The Chapman Survey of American Fears, Wave 9 The Complete List of Fears, 2023

The following is a complete list of all fears addressed by the Chapman University Survey of American Fears Wave 9 (2023), ranked by the percent of Americans who reported being afraid or very afraid. They have been sorted by percent, from highest to lowest.

Complete List of Fear (2023)	% of Very Afraid or Afraid
1. Corrupt government officials	60.1
2. Economic/financial collapse	54.7
3. Russia using nuclear weapons	52.5
4. The US becoming involved in another world war	52.3
5. People I love becoming seriously ill	50.6
6. People I love dying	50.4
7. Pollution of drinking water	50.0
8. Biological warfare	49.5
9. Cyber-terrorism	49.3
10. Not having enough money for the future	48.0
11. Pollution of oceans, rivers, and lakes	47.8
12. North Korea using nuclear weapons	47.6
13. China spying on the US	45.7
14. Iran using nuclear weapons	45.3
15. Military conflict between the United States and China	45.3
16. A terrorist attack	45.2
17. Corporate tracking of personal data	45.1
18. The collapse of the electric grid	44.1
19. China stealing US technology	44.1
20. Global warming and climate change	43.6
21. Government tracking of personal data	43.6
22. Extinction of Plant and animal species	43.3
23. The outcome of the next presidential election	43.1
24. Random/mass shooting	42.9
25. High medical bills	42.2
26. Air pollution	40.9
27. China's influence abroad reducing US power in the world	40.7
28. Widespread civil unrest	40.6
29. A nuclear accident/meltdown	40.0
30. China's economy overtaking the US economy	40.0

31. Identity theft	38.9
32. Being hit by a drunk driver	36.8
33. Terrorism	36.6
34. White supremacists	36.5
35. Oil spills	35.7
36. Becoming seriously ill	35.0
37. Credit card fraud	35.0
38. Not having enough money to pay my rent or mortgage	33.6
39. Government restrictions on firearms and ammunition	33.5
40. Heights	33.2
41. A new pandemic or a major epidemic	33.1
42. A devastating drought	32.8
43. Climate change impacting where I live	32.8
44. A devastating natural disaster where I live	32.3
45. Violent overthrow of the U.S. government	31.9
46. Right wing extremists	31.6
47. Computers replacing people in the workforce	31.6
48. Break-ins	30.4
49. Widespread voter fraud	30.3
50. A devastating tornado	30.1
51. Illegal immigration	30.1
52. Sharks	30.1
53. Public speaking	28.7
54. Theft of property	28.5
55. A devastating wildfire	28.2
56. Police brutality	28.1
57. A devastating earthquaking	27.9
58. Left wing extremists	27.6
59. A devastating flood	27.3
60. Racial/hate crime	27.2
61. The Proud Boys	27.1
62. Government use of drones within the U.S.	27.1
63. Deep lakes and oceans	26.6
64. A devastating hurricane	26.5
65. Gang violence	26.5
66. Dying	26.2
67. Sexual assault by a stranger	26.0
68. Reptiles (snakes, lizards, etc.)	25.9
69. Murder by a stranger	25.8

70. A devastating blizzard/Winter storm	25.6
71. Walking alone at night	25.4
72. Insects/arachnids (spiders, bees, etc.)	25.3
73. Mugging	25.1
74. Being unemployed	24.9
75. Financial fraud (such as a Ponzi scheme, embezzlement, etc.)	24.9
76. Abduction/kidnapping	21.5
77. Small, enclosed spaces	20.8
78. Antifa	20.3
79. Stalking	20.2
80. Sexual assault by someone you know	19.8
81. Murder by someone you know	17.9
82. Catching the coronavirus (COVID-19)	16.5
83. Technology that I don't understand	16.5
84. Flying	16.2
85. Not being able to pay off the college debt of myself or a family member	15.8
86. A large volcanic eruption	15.7
87. Germs	15.1
88. Strangers	13.6
89. Black Lives Matter (BLM)	13.4
90. Needles	12.7
91. Catching influenza (the seasonal fluid)	12.1
92. Whites no longer being the majority in the US	12.1
93. Ghosts	10.3
94. Immigrants	8.9
95. Blood	7.7
96. Muslims	7.5
97. Animals (dogs, rats, etc.)	6.0