

CENSUS BRIEF

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



Neighborhood Pride Most People Like Where They Live

NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE IS ALIVE AND WELL. This is the underlying theme in answers to a question on neighborhood satisfaction gathered as part of the American Housing Survey for the United States in 1995.

The housing survey includes a question asking residents to rank their neighborhood on a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best).

The data are of particular importance to community leaders, urban planners, home builders and residents seeking to preserve and strengthen their neighborhoods. Broad overall satisfaction with neighborhood life cut across groups, such as owners and renters, urban and rural dwellers and residents of all regions. This census brief looks at the level of neighborhood satisfaction and the problems, such as crime and traffic, which can undercut a sense of neighborhood in a community.

bottom. Renters expressed a high level of satisfaction as well, with 60 percent scoring their neighborhood at 8 or better and 25 percent ranking their neighborhood a perfect 10.

Taken together, mobile home renters and owners were even more pleased with their neighborhoods — 40 percent of all mobile home dwellers in the survey gave their neighborhood the highest possible rating. Elderly mobile home owners and renters, age 65 and over, expressed particular satisfaction with their living conditions; overall, 44 percent of the households in this age group said their neighborhood deserved the highest possible rating of 10.

But life in the neighborhood is not without problems. Residents of homes with severe physical problems were generally less satisfied than others, with 9 percent scoring their

HIGH SATISFACTION LEVELS

As part of the survey, Census Bureau field representatives interviewed residents of single-family homes, apartments, multifamily buildings and mobile homes located in suburbs, central cities and rural areas throughout the country.

Homeowners expressed particularly high neighborhood satisfaction, with more than three-fourths of the respondents rating their neighborhood an 8 or higher and more than one-third giving the area where they live the highest possible rating of 10. Just 2 percent of the homeowners who responded rated their neighborhood a 3 or below and less than 1 percent scored their neighborhood at the very

COMPARISON OF NEIGHBORHOOD SATISFACTION RATINGS FOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

(Percents may not add to 100 due to rounding; numbers in thousands)

	Neighborhood satisfaction rating	Total		Owners		Renters	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Lowest	1	95,494	100	62,225	100	33,270	100
	2	1,349	1	447	1	902	3
	3	795	1	324	1	471	1
	4	1,208	1	482	1	726	2
	5	1,813	2	764	1	1,049	3
	6	7,011	7	3,387	5	3,623	11
	7	4,919	5	2,521	4	2,398	7
	8	10,173	11	5,943	10	4,230	13
	9	22,242	23	14,692	24	7,551	23
Highest	10	14,361	15	10,311	17	4,050	12
		31,623	33	23,354	38	8,269	25

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Housing Survey for the United States in 1995, H150/95RV.

neighborhood at 3 or lower and 4 percent answering with a 1. Those living below poverty also saw their neighborhood in a less flattering light. Their proportion of very low ratings was not different from households in units with severe problems.

TRAFFIC, CRIME AND NOISE: TOP REASONS FOR DISSATISFACTION

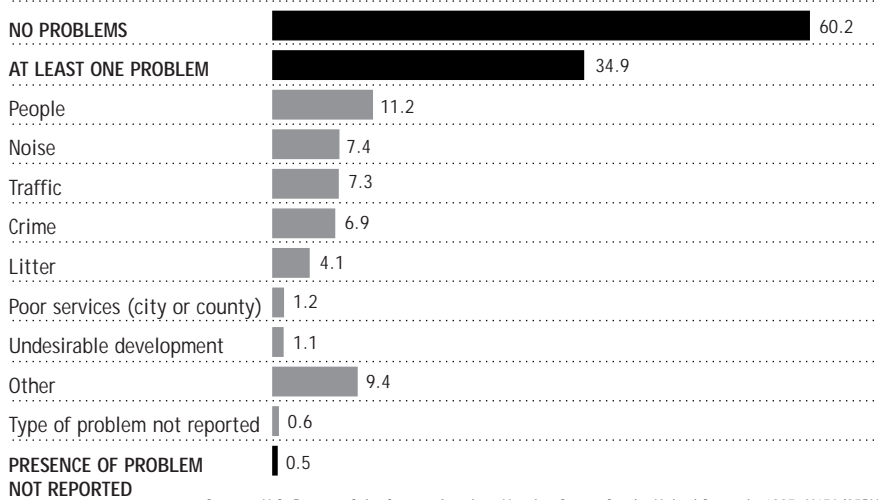
In a separate survey question, each household was asked if its neighborhood had serious

problems. While 64 percent of households reported that their neighborhood had no serious problems, the others said that problems involving people, crime, traffic and noise were an issue.

Of the overall sample, 12 percent complained about people in their area. About 8 percent cited noise, 8 percent cited traffic and 7 percent cited crime as serious problems. Litter and poor public services also were identified as problems that detracted from a high level of neighborhood satisfaction.

RESIDENTS' VIEWS OF NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS

(A household may report more than one problem; numbers in millions)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Housing Survey for the United States in 1995, H150/95RV.

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