American Community Survey
Housing: Questions on Value

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

16 **About how much do you think this house and lot, apartment, or mobile home (and lot, if owned) would sell for if it were for sale?**

Amount – *Dollars*

$ [   ] .00

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

☐ Yes
☐ No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The value of home and property is an important measure of neighborhood quality, housing affordability, and wealth. By asking about acreage and 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. These data provide socioeconomic information not captured by household income and comparative information on the state of local housing markets. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these data to develop housing assistance plans for elderly and low-income households. The U.S. Department of Transportation uses the information for the development of transportation plans, policies, and programs. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses these data in preparing the value of housing services for the national and regional accounts. Value data are incorporated in annual reports to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and in analyses of housing needs.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Housing

Statistics about housing value are used by local agencies in determining the adequacy of housing units for older people, the cost of maintaining owned units, and the potential usefulness of home equity conversion programs.

Banking

Data about home values are used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an independent check of appraised values for determining the amount of mortgage to be financed.

Social Services

These data are used to allocate funds for home mortgage insurance for the elderly, and lower- and moderate-income and displaced families in programs under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Local social service organizations use these data for locating service areas and identifying clients wanting specific services, such as thrift and discount stores, to be located nearby.

Transportation

These data are used in developing transportation plans for local areas by assessing the impact on the value of homes affected by road, bridge, and subway construction, and related problems such as noise and pollution.

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