

**Pew Philadelphia Residents Survey  
Final Topline Results for Philadelphia Residents  
March 2025**

*This study was conducted for The Pew Charitable Trusts via web/phone and mail surveys by SSRS, an independent research company. The field period for this study was from Jan. 2 to March 10, 2025, and during that time, SSRS collected data from a sample of  $n=2,289$  adults age 18 or older who live in Philadelphia County ( $n=1,776$  via web/phone and  $n=402$  via mail). The margin of error for total respondents is plus or minus 2.8% at the 95% confidence level. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting [www.ssrs.com](http://www.ssrs.com).*

*The results include some findings since 2015, including differences between phone surveys and address-based samples (ABS) surveys.*

**\*General notes:** Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.  
All percentages marked with an asterisk (\*) are less than 1%.

Q1.To begin with, for how many years have you lived in Philadelphia, or have you lived here all your life?

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Total-19	ABS-19	Phone-19	Aug-16	Feb-15
Less than one	2%	5%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%
One or two	4%	4%	6%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
3-5	9%	8%	8%	5%	7%	4%	4%	3%
6-10	10%	8%	9%	8%	12%	4%	6%	5%
11-20	9%	11%	14%	10%	9%	11%	9%	9%
21-30	9%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%
More than 30	13%	11%	9%	12%	12%	11%	12%	13%
All my life	44%	45%	46%	53%	47%	60%	58%	59%
Do not live in Philadelphia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blank/refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q2.What was your age on your last birthday?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
18-24	10%	10%
25-29	11%	12%
30-35	15%	14%
36-49	23%	21%
50-60	16%	18%
61-64	6%	6%
65+	20%	19%

Q3.How would you rate Philadelphia as a place to live?

[illegible]

Q4.Do you think things in Philadelphia are generally:

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Total-19	ABS-19	Phone-19	Aug-16	Feb-15	Aug-13	Dec-11	Feb-11	Jan-10	Jan-09
Right direction	59%	36%	50%	55%	60%	49%	50%	48%	37%	39%	40%	41%	46%
Wrong track	41%	63%	49%	38%	39%	38%	34%	33%	45%	42%	39%	34%	37%
Mixed (vol.)	-	-	-	5%	-	10%	13%	14%	15%	16%	17%	18%	12%
Blank/refused	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%	5%

Note: "(vol.)" indicates that the "mixed" answer was a voluntary response and not provided as an option on the phone.

Q5.What do you think is the **most** important issue facing the city of Philadelphia?<sup>1</sup>

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Phone-19	Aug-16	Feb-15
Crime/drugs/safety	61%	70%	41%	41%	44%	23%
Poor/poverty/homelessness	16%	14%	18%	12%	10%	5%
Affordable housing/cost of living	12%	6%	7%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure/roads/transportation	9%	3%	4%	3%	N/A	N/A
Jobs/Economy/Economic development/Lack of economic opportunities	9%	5%	13%	11%	14%	22%
Sanitation/trash removal/cleanliness	7%	5%	8%	N/A	2%	N/A
Education/Schools	6%	6%	14%	17%	20%	32%
Government functioning/Corruption	4%	5%	7%	5%	6%	8%
Taxes/lower taxes/pensions/spending	4%	1%	3%	9%	6%	7%
Neighborhood revitalization/poor people being pushed out/gentrification/other neighborhood answers	4%	2%	4%	12%	4%	5%
Public services/resources	3%	2%	4%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Police reform/brutality/defunding	3%	3%	8%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Immigration/sanctuary city	1%	*	1%	2%	N/A	N/A
Race relations/Racism	1%	1%	9%	2%	3%	3%
Opioids mentioned	1%	1%	1%	1%	N/A	N/A
Parks/green space/recreational opportunities	1%	1%	*	2%	2%	1%
Climate change/environment/pollution	*	1%	1%	1%	N/A	N/A
Equality (unspecified)	*	1%	1%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Entertainment and nightlife/restaurants	-	-	*	-	*	1%
COVID 19 impact	N/A	6%	10%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other (SPECIFY)	7%	14%	12%	2%	6%	7%
Blank/Refused	4%	2%	4%	7%	4%	10%

Note: \* refers to answers with not enough responses to reach 1%. Whereas, - refers to no participants included that response.

<sup>1</sup> Asked differently in Aug-20, V6: *What do you think is the most important issue facing the city and the next mayor?*

Q6. Thinking about how your own life might unfold over the next five to 10 years, how likely are you to be living in Philadelphia?

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Total-19	ABS-19	Phone-19	Aug-16	Feb-15
Definitely will	22%	21%	26%	30%	29%	31%	31%	30%
Probably will	35%	37%	40%	42%	45%	36%	34%	37%
Probably will not	21%	30%	25%	20%	20%	18%	20%	17%
Definitely will not	9%	11%	8%	8%	6%	15%	13%	13%
Don't know <sup>2</sup>	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know/blank/refused	*	1%	1%	*	*	1%	2%	3%

Q7. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Philadelphia's best days are behind it.	40%	45%
Philadelphia's best days are ahead of it.	59%	53%
Blank/refused	1%	2%

Q8. Mayor Cherelle Parker just finished her first year in office. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job she is doing as mayor?

	Mar-25
Approve	63%
Disapprove	35%
Blank/refused	2%

Q9. How would you rate Mayor Parker's handling of public safety in the city so far?

	Mar-25
Excellent	7%
Good	42%
Not very good	25%
Not good at all	10%
Not sure	17%
Blank/refused	*

<sup>2</sup> Previous toplines have presented "Don't know" and "Blank/refused" as a single category. In 2025, we are showing these separate because "Don't know" was a visible (i.e., non-hidden) option in the survey.

Q10. Mayor Parker identified some key issues to tackle in her first term.

How much of a difference do you think the Mayor's actions will make in:

A. Making Philadelphia a safer city

	Mar-25
A major difference	27%
A minor difference	43%
No real difference	28%
Blank/refused	2%

B. Decreasing the number of people with opioid addiction and handling the problem of drugs

	Mar-25
A major difference	22%
A minor difference	40%
No real difference	36%
Blank/refused	2%

C. Lowering the number of people living in poverty

	Mar-25
A major difference	20%
A minor difference	38%
No real difference	40%
Blank/refused	2%

D. Creating jobs

	Mar-25
A major difference	27%
A minor difference	43%
No real difference	29%
Blank/refused	2%

E. Making Philadelphia a cleaner and greener city

	Mar-25
A major difference	34%
A minor difference	41%
No real difference	24%

Blank/refused

1%

Q11.How much, if anything, have you heard or read about Mayor Parker's actions to address conditions in Kensington?

	Mar-25
A lot	24%
Some	34%
Just a little	25%
Nothing at all	16%
Blank/refused	1%

**(Note: Asked of those who have heard or read about Mayor Parker's actions to address conditions in Kensington at least just a little; n=1,908)**

Q12.How effective, if at all, have Mayor Parker's actions been in addressing conditions in Kensington?

	Mar-25
Very effective	10%
Somewhat effective	36%
Not very effective	27%
Not at all effective	12%
Not sure	14%
Blank/refused	1%

Q13.How satisfied are you with the trash collection in your neighborhood?

	Mar-25
Very satisfied	38%
Somewhat satisfied	41%
Somewhat dissatisfied	13%
Very dissatisfied	7%
Blank/refused	1%

Q14.How often do you think the city government listens to people like you when it makes decisions about what to do?

	Mar-25
Most of the time	6%
Some of the time	31%
Rarely	39%
Never	16%
Not sure	7%

Q15. Suppose there was a problem in your neighborhood where you and others decided to contact city government for help. How responsive do you think they would be to hearing your concern?

	Mar-25
Very responsive	7%
Somewhat responsive	44%
Not very responsive	36%
Not at all responsive	11%
Blank/refused	1%

Q16. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
I would prefer more government services and higher taxes.	47%	45%
I would prefer fewer government services and lower taxes.	52%	53%
Blank/refused	2%	2%

Q17. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
The city's priority should be spurring economic growth that creates jobs.	56%	49%
The city's priority should be helping low-income people directly.	43%	49%
Blank/refused	1%	2%

Q18. Thinking about the amount of taxes you pay for the services you get in Philadelphia, do you get:

	Mar-25	Jan-22
More than you pay for	8%	5%
Less than you pay for	63%	66%
About right—you get what you pay for	28%	28%
Blank/refused	1%	1%

Q19. Which of these two statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Reducing the city tax on businesses will help create jobs.	46%	44%
Reducing the city business taxes will only help businesses to make more profit.	53%	55%
Blank/refused	1%	1%

Q20.How would you rate your own personal financial situation?

Are you in:

	Mar-25
Excellent shape	9%
Good shape	32%
Only fair shape	40%
Poor shape	18%
Blank/refused	1%

Q22.Do you own or rent your apartment or home?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Own	48%	47%
Rent	45%	48%
Live rent-free with friends or family	7%	4%
Blank/refused	1%	1%

Q23.How satisfied are you with your current housing?

	Mar-25
Very satisfied	36%
Somewhat satisfied	44%
Somewhat dissatisfied	14%
Very dissatisfied	7%
Blank/refused	*

Q24.Do you think people trying to buy their own home in Philadelphia find it:



	Mar-25
Very easy	3%
Fairly easy	19%
Fairly difficult	36%
Very difficult	28%
Not sure	14%
Blank/refused	*

Q25. With the increase in the number of immigrants, Philadelphia has become more racially and ethnically diverse in recent years. About 1 in 6 of those living in the city were born outside the United States. Thinking of immigrants—from Latin America, Asia, and other places—would you say that the increase in the number of immigrants is more of a good thing or more of a bad thing in your view?

	Mar-25
More of a good thing	62%
More of a bad thing	37%
Blank/refused	1%

Q26. If immigration has increased in your neighborhood, has it been:

	Mar-25
More of a good thing	21%
More of a bad thing	19%
No impact	35%
No increase in immigration in my neighborhood	24%
Blank/refused	*

Q27. Which of the following two statements about immigrants in Philadelphia do you agree with more?

	Mar-25
Immigrants bring new people and vitality to Philadelphia's neighborhoods.	66%
Immigrants create or add to the problems in city neighborhoods.	33%
Blank/refused	1%

Q28. In which way do you think immigrants affect the economy in Philadelphia:

	Mar-25
Positively by working, buying things, and paying taxes	64%
Negatively by taking jobs and needing city social services	35%
Blank/refused	1%

Q29.How do you feel about **undocumented** immigrants in Philadelphia?

	Mar-25
Very sympathetic	26%
Somewhat sympathetic	39%
Somewhat unsympathetic	17%
Very unsympathetic	18%
Blank/refused	1%

Q30.Of all the immigrants in Philadelphia, how many do you think are **undocumented**?

	Mar-25
Almost all of them	7%
More than half	21%
About half	30%
Less than half	34%
Almost none of them	6%
Blank/refused	1%

Q31.What geographic section of the city do you live in?

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Total-19	ABS-19	Phone-19	Aug-16	Feb-15	Aug-13	Jan-12	Feb-11
Center City	9%	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	5%	5%	5%
South Philadelphia	10%	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%	12%	11%
West Philadelphia	11%	13%	13%	14%	11%	18%	15%	12%	13%	12%	13%
Southwest Philadelphia	5%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%
North Philadelphia—upper and lower	16%	17%	17%	18%	17%	19%	20%	20%	19%	20%	20%
River Wards	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Northwest Philadelphia/Mt. Airy	12%	14%	14%	12%	11%	11%	9%	11%	11%	10%	12%
Northeast Philadelphia	26%	25%	26%	27%	29%	26%	24%	31%	32%	31%	29%
Other (specify)	7%	7%	7%	5%	7%	3%	5%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Not sure/it depends	2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blank/refused	*	2%	1%	1%	*	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%

Q32.How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to live?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Excellent	20%	12%
Good	47%	44%
Only fair	25%	31%
Poor	8%	13%
Blank/refused	*	*

Q33.How safe do you feel when you are out in your neighborhood at night?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Completely safe	11%	5%
Pretty safe	45%	39%
A little unsafe	31%	36%
Not safe at all	13%	19%
Blank/refused	*	*

Q34.Has gun violence had an impact on your quality of life in your neighborhood?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
A major negative impact	26%	42%
A minor negative impact	45%	37%
Has had no impact	29%	20%
Blank/refused	*	*

Q35.Do you think the problem of gun violence in Philadelphia over the last three years has been:

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Getting better	19%	2%
Getting worse	41%	85%
Hasn't changed	27%	6%
Not sure	13%	6%
Blank/refused	*	1%

Q36.Have you heard gunshots in your neighborhood in the last 12 months?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Yes	53%	65%
No	32%	20%
Not sure	15%	15%
Blank/refused	*	*

Q37.Over the past 12 months, do you think the number of homicides in Philadelphia has been:

	Mar-25
Increasing	31%
Decreasing	38%
No real change	30%
Blank/refused	*

Q38.Overall, how much respect do you have for the police in Philadelphia?

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Feb-15
Great deal	30%	24%	27%	33%
Good amount	35%	35%	36%	34%
Just some	21%	26%	23%	22%
Not much	14%	14%	14%	11%
Blank/refused	*	1%	1%	1%

Q39.How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to treat Black people and White people equally?

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20	Feb-15
A great deal	18%	15%	18%	25%
A fair amount	33%	27%	30%	30%
Just some	23%	27%	21%	20%
Very little	25%	29%	31%	22%
Blank/refused	*	1%	1%	3%

Q40.How much confidence do you have in police officers in your community to treat Hispanic people and White people equally?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
A great deal	18%	14%
A fair amount	34%	28%
Just some	24%	31%
Very little	23%	25%
Blank/refused	*	1%

Q41. We want to ask you about the number of police in Philadelphia. Would you say that the city:

	Mar-25	Jan-22	Aug-20
Doesn't have enough police	58%	61%	45%
Has about the right number of police	33%	31%	39%
Has too many police	8%	8%	14%
Blank/refused	*	1%	3%

Q42. Changing topics, do you personally know anyone who is or has been addicted to opioids? By opioids, we mean drugs such as heroin and fentanyl or prescription painkillers such as Percocet, OxyContin, or Vicodin.

	Mar-25
Yes	44%
No	46%
Don't know	10%
Blank/refused	*

Q43. Do you personally know anyone who has died because of opioid misuse?

	Mar-25
Yes	34%
No	56%
Don't know	9%
Blank/refused	*

Q44. In your neighborhood, what kind of impact has opioid misuse had on your quality of life?

	Mar-25
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A major negative impact	19%
A minor negative impact	28%
No difference	31%
Don't know	22%
Blank/refused	*

Q45. Do you think the problem of opioid addiction in Philadelphia over the last year has been:

	Mar-25
Getting better	8%
Getting worse	39%
Hasn't changed	31%
Not sure	22%
Blank/refused	*

Q46. How would you rate Mayor Parker's handling of the problem of drugs and opioids so far?

	Mar-25
Excellent	5%
Good	23%
Not very good	25%
Not good at all	15%
Not sure	33%
Blank/refused	*

Q47. Which of these two statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

	Mar-25
Philadelphia should prioritize policing and the arrest of drug users.	27%
Philadelphia should prioritize providing treatment and health services to drug users.	71%
Blank/refused	1%

Q48. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

	Mar-25
Being addicted to opioids is like getting a disease such as diabetes or heart problems.	51%
Being addicted to opioids is something people bring on themselves.	47%

Q49. Thinking now about people who become addicted to opioids, do you have a lot of sympathy for them, some, not much, or none at all?

	Mar-25
A lot	25%
Some	46%
Not much	18%
None at all	11%
Blank/refused	*

Q50. Which of the following best describes your job status?

	Mar-25
Employed	58%
Unemployed but looking for work	12%
Unemployed and not looking for work	3%
Retired or disabled	26%
Blank/refused	1%

Q51. Including yourself, how many adults over age 18 are currently living in your household?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
1	24%	23%
2	45%	44%
3	16%	18%
4+	10%	11%
Blank/refused	5%	5%

Q52. Are there any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Yes, 1 child	14%	20%
Yes, 2 or more children	17%	13%
No	69%	65%

Blank/refused

\*

2%

Q53. Were you or anyone else in your current household born outside the United States?

	Mar-25
Yes	19%
No	80%
Blank/refused	*

Q54. What was the last grade of school that you completed?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Grade school or less	3%	2%
Some high school	6%	8%
High school	30%	32%
Some college (1-3 years)	24%	24%
College graduate (4 years)	18%	15%
Post graduate (beyond 4 years)	18%	18%
Blank/refused	*	1%

Q55. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish-speaking background?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Yes	11%	14%
No	88%	85%
Blank/refused	*	1%

Q56. What is your race?

*Select all that apply.*

	Mar-25
White	46%
African American/Black	40%
Asian	10%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1%
Hispanic/Latino (vol.)	4%
Other (vol.)	1%



Blank/refused	2%
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	Jan-22 <sup>3</sup>
Black	39%
White	40%
Asian	5%
Native American	*
Mixed race	5%
Something else	8%
Blank/refused	2%

### Race/ethnicity combo table

	Mar-25
White, non-Hispanic	41%
Black, non-Hispanic	38%
Hispanic	12%
Asian, non-Hispanic	10%
Other, non-Hispanic	4%
Blank/refused	2%

Q57. In 2024, what was your total family household income from all sources, before taxes?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
Less than \$10,000	12%	14%
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9%	16%
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	9%	10%
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11%	10%
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9%	10%
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	13%	12%
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	10%	8%
\$100,000 to under \$125,000	7%	5%
\$125,000 to under \$150,000	6%	4%
\$150,000 or more	13%	8%
Blank/refused	2%	2%

Q58. What is your gender?

	Mar-25	Jan-22
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<sup>3</sup> We are showing race as two separate tables in 2025 and 2022 since it was asked as a single-select option in Jan-22. Additionally, the categories between the two surveys also differ slightly.

Male	44%	46%
Female	53%	53%
Other	2%	1%
Blank/refused	*	*

### Neighborhood combo table (combines Q31 with respondent's ZIP code)

	Mar-25
Center City	10%
South Philadelphia	14%
West Philadelphia	15%
North Philadelphia	16%
Northwest Philadelphia	13%
Northeast Philadelphia	21%
River Wards	11%
Blank/refused	--