

# Context and Causes of Living Unhoused

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CLE



# Home Economics—changes in U.S.

Median cost of <b>house</b> in Oct. 2021	<b>\$404,700</b>	 <b>63.4% since 2010</b>
Average <b>rent</b> for 2-bedrm apt. in Nov. 2021	<b>\$1958</b>	 <b>16.7 % from 2020 and 8.8% per year since 2010</b>
Flat <b>income</b> for renters for 50+ years!		<b>Real wages stagnate from 1964-2021</b>

- Median wage in May 2020 was **\$20.17**/hour==**\$3469**/month.
- Adjusted for inflation, wages in 1964 were **\$20.27**.
- Renters are “cost burdened” if paying more than 30% of income on shelter.

# General Myths about Unhoused People

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- They choose to live outside.
- Most are mentally ill and addicted.
- They don't work for a living.
- They are dangerous and/or criminal.
- 90% are single men.



# Many Factors Contribute to Persons Living Unhoused

- ➔ **Economics of Low Wage Work & Norms of Property Ownership.**
- ➔ **Paucity of support services.** especially for disabled, veterans, mentally ill, youth.
- ➔ **Rise in numbers of investor-owned homes and decrease in public investment.** Began after foreclosure crisis of 2006--08
- ➔ **Speed and Simplicity of Eviction process.**
- ➔ **Electronic Court and Credit Records.** have contributed to chronic homelessness
- ➔ **THE PANDEMIC..**