

The Chapman University Survey of American Fears, Wave 7

The Complete List of Fears, 2020/2021

The following is a complete list of all fears addressed by the Chapman University Survey of American Fears Wave 7 (2020/2021), ranked by the percent of Americans who reported being afraid or very afraid¹.

Sorted Alphabetically

Completed List of Fears (2021)	% Afraid or Very Afraid
Abduction/Kidnapping	25.5
Air Pollution	41.3
Animals (dogs, rats, etc.)	4.6
Antifa	28.2
Becoming Seriously ill	38.3
Being Caught in an Embarrassing Moment on Zoom or Video Conference	14.3
Being Hit by a Drunk Driver	36.5
Being Unemployed	39.7
Biological Warfare	49.3
Black Lives Matter (BLM)	15.0
Blood	8.1
Break-ins	31.0
Catching Influenza (the seasonal flu)	16.8
Catching the Coronavirus (COVID-19)	38.0
Clowns	5.6

¹ Because the survey was fielded at the start of 2021 (Jan 5th to 15th), we have used 2020/2021 in the title.

Computers Replacing People in the Workforce	27.5
Contracting the Coronavirus (COVID-19)	41.0
Corporate Tracking of Personal Data	44.9
Corrupt Government Officials	79.6
Credit Card Fraud	38.5
Cyber-Terrorism	51.0
Deep Lakes and Oceans	24.7
Devastating Blizzard/Winter Storm	25.3
Devastating Drought	32.8
Devastating Earthquake	32.0
Devastating Flood	28.3
Devastating Hurricane	31.3
Devastating Tornado	31.0
Devastating Wildfire	34.2
Dying	29.2
Economic/Financial Collapse	54.8
Extinction of Plant and Animal Species	44.4
Financial Fraud (such as a Ponzi Scheme, embezzlement, etc.)	26.3
Flying	11.5
Gang Violence	28.3
Germs	21.7
Ghosts	9.4

Global Warming and Climate Change	48.7
Government Interference with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine Approval	44.1
Government Restrictions on Firearms and Ammunition	49.0
Government Tracking of Personal Data	45.6
Government Use of Drones within the U.S.	42.7
Heights	31.2
High Medical Bills	42.8
Identity Theft	43.8
Illegal Immigration	21.4
Immigrants	5.9
Insects/Arachnids (spiders, bees, etc.)	22.8
Iran Using Nuclear Weapons	43.3
Large Volcanic Eruption	19.0
Left Wing Extremists	33.8
Losing Your Job Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic	26.3
Loved one contracting the coronavirus (COVID-19)	57.9
Mugging	27.4
Murder by a Stranger	28.9
Murder by Someone You Know	21.7
Murder Hornets	20.1
Muslims	6.9
Needles	11.9

North Korea using Nuclear Weapons	42.5
Not being Able to Pay off College Debt of Myself or a Family Member	40.4
Not having Enough Money for the Future	48.6
Not having Enough Money to Pay my Rent or Mortgage	35.2
Nuclear Accident/Meltdown	38.6
Nuclear Weapons Attack	42.2
Oil Spills	32.7
Pandemic or a Major Epidemic	55.8
People I Love Becoming Seriously ill	57.3
People I Love Dying	58.6
Police Brutality	30.1
Pollution of Drinking Water	44.5
Pollution of Oceans, Rivers and Lakes	50.2
Public Speaking	29.0
Racial/Hate Crime	31.6
Random/Mass Shooting	36.7
Reptiles (snakes, lizards, etc.)	24.7
Right Wing Extremists	43.4
Sexual Assault by a Stranger	27.6
Sexual Assault by Someone You Know	22.4
Sharks	29.5
Small, Enclosed Spaces	16.2

Stalking	23.4
Strangers	11.4
Technology that I Don't Understand	15.9
Terrorism	38.7
Terrorist Attack	48.8
The Collapse of the Electrical Grid	36.1
Theft of Property	29.4
The Proud Boys	41.9
The US Becoming Involved in Another World War	48.3
Walking Alone at Night	22.1
Whites No Longer Being the Majority in the US	8.7
White Supremacists	44.8
Widespread Civil Unrest	56.6
Zombies	9.3