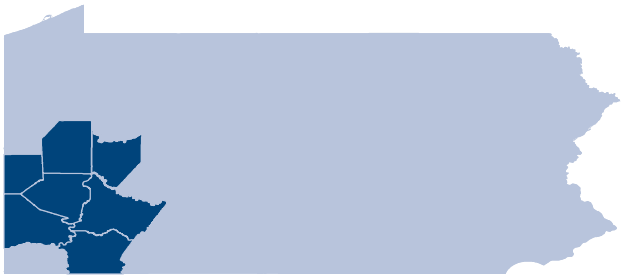
2011 Housing Profile: Pittsburgh, PA

American Housing Survey Factsheets

Issued July 2013
AHS/11-22

OUR HOMES ARE MORE THAN WHERE WE LIVE

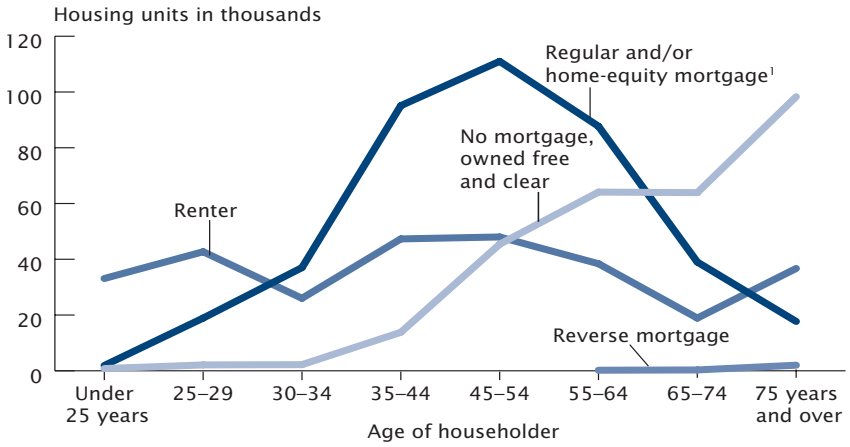
Owning or renting your own place is a milestone for many. Our homes may be investments, or sometimes financial burdens. Whether it's a gathering place for friends and family or a sanctuary where you relax, our homes are important. That is why the American Housing Survey (AHS) is a valuable survey, allowing 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: 3,769
In the AHS, every housing unit represents itself and about 293 other units.

The AHS coverage of the **Pittsburgh Metro Area** matches the 2009 Office of Management and Budget definition.

WHO RENTS OR PAYS A MORTGAGE?



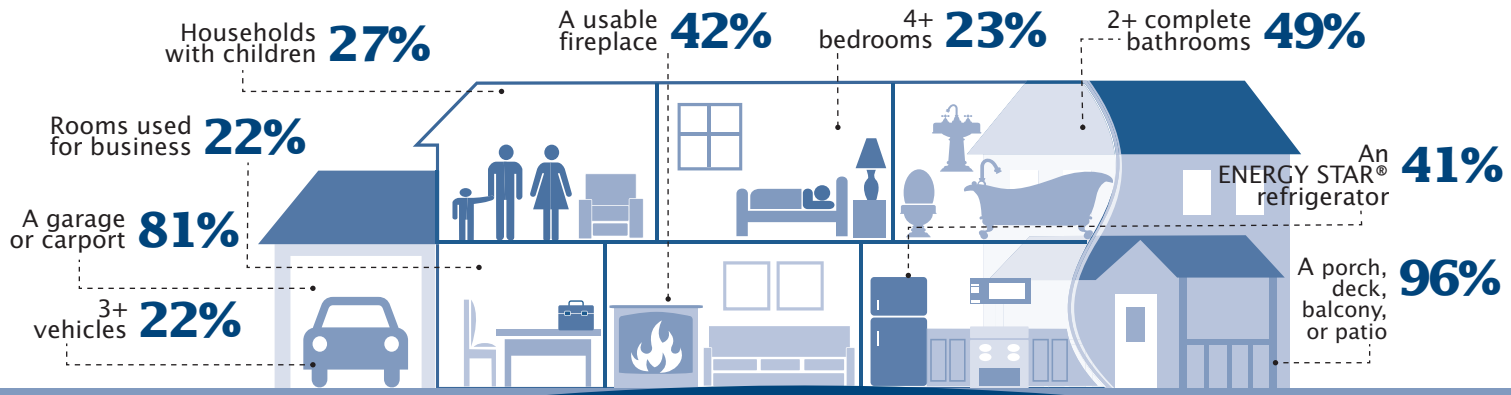
[1] Regular mortgages include all mortgages not classified as home-equity credit lines or reverse annuity mortgages.

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

HOUSING INVENTORY

	Number	Percent
Total Units	**1,104,900**	**100.0**
Owner-occupied units	701,500	63.5
Renter-occupied units	291,200	26.4
Vacant units	103,800	9.4
Seasonal units	8,400	0.8

OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS WITH:



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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)	72.0	89.9	28.8
Cooperative or condo (percent)	3.0	2.8	3.4
Median:			
Year built	1955	1957	1949
Square footage per unit	1,806	1,904	1,300
Percentage using:			
Well water (primary source)	9.8	12.4	3.6
Public sewer	86.5	83.7	93.2
Main house heating fuel (percent):			
Electricity	11.9	7.6	22.1
Piped gas	76.7	79.7	69.4
Other	11.4	12.7	8.5
Percentage with:			
Central air	63.5	72.3	42.0
Warm-air furnace (main heating)	81.4	85.8	70.7
Unsafe drinking water	6.4	5.0	9.6
Working carbon monoxide detectors	48.3	57.0	27.5
Separate dining room	59.3	69.8	34.1
Swimming pool	11.9	13.1	9.0
Signs of rodents in last 12 months	13.5	15.1	9.7
Mold in last 12 months	4.5	3.8	6.3
Wheelchair-accessible ramps	0.7	0.9	0.2
Missing roofing material[1]	3.1	3.0	4.0
Leakage from outside structure	16.8	16.6	17.1

[1] 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
Median:						
Year mortgage originated	2005	2009	2004	2006	2003	2006
Purchase price (dollars)	69,000	250,000	39,200	39,200	25,000	35,000
Home value (dollars)	130,000	275,000	90,000	127,000	125,000	90,000
Current total loan as percentage of value (percent)	61.0	61.0	66.0	68.0	42.0	73.0
Ratio of value to current income	2.4	4.4	2.0	4.6	3.9	10.9
Percentage with:						
No mortgage, owned free and clear	41.4	10.3	41.6	46.4	73.3	65.2
Regular and/or home equity mortgage[1]	58.2	89.7	58.4	53.6	25.6	33.9
Line-of-credit only	10.5	7.2	2.6	1.8	5.8	0.9
Refinanced primary mortgage	19.5	12.4	10.3	12.7	4.8	11.5
Two or more regular and/or home equity mortgages[1]	11.0	7.2	6.5	5.5	3.3	5.0
Median monthly expenditures (dollars)						
Total housing	796	1,693	623	767	471	462
Mortgage payment	811	1,200	496	500	575	335
Property insurance	42	42	29	45	40	38
Real estate taxes	167	327	70	99	158	117
Routine maintenance	33	–	33	33	17	42
Electricity	101	110	84	130	92	96
Trash removal	16	17	13	16	14	12

– Represents or rounds to zero.

[1] 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>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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