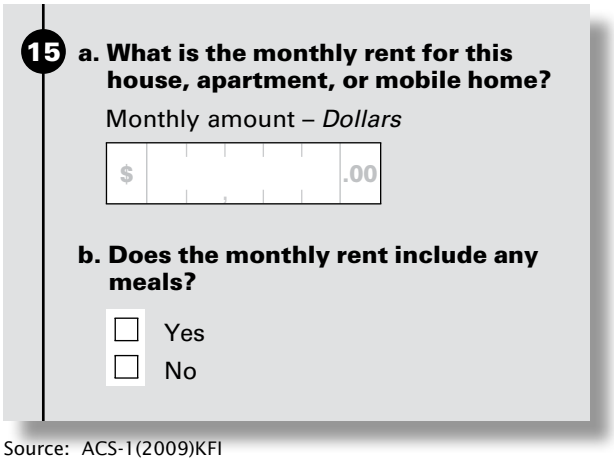
American Community Survey

Housing: Question on Rent

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.



Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Rent is an essential measure of shelter costs. Rent amounts are critical for the establishment of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 Fair Market Rents. Fair Market Rents are used for a wide variety of housing programs that assist American families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. When compared with income, data about rent offer an excellent measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. Various agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, use these data to allocate funds to assist low- and moderate-income families whose rents exceed 30 percent of their household income. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information to prepare estimates of rent paid on tenant-occupied nonfarm dwellings, which are components used to estimate rental income of persons for the National Income and Product Accounts.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services

Data about rent are needed to review and assess the assistance available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Data about rent are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Community Development Block Grant Program, which provides grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately owned properties intended for rent as residences.

These data are needed to evaluate a locality's qualification for federal housing assistance.

www.census.gov