

Occupy Portland Survey 2011 Report DRAFT

Cameron Mulder, Lucas Charles, Stephen Shackman, Josie Griffin, Melissa Balgley, Philip Cleary, Erica Horton, and Fred Duong

On November 13th of 2011, an intercept survey of 134 participants was conducted at the Occupy Portland encampment in downtown Portland, OR. The survey was completed less than 24 hours before the forced eviction. Responses were collected from each participant via a 40-item questionnaire.

Methodology Notes

Percentages rounded so may not always equal 100%. Refusals (RF) include marked refusals or not directly answering question in most cases. Don't Know (DK) and additional written comments included in paranthesis.

Survey

1. Do you consider yourself a part of the Occupy Portland Movement?

Yes - 105 (83%)

No - 20 (16%)

Maybe - 2 (1%)

TOTAL: 127

2. How involved do you consider yourself in the Occupy Portland Movement?

Very involved - 48 (36%)

Somewhat involved - 49 (37%)

Not much involved - 28 (21%)

Not at all - 7 (5%)

TOTAL: 132

3. Are you currently living in the Occupy Portland camp?

Yes (Full time) - 32 (24%)

Somewhat (Part time) - 18 (14%)

No - 82 (62%)

TOTAL: 132

4. Outside of the Occupy Portland camp where is your primary residence?

City:_____ State_____

Portland, OR - 73 (56%)

Portland Metro - 12 (9%)

Oregon - 12 (9%)

Washington - 3 (2%)

USA - 14 (11%)

Outside USA - 0 (0%)

The camp is my primary residence - 11 (8%)

RF - 5 (4%)

TOTAL: 130

5. Do you think that the Occupy Movement will continue to grow?

Yes - 100 (75%)

No - 9 (7%)

Not sure - 25 (19%)

TOTAL: 134

6. Did you vote in the last election?

Yes - 88 (67%)

No - 42 (32%)

NA - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 132

7. Do you plan to vote in the next election?

Yes - 91 (69%)

No - 35 (27%)

Undecided - 5 (3%)

NA - 1 (1%)

TOTAL: 132

8. Would you say you are turned off by our political system?

Yes - 115 (88%)

No - 12 (9%)

Maybe - 2 (2%)

Somewhat - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 131

9. Have you ever participated in a political activity or is this your first time (such as attended a meeting, joined a political organization, written a letter or email to a legislator, attended a rally, volunteered, helped get out the vote, etc.)?

This is my first time getting involved in a political activity - 25 (19%)

I have participated in past political activity before the Occupy Movement - 104 (79%)

Neither - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 131

10. Do you feel like you make enough money to live your life the way you want to?

Yes - 40 (30%)

yes, no - 2 (2%)

No - 89 (67%)

RF - 1 (1%)

TOTAL: 132

11. In the next few years, do you think that your personal economic situation will get better, get worse, or will it stay about the same?

Undecided - 2 (2%)

Get better - 36 (27%)

Get better, stay the same - 1 (1%)

Stay the same - 30 (23%)

Stay the same, get worse - 1 (1%)

Get worse - 61 (47%)

TOTAL: 131

12. Have you had to downsize your lifestyle because of your economic situation?

Yes - 89 (68%)

No - 42 (32%)

TOTAL: 131

13. Would you use civil disobedience to achieve your goals?

Yes - 83 (63%)

Maybe - 32 (24%)

No - 16 (12%)

NA - 1 (1%)

TOTAL: 132

14A. Would you use violence to achieve your goals?

Yes - 13 (10%)

Maybe - 18 (14%)

No - 101 (76%)

(in self defense) - 1 (1%)

TOTAL: 133

14B. Would you use property damage to achieve your goals?

Yes - 14 (11%)

Maybe - 21 (16%)

No - 98 (74%)

TOTAL: 133

14C. Would you use the current political system to achieve your goals?

Yes - 46 (35%)

Yes, maybe - 2 (2%)

Yes, no - 3 (2%)

Maybe - 43 (33%)

No - 38 (29%)

TOTAL:132

15. Do you think that condition in the United States today are similar to those in many countries in the Middle East on the eve of the Arab Spring?

Yes - 25 (19%)

Somewhat - 54 (42%)

Not sure - 2 (2%)

No - 48 (37%)

TOTAL: 129

16. Do you feel that the wealthiest Americans are paying their fair share of taxes, or should we increase taxes on the wealthiest Americans?

Raise taxes on richest Americans - 103 (79%)

Not sure - 15 (11%)

Richest Americans are paying a fair share - 7 (5%)

(No) - 1 (1%)

RF - 4 (3%)

TOTAL: 131

17. Do we need to raise taxes for everybody?

Yes - 14 (11%)

Maybe - 33 (25%)

No - 83 (67%)

RF - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 132

18. Some people say that globalization has made the American worker more vulnerable and has caused jobs to be outsourced and entire industries to disappear, and we need protective trade legislation to protect American jobs and industries. Do you agree or disagree?

Strongly agree - 76 (60%)

Somewhat agree - 34 (27%)

(Neutral) - 1 (1%)

Somewhat disagree - 9 (7%)

Strongly disagree - 3 (2%)

DK - 2 (2%)

RF - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 127

19. Do you think providing government money to banks and other financial institutions was necessary to get the economy out of the recession, or was it not necessary?

Government money to banks was necessary - 15 (12%)

Government money to banks was NOT necessary - 107 (84%)

DK - 1 (1%)

RF - 3 (2%)

TOTAL: 127

20. Do you think that we need greater government regulation over the banking sector, less government regulation, or about the same?

More Bank regulation is needed - 98 (81%)

About the same bank regulation is needed - 7 (6%)

Less bank regulation is needed - 10 (8%)

DK - 2 (1%)

RF - 3 (2%)

TOTAL: 120

21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "government has a moral responsibility to guarantee health care, college education, and a secure retirement for all – no matter the cost"?

Strongly agree - 82 (68%)

Somewhat agree - 22 (18%)

Somewhat disagree - 6 (5%)

Strongly disagree - 10 (9%)

RF - 1 (1%)

Total: 121

22. Do you feel that the city of Portland has been supportive, unsupportive, or neutral towards the Occupy Portland Movement?

Supportive - 53 (44%)

Neutral - 34 (28%)

Unsupportive - 31 (26%)

(Supportive, unsupportive, neutral) - 1 (1%)

RF - 2 (2)

TOTAL: 121

23. What percentage of people at the Occupy Portland camp would you say are a part of the movement versus being here for other reasons?

% who are a part of the Occupy movement:

1-9% 2

10-19% 4

20-29% 8

30-39% 9

40-49% 6

50-59% 14

60-69% 10

70-79% 17

80-89% 11

90-99% 12

100% 5

(70-99%) - 1

DK - 2

RF - 6

TOTAL: 107

24. Compared to other cities, do you feel that in Portland you are allowed more free speech, less free speech, or is it about that same as other cities?

More - 61 (54%)

About the same - 45 (39%)

Less - 5 (4%)

Other - 3 (3%)

TOTAL: 114

25. Do you feel that local media coverage of Occupy Portland has been accurate?

Yes - 8 (7%)

Somewhat - 32 (28%)

No - 73 (63%)

DK - 1 (1%)

RF - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 116

26. Please rate how well the government is doing in serving the needs of the following groups:

A. Families

Excellent - 3 (3%)

Good - 10 (9%)

Fair - 31 (27%)

(Fair, poor) - 1 (1%)

Poor - 71 (61%)

TOTAL: 116

B. Minorities

Excellent - 7 (6%)

Good - 11 (9%)

Fair - 19 (16%)

Poor - 80 (68%)

TOTAL: 117

C. The Middle Class

Excellent - 1 (1%)

Good - 12 (10%)

Fair - 42 (35%)

Poor - 64 (54%)

TOTAL: 119

D. The Poor

Excellent - 3 (3%)

Good - 3 (3%)

Fair - 8 (7%)

Poor - 104 (88%)

TOTAL: 118

E. The Rich

Excellent - 89 (75%)

Good - 11 (9%)

Fair - 3 (3%)

Poor - 15 (13%)

TOTAL: 118

F. Children

Excellent - 2 (2%)

Good - 10 (8%)

Fair - 38 (32%)

Poor - 69 (58%)

TOTAL: 119

G. Students

Excellent - 2 (2%)

Good - 12 (10%)

Fair - 32 (27%)

(Fair, poor) - 2 (2%)

Poor - 70 (59%)

TOTAL: 118

H. Homeless

Excellent - 2 (2%)

Good - 0 (0%)

Fair - 12 (10%)

Poor - 104 (88%)

TOTAL: 118

I. Those in Poverty

Excellent - 1 (1%)

Good - 2 (2%)

Fair - 12 (10%)

Poor - 103 (87%)

TOTAL: 118

J. Corporations

Excellent - 93 (79%)

Good - 8 (7%)

Fair - 4 (3%)

Poor - 13 (11%)

TOTAL: 118

K. Unions

Excellent - 11 (9%)

Good - 18 (15%)

(Good/fair/poor) - 1 (1%)

Fair - 35 (30%)

(Fair, poor) - 1 (1%)

Poor - 52 (44%)

TOTAL: 118

L. Financial Institutions

Excellent - 85 (73%)

Good - 14 (12%)

Fair - 5 (4%)

Poor - 12 (10%)

TOTAL: 116

27. Please rate how well the government is doing in providing the following services:

A. Education

Excellent - 2 (2%)

Good - 12 (10%)

Fair - 30 (26%)

Poor - 73 (63%)

Total: 117

B. Environment

Excellent - 3 (3%)

Good - 9 (8%)

Fair - 41 (35%)

Poor - 63 (54%)

TOTAL: 116

C. Public Safety

Excellent - 2 (2%)

Good - 34 (29%)

Fair - 41 (35%)

Poor - 40 (34%)

TOTAL: 117

D. Healthcare

Excellent - 1 (1%)

Good - 2 (2%)

Fair - 29 (25%)

Poor - 84 (73%)

TOTAL: 116

E. Parks

Excellent - 6 (5%)

Good - 34 (29%)

Fair - 44 (38%)

Poor - 32 (28%)

TOTAL: 116

F. Infrastructure

Excellent - 3 (3%)

Good - 22 (19%)

Fair - 40 (34%)

Poor - 51 (44%)

TOTAL: 116

G. Jobs

Excellent - 0 (0%)

Good - 5 (4%)

Fair - 23 (20%)

Poor - 89 (76%)

TOTAL: 117

28. What frustrates you the most about the political process in the United States?

[Please write answer in box]

Most responses talked about a frustration that the political system is dominated by corporations and the rich resulting in corruption and a lack of political voice for much of the population

29. What would you like to see the Occupy Wall Street movement achieve? [Please write answer in box]

Although responses varied widely there was a general thread of wanting to see Occupy become a permanent movement that would help to create a more fair and equal political and economic system.

30. Who would you say is most to blame for our failure to address our problems?

[Please write answer in box]

Many responses focused on self incrimination and a general sense of culpability driven by apathy. This was followed by a number of comments that focus on the current elite who hold power and the current structure of government with some related comments focused more on monied interests such as corporations, banks, and general greed.

Demographics

31. What is your gender?

Female - 34 (28%)

Male - 83 (69%)

Other - 2 (1%)

RF - 2 (1%)

TOTAL: 121

32. What is your age group?

15-19 - 7 (6%)

20-24 - 22 (18%)

25-34 - 35 (29%)

35-44 - 11 (9%)

45-54 - 21 (18%)

55-64 - 12 (10%)

65-74 - 9 (8%)

RF - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 119

33. With which political party do you identify?

Constitution Party - 2

Democratic Party - 22

Democratic Party, Independent Party of Oregon - 1

Democratic Party, Libertarian Party - 1

Democratic Party, Pacific Green Party - 2

Democratic Party, Other (they all liars) - 1

Independent Party of Oregon - 7

Libertarian Party - 2

Pacific Green Party - 8

Progressive Party - 3

Republican Party - 6

Working Families Party of Oregon - 7

Other - 48

RF - 2

TOTAL: 116

34. What best describes your race or ethnicity?

American Indian - 3

Black or African American - 3

Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino - 1

Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - 1

Hispanic or Latino - 1

White - 85

White, American Indian - 6

White, Black or African American - 1

White, Black or African American, Asian - 1

White, Hispanic or Latino - 2

White, Hispanic or Latino, Other: Semitic - 1

White, Irish - 1

White, Other: Human - 1

Other: Mixed - 1

Other: American - 1

Other: German/Prussian - 1

Other: Honkie - 1

Other: Human - 1

Other: Irish & Native American - 1

Other: Irish American - 1

Other: World Citizen - 1

RF - 1

TOTAL: 116

35. Do you currently live with a significant other or life partner?

Yes - 50 (42%)

No - 65 (54%)

(Kind of) - 1 (1%)

RF - 4 (3%)

TOTAL: 120

36. Are you the parent/guardian of any children?

Yes - 46 (39%)

No - 69 (58%)

(Pregnant) - 1 (1%)

RF - 2 (2%)

TOTAL: 119

37. Which of the following best describes your highest level of education? [CHECK ONLY ONE]

Grade school or some high school - 10 (8%)

High school graduate - 28 (24%)

Technical/Vocational school/Some college (2yr degree) - 25 (21%)

College graduate (4 year degree) - 28 (24%)

Some graduate school - 12 (10%)

Graduate/Professional degree - 15 (13%)

RF - 1

TOTAL: 119

38. Are you employed?

disabled - 3

full-time - 30

full-time student - 8

full-time, full-time student - 2

full-time, part-time - 2

homemaker - 2

part-time - 7

part-time, but would like to be full-time - 11

part-time, homemaker - 1

retired - 11

retired, disabled - 2

unemployed - 30

unemployed, disabled - 1

unemployed, full-time student 2

RF - 1

TOTAL: 118

39. Which of the following best describes your household's total annual income for 2011?

Less than \$10,000 - 39 (34%)

\$10,000 - \$14,999 - 15 (13%)

\$15,000 - \$24,999 - 19 (17%)

\$25,000 - \$34,999 - 12 (11%)

\$35,000 - \$49,999 - 6 (5%)

\$50,000 - \$74,999 - 12 (11%)

\$75,000 - \$99,999 - 5 (4%)

\$100,000 or more - 5 (4%)

RF - 1 (1%)

TOTAL: 114