

Survey Data of the Housing Situation in Six Global Metropolises

This overview describes the survey data of 12,611 residents in six cities (Berlin, Chicago, London, Los Angeles, New York and Paris). The survey is part of a comparative research project about urban housing situations. This brief overview provides a summary of the survey methods, describes the data collection process, and reflects the response behavior.

All data from the six cities and the codebook are free to use and available on the website of the ETH research collection: <https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000513683>.

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Introduction

In order to gain a better understanding of urban housing situations and housing insecurities, we have launched a survey in six metropolises (Berlin, Chicago, London, Los Angeles, New York, Paris) in early 2021. The goal of this research project is to comparatively examine how urban residents perceive their own housing situation. All data is free to use and can be found on the ETH research collection (Data: <https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000513683>). We have written individual data briefs for each city and launch them in November and December 2021. All data briefs can be accessed on our website: spur.ethz.ch/research/housing-situation.

Data / Demographics

The sample consists of 12,611 respondents from the six metropolises (2,120 in New York, 2,119 in Los Angeles, 2,120 in Chicago, 2,329 in London, 2,103 in Paris, and 1,820 in Berlin). Before launching the main survey, we conducted a pretest of 209 respondents in London, which we also included in the final sample.

Of the people surveyed, 51.0% identified as female, 48.0% as male, and 1.0% as non-binary or did not indicate their gender. The median housing expenses are \$1,300-\$1,599 in the three US cities, €700-999 in Paris and Berlin, and £1,000-1,299 in London. Across the sample, the average household size is 3.1 persons per household, including adults and children and adolescents. In our sample, 51.3% of all respondents live in households without children or adolescents and 48.7% in households with children or adolescents.



The median housing expenses are \$1,300-1,599 in the three US cities, €700-999 in Berlin and Paris, and £1,000-1,299 in London.

Figure 1: Housing expenses

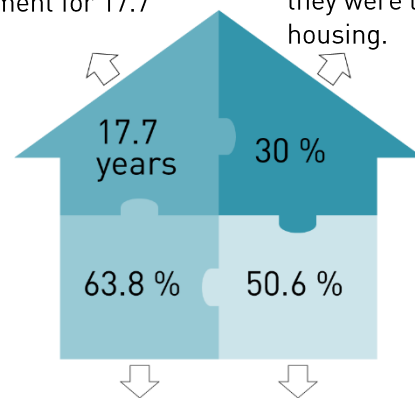


The average household size is 3.1 people per household.

Figure 2: Household size

On average respondents have stayed in their current apartment for 17.7 years.

...indicate having experienced discrimination when they were looking for housing.



...are overall satisfied with their current apartment.

...are homeowners.

Figure 3: Housing situation

Housing Situation

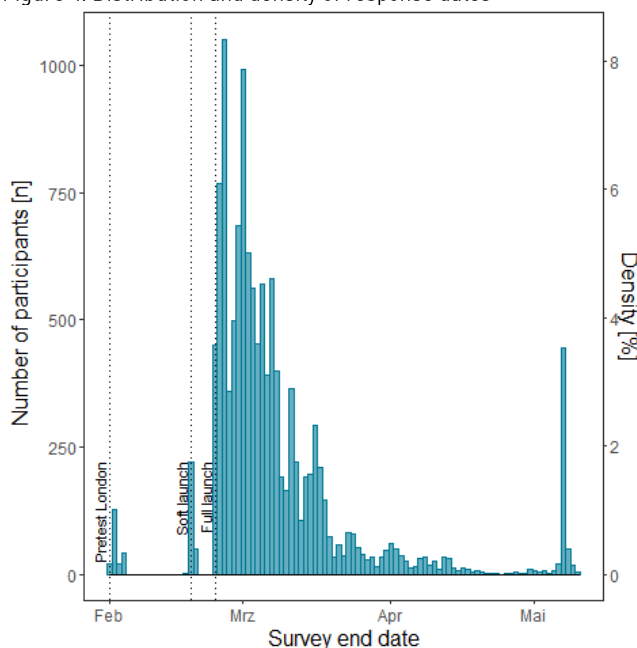
Overall, the data set represents a high share of homeowners (50.6%). The rest of the respondents classify themselves as renters (37.4%) or living in other housing arrangements (12.0%), including social housing or housing cooperatives. A notable exception is Berlin, where the share of renters is at 69.9% compared to 20.7% homeowners.

Across the sample, respondents furthermore display relatively high satisfaction with their current housing situation. In the survey, they were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction on a five-point Likert scale. The results show that 63.8% are satisfied with their housing apartment. The level of satisfaction with the location of their residency being at 68.8%, and with their neighborhood at 66.4%. The lowest level of satisfaction is related to housing costs. Here, only 49.3% said that they were satisfied or very satisfied. Despite these high levels of satisfaction, almost a third of the survey sample (30%) reports having experienced some form of discrimination when looking for new housing.

Data Collection

The online survey was conducted in March and April 2021. The respondents were part of an online sample provided by Qualtrics. Figure 4 gives an overview of the response dates. The dotted lines indicate the launch dates of the pretest in London, the soft launch, and the full launch of the survey.

Figure 4: Distribution and density of response dates



their households. In a second section, we asked respondents about their neighborhood and its perceived appeal, including questions on place-based social capital and neighborhood connections¹, place attachment^{2,3}, perceived neighborhood safety¹, perceived neighborhood change and gentrification⁴, and housing satisfaction. The survey ended with questions on the respondents' housing situation and some final questions on their political ideology.

The questionnaire is based on existing literature. The questions and underlying concepts have been discussed in four preliminary qualitative expert interviews. Before commissioning the quantitative pretest in London, we conducted a small-scale first-level pilot with a small number of colleagues within our University (N=27).

To ensure data quality, we applied hard quotas on the respondents distribution. The sample thus matches the population of the six cities (Berlin, Paris, London, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago) regarding age and gender (see Table 1 for the quota distribution across cities). We also employed a soft quota on income deciles (maximum 15% of respondents per decile) to provide a proper distribution.

City	Age group					Gender
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Male
Berlin	10%	18%	18%	17%	38%	48%
Chicago	11%	20%	17%	17%	35%	49%
Los Angeles	12%	21%	18%	18%	31%	49%
London	13%	26%	20%	16%	25%	49%
New York	12%	19%	17%	17%	35%	49%
Paris	12%	20%	19%	17%	30%	47%

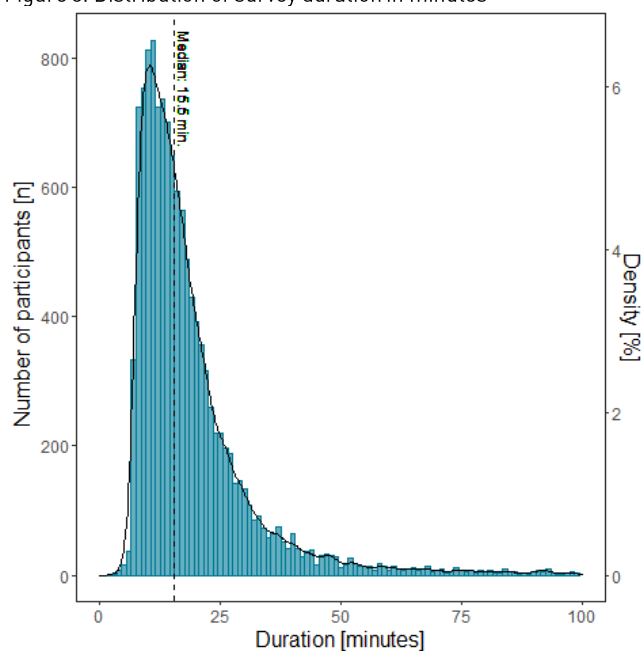
Table 1: Hard quotas for survey responses by city

Response Behaviour

On average, respondents who completed the full survey needed 26.2 minutes. The median was 15.5 minutes. A speeding check was implemented that filtered out all respondents who's response time was below 7 minutes. An overview on the response time is presented in Figure 5, excluding surveys that took longer than 100 minutes and partial answers.

The survey was qualitatively and quantitatively pre-tested. The questionnaire included several subsections. It started with questions on respondents' sociodemographic information and characteristics of

Figure 5: Distribution of survey duration in minutes



Data Information

The research proposal has been approved by the ethics commission of ETH Zurich on February 8th, 2021 (EK 2021-N-01). We also preregistered the present study on OSF on February 2nd, 2021⁵.

Research project: spur.ethz.ch/research/housing-situation

Data: <https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000513683>

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