

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

1-800-354-7271

# Housing Fact Sheets



AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY  
SURVEY  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY  
SURVEY  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Si necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario,  
llame sin cargo alguno al: 1-877-833-5625

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U  
*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*





# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Units in Structure (H-1)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT UNITS IN STRUCTURE

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses these data to determine areas that are eligible for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insurance programs.
- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families uses these data to profile the ages of the structures lived in by families eligible for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.
- HUD also uses these data to calculate and set fair market rents to help low-income households obtain better rental housing and reduce the share of their income going to rent costs.
- Public utilities and telephone companies use these data to forecast demand for products and services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR UNITS IN STRUCTURE DATA

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8
- FHA Multifamily Insurance, Title 12, Chapter 13

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**1 Which best describes this building?**  
*Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant.*

A mobile home

A one-family house detached from any other house

A one-family house attached to one or more houses

A building with 2 apartments

A building with 3 or 4 apartments

A building with 5 to 9 apartments

A building with 10 to 19 apartments

A building with 20 to 49 apartments

A building with 50 or more apartments

Boat, RV, van, etc.

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Units in Structure (H-1)

### HISTORY OF THE UNITS IN STRUCTURE QUESTION

- The question on units in structure has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The number of units in the structure classifies housing into one-family homes, apartments, and mobile homes and provides the basic physical description of the housing inventory. These data indicate the number of housing units in structures of specified types and sizes.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

and American FactFinder at:

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

**[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)**

**<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>**

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Year Structure Built (H-2)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families uses these data to profile the ages of the structures lived in by families eligible for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses these data to calculate and set fair market rents to help low-income households obtain better rental housing and reduce the share of their income going to rent costs.
- HUD also uses these data to determine areas that are eligible for Federal Housing Administration insurance programs.
- Building developers and contractors use these data for selecting sites for new housing developments.
- Local governments use these data for forecasting needs for services such as police and fire protection.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT DATA

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8
- FHA Multifamily Insurance, Title 12, Chapter 13

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**2** About when was this building first built?

2000 or later

1995 to 1999

1990 to 1994

1980 to 1989

1970 to 1979

1960 to 1969

1950 to 1959

1940 to 1949

1939 or earlier

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Year Structure Built (H-2)

### HISTORY OF YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT QUESTION

- The question on year structure built has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question is asked to determine the number of housing units built during the specified periods and that are still in existence at the time of the census. The year structure was built determines the age of housing units and also is often used as a measure of housing quality. Information on the number of units built in 1939 or earlier is required as an element in various grant programs mandated in legislation.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Year Householder Moved In (H-3)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED IN

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires state and local governments to have a Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy. This plan requires inventory of housing units compared with an assessment of the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction.
- Moving companies use these data for selecting areas of high mobility to locate their business offices.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**3** When did **PERSON 1** (listed in the List of Residents on page 2) move into this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Month      Year

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED IN DATA

- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Year Householder Moved In (H-3)

### HISTORY OF THE YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED IN QUESTION

- The question on year householder moved in has been asked since 1960.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The intent of this question is to establish the length of occupancy by the present householder. The year that the householder moved in is not necessarily the same year that other members of the household moved, although in the great majority of the cases, an entire household moves at the same time. Data about the year the householder moved into the unit provide information on the specific period of time when mobility occurs, especially for recent movers. This item measures neighborhood stability and helps identify transient communities.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Questions on Acreage (H-4) and Agricultural Sales (H-5)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to define “rural area,” a term used in sections of the Rural Electrification Act to determine eligibility.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these data to calculate and set fair market rents to help low-income households obtain better rental housing and reduce the share of their income going to rent costs.
- Building contractors, materials suppliers, and household goods manufacturers use these data to develop marketing strategies.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES DATA

- Rural Electrification Act
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8

### QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**4** How many acres is this house or mobile home on?

Less than 1 acre → SKIP to question 6

1 to 9.9 acres

10 or more acres

**5** IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?

None

\$1 to \$999

\$1,000 to \$2,499

\$2,500 to \$4,999

\$5,000 to \$9,999

\$10,000 or more

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions





# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Questions on Acreage (H-4) and Agricultural Sales (H-5)

### HISTORY OF THE ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES QUESTIONS

- The questions on acreage and agricultural sales (formerly called “farm residence”) have been asked since 1970.
- The questions also were asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

These questions are asked to classify the population and housing inventory by farm and nonfarm residence. The information on acreage is structured to exclude any unit located on less than one acre. For units on one or more acres *and* that are a one-family house or mobile home, the respondent is asked to report the amount of sales of agricultural products. The amount of sales will determine if the property is considered a farm. It is important to note that the data are summarized in terms of people living on farms or housing units on farms, not the number of farms.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau’s Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Business or Medical Office on Property (H-6)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT BUSINESS OR MEDICAL OFFICE ON PROPERTY

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses these data to identify rental distribution of housing units used to determine Fair Market Rents.
- HUD requires state and local governments to have a Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy. These data are used as part of the plan, which requires an inventory of housing units compared with an assessment of the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction.
- Businesses and suppliers use these data to develop marketing plans and to determine the need for products and services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**6** Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property?

Yes

No

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS OR MEDICAL OFFICE ON PROPERTY DATA

- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130
- Low-Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Business or Medical Office on Property (H-6)

### HISTORY OF THE BUSINESS OR MEDICAL OFFICE ON PROPERTY QUESTION

- The question on housing value, which includes presence of a business or medical office on the property, has been asked since 1970.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The value question reflects the respondent's estimate of the current dollar value of the property, rather than the construction cost or purchase price. This item excludes renter-occupied housing units. By asking about a business or medical office, these data can be tabulated for units without excessive land or commercial or medical activities that may distort the value of the property.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Number of Rooms (H-7)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT NUMBER OF ROOMS

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses these data to determine the Emergency Shelter Grant amount for an eligible jurisdiction.
- HUD also uses these data to allocate low-income housing assistance in a fair and equitable manner.
- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to determine which areas should receive direct multi-family loan assistance.
- Individuals use these data when considering where to relocate.
- Community organizations and developers use these data to determine the size and type of housing needed in neighborhoods.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NUMBER OF ROOMS DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination, Subchapter III—Title 25, Chapter 43

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**7** How many rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home? Do NOT count bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or half-rooms.

1 room

2 rooms

3 rooms

4 rooms

5 rooms

6 rooms

7 rooms

8 rooms

9 or more rooms

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Number of Rooms (H-7)

### HISTORY OF THE NUMBER OF ROOMS QUESTION

- The question on number of rooms has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The number of rooms in combination with the number of people living in a unit provides a ratio of people to rooms. Data about the number of people per room are used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our country's households. A housing unit often is considered crowded if it has more than one person to a room. The number of rooms in a home also is used as a measure of housing-unit size in the absence of information on square footage.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Bedrooms (H-8)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT BEDROOMS

- The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families uses these data to determine the allocation of funds from states to eligible entities and to determine low-income housing needs.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) also determines the Community Development Block Grant formula amount for eligible jurisdictions.
- HUD distributes Community Development funds across HUD's Office of Native American Programs Area Offices.
- HUD provides Emergency Shelter Grants for eligible jurisdictions.
- HUD requires state and local governments to provide an inventory of housing units compared with an assessment of the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction.
- Individuals use these data when considering where to relocate.
- Community organizations and developers use these data to determine the size and type of housing needed in neighborhoods.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**8** How many bedrooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home; that is, how many bedrooms would you list if this house, apartment, or mobile home were on the market for sale or rent?

No bedroom

1 bedroom

2 bedrooms

3 bedrooms

4 bedrooms

5 or more bedrooms

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT BEDROOMS

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low-Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8
- Community Development, Title 42, Chapter 69
- Community Development Block Grants for Indian Tribes and Native Alaskans, Title 42, Chapter 69
- Homeless Assistance, Subchapter IV Part B; Emergency Shelter Grants, Title 42, Chapter 119
- National Affordable Housing Subchapter I—State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Bedrooms (H-8)

### HISTORY OF THE BEDROOMS QUESTION

- The question on number of bedrooms has been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Since bedrooms are used mainly for sleeping, this item can be combined with other characteristics as an important indicator of housing adequacy. It also provides a standardized basis to evaluate the cost of shelter.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Plumbing (H-9)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT PLUMBING

- The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration on Aging uses these data to determine the number of older people who live in inadequate housing and who may be candidates for housing assistance programs or placement in alternative housing.
- The HHS's Administration for Children and Families also uses these data to determine the allocation of funds from states to eligible entities and to determine low-income housing needs.
- The HHS's Indian Health Service provides these data to the Congress in an annual report that indicates the level of sanitary deficiency for all sanitation facilities for each federally recognized tribe or community.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these data to determine the amount of housing assistance distributed to American Indian and Alaska Native populations.
- Health officials use these data to assess the usage of water resources in an area.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**9** Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have **COMPLETE** plumbing facilities; that is, 1) hot and cold piped water, 2) a flush toilet, and 3) a bathtub or shower?

Yes, has all three facilities

No

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PLUMBING DATA

- Older Americans Act of 1965
- Community Services Block Grant Act
- P.L. 100-713, Section 302(g)(1)

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*





# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Plumbing (H-9)

### HISTORY OF THE PLUMBING QUESTION

- The question on plumbing has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Even though the number of units without complete plumbing facilities is becoming a smaller part of the national inventory, information on complete private plumbing facilities still is an important indicator of housing quality and is used in legislation as a condition for receiving community development block grants.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Kitchen Facilities (H-10)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT KITCHEN FACILITIES

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to determine which areas should receive direct multi-family loan assistance.
- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to determine the number of older people who live in inadequate housing and who may be candidates for housing assistance programs or placement in alternative housing.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these data to determine the amount of housing assistance distributed to American Indian and Alaska Native populations.
- Realtors can use these data to locate neighborhoods with housing characteristics that meet their clients' needs.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR KITCHEN FACILITIES DATA

- Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended
- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination, Subchapter III—Title 25, Chapter 43

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**10** Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have **COMPLETE** kitchen facilities; that is, **1) a sink with piped water, 2) a stove or range, and 3) a refrigerator?**

Yes, has all three facilities

No

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Kitchen Facilities (H-10)

### HISTORY OF THE KITCHEN FACILITIES QUESTION

- The question on kitchen facilities has been asked since 1960.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Data on kitchen facilities are used with other housing variables to draw inferences about housing quality and frequently are needed as measures of inadequate housing in the absence of better comprehensive data.

Complete kitchen facilities are defined as a sink with piped water, a range, and a refrigerator. These items are combined to save space on the questionnaire and because there is little need for separate information on them.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

**<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>**

**<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>**

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Telephone Service (H-11)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT TELEPHONE SERVICE

- The Federal Communications Commission uses these data to measure the extent of universal access to telephone service.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data as a measure of social isolation, one of the factors cited by the Older Americans Act as a “source of greatest social need.”
- HHS also uses these data to determine the allocation of funds from states to eligible entities and to determine low-income housing needs.
- Telephone companies use these data to locate potential areas for expanding their services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE DATA

- Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Telecommunications Act of 1996)
- Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended
- Community Services Block Grant Act

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**11** Is there telephone service available in this house, apartment, or mobile home from which you can both make and receive calls?

Yes

No

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Telephone Service (H-11)

### HISTORY OF THE TELEPHONE SERVICE QUESTION

- The question on telephone service has been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The lack of telephone service is an important measure of social isolation. This question is included to obtain information on the extent to which people have access to telephone service. The focus of the telephone question has changed from respondents who report the mere presence of a telephone in the housing unit to respondents who now are asked if they have service available for a telephone in the unit. Asking about telephone service is needed because an individual can own a telephone and have no service to make or receive calls.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

**<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>**

**<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>**

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Vehicles Available (H-12)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT VEHICLES AVAILABLE

- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to designate health professional shortage areas and populations with shortages of personal health services, based on health status and access to health services.
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) uses these data to comply with the Clean Air Act and to implement regulations.
- DOT also uses these data to plan and design transit service and facilities for elderly and disabled individuals.
- Environmental agencies and organizations use these data to analyze energy consumption and forecast energy needs.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**12** How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?

None

1

2

3

4

5

6 or more

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES AVAILABLE DATA

- Highway Safety Act
- Public Health Service Act
- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Vehicles Available (H-12)

### HISTORY OF THE VEHICLES AVAILABLE QUESTION

- The question on vehicles available has been asked since 1960.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Vehicles available describes, for each household, the number of passenger cars, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. Increased traffic congestion over the past decade makes this item even more important for planning highways, parking sites, and travel routes.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on House Heating Fuel (H-13)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT HOUSE HEATING FUEL

- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families uses the data to indicate the type of fuel used by low-income persons and families who are eligible to receive assistance.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses the data to assess utility allowances for assisted households paying directly for their utilities.
- HUD also uses the data to identify rental distribution of housing units used to determine Fair Market Rents.
- Utility companies use these data to forecast the need for additional power facilities and utility networks.
- Organizations and governments use these data to educate people about the need for energy conservation.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- 13** Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?
- Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
  - Gas: bottled, tank, or LP
  - Electricity
  - Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
  - Coal or coke
  - Wood
  - Solar energy
  - Other fuel
  - No fuel used

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSE HEATING FUEL DATA

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)





# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on House Heating Fuel (H-13)

### HISTORY OF THE HEATING FUEL QUESTION

- The question on house heating fuel has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The categories reflect the basic sources of heat for residential use. The information collected is about the fuel used most if more than one type is used.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/www/acs>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Cost of Utilities (H-14)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT COST OF UTILITIES

- The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income and elderly low-income households.
- The HHS's Administration for Children and Families also uses these data to indicate the costs of fuels used by various income groups and to calculate block grant allocations by low-income households in a state.
- The HHS's Administration on Aging relies on state and local agencies to use these data and allocate funds for housing the elderly "taking into consideration...the number of older individuals who have the greatest social need."
- Utility companies use these data to forecast the need for additional facilities or services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT COST OF UTILITIES

- Older Americans Act of 1965
- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

### QUESTION AT IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**14** a. **LAST MONTH**, what was the cost of electricity for this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Last month's cost - Dollars

\$  .00

OR

Included in rent or condominium fee

No charge or electricity not used

b. **LAST MONTH**, what was the cost of gas for this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Last month's cost - Dollars

\$  .00

OR

Included in rent or condominium fee

Included in electricity payment entered above

No charge or gas not used

c. **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**, what was the cost of water and sewer for this house, apartment, or mobile home? *If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost.*

Past 12 months' cost - Dollars

\$  .00

OR

Included in rent or condominium fee

No charge

d. **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**, what was the cost of oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc., for this house, apartment, or mobile home? *If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost.*

Past 12 months' cost - Dollars

\$  .00

OR

Included in rent or condominium fee

No charge or these fuels not used



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Cost of Utilities (H-14)

### HISTORY OF THE COST OF UTILITIES QUESTION

- The question on the cost of utilities has been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question about the cost of utilities is part of a question about monthly housing costs for mortgages; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance; utilities; fuels; etc. Listing these items separately on the questionnaire improves accuracy of the responses about each item. When combined with income data, this item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Food Stamps (H-15)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT FOOD STAMPS

- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families uses these food stamp data for the High Performance Bonus Program under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (45 CFR 270.4(c)(2)).
- Business proprietors use these data to determine demographic and economic trends in their service areas and to adjust their product lines or services accordingly.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**15** At any time **DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS**, did anyone in this household receive **Food Stamps**?

Yes → What was the value of the **Food Stamps** received during the past 12 months?

Past 12 months' value - Dollars

\$  .00

No

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD STAMP DATA

Information about food stamps is required by the:

- Social Security Act, Section 403(a)
- Public Health Service Act, Section 505

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Food Stamps (H-15)

### HISTORY OF THE FOOD STAMPS QUESTION

- The question on food stamps was first asked on the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey.
- The question was not asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Information about specific sources of income, provides needed detail about public assistance. Answers to this question help determine poverty status.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Condominiums (H-16)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT CONDOMINIUMS

- The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- HHS also uses these data for distributing funds for home energy assistance to low-income individuals and families.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires state and local governments to provide an inventory of housing units compared with an assessment of the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction.
- Building contractors, materials suppliers and household goods manufacturers use these data to develop marketing strategies.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**16** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home part of a condominium?

Yes → What is the monthly condominium fee? For renters, answer only if you pay the condominium fee in addition to your rent; otherwise, mark the "None" box.

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$  .00

OR

None

No

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDOMINIUM DATA

- Statistical Information for the Transaction of Public Business
- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Condominiums (H-16)

### HISTORY OF THE CONDOMINIUMS QUESTION

- The question on condominiums has been asked since 1980.
- A similar question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This question is asked to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Tenure (H-17)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT TENURE

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data to examine whether owner- and renter-households assisted by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program are treated equitably.
- HHS also uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- Builders and contractors use these data to develop business plans.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**17** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home –

- Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?
- Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- Rented for cash rent?
- Occupied without payment of cash rent? → Skip to

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TENURE DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions





# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Tenure (H-17)

### HISTORY OF THE TENURE QUESTION

- The question on tenure has been asked since 1890.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Tenure is the most basic feature of the housing inventory, and these categories are necessary to classify occupied units as either owner-occupied or renter-occupied. Homeownership rates have served as an indicator of the health of the country's economy for decades.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

**<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>**

and American FactFinder at:

**<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>**

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

**<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>**

**<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>**

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Rent (H-18)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT RENT

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data to review and analyze the services, supports, and other assistance available to individuals with developmental disabilities as well as in identifying their unmet needs.
- HHS also uses these data to determine the allocation of funds from states to eligible entities and to determine poverty guidelines that are used for participant eligibility and to determine low-income housing needs.
- Individuals use these data when considering where to relocate.
- Businesses use these data for selecting office/plant sites and for marketing products and services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RENT DATA

- Congregate Housing Services Act of 1979
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Title 26, Chapter 1

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**B** Answer questions 18a and b **ONLY** IF you **PAY RENT** for this house, apartment, or mobile home. Otherwise, **SKIP** to question 19.

**18** a. What is the monthly rent for this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$  .

b. Does the monthly rent include any meals?

Yes

No

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Rent (H-18)

### HISTORY OF THE RENT QUESTION

- The question on rent has been asked since 1930.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This question provides space for writing in the exact monthly rent amount. Two types of rent are tabulated from this question: 1) *Contract Rent*, which is the monthly amount agreed to, or contracted for, regardless of any furnishing, utilities, or services that may be included, and 2) *Gross Rent*, which is the sum of contract rent, utilities (electricity, gas, and water), and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.). *Gross rent* is considered a good indicator of when comparing shelter costs among different households and geographic areas. When combined with income, *Gross Rent* as a Percentage of Household Income is created. This item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. *Gross rent* represents monthly shelter costs for renter households just as *Selected Monthly Owner Costs* represents the monthly costs for owner-occupied households.

The question on meals included in rent, first asked in 1990, is intended to measure “congregate” housing, which is generally considered to be housing units where the rent includes meals and other services, such as transportation to shopping and recreation.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau’s Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Value (H-19)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT HOUSING VALUE

- The Department of Commerce uses these data to develop personal income estimates that are used by federal agencies to allocate over \$90 billion dollars to state and local areas.
- The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division uses these data in enforcement efforts to eliminate and remedy unlawful discrimination in housing.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires state and local governments to provide an inventory of housing units compared with an assessment of the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction.
- Individuals use these data when considering relocating.
- Businesses use these data for selecting office/plant sites and for marketing products and services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**19** What is the value of this property; that is, how much do you think this house and lot, apartment, or mobile home and lot, would sell for if it were for sale?

Less than \$10,000

\$10,000 to \$14,999

\$15,000 to \$19,999

\$20,000 to \$24,999

\$25,000 to \$29,999

\$30,000 to \$34,999

\$35,000 to \$39,999

\$40,000 to \$49,999

\$50,000 to \$59,999

\$60,000 to \$69,999

\$70,000 to \$79,999

\$80,000 to \$89,999

\$90,000 to \$99,999

\$100,000 to \$124,999

\$125,000 to \$149,999

\$150,000 to \$174,999

\$175,000 to \$199,999

\$200,000 to \$249,999

\$250,000 or more - Specify

\$  .00

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING VALUE DATA

- Fair Housing Act
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Value (H-19)

### HISTORY OF THE HOUSING VALUE QUESTION

- The question on value has been asked since 1930.
- A question on this topic also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This question reflects the respondent's estimates of the current dollar value of the property, rather than the construction cost or purchase price. This item excludes renter-occupied housing units.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Real Estate Taxes (H-20)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT REAL ESTATE TAXES

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to determine which areas should receive direct multi-family loan assistance.
- The Department of Health and Human Services also uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- Individuals use these data when deciding where to relocate.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**20** What are the annual real estate taxes on THIS property?  
Annual amount – Dollars

\$  .00

OR

None

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- National Affordable Housing Subchapter I — State and Local Housing Strategies Title 42, Chapter 130
- Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Real Estate Taxes (H-20)

### HISTORY OF THE REAL ESTATE TAXES QUESTION

- The question on real estate taxes has been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question about real estate taxes is part of a question about monthly housing costs for mortgages; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance; utilities; fuels; etc. Listing these items separately on the questionnaire improves accuracy of the responses about each item. When combined with income data, this item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Insurance (H-21)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT INSURANCE

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to determine which areas should receive direct multi-family loan assistance.
- The Department of Health and Human Services also uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- Individuals use these data when deciding where to relocate.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**21** What is the annual payment for fire, hazard, and flood insurance on **THIS** property?

Annual amount - Dollars

\$  .00

OR

None

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INSURANCE DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130
- Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*





# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Insurance (H-21)

### HISTORY OF THE INSURANCE QUESTION

- The question on insurance has been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question about insurance is part of a question about monthly housing costs for mortgages; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance; utilities; fuels; etc. Listing these items separately on the questionnaire improves accuracy of the responses about each item. When combined with income data, this item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Questions on Mortgages (H-22-23)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT MORTGAGES

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to determine which areas should receive direct multi-family loan assistance.
- The Department of Health and Human Services also uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- Individuals and firms use these data when considering relocation.
- Building developers and contractors use these data to select sites for new housing developments.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MORTGAGE DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I—State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130
- Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

### QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**22** a. Do you or any member of this household have a mortgage, deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt on THIS property?

Yes, mortgage, deed of trust, or similar debt

Yes, contract to purchase

No → SKIP to question 23a

b. How much is the regular monthly mortgage payment on THIS property? Include payment only on FIRST mortgage or contract to purchase.

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$ .00

OR

No regular payment required → SKIP to question 23a

c. Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for real estate taxes on THIS property?

Yes, taxes included in mortgage payment

No, taxes paid separately or taxes not required

d. Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for fire, hazard, or flood insurance on THIS property?

Yes, insurance included in mortgage payment

No, insurance paid separately or no insurance

**23** a. Do you or any member of this household have a second mortgage or a home equity loan on THIS property?

Yes, home equity loan

Yes, second mortgage

Yes, second mortgage and home equity loan

No → SKIP to **D**

b. How much is the regular monthly payment on all second or junior mortgages and all home equity loans on THIS property?

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$ .00

OR

No regular payment required



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Questions on Mortgages (H-22-23)

### HISTORY OF THE MORTGAGE QUESTIONS

- The questions on mortgages have been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The questions about the mortgages are part of a question about monthly housing costs for mortgages; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance; utilities; fuels; etc. Listing these items separately on the questionnaire improves accuracy of the responses about each item. When combined with income data, this item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

and American FactFinder at:

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Mobile Home Costs (H-24)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT MOBILE HOME COSTS

- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families uses these data for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- The Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, uses these data in enforcement efforts to eliminate and remedy unlawful discrimination in housing.
- The Department of Transportation uses these data to develop and maintain databases about the transportation system infrastructure.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires state and local governments to provide an inventory of housing units compared with an assessment of the needs of families residing in the jurisdiction.
- Individuals and businesses use these data when deciding where to relocate.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MOBILE HOME COSTS DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act
- National Affordable Housing, Subchapter I— State and Local Housing Strategies, Title 42, Chapter 130

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**D** Answer question 24 **ONLY** IF this is a **MOBILE HOME**. Otherwise, **SKIP** to **E**.

---

**24** What are the total annual costs for personal property taxes, site rent, registration fees, and license fees on **THIS** mobile home and its site? Exclude real estate taxes.

Annual costs – Dollars

\$  .00

[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Mobile Home Costs (H-24)

### HISTORY OF THE MOBILE HOME COSTS QUESTION

- The question on mobile home costs has been asked since 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question about mobile home costs is part of a question about monthly housing costs including mortgages; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance; utilities; fuels; etc. Listing these items separately on the questionnaire improves accuracy of the responses about each item. When combined with income data, this item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Verification of Residence Status (Seasonal Residence) (H-25)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT SEASONAL RESIDENCE

- The Department of Commerce's U.S. Census Bureau uses these data to produce American Community Survey information for small geographic areas each year, a primary advantage of the new survey.
- Businesses use these data to forecast demand for products and services and to adjust their inventory or services accordingly.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SEASONAL RESIDENCE DATA

- Intercensal Estimates of Population and Population Characteristics Program

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**25**

**a. Do you or any member of this household live or stay at this address year round?**

Yes → *SKIP to the questions for Person 1 on the next page*

No

**b. How many months a year do members of this household stay at this address?**

Months

**c. What is the main reason members of this household are staying at this address?**

This is their permanent address

This is their seasonal or vacation address

To be close to work

To attend school or college

Looking for permanent housing

Other reason(s)– *Specify*

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Verification of Residence Status (Seasonal Residence) (H-25)

### HISTORY OF SEASONAL RESIDENCE QUESTION

- The question on seasonal residence has been asked on the American Community Survey since 1996.
- The question was not asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The verification of residence status—or seasonal residence—question ensures that the Census Bureau's annual population estimates properly represent people who have several residences during the year.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

**1-888-456-7215**

<[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*