

Oregon Right to Rest Act Homeless Bill of Rights Campaign



November, 2016

Leading from the people most impacted by the violence of criminalizing homelessness and poverty has been crucial to the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) since its inception. In 2010, WRAP began doing outreach to people living on the streets to hear about their daily experience interacting with local police, private security guards, and the criminal legal system. The outreach survey has 12 questions gathering information on how street based people have been harassed, ticketed and arrested for engaging in basic life-sustaining activities as well as other questions like if someone knows of a safe place to sleep at night. The data from the street outreach surveys is how WRAP decides campaign priorities and direction for our community organizing.



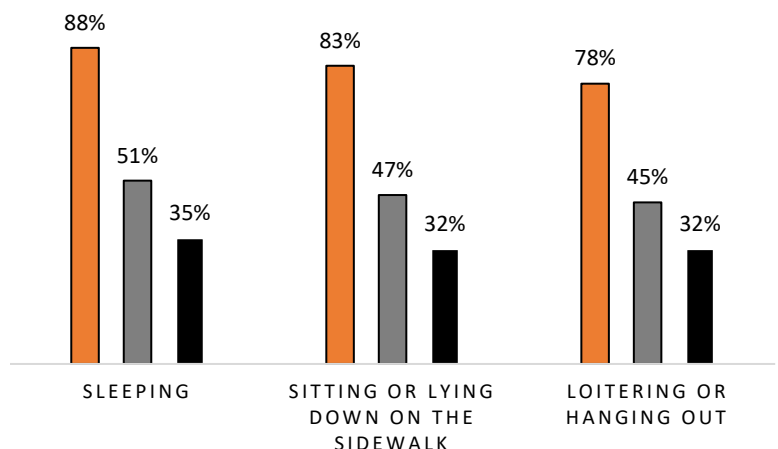
All of the 565 people we have surveyed in Oregon answered a consistent set of questions and all did so only for the opportunity to speak “unfiltered” to the broader community about what is really happening on our nation's streets to poor, disabled, and homeless community members. Sleeping, sitting, lying and loitering were the most common activities that poor and homeless people expressed being targeted, cited and arrested for engaging in.

There can be no more denying that “Broken Windows,” “Quality of Life,” “Civil Sidewalks,” “Public Commons for Everyone,” and “Safer Cities” initiatives are anything less than a reincarnation of “Ugly Laws,” “Anti-Okie laws,” “Sundown Towns,” “Bracero Treaty,” and “Jim Crow” when you hear directly the voices of those who are the targets of today’s laws and campaigns.

■ Harassment ■ Cited ■ Arrested

The main “illegal offenses” that homeless people are being targeted with:

- **88%** for sleeping, with 51% of these people cited and 35% arrested
- **83%** for sitting or lying down, with 46% of these people cited and 32% arrested
- **78%** for loitering or hanging out, with 45% of these people cited and 32% arrested



Other findings include:

- **73%** reported being harassed by Police without them using ANY law.
- **83%** reported being harassed by private security.
- **62%** reported that their harassment, citation or arrest was because they “appeared homeless.”
- **27%** reported having bench warrants issued for their arrest.
- **6%** felt that police always respect their rights

We then asked:

Do you know of places where it is safe and legal for you to sleep outside?

- **65%** No
- **35%** Yes

We also spoke to people about what the harassment and profiling looked like:

Do you think that you have been ticketed because of your...

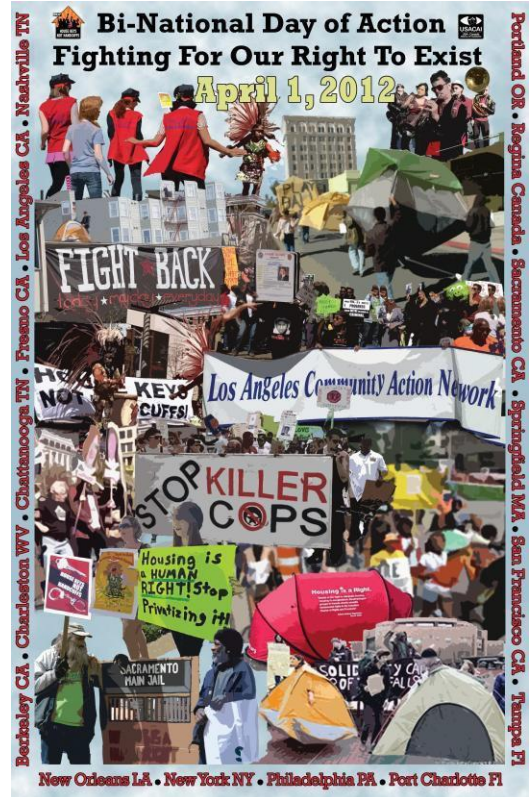
- **76%** economic status
- **31%** race
- **30%** gender
- **28%** disability

Do police sometimes harass you without using the law?

- **73%** Yes
- **22%** No
- **5%** Don't Know

Have you ever seen or encountered private security guards hassling people, ordering people away, or otherwise policing public sidewalks or parks?

- **83%** Yes
- **15%** No
- **3%** Don't Know



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