

American Community Survey

Housing: Question on Units in Structure

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.

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The number of units in the structure subdivides the housing inventory into one-family homes, apartments, and mobile homes. These data are integral components used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to set Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country. When combined with other American Community Survey items such as tenure (whether a home is owned or rented), income, and year structure built, units in structure serves as the basic identifier of housing used in many federal programs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is required to profile housing unit types for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) eligible households.

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COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Housing

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses these data to assess the multifamily housing market in local areas before issuing any funds for assisted housing.

State and local planners use data about the number of housing units by structure type to forecast the need for services such as roads and hospitals.

Health

The Indian Health Service and local health agencies use these data to assess the potential for the spread of communicable disease.

Emergency Preparedness

Federal, state, and local officials use these data to identify concentrations of mobile homes in tornado- and hurricane-prone areas in creating emergency-preparedness plans.

Banking

Data about the type of structure is used to assess fairness in home lending practices.

Energy

Data about utility costs by type of structure are used to analyze current energy supply and consumption and predict how consumption will change in the future.

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