



AMERICAN HOUSING SURVEY

FACT SHEET

What is the American Housing Survey? The American Housing Survey (AHS) is the nation's most comprehensive housing survey. It provides basic housing information on housing quality, housing costs, and neighborhood assets, as well as topical information on unique housing concerns. The first AHS was conducted in 1973.

Who conducts the American Housing Survey? The AHS is funded and overseen by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census).

How often does the American Housing Survey take place? Census collects data every odd-numbered year between May and September. The most recent AHS was conducted in 2017 with data released in 2018 and 2019.

Who can use the American Housing Survey? The American Housing Survey contains public information available to anyone. Professionals in housing and urban planning, academia, housing trade associations, private corporations, the media, federal, state, and municipal governments, and the mortgage industry will find the AHS data useful in their work.

What U.S. regions are covered by the American Housing Survey? The 2015 and 2017 American Housing Surveys both feature two parts—an integrated National sample and 10 independent Metropolitan Area samples. The integrated National sample, which is the same for 2015 and 2017, provides statistical data for the entire nation, as well as representative oversamples of each of the 15 largest metropolitan areas along with a representative sample of HUD-assisted housing units. The 10 independent Metropolitan Area samples are chosen from among the 51 largest U.S. cities. The set of 10 independent metropolitan areas chosen for 2015 is different than the set chosen for 2017. The set chosen in 2015 will be surveyed again in the 2019 AHS, and the set chosen in 2017 will be surveyed next in 2021.

What data is found in the American Housing Survey? Core modules in the 2015 and 2017 American Housing Surveys provide data on a variety of housing topics, including housing costs and value, mortgage characteristics, household income and demographics, disabilities, housing size and amenities, quality, migration, and plumbing, water, and sewage. In addition to the core topics, both the 2015 and 2017 American Housing Surveys include special topical modules. The 2015 AHS includes data on four topics: healthy and safe homes, food insecurity, arts and culture, and housing counseling. The 2017 AHS also includes data on four topics: evictions, delinquent payments and notices, disaster preparedness, and commuting costs.

Who responds to the American Housing Survey? For occupied housing units, a household respondent—who must be a knowledgeable household member age 16 or over—provides information on the unit, the household composition, and income. For vacant housing units, a landlord, owner, real estate agent, or knowledgeable neighbor can provide data on the unit.

How do I access the data? Aggregate national and metropolitan summary data are available and easily accessible online at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) using the [Table Creator](#) tool. Individual-level national and metropolitan data can be downloaded through the [Public Use File \(PUF\)](#) microdata. The data can be examined using statistical software, such as SAS/STAT software, STATA Data Analysis and Statistical software, or using one of several free software programs for computing, data analysis, and graphics, such as R or Python Data Analysis Library (pandas).

Where can I learn more about the American Housing Survey? To learn more, visit the [American Housing Survey](#) webpage.

