

**From the American Community Survey: 1999**

**Population and Housing Profile: Flathead County, Montana**

NOTES: The population estimates in this profile are for people living in households and group quarters.

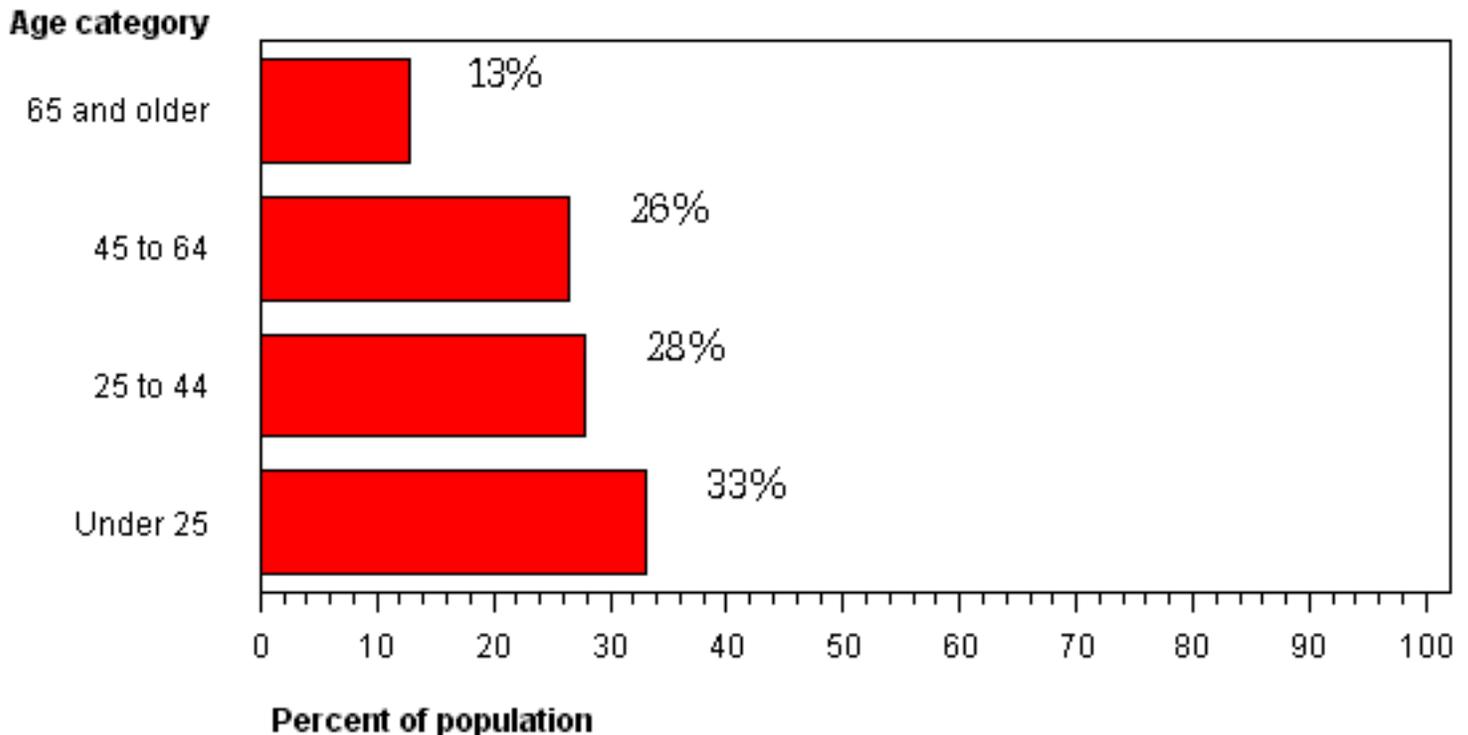
In the narrative profile below, if one sample estimate is larger than another, it does not necessarily mean that the same holds for their true values for the entire population. These estimates are derived from a sample of housing units and measure the true values with a degree of uncertainty. In the Profiles found at [www.census.gov/acs/www/index\\_c.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index_c.htm), this uncertainty is represented by the 90 percent confidence interval given for each estimate. For further information on confidence intervals see the Accuracy of the Data documents at [www.census.gov/acs/www/index\\_b.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index_b.htm).

Caution should be used when comparing data by race from previous years with those for 1999 due to the Census Bureau's implementation of the October 1997 revised standards for data on race and ethnicity. For the 1999 data, respondents may report one or more races and there are seven (American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, White, some other race, and two or more races) instead of five racial tabulation categories. The two or more races category includes all respondents who reported more than one race. See the methodology section for more details regarding these changes.

**These data are preliminary and should not be used for official purposes.**

**POPULATION OF Flathead County:** In 1999, Flathead County had a population of 72,773. The median age was 39.3 years. Twenty-six percent were under 18 years and 13 percent were 65 or older. There was an equal amount of women and men.

**The Age Distribution of People in Flathead County, Montana in 1999**



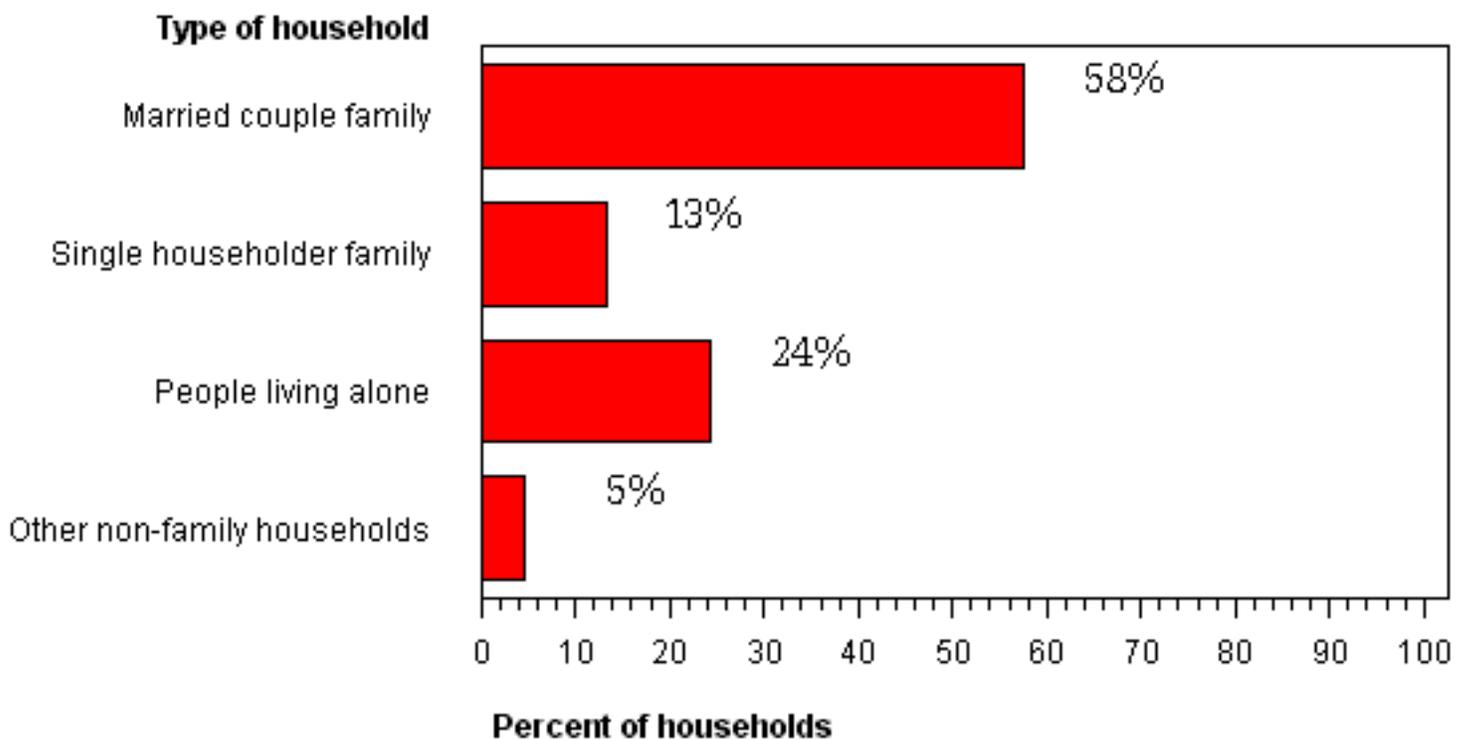
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

For people reporting one race, 97 percent of the people in Flathead County were White, not of Hispanic origin; less than 0.5 percent were Black or African American, 2 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native, less than 0.5 percent were Asian, and less than 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. One percent reported two or more races. One percent of the people of Flathead County were of Hispanic origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES:** In 1999 there were 28,591 households in Flathead County. The average household size was 2.51 people.

Families made up 71 percent of the households in Flathead County that year. This figure includes both married couple families (58 percent) and other families with no spouse present (13 percent). Non-family households made up 29 percent of all households in Flathead County. Most of the non-family households were people living alone, but some were people living in households maintained by non-relatives.

## The Types of Households in Flathead County, Montana in 1999



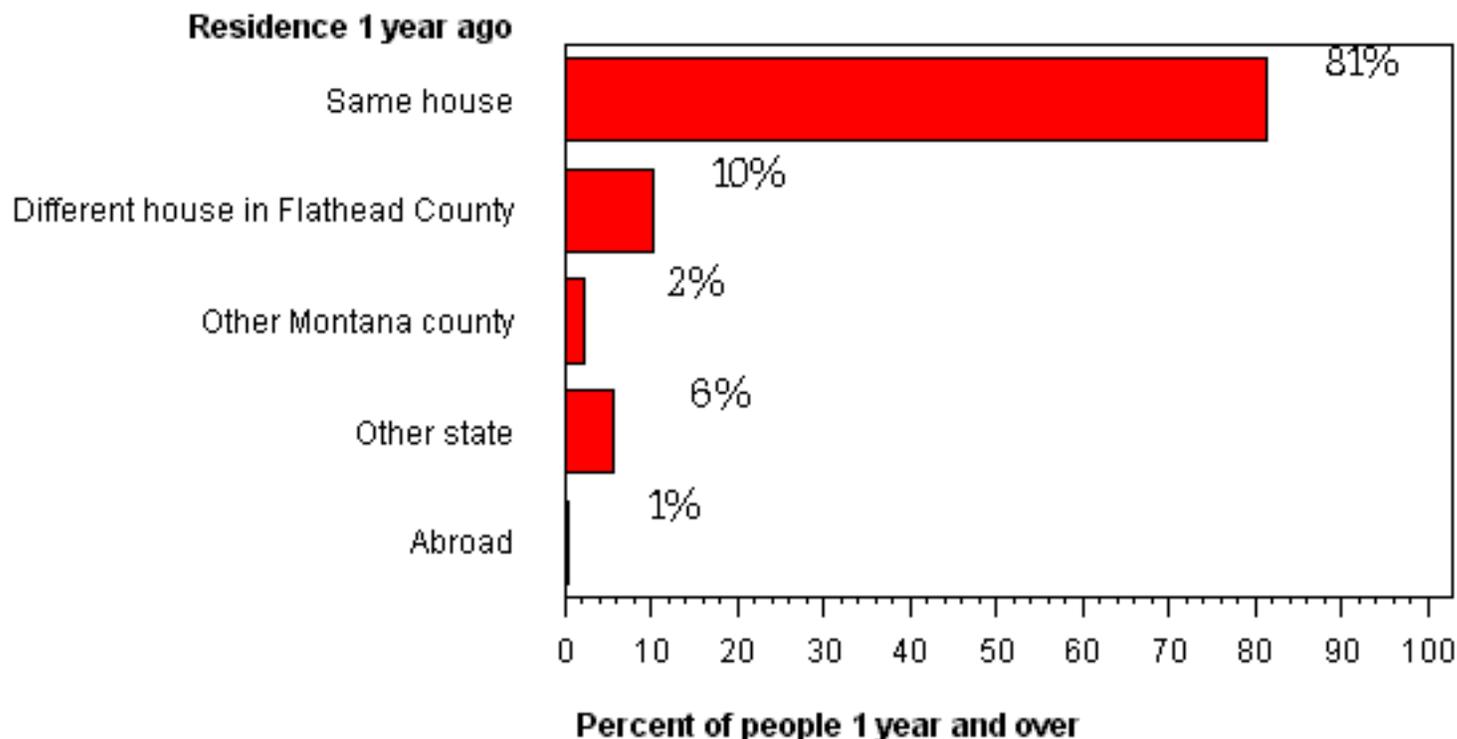
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**NATIVITY AND LANGUAGE:** Three percent of the people living in Flathead County in 1999 were foreign born. Ninety-seven percent were native born, including 44 percent who were born in the State of Montana.

Among people at least five years old living in Flathead County in 1999, 2,829 spoke a language other than English at home. Of this group, 35 percent spoke Spanish, and 65 percent spoke some other language; 13 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well".

**GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY:** In 1999, 81 percent of the people one year or older living in Flathead County were living in the same house one year earlier; 10 percent had moved during the past year from another house in the same county, 2 percent from another Montana county, 6 percent from another state, and 1 percent from abroad.

## Geographic Mobility of Residents of Flathead County, Montana in 1999

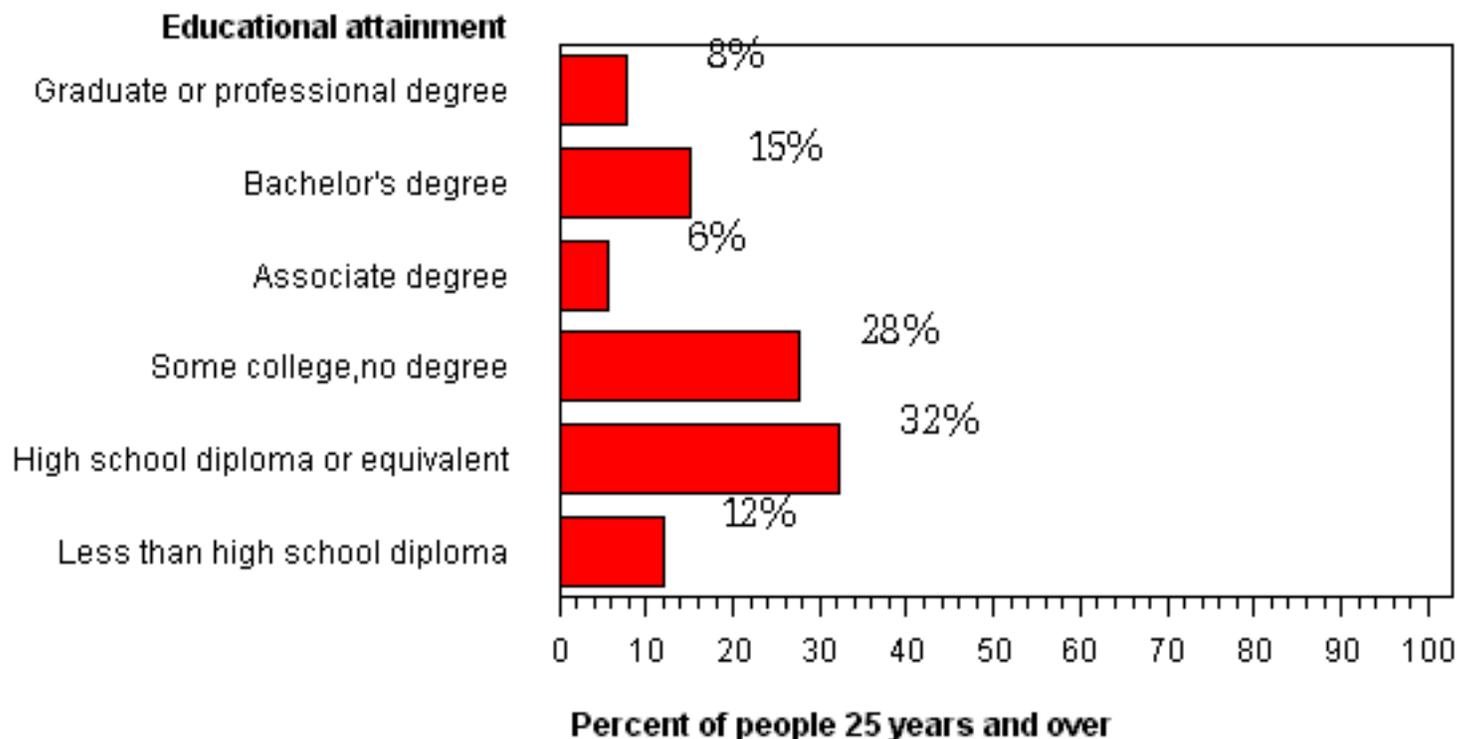


Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**EDUCATION:** In 1999, 88 percent of people at least 25 years old had at least graduated from high school and 23 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Among people 16 to 19 years old, 10 percent were dropouts: They were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Flathead County was 17,326 in 1999. Preprimary school enrollment was 1,651 and 13,009 children were enrolled in elementary or high school. College enrollment was 2,666.

## The Educational Attainment of People in Flathead County, Montana in 1999



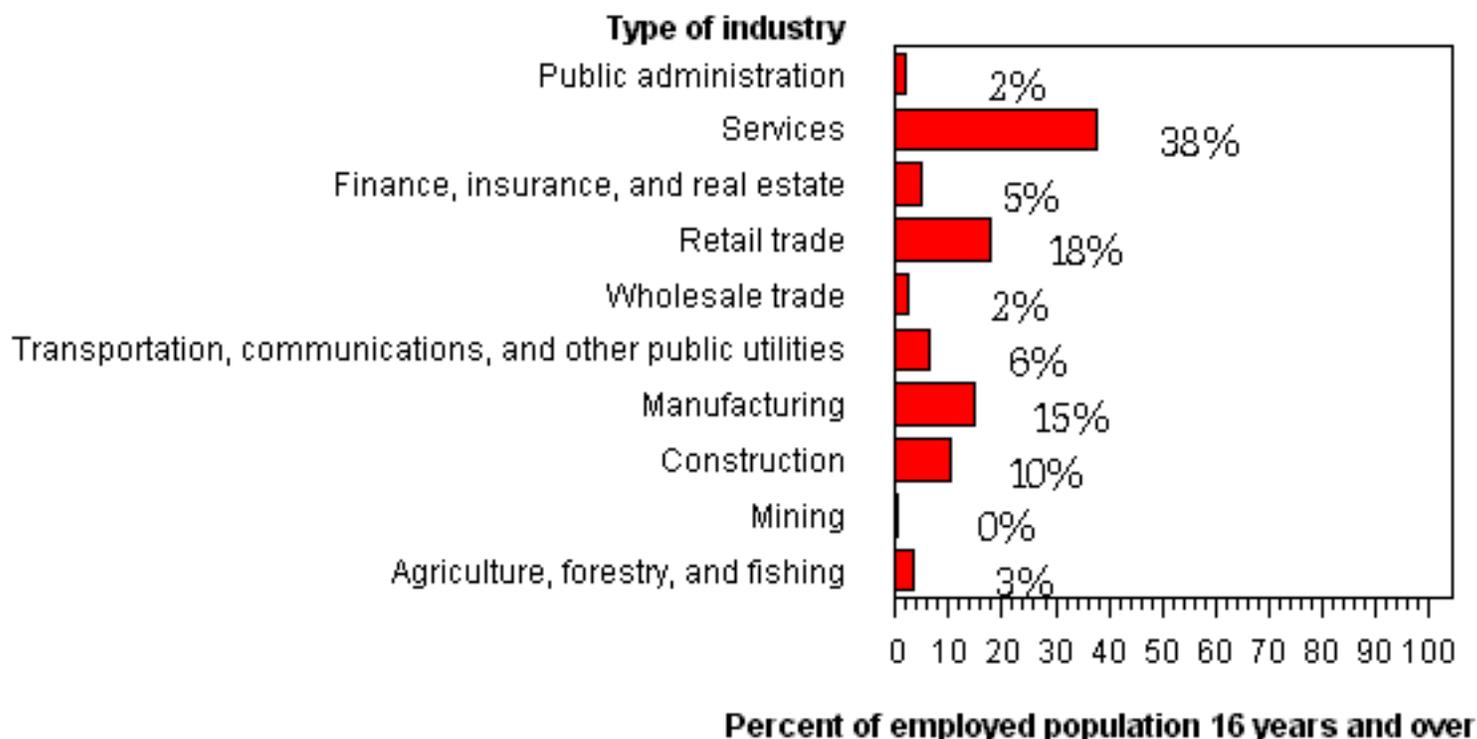
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**DISABILITY:** In Flathead County, among people at least five years old in 1999, 16 percent had a disability. The likelihood of having one or more functional limitations varied by age - from 5 percent of people 5 to 20 years old, to 16 percent of people 21 to 64 years old, to 36 percent of those 65 and older.

**INDUSTRIES, OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER:** In 1999, for the employed population 16 and older, the leading industries in Flathead County were Services, 38 percent, and Retail trade, 18 percent.

Among the most common occupations were: Managerial and professional specialty occupations, 26 percent; Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations, 23 percent; Operators, fabricators, and laborers, 17 percent; Service occupations, 15 percent; and Precision production, craft, and repair occupations, 14 percent. Seventy percent of the people in the employed labor force were Private wage and salary workers; 12 percent were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 17 percent were Self-employed.

## Employment by Industry in Flathead County, Montana in 1999



Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

**TRAVEL TO WORK:** Seventy-eight percent of Flathead County workers drove to work alone in 1999 and 12 percent car- or van-pooled. On average it took them 18 minutes to get to work.

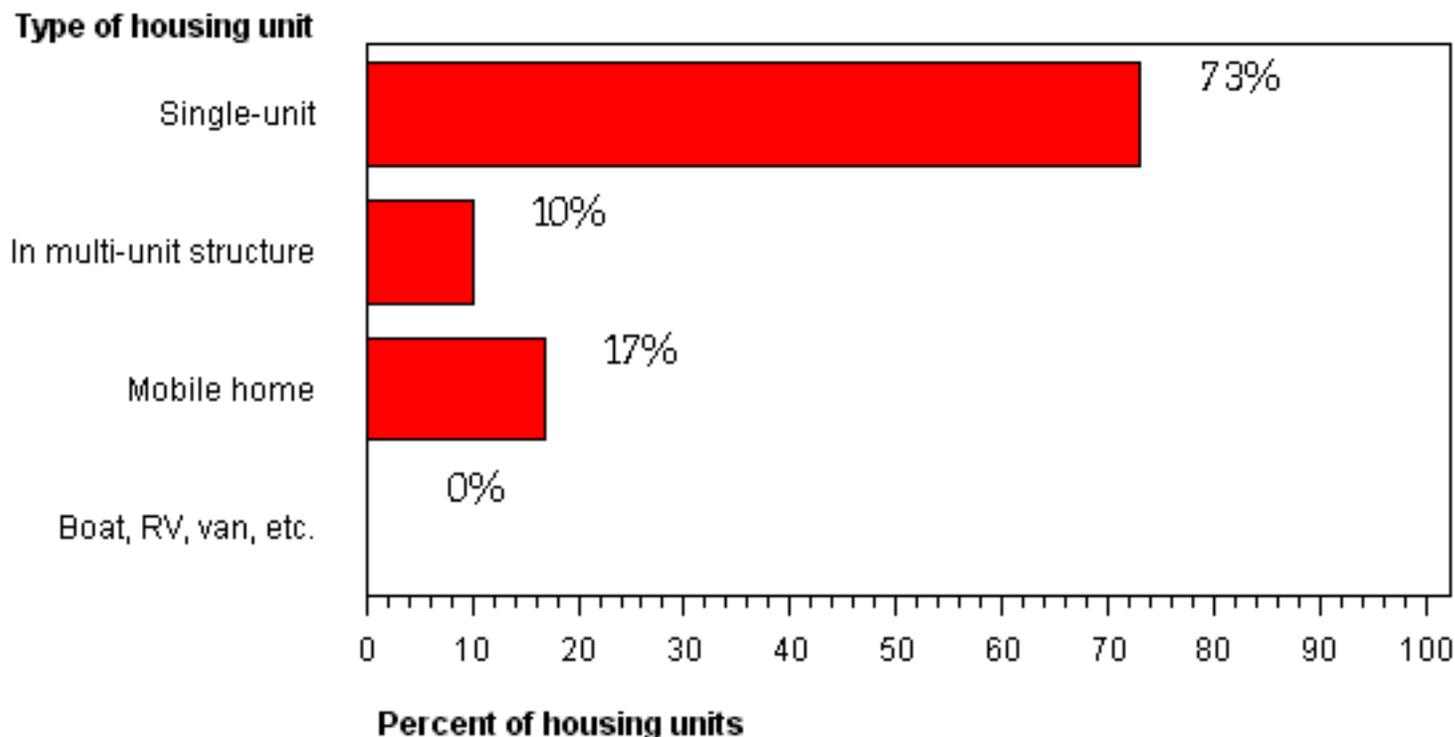
**INCOME:** The median income of households in Flathead County was \$33,687. Eighty percent of the households received earnings and 18 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

**POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS:** In 1999, 9 percent of all families had incomes below the poverty level, compared with 34 percent of families with a female householder and no spouse present.

Fourteen percent of the households in Flathead County received means-tested public assistance or noncash benefits. Twenty-eight percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$11,123.

**HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS:** In 1999, Flathead County had a total of 32,891 housing units. Housing in Flathead County was spread among 24,018 single-family homes (detached or attached), 5,534 mobile homes, and 3,310 units in multi-unit structures.

## The Types of Housing Units in Flathead County, Montana in 1999



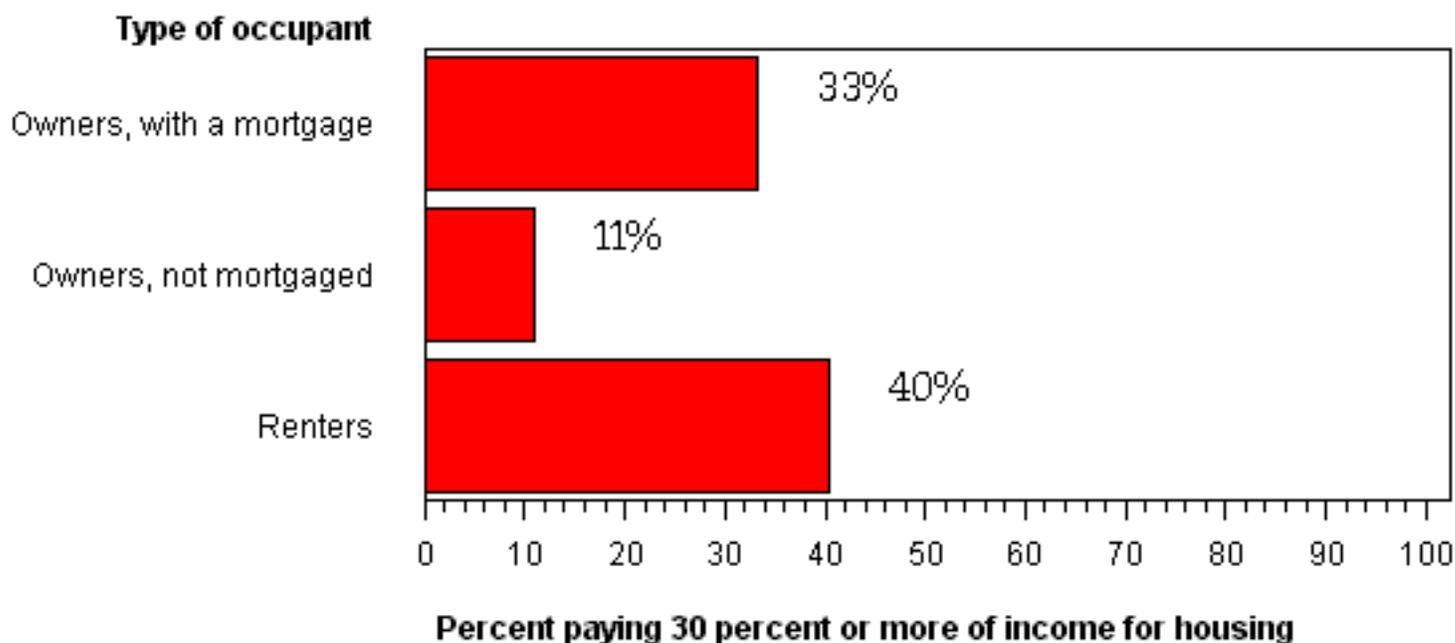
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999

In 1999, 13 percent of the housing units in Flathead County were vacant. Sixty-six percent of the vacant units were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Twenty-three percent of the housing units were built since 1990. Ninety-nine percent of Flathead County housing units had complete plumbing and 100 percent had complete kitchen facilities.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF OCCUPANTS:** The occupied units consisted of 21,968 that were owned by residents and 6,623 that were rented. Two percent of the households occupying these units reported not having telephone service in their home and 3 percent did not have access to a car, truck, or van for private use. Multi-vehicle households were not rare. Forty percent had two vehicles and another 30 percent had three or more.

**HOUSING COSTS:** Thirty-seven percent of owners with mortgages in Flathead County spent less than 20 percent of their household income on housing; 33 percent spent 30 percent or more on housing. Among renters, 27 percent spent less than 20 percent of their household income on rent and 40 percent spent 30 percent or more on rent. The median gross rent was \$513 per month.

## Occupants with a Housing Cost Burden in Flathead County, Montana in 1999



Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 1999