

Appendix C.

Historical Changes: 2013

The American Housing Survey (AHS) began in 1973 as the Annual Housing Survey. Since 1981, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted the national survey every odd numbered year. In 1984, it was renamed the American Housing Survey.

Only changes for the 2013 survey year are noted in this appendix. Historical changes prior to 2013 are available in previous publications, which can be found in PDF format online at <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html>.

Beginning with the 2011 AHS, the survey instrument consists of a permanent set of core questions, plus questions on topical supplements that rotate in and out of the survey on a schedule that has yet to be determined.

2013 AHS table numbers use a 5 character table-numbering scheme in the following format: X-XX-XX. The first character in the table number, or table ID, begins with either a "C" for core table or an "S" for supplemental table.

The two characters in the middle of the new table ID are the actual table numbers (2-digits). The last two characters represent the universe (2-letters). Tables identified by an "AH" represent all housing units. Tables identified by an "AO" represent all occupied units, tables identified by an "OO" represent owner-occupied, and tables identified by an "RO" represent renter-occupied.

Metropolitan Area tables are identified by the addition of an "M" as the sixth character in the table ID (X-XX-XX-M).

New Tables:

The 2013 AHS includes topical supplements on neighborhoods, public transportation, community involvement, emergency and disaster preparedness, doubled-up households, and delinquent payments and notices.

Supplemental table S-03, "Neighborhood," includes data from the 2009 AHS, formerly found in Table 8—"Neighborhood" and Table 1-6—"Housing and Neighborhood Quality" of the 2009 publication. This table includes data on the physical characteristics of neighborhoods.

Supplemental tables S-04A, S-04B, and S-04C include topics, such as distance to public transportation, frequency of use, and mode of transportation used. Other topics include monthly transportation costs and amenities accessible by biking and walking.

Supplemental table S-05, "Community Involvement," covers topics such as neighborhood traits and household involvement in neighborhood and local organizations.

Supplemental table S-06, "Emergency and Disaster Preparedness," provides indicators measuring household readiness for emergencies and disasters.

Supplemental table S-07, "Doubled Up Households--Movers Leaving and Entering Unit," focuses on households with multiple families. It explores the reasons why household members choose to share resources and avoid housing burdens by moving in and out of units.

Supplemental table S-08, "Delinquent Payments and Notices," contains data on utility payment activity, as well as, foreclosures and eviction notices.

Deleted Items:

Energy Star® Rated Appliances

Safety of Well Water

Deleted Tables:

Health and Safety Characteristics. Table S-01 was a supplemental table added to the 2011 AHS, but dropped from the 2013 AHS. The table may return in subsequent surveys.

Disabilities and Home Accessibility. The Home Accessibility portion of table S-02 was derived from supplemental questions added to the 2011 AHS, but dropped from the 2013 AHS. A variation of this table may return in subsequent surveys. See "Modified Tables" below for more on the Disabilities portion of the table.

New Items:

In addition to the new tables discussed above, the following items were added to existing tables:

Access to Structure. Last appearing in the 2009 publication in Table 2-7, "Additional Indicators of Housing Quality," this stub has been added to Table C-01, "General Housing Data."

Households with Disabled Persons. This stub, providing the total number of households with disabled persons, was last published in the 2009 publication in Table 9, "Household Composition."

Modified Tables:

Disabilities and Home Accessibility. Table S-02, was modified in 2013 by dropping the home accessibility stubs (see "Deleted Tables" above for more information), adding the

"Households with Disabled Persons" stub (see "New Items" above), and renumbering/renaming the table to C-08B, "Disabilities."

Housing Migration—Previous Unit and Housing and Neighborhood Search and Satisfaction. In Tables C-06 and C-07, the universe expanded from "RESPONDENT MOVED DURING PAST YEAR FROM WITHIN THE UNITED STATES" to "RESPONDENT MOVED DURING PAST YEAR."

Modified Items:

Change in Housing Costs. The "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home in the United States" subuniverse was amended to "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home" to remain consistent with the greater universe change affecting the entire table. (See "Modified Tables" above for more information.)

Choice of Present Home. Change made to answer categories provided in the questionnaire. (Deleted "kitchen," added "neighborhood.")

Choice of Present Neighborhood. Change made to answer categories in the questionnaire. (Deleted "convenient to leisure activities;" added "convenient to amenities," "familiarity of neighborhood," and "safety of neighborhood.")

Current Line-of-Credit Interest Rate. Additional edits were made in 2013 to improve the consistency of outstanding loan responses.

Energy Efficiency. Wording of the tax credit question changed in the 2013 AHS. As a result, the new row labels now specify the type of credit received. (E.g. The 2011 row "Tax credit received" was changed to "Received federal or state tax credit or financial incentives from utility company.")

Line-of-Credit Amount Used for Home Additions, Improvements, or Repairs. Additional edits were made in 2013 to improve the consistency of outstanding loan responses.

Line-of-Credit Monthly Payment. Additional edits were made in 2013 to improve the consistency of outstanding loan responses.

Main Reason for Choice of Present Home. Change made to answer categories in the questionnaire. (Deleted "kitchen," added "neighborhood.")

Main Reason for Choice of Present Neighborhood. Change made to answer categories in the questionnaire. (Deleted "convenient to leisure activities;" added "convenient to amenities," "familiarity of neighborhood," and "safety of neighborhood.")

Monthly Payment Change of Primary Mortgage over Last 12 Months. Not reported row added. Previously, such cases were allocated into the "Decreased by \$50 or less" and "Increased by \$50 or less" rows.

Persons—Previous Residence. The "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home in the United States" subuniverse was amended to "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home" to remain consistent with the greater universe change affecting the entire table. (See "Modified Tables" above for more information.)

Previous Home Owned or Rented by Current Household Member. The "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home in the United States" subuniverse was amended to "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home" to remain consistent with the greater universe change affecting the entire table. (See "Modified Tables" above for more information.)

Previous Occupancy. The "previously occupied" row was added to the stub in 2013 so rows would sum to total.

Square Footage of Unit. Although the question was asked of all units, for 2011 published tables and prior, the subuniverse of this stub restricted the data to single detached and manufactured/mobile homes. In past surveys, interviewers were instructed to obtain exterior measurements of each unit if the respondent authorized the interviewer to do so. Because interviewers were unable to measure single attached homes and multiunits, we restricted the data to only those units that could be measured. Since the square footage data in more recent surveys relies entirely on answers from the respondent and not measurements provided by interviewers, the 2013 stub universe has been expanded to include all units.

Square Feet Per Person. Same as above.

Tenure of Previous Residence. The "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home in the United States" subuniverse was amended to "House, apartment, manufactured/mobile home" to remain consistent with the greater universe change affecting the entire table. (See "Modified Tables" above for more information.)

Total Home-Equity Line-Of-Credit Limit. Additional edits were made in 2013 to improve the consistency of outstanding loan responses.

Total Outstanding Line-of-Credit Loans. Additional edits were made in 2013 to improve the consistency of outstanding loan responses.