

# Why Are So Many Americans Living in Third World Conditions?

There are tens of millions of Americans that are currently living in third world conditions, and poverty, hunger and homelessness are growing all around us. Many of our most important urban areas have become rotting, decaying, drug-infested hellholes. Meanwhile, there are vast stretches of rural America that look like they have been totally left behind by the rest of our society. But if you live in the version of America that is still shiny and beautiful and clean, you may be wondering what all of the fuss is about because life still seems pretty good to you. For those at or near the top of the economic pyramid, it feels like the party will never end. Of course those that are impoverished can't afford to live anywhere near those that are thriving. Today, 35.9 million Americans (including 10.4 million children) live below the official poverty line. Tens of millions of others make enough to be above the poverty line but are deeply suffering too.

We are a nation of contrasts.

We are the wealthiest nation on the entire planet, and yet we have also piled up the most debt in the history of the world.

We have more billionaires than anyone else, and yet poverty is rampant.

We have luxuries and electronic gadgets that previous generations could not have even imagined, and yet much of the population is living in almost unbelievable squalor and filth.

Let me give you an example.

Not too long ago, authorities in Ohio discovered sixteen children that were “found living in conditions that even livestock don’t live in”...

*Sixteen kids, ranging from 1 year old to 18, were found living in conditions that even livestock don’t live in, described Vinton County Sheriff Ryan Cain.*

*The sheriff, along with Vinton County Prosecutor William Archer and Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson, held a press conference Wednesday to discuss the arrests of four family members: Gary Siders Jr., Gary Siders Sr., Christina Siders, and Elizabeth Siders.*

We should be so thankful that those children were rescued.

Apparently most of them had been isolated in a 12 foot by 12 foot area for the last four years...

*Most of the kids were kept in a 12×12 area of the home for the past four years, Sheriff Cain said.*

*He called the area “disgusting,” adding that “our livestock were kept in better conditions than these children.”*

*AG Wilson said it looked like a “third-world” country inside the home. “It’s not the type of thing we’re used to seeing in America,” he said.*

This isn’t how Americans are supposed to be living.

Once upon a time, even impoverished people in this country tried to keep their homes clean and dressed nicely when they went out.

But those days are long gone.

Just take a stroll through your local Walmart and observe how people are dressed.

And as far as keeping our homes clean, the truth is that in 2026 millions upon millions of Americans live in communities that are drowning in squalor and filth.

Thanks to mass migration, conditions in our inner cities are particularly bad.

Earlier today, I came across an article about street food vendors in Los Angeles that made my stomach turn...

*The proliferation of rogue street food vendors – largely run by illegal migrants – is not only hitting Los Angeles with third-world-like blight, Democratic leaders have decided to do nothing despite being aware of horrifying health hazards, their own previously unreleased records reveal.*

*“A dog eating meat out of a street vendor’s bag before it was served to customers. Cockroaches crawling out of a food truck. Mice scurrying beside open salsa. Raw meat baking unrefrigerated in the heat. People urinating around cooking equipment.”*

*Those are just some of shocking allegations listed in a staggering 662-page dossier of 9,746 public health complaints about street food vendors filed across Los Angeles County from 2023 until early 2026, according to the California Post, which obtained the list only after it made a public records request.*

Los Angeles was once such a beautiful city.

But now there are rats wherever you go.

According to Orkin, Los Angeles is now the “rattiest city in America”...

*Historically, Chicago has occupied the No.1 spot every year that Orkin has released its annual rankings, which it has been reporting for over a decade. But this year, there is a*

*new city being crowned the “rattiest” – Los Angeles.*

*Orkin cites that growing warm climates can help a rat’s survivability rate, so hotter cities are seeing themselves fly up the rankings, giving Los Angeles the slight edge over Chicago this year.*

*Chicago falls to No. 2 in the rankings, followed by New York and San Francisco.*

I really detest rats.

I also really detest dirty food.



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Unfortunately, we have reached a stage where it is really difficult to know what is safe to eat and what is not safe to eat.

I want to share a story with you that I shared with my core supporters on Friday. All over the country, millions of Americans won’t eat lettuce right now because of the nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak...

*The massive cyclosporiasis outbreak linked to iceberg lettuce and thousands of illnesses has expanded to three new states, federal health regulators announced Thursday.*

*The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the outbreak, which has been linked to hundreds of hospitalizations and two deaths since illnesses were first reported in July, has now been detected in Georgia, Tennessee and Texas.*

*There have now been 11,458 illnesses reported across 20 states, according to the FDA.*

I wish that I could tell you that this is an isolated

incident.

But I can't.

Almost every day, a new food recall is in the news.

And there is a reason for that.

If you actually went inside many of the facilities where our food is made, it would make you sick.

We shouldn't have to live like this.

Our schools are in deplorable condition as well.

In Richmond, Virginia an elementary school that was named after Barack Obama has been forced to shut down because mold is out of control and rodents are running all over the place...

*Like its namesake, Barack Obama Elementary has something rotten under the surface.*

*The school of 285 students is now shut down for an undisclosed period after it was discovered that the buildings were testing positive for mold. The facility also had reports of rodents (mice or rats) in several rooms, alongside the more prominent mold health issue. The mold and rodent problems were noticed by staff as they prepared for the start of the new school year.*

*Officials say they hope to reopen the building in a week, though this has proven to be an overly optimistic goal after earlier "clear" air-quality tests were quickly contradicted by new visible mold discoveries (behind bulletin boards, on computers, in the art room, etc.), forcing repeated delays. A more realistic time frame is one month or more.*

How did this happen?

We are supposed to be the wealthiest nation on Earth, but we

can't even keep our military installations in livable shape...

*A new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report finds that the maintenance backlog for military installations has ballooned to more than \$285 billion – leaving many facilities in disrepair, while risking readiness and service members' quality of life.*

*This figure is a jump up from 2022, when the maintenance backlog was about \$137 billion. But the backlog continues to grow, because the services only request about 80% of the funds they need for installation repairs and maintenance.*

We spend about a trillion dollars a year on our military, and so this is inexcusable.

In many cases, mold issues and water damage go unaddressed for years...

*Indeed, service members face a range of issues at the facilities where they work and live. Barracks at Naval Station Norfolk, for example, have had suspected mold since 2023. But the installation office declined requests to test the growth observed there “due to the cost of testing and potential remediation.”*

*Another highly used facility at that Naval station had evidence of asbestos and significant water damage, GAO found. While all the station's piers require renovation, the Navy was “actively improving” only one – leaving the rest to operate in a “degraded condition.”*

If conditions are this bad now, what will they be like once the economy really starts tanking?

Thanks to our seemingly endless cost of living crisis, our standard of living has been steadily declining throughout this entire decade.

Millions of Americans now live in their vehicles because they simply cannot afford homes any longer.

According to the Federal Reserve, approximately one out of every ten Americans is now missing meals because they can't afford to buy enough food.

When I was growing up, many would mock the "third world conditions" in other countries, but the truth is that "third world conditions" can now be found all over the United States.

This is what societal collapse looks like, and if we do not take dramatic action our society will just continue to deteriorate.

**Michael Snyder's** new book entitled *"10 Prophetic Events That Are Coming Next"* is available in paperback and for the Kindle on [Amazon](#), and you can subscribe to his Substack newsletter at [this link](#).