of a source, or to changes within individual sources.

Below are the important benefits of this multi-source model:

- Allows us to bring you a more representative universe via recruitment to diverse panels and sourcing.
- Leverages multiple contact modes (not just emails) in directing participants into the stream.
- Allows for precise targeting via methodologically-sound screening questions,
- Eliminates many wasted survey opportunities where a participant is told that they do not qualify for a study. This results in more people being available to complete surveys.
- Ensures that the panelist experience is optimized. This leads to lower attrition rate, less panelist fatigue and better data quality.

Dynata technology allows us to blend multiple sources and deliver a consistent diverse sample, in the same way across all the countries across the globe where we provide sample.