

American Community Survey

Housing: Question on Telephone Service Available

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

8 Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have –		Yes	No
a.	hot and cold running water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	a flush toilet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	a bathtub or shower?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	a sink with a faucet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.	a stove or range?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f.	a refrigerator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
→ g.	telephone service from which you can both make and receive calls? <i>Include cell phones.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The lack of telephone service is an important measure of social isolation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and local social service agencies use these data to assess the level of need among elderly and low-income households. These data also are valuable to a number of agencies in evaluating how well their policies meet the public's needs. Under the Communications Act, the Federal Communications Commission requires data about the number of households having telephone service to measure the extent of universal access to telephone service.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Housing

State and local agencies use these data to develop plans that deliver emergency telephone service. These data help them to assess the extent to which elderly and low-income households have access to communication in case they need emergency medical or crime prevention services.

The Administration on Aging uses data about telephone service as a measure of social isolation, one of the factors cited in the Older Americans Act as a source of "greatest social need."

The Federal Communications Commission uses these data to evaluate its universal telephone service policies.

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