

American Community Survey

Housing: Question on Rooms

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

7 a. How many separate rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home?
Rooms must be separated by built-in archways or walls that extend out at least 6 inches and go from floor to ceiling.

- *INCLUDE bedrooms, kitchens, etc.*
- *EXCLUDE bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or unfinished basements.*

Number of rooms

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Data about the number of occupants per room is used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our nation's households. A housing unit is often considered crowded if it has more than one person to a room. Many federal agencies use data about crowding to set and implement policies. The U.S. Department of Energy uses data on the changing size and structure of homes to forecast future energy demand. The number of rooms in a home also is used as a measure of housing-unit size in the absence of information on square footage by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information in conjunction with other American Community Survey data to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas or eligibility criteria of more than 20 federal programs.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Housing

Data about the number of persons per room are used to allocate funds for housing assistance to local governments.

City and community officials use data about the number of persons per room to determine housing deficiencies in neighborhoods.

Environment

Data about the average number of rooms are used in feasibility studies for developing waste treatment facilities.

Social Services

Data about the number of rooms are used to allocate funds to local areas for home energy assistance to low-income individuals and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

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