



Warm-Up Survey – Audience, Please Complete Now

Directions: Explore your assumptions and find out what you already know about homelessness by completing this survey. Your answers are confidential. Circle one answer for each item.

1	The main drivers of homelessness are substance use and untreated mental illness.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

2	An individual working a full-time job in Indy can afford to rent a modest efficiency or 1-bedroom apartment.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

3	Homeless people sleeping outside could sleep in shelters if they wanted to.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

4	Homelessness in Indiana is mainly a problem of large cities like Indianapolis.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

5	When a person who appears to be living on the street approaches me for help, I feel uncomfortable.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

No.	T/F	Directions: Circle T for True or F for false for each statement.
6	T F	The official annual count of homeless persons in Indy includes all of Marion County.
7	T F	Black residents make up 40% of Indy’s homelessness count and only 27% of its population.
8	T F	About 2% of housing units in Indy are available for rent or sale, on average.
9	T F	Marion County needs 20,000 more affordable housing units to house every household affordably.
10	T F	From 2019 to 2023, the cost of renting has increased more than the costs of owning a home.
11	T F	CHIP stands for the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention.
12	T F	Programs that require sobriety or mental health treatment to get housing work best to reduce chronic homelessness.
13	T F	Veteran homelessness in Indy is increasing.
14	T F	The <u>Streets to Home Indy</u> initiative will help people living in encampments but not those in shelters.

15 Directions: List some ways that ending chronic homelessness will benefit our community and its people.



Warm-Up Survey Key

Directions: Explore your assumptions and find out what you already know about homelessness by completing this survey. Your answers are confidential. Circle one answer for each item.

1	The main drivers of homelessness are substance use and untreated mental illness.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Housing cost and availability are the main drivers of homelessness. Substance use can be both a cause and consequence of becoming homeless ([National Coalition for the Homeless, 2009](#)). Only 25% - 30% of homeless persons have severe mental illness, and mental health often worsens from the trauma of homelessness (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7525583/>).

2	An individual working a full-time job in Indy can afford to rent a modest efficiency or 1-bedroom apartment.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Many low-wage workers earn just \$12 - \$15/hr., or less, but they would need to earn \$19.34 per hr. to afford a modest 1 BR or studio apt. and utilities, in Indy (based on average rent of \$1100/month per chipindy.org).

3	Homeless people sleeping outside could sleep in shelters if they wanted to.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Shelter have barriers! 1) No vacancies 2) Family must separate into different shelters for women/children v. men age 18 or older 3) Must accept evangelizing 4) Must fit a category (domestic violence, etc.) 5) Pet abandonment required

4	Homelessness in Indiana is mainly a problem of large cities like Indianapolis.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Homelessness in rural counties increased nearly twice as much as in urban areas from 2023-2025 (17% v. 9% increase).

5	When a person who appears to be living on the street approaches me for help, I feel uncomfortable.				
	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Engaging with people who are homeless at food pantries, shelters or communal meals may help us to see their humanity.

No.	T/F	Directions: Circle T for True or F for false for each statement.
6	T	The official annual count of homeless people in Indy includes all of Marion County.
7	F	Black residents make up 40% of Indy's homelessness count and only 27% of its population. Black residents comprise 55% of Indy's homeless count though 27% of population is accurate.
8	T	About 2% of housing units in Indy are available for rent or sale, on average.
9	F	Marion County needs 20,000 more affordable housing units to house every household affordably. Up to 135,000 more units are needed for extremely low-income households alone (those making up to 30% of area median income).
10	T	From 2019 - 2023, the cost of renting has increased more than the costs of owning a home. Renting costs increased 32% while ownership costs increased only 16%.
11	T	CHIP stands for the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention.
12	F	Programs that require sobriety or mental health treatment to get housing work best to reduce chronic homelessness. Studies show this "Treatment First" approach does NOT reduce homelessness or create housing stability as well as "Housing First" programs, which do not impose such requirements.
13	F	Veteran homelessness in Indy is increasing. Veteran homelessness is down 26% from 2024 to 2025 thanks to housing first programs.
14	F	The <u>Streets to Home Indy</u> initiative will help people living in encampments but not those in shelters. Starting in 2026, STHI will focus on rapidly re-housing those in shelters.

15 Directions: List some ways that ending chronic homelessness will benefit our community and its people.

Answers to item 15 on back =>

15 Directions: List some ways that ending chronic homelessness will benefit our community and its people.

For the community at large:

- Criminal justice system focuses on violent crime rather than code violations, mental health crisis response
- Wealthier residents for tax base
- We do not see people living and dying on streets
- More prosperous, accessible local businesses
- Safer city, more attractive to tourists, industry and education

For homeless individuals and families:

- Stability to get and continue treatment
- Healthier, fewer medical crises and emergency services
- Less risk of police interaction and incarceration
- More job stability = greater income
- Kids change schools less often and do better in school