

The Chapman Survey of American Fears 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 (2020/21), ranked by the percent of Americans who reported being afraid or very afraid¹.

Sorted by Percent Afraid/Very Afraid

Complete List of Fears (2020)	% Afraid or Very Afraid
1. Corrupt government officials	79.6%
2. People I love dying	58.5%
3. A loved one contracting the coronavirus (COVID-19)	58%
4. People I love becoming seriously ill	57.3%
5. Widespread civil unrest	56.5%
6. A pandemic or a major epidemic?	55.8%
7. Economic/financial collapse	54.8%
8. Cyber-terrorism	51%
9. Pollution of oceans, rivers and lakes	50.8%
10. Biological warfare	49.3%
11. Government restrictions on firearms and ammunition?	48.9%
12. A terrorist attack	48.8%
13. Global warming and climate change	48.7%
14. Not having enough money for the future	48.6%
15. The US becoming involved in another world war?	48.3%
16. Government tracking of personal data	45.6%

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

17. Corporate tracking of personal data	44.9%
18. Pollution of drinking water	44.6%
19. Extinction of plant and animal species	44.4%

20. Government interference with the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine approval	44.2%
21. Identity theft	43.8%
22. Iran using nuclear weapons	43.4%
23. White supremacists	43.4%
24. High medical bills	42.8%
25. Government use of drones within the U.S.	42.7%
26. North Korea using nuclear weapons	42.5%
27. A nuclear weapons attack	42.3%
28. Air pollution	41.3%
29. Contracting the coronavirus (COVID 19)	41%
30. A nuclear accident/meltdown	38.7%
31. Terrorism	38.7%
32. Credit card fraud	38.5%
33. Becoming seriously ill	38.3%
34. Catching the coronavirus (COVID-19)	38%
35. Right wing extremists	37.2%
36. Random/mass shooting	36.7%
37. Being hit by a drunk drive	36.5%
38. The collapse of the electrical grid	36.1%
39. A devastating wildfire?	34.1%

40. A devastating drought?	32.9%
41. Oil spills	32.7%
42. The Proud Boys	32.3%
43. A devastating earthquake	32%
44. Racial/hate crime	31.5%
45. A devastating hurricane	31.4%
46. Heights	31.2%
47. Break-ins	31%
48. A devastating tornado	31%
49. Not having enough money to pay my rent or mortgage	30.7%
50. Police brutality	30.1%
51. Sharks	29.5%
52. Theft of property	29.4%
53. Dying	29.3%
54. Public speaking	29%
55. Murder by a stranger	28.9%
56. Left wing extremists	28.9%
57. Being unemployed	28.9%
58. Gang Violence	28.4%
59. A devastating flood	28.3%
60. Sexual assault by a stranger	27.6%
61. Mugging	27.5%
62. Computers replacing people in the workforce	27.5%
63. Financial fraud (such as a Ponzi Scheme, embezzlement, etc.)?	26.3%
64. Losing your job due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?	26.3%

65. Abduction/Kidnapping	25.6%
66. . A devastating blizzard/Winter storm	25.3%
67. Reptiles (snakes, lizards, etc.)	24.7%
68. Deep lakes and oceans	24.7%
69. Stalking	23.3%
70. Insects/arachnids (spiders, bees, etc.)	22.8%
71. Sexual assault by someone you know	22.4%
72. Antifa	22.1%
73. Walking alone at night	22.1%
74. Murder by someone you know	21.8%
75. Germs	21.7%
76. Illegal immigration	21.5%
77. Murder Hornets	20.1%
78. A large volcanic eruption	18.9%
79. Not being able to pay off the college debt of myself or a family member	18.3%
80. Catching influenza (the seasonal flu)	16.7%
81. Small, enclosed spaces	16.2%
82. Technology that I don't understand	15.9%
83. Black Lives Matter (BLM)	14.7%
84. Needles	11.9%

85. Flying	11.5%
86. Strangers	11.4%
87. Being caught in an embarrassing moment on Zoom or video conference	9.8%
88. Ghosts	9.3%

89. Zombies	9.3%
90. Whites no longer being the majority in the US	8.7%
91. Blood	8.7%
92. Muslims	6.8%
93. Immigrants	5.8%
94. Clowns	5.6%
95. Animals (dogs, rats, etc.)	4.6%