

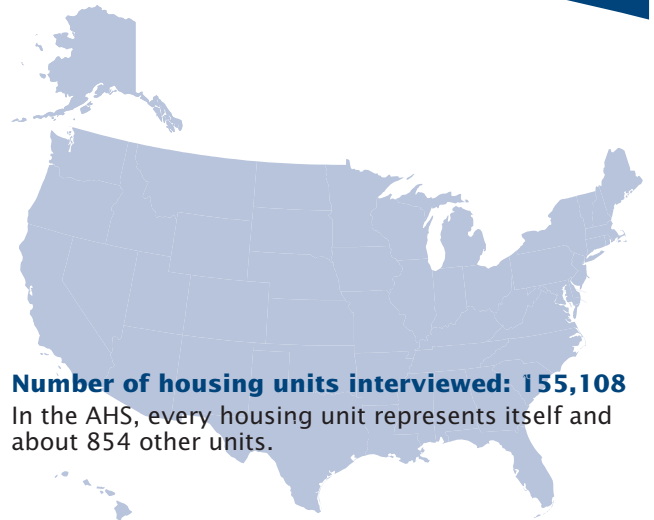
# 2011 Housing Profile: United States

## American Housing Survey Factsheets

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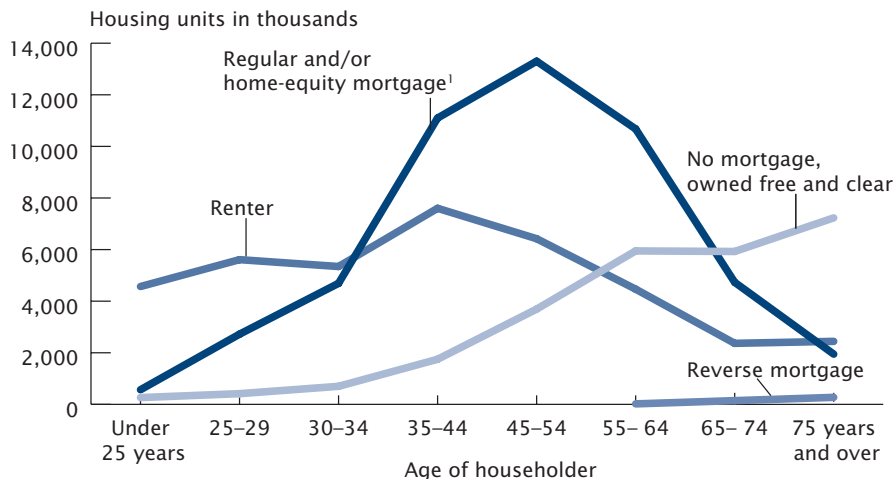
### OUR HOMES ARE MORE THAN WHERE WE LIVE

Owning or renting your own place is a milestone for many. Our homes may be investments, or sometimes financial burdens. Whether it's a gathering place for friends and family or a sanctuary where you relax, our homes are important. That is why the American Housing Survey (AHS) is a valuable survey, allowing us to learn more about the types of homes in which we live and the size and composition of the housing inventory.



**Number of housing units interviewed: 155,108**  
In the AHS, every housing unit represents itself and about 854 other units.

### WHO RENTS OR PAYS A MORTGAGE?

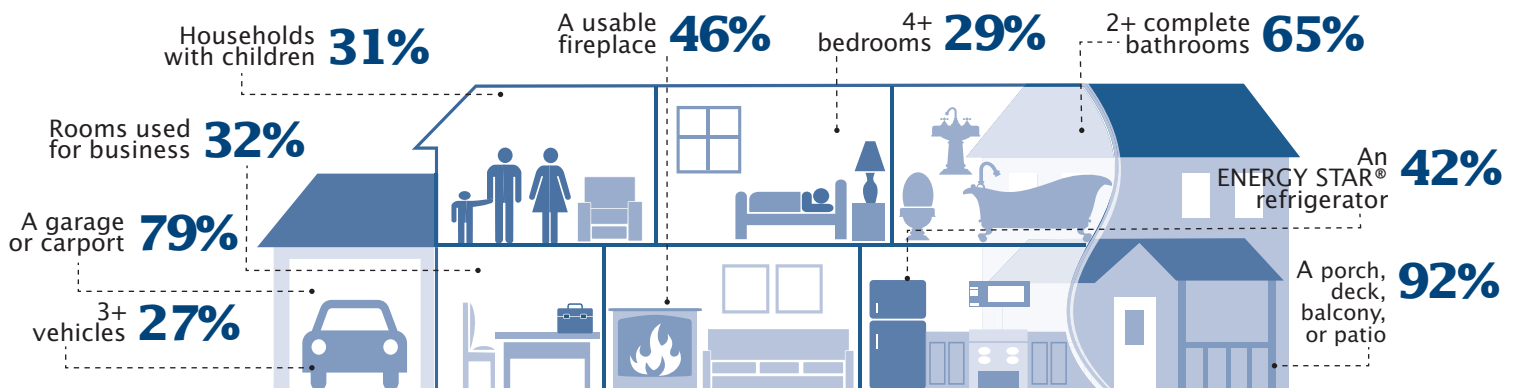


### HOUSING INVENTORY

	Number	Percent
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>132,419,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Owner-occupied units	76,091,000	57.5
Renter-occupied units	38,816,000	29.3
Vacant units	13,379,000	10.1
Seasonal units	4,133,000	3.1

<sup>1</sup> Regular mortgages include all mortgages not classified as home-equity credit lines or reverse annuity mortgages.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey.

### OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS WITH:



## WHAT IS THE AHS?

The AHS is the most comprehensive housing survey in the United States. The same units have been interviewed since 1985, with new construction, demolitions, and conversions taken into account. National data are collected every other year and metropolitan area data are collected on a rotating basis.

People in nearly every field use information from the AHS to evaluate and study the physical and financial characteristics of the nation's housing stock. In addition to the indicators presented in Tables 1 and 2, the AHS provides data on multi-family and single-family homes, manufactured/mobile homes, equipment and appliances, characteristics of the occupants, and more.

Table 1.

### Physical Characteristics—All Occupied Housing Units: 2011

Characteristics	Total	Owner-occupied	Renter-occupied
One unit, detached (percent) . . . . .	64.2	82.4	28.6
Cooperative or condo (percent) . . . . .	7.0	6.5	8.1
<b>Median:</b>			
Year built . . . . .	1974	1976	1972
Square footage per unit . . . . .	1,800	1,800	1,301
<b>Percentage using:</b>			
Well water (primary source) . . . . .	12.0	15.8	4.7
Public sewer . . . . .	80.6	74.4	92.7
<b>Main house heating fuel (percent):</b>			
Electricity . . . . .	35.3	30.2	45.3
Piped gas . . . . .	50.4	53.6	44.2
Other . . . . .	14.3	16.2	10.4
<b>Percentage with:</b>			
Central air . . . . .	65.9	72.5	53.1
Warm-air furnace (main heating) . . . . .	64.1	67.9	56.7
Unsafe drinking water . . . . .	8.1	6.2	12.0
Working carbon monoxide detectors . . . . .	41.6	46.3	32.5
Separate dining room . . . . .	47.8	56.9	29.9
Swimming pool . . . . .	15.7	12.7	21.6
Signs of rodents in last 12 months . . . . .	12.7	13.0	12.1
Mold in last 12 months . . . . .	3.5	2.6	5.2
Wheelchair-accessible ramps . . . . .	0.6	0.6	0.5
Missing roofing material <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	3.5	3.4	4.0
Leakage from outside structure . . . . .	10.8	11.4	9.8

<sup>1</sup> Excludes multiunit structures.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey.

Table 2.

### Financial Characteristics—Owner-Occupied Housing Units: 2011

Characteristics	Total	New construction past 4 years	Black alone	Hispanic	Elderly (65+ years)	Below poverty
<b>Median:</b>						
Year mortgage originated . . . . .	2006	2009	2005	2005	2003	2004
Purchase price (dollars) . . . . .	110,000	235,000	80,000	104,000	55,000	56,000
Home value (dollars) . . . . .	160,000	200,000	120,000	130,000	150,000	98,000
Current total loan as percentage of value (percent) . . . . .	71.0	85.0	80.0	80.0	46.0	71.0
Ratio of value to current income . . . . .	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.8	4.3	11.8
<b>Percentage with:</b>						
No mortgage, owned free and clear . . . . .	34.1	17.1	29.8	29.3	65.0	54.1
Regular and/or home equity mortgage <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	65.4	82.9	69.6	69.9	33.0	44.7
Line-of-credit only . . . . .	6.3	2.8	3.5	3.8	4.5	2.3
Refinanced primary mortgage . . . . .	23.4	13.1	17.8	19.1	11.2	8.9
Two or more regular and/or home equity mortgages <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	8.8	5.0	6.0	8.3	3.2	2.8
<b>Median monthly expenditures (dollars)</b>						
Total housing . . . . .	1,008	1,458	958	1,090	562	565
Mortgage payment . . . . .	1,015	1,300	876	1,052	747	624
Property insurance . . . . .	58	58	58	56	57	50
Real estate taxes . . . . .	151	185	100	133	125	83
Routine maintenance . . . . .	33	8	25	28	17	17
Electricity . . . . .	121	130	139	120	106	111
Trash removal . . . . .	23	25	25	30	21	21

<sup>1</sup> Regular mortgages include all mortgages not classified as home-equity credit lines or reverse annuity mortgages.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011 American Housing Survey.

## SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The AHS is sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data presented are based on the sample of units that responded to the 2011 AHS, using weighting consistent with Census 2010. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. For information on sampling and estimation methods, see <[www.census.gov/housing/ahs/methodology](http://www.census.gov/housing/ahs/methodology)>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the AHS Web site for a complete set of tables, definitions, and more <[www.census.gov/housing/ahs](http://www.census.gov/housing/ahs)>. Additional information is available on HUD's Web site at <[www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org)>. Please contact us at 888-518-7365 (toll-free) or e-mail us at <[ahsn@census.gov](mailto:ahsn@census.gov)> with any inquiries about these data.