

# 1950 CENSUS OF HOUSING

## SPECIAL TABULATIONS FOR LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA: APRIL 1950

This report is based on a transcription and tabulation of data from the 1950 Census of Population and Housing. The statistics relate to dwelling units considered substandard by the Public Housing Administration, in accordance with the contract for these statistics between the Bureau of the Census and the Housing Authority of the County of Stanislaus.

A dwelling unit is considered substandard by the Public Housing Administration if it is either dilapidated or does not have the following plumbing facilities: flush toilet and bath inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use, and hot running water. The Public Housing Administration considers the absence of hot running water to be evidence generally of poor quality of the dwelling unit, but there may be some localities in which the absence of hot running water is not deemed to be a sufficient indication by itself of poor quality. In such localities, a revised count of substandard units may be obtained from table 1 by subtracting from the total the units which lack hot water only. If it is desired to eliminate the units lacking hot water only from the total count of substandard units, the distributions shown in the tables will not be materially affected.

The criteria used to define substandard units in these tabulations are not identical with the housing characteristics included in the published reports from the 1940 Census. Therefore, any comparison of data in this report with the 1940 results must be made with extreme care. A direct comparison cannot be made with the 1940 results because information on hot running water was not collected at that time. Further, the 1940 data on condition were collected showing dwelling units "needing major repairs," whereas

in 1950 data on condition were collected showing units as "dilapidated." Because the definitions of these two terms differ significantly, the 1940 count of dwelling units needing major repairs and the 1950 count of dilapidated dwelling units are comparable only in a general way.

The data are presented in the series of attached tables. In table 1 the structural and occupancy characteristics are shown for all substandard dwelling units. Table 2 shows the rent paid for renter-occupied substandard units; table 3 shows the condition and plumbing facilities of these same units. Table 4 shows the characteristics of all families (both primary and secondary) living in the substandard units. Table 4a classifies the primary families by family income.

In the contract rent tabulation, dwelling units occupied rent-free are tabulated in the "\$9 or less" category. In the gross rent tabulations, however, such units are tabulated as "not reporting," except when utilities were reported.

### DEFINITIONS

The definitions used in this special tabulation are generally the same as those used in the 1950 Census of Population and Housing. Some of the more important definitions are given below.

Dwelling unit.--In general, a dwelling unit is a group of rooms or a single room, occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate living quarters by a family or other group of persons living together or by a person living alone.

Primary family.--A primary family consists of two or more persons including the head of the household and all (one or more) persons in the household who are related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption. It may include a subfamily consisting of a married couple with or without children, or one parent with one or more children under 18 years of age, living in the household and related to but not including the head of the household or his wife. The subfamily is considered a part of the primary family for all tabulation purposes.

Secondary family.--A secondary family consists of two or more persons, such as a lodger or servant and his relatives, living in a household and related to each other but not related to the household head. The secondary family is considered a separate family for tabulation purposes.

Minor.--A minor is an unmarried person under 21 years of age other than the head of a family or his wife.

Dilapidation.--A dwelling unit is considered to be dilapidated when it has serious deficiencies, is rundown or neglected, or is of inadequate original construction, so that it does not provide adequate shelter or protection against the elements or it endangers the safety of the occupants.

Plumbing facilities.--The following are the three plumbing facilities tabulated:

1. Flush toilet inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use;
2. Installed bathtub or shower inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use; and
3. Hot and cold running water inside the structure.

Exclusive use.--Equipment is for "exclusive use" if it is used only by the occupants of one dwelling unit.

Shared.--Equipment is "shared" when occupants of two or more units use the same equipment.

Family income.--Family income is the sum of the income received during 1949, by all members of the family. The following items were asked separately for the head of the family and for all other members of the family combined:

1. The amount of money wages or salary received in 1949;
2. The amount of net money income received from self-employment in 1949; and

3. The amount of other money income received in 1949, such as interest, dividends, veterans' allowances, pensions, or rents.

Gross rent.--Monthly gross rent is contract rent plus the reported average monthly cost of water, electricity, gas, and other fuel paid for by the renter. If furniture is included in the contract rent, the reported estimated rent of the dwelling unit without furniture is used for the computation instead of the contract rent.

#### SOURCE AND RELIABILITY OF THE DATA

The data in tables 1 through 4 are based on complete counts, including all dwelling units and families with the specified characteristics. The distributions involving income in table 4a, however, were prepared from data collected on a sample basis. As part of the 1950 Census, family income data were obtained from about one-fifth of all families. For these tabulations, additional interviews were made to increase the income sample above the 20 percent level. This was accomplished by a subsequent field enumeration of a sample of families who were not in the original sample but were living in substandard dwelling units.

Although the figures shown in tables 1 through 4 are based on the same data as the forthcoming 1950 Census tabulations of these items, they may differ from those to be published as part of the Census. The present tables were obtained by tabulating directly the data as transcribed in the field offices of the Census Bureau and the figures, therefore, do not include all of the refinements that result from a careful examination of the schedules.

In addition, the data are subject to other biases due to errors of response or nonreporting which cannot be corrected in editing. Factors affecting the accuracy of enumeration include the respondent's knowledge of the facts and the ability of the enumerator to obtain accurate information on such items as income, rent, dilapidation and plumbing facilities. The regular 1950 tabulations are also subject to these biases.

#### Reliability of Estimates in Table 4a

Because of sampling variability, percentage distributions shown in table 4a may differ from those that would have been obtained from a complete count. (The absolute figures in table 4a

represent complete counts and are not subject to sampling variations.) The reliability estimates which follow give approximate measures of the sampling errors to be expected in these sample data.

Reliability of the percentages in table 4a.-- The allowance to be made for sampling variation in a percentage depends, in general, both on the value of the percentage and the size of the base on which it is determined. If two percentages are of the same magnitude, the one based on a large number of cases in the sample

is, in general, less variable than the one based on a small number of sample cases.

Estimates of reliability are shown in the following table for percentages with bases of primary families of the specified types. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the differences due to sampling variability between the percentages obtained from the sample and the percentages which would have been obtained from a complete census would be less than the sampling errors shown below.

Percentage shown in table	Sampling variability if the base is--		
	All primary families in substandard dwelling units		
	Total	Owner	Renter
0.5	1.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
1.0	1.4		
2.0	2.0		
3.0	2.5		
4.0	2.8		
5.0	3.2		
10.0	4.3		
15.0	5.2		
20.0	5.8		
25.0	6.3		
30.0	6.6		
40.0	7.1		
50.0	7.2		

<sup>1</sup> Omitted because percentage distribution is not shown.

To illustrate, for a figure of 10 percent based on all primary families living in substandard dwelling units, the sampling variability is 4.3 percent; the chances are about 19 out of 20 that the percentage obtained by a complete census would have been between 5.7 percent and 14.3 percent.

Reliability of differences.--The estimates of sampling variability shown in the above table are not directly applicable to differences obtained by subtracting one figure from another. The sampling variability in an observed difference between two figures depends on the sampling variability of each of the figures and the correlation between them.

Table 1.--STRUCTURAL AND OCCUPANCY CHARACTERISTICS, CONDITION, AND PLUMBING FACILITIES OF OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY TENURE, FOR MODESTO, CALIFORNIA: 1950

(A substandard dwelling unit is defined by the Public Housing Administration as a unit which is either dilapidated or does not have all of the following plumbing facilities: flush toilet and bath inside the structure for the unit's exclusive use, and hot running water)

Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter	Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter
Total number occupied substandard dwelling units.....	606	104	502	NUMBER OF LODGERS			
Percent of total.....	100.0	17.2	82.8	Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
NUMBER OF ROOMS				None.....	89.6	98.3	88.8
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	1 or more lodgers.....	10.4	6.7	11.2
1 room.....	17.5	6.7	19.7	CONDITION AND PLUMBING FACILITIES			
2 rooms.....	42.7	5.8	50.4	Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
3 rooms.....	16.7	14.4	17.1	Not dilapidated:			
4 rooms.....	11.1	30.8	7.0	With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water.....	5.8	18.5	4.2
5 rooms.....	6.3	24.0	2.6	With private flush toilet, no private bath.....	4.1	4.8	4.0
6 rooms.....	3.1	11.5	1.4	With running water, no private flush toilet.....	41.1	19.2	45.6
7 rooms.....	1.3	3.8	0.8	No running water inside the structure	1.5	1.9	1.4
8 rooms or more.....	1.2	2.9	0.8	Dilapidated:			
Not reported.....	0.2	-	0.2	With private bath and private flush toilet, hot and cold running water..	21.9	44.2	17.3
CONDITION				With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water.....	4.8	9.6	3.8
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	With private flush toilet, no private bath.....	2.1	2.9	2.0
Not dilapidated.....	53.5	40.4	56.2	With running water, no private flush toilet.....	14.9	2.9	17.3
Dilapidated.....	45.9	59.6	43.0	No running water inside the structure	1.7	-	2.0
Not reported.....	0.7	-	0.8	Not reporting condition or plumbing facilities.....			
WATER SUPPLY				Total.....	2.1	1.0	2.4
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	CONDITION BY NUMBER OF PLUMBING FACILITIES			
Hot and cold piped running water inside structure.....	52.6	66.3	49.8	Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Only cold piped running water inside structure.....	43.6	31.7	46.0	Not dilapidated:			
No piped running water inside structure	3.3	1.9	3.6	Lacking 1 facility.....	8.3	14.4	7.0
Not reported.....	0.5	-	0.6	Lacking 2 facilities.....	25.6	23.1	26.1
TOILET FACILITIES				Lacking 3 facilities.....	18.6	1.9	22.1
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	Dilapidated:			
Flush toilet inside structure, exclusive use.....	38.8	74.0	31.5	With all facilities.....	21.9	44.2	17.3
Flush toilet inside structure, shared..	21.1	18.3	21.7	Lacking 1 facility.....	5.1	9.6	4.2
Other toilet facilities (including privy).....	39.6	6.7	46.4	Lacking 2 facilities.....	6.6	5.8	6.8
Not reported.....	0.5	1.0	0.4	Lacking 3 facilities.....	11.7	-	14.1
BATHING FACILITIES				Not reporting condition or plumbing facilities.....			
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	Total.....	2.1	1.0	2.4
Installed bathtub or shower inside structure, exclusive use.....	34.2	69.2	26.9	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS IN STRUCTURE			
Installed bathtub or shower inside structure, shared.....	21.9	19.2	22.5	Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other or none.....	42.6	9.6	49.4	1 dwelling unit.....	58.4	77.9	54.4
Not reported.....	1.3	1.9	1.2	2 to 4 dwelling units.....	26.2	19.2	27.7
NUMBER OF PERSONS				5 or more dwelling units.....	15.3	2.9	17.9
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0				
1 person.....	50.0	35.6	53.0				
2 persons.....	29.9	27.9	30.3				
3 persons.....	8.4	14.4	7.2				
4 persons.....	4.3	8.7	3.4				
5 persons.....	4.3	4.8	4.2				
6 persons.....	1.3	4.8	0.6				
7 persons.....	1.3	3.8	0.8				
8 persons.....	0.2	-	0.2				
9 persons or more.....	0.8	-	0.4				

Table 2.--CONTRACT AND GROSS RENT OF RENTER-OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS,  
FOR MODESTO, CALIFORNIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Monthly contract rent	Total	Furniture in rent	Total	Monthly gross rent	Total
Total number renter-occupied substandard dwelling units.....	502	Total, percent.....	100.0	Total, percent.....	100.0
Total, percent.....	100.0	Furniture included in contract rent.....	66.5	\$9 or less.....	8.6
\$9 or less.....	8.6	Furniture not included in contract rent.....	28.5	\$10 to \$14.....	29.9
\$10 to \$14.....	26.1	Not reported.....	5.0	\$15 to \$19.....	15.1
\$15 to \$19.....	22.5			\$20 to \$24.....	13.9
\$20 to \$24.....	13.5			\$25 to \$29.....	11.4
\$25 to \$29.....	8.4			\$30 to \$34.....	6.8
\$30 to \$34.....	7.4			\$35 to \$39.....	4.4
\$35 to \$39.....	4.4			\$40 to \$49.....	3.4
\$40 to \$49.....	4.6			\$50 or more.....	3.6
\$50 or more.....	4.4			Not reported.....	3.0
Not reported.....	0.2				

Table 3.--CONDITION AND PLUMBING FACILITIES OF RENTER-OCCUPIED SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY GROSS RENT,  
FOR MODESTO, CALIFORNIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Condition and plumbing facilities	Total	Monthly gross rent							
		\$19 or less	\$20 to \$24	\$25 to \$29	\$30 to \$34	\$35 to \$39	\$40 to \$49	\$50 or more	Not reported
Total number renter-occupied substandard dwelling units.....	502	269	70	57	34	22	17	18	15
Percent of total.....	100.0	53.6	13.9	11.4	6.8	4.4	3.4	3.6	3.0
Not dilapidated:									
With private bath and private flush toilet, hot and cold running water.....	4.2	1.8	1.2	0.4	-	0.2	0.2	-	0.4
With private flush toilet, no private bath.....	4.0	2.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	-	-	0.2	0.2
With running water, no private flush toilet.....	45.6	27.3	5.2	4.0	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.4	0.6
No running water inside structure.....	1.4	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8
Dilapidated:									
With private bath and private flush toilet, hot and cold running water.....	17.3	2.6	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.4	1.0	2.0	0.8
With private bath and private flush toilet, no hot running water.....	3.8	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.2	-	-	-
With private flush toilet, no private bath.....	2.0	1.6	0.2	-	0.2	-	-	-	-
With running water, no private flush toilet.....	17.3	12.5	1.8	2.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	-	-
No running water inside structure.....	2.0	1.8	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-
Not reporting condition or plumbing facilities..	2.4	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	-	-	-	0.2

Table 4.--CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS BY TENURE,  
FOR MODESTO, CALIFORNIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter	Characteristic	Total	Owner	Renter
Total number of families..	250	64	186	NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ROOM IN DWELLING UNIT			
Percent of total.....	100.0	25.6	74.4		Total.....	100.0	( <sup>1</sup> )
TYPE OF FAMILY				0.50 or less.....	16.8		9.7
Total.....	100.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	100.0	0.51 to 0.75.....	22.4		21.0
Primary family.....	99.2		99.5	0.76 to 1.00.....	34.4		37.6
Secondary family.....	0.8		0.5	1.01 to 1.50.....	14.0		15.6
NUMBER OF PERSONS IN FAMILY				1.51 to 2.00.....	9.2		11.8
Total.....	100.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	100.0	2.01 or more.....	2.8		3.8
2 persons.....	53.6		56.5	Not reported.....	0.4		0.5
3 persons.....	20.4		20.4	NUMBER OF MINORS IN FAMILY			
4 persons.....	10.0		8.6	Total.....	100.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	100.0
5 persons.....	8.8		9.7	No minors.....	54.8		55.4
6 persons.....	3.2		1.6	1 minor.....	19.2		20.4
7 persons.....	2.8		1.6	2 minors.....	10.4		9.7
8 persons or more.....	1.2		1.6	3 minors.....	8.8		9.7
				4 minors.....	4.8		3.2
				5 minors.....	0.8		0.5
				6 minors or more.....	1.2		1.1

<sup>1</sup> Percentage distribution is not shown where the number of cases is less than 100.

Table 4a.--INCOME IN 1949 OF PRIMARY FAMILIES IN SUBSTANDARD DWELLING UNITS, BY NUMBER OF MINORS AND TENURE,  
FOR MODESTO, CALIFORNIA: 1950

(See table 1 for the Public Housing Administration definition of substandard dwelling unit)

Family income by number of minors	Total	Owner	Renter	Family income by number of minors	Total	Owner	Renter
Total number of primary families.....	248	68	185	Two minors.....	9.2		
Percent of total.....	100.0	25.4	74.6	\$999 or less.....	1.8		
Total.....	100.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	\$1,000 to \$1,249.....	-		
\$999 or less.....	22.9			\$1,250 to \$1,499.....	1.0		
\$1,000 to \$1,249.....	6.5			\$1,500 to \$1,749.....	-		
\$1,250 to \$1,499.....	5.7			\$1,750 to \$1,999.....	-		
\$1,500 to \$1,749.....	1.9			\$2,000 to \$2,249.....	1.0		
\$1,750 to \$1,999.....	2.9			\$2,250 to \$2,499.....	-		
\$2,000 to \$2,249.....	5.5			\$2,500 to \$2,749.....	-		
\$2,250 to \$2,499.....	2.8			\$2,750 to \$2,999.....	0.8		
\$2,500 to \$2,749.....	6.8			\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	2.8		
\$2,750 to \$2,999.....	3.7			\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	-		
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	12.8			\$5,000 or more.....	-		
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	7.5			Not reported.....	1.9		
\$5,000 or more.....	4.2			Three or four minors.....	12.0		
Not reported.....	16.8			\$999 or less.....	1.0		
No minors.....	51.9			\$1,000 to \$1,249.....	-		
\$999 or less.....	14.5			\$1,250 to \$1,499.....	0.8		
\$1,000 to \$1,249.....	5.5			\$1,500 to \$1,749.....	-		
\$1,250 to \$1,499.....	2.9			\$1,750 to \$1,999.....	-		
\$1,500 to \$1,749.....	1.0			\$2,000 to \$2,249.....	-		
\$1,750 to \$1,999.....	2.9			\$2,250 to \$2,499.....	-		
\$2,000 to \$2,249.....	3.7			\$2,500 to \$2,749.....	-		
\$2,250 to \$2,499.....	1.8			\$2,750 to \$2,999.....	1.0		
\$2,500 to \$2,749.....	2.9			\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	5.7		
\$2,750 to \$2,999.....	1.0			\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	0.8		
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	2.8			\$5,000 or more.....	-		
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	3.9			Not reported.....	2.8		
\$5,000 or more.....	2.6			5 minors or more.....	4.5		
Not reported.....	6.5			\$999 or less.....	-		
One minor.....	22.4			\$1,000 to \$1,249.....	-		
\$999 or less.....	5.7			\$1,250 to \$1,499.....	-		
\$1,000 to \$1,249.....	1.0			\$1,500 to \$1,749.....	1.0		
\$1,250 to \$1,499.....	1.0			\$1,750 to \$1,999.....	-		
\$1,500 to \$1,749.....	-			\$2,000 to \$2,249.....	-		
\$1,750 to \$1,999.....	-			\$2,250 to \$2,499.....	-		
\$2,000 to \$2,249.....	0.8			\$2,500 to \$2,749.....	1.0		
\$2,250 to \$2,499.....	-			\$2,750 to \$2,999.....	1.0		
\$2,500 to \$2,749.....	2.9			\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	-		
\$2,750 to \$2,999.....	1.0			\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	-		
\$3,000 to \$3,999.....	1.6			\$5,000 or more.....	0.8		
\$4,000 to \$4,999.....	1.9			Not reported.....	0.8		
\$5,000 or more.....	0.8				-		
Not reported.....	5.7				-		

<sup>1</sup> Percentage distribution is not shown where the number of cases in the sample is less than 100.

44713