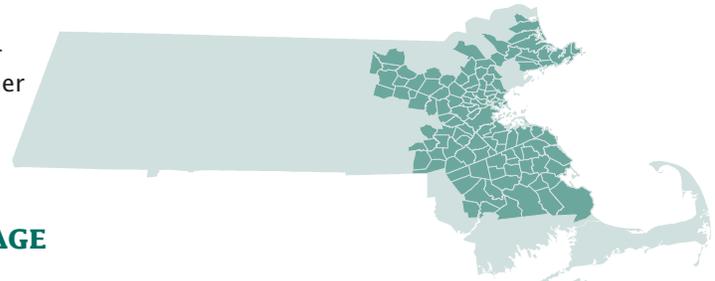


# 2013 Housing Profile: Boston, MA

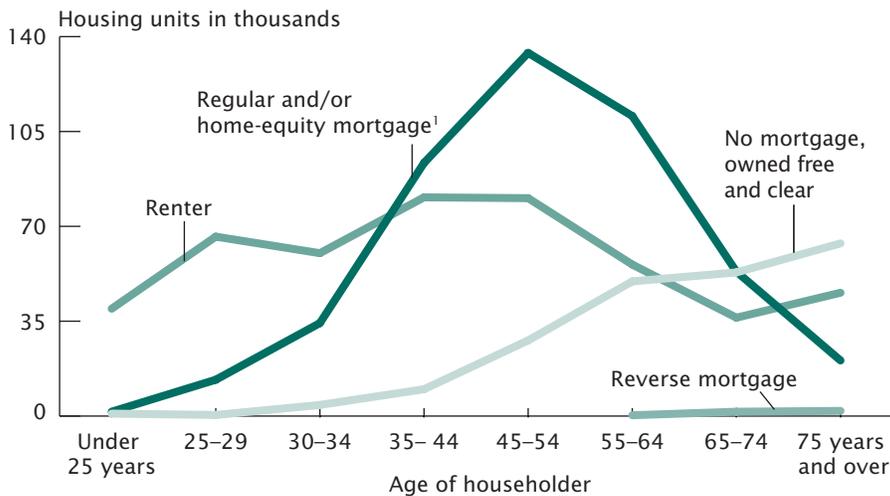
## American Housing Survey Factsheets

Issued May 2015  
AHS/13-4

The 2013 American Housing Survey (AHS) Factsheet series provides results from the 2013 AHS for 25 selected metropolitan areas and the United States. National data are collected every other year and metropolitan area data are collected on a rotating schedule.



### OWNER- AND RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS BY AGE



<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, 2013 American Housing Survey.

**Number of housing units interviewed: 3,084**

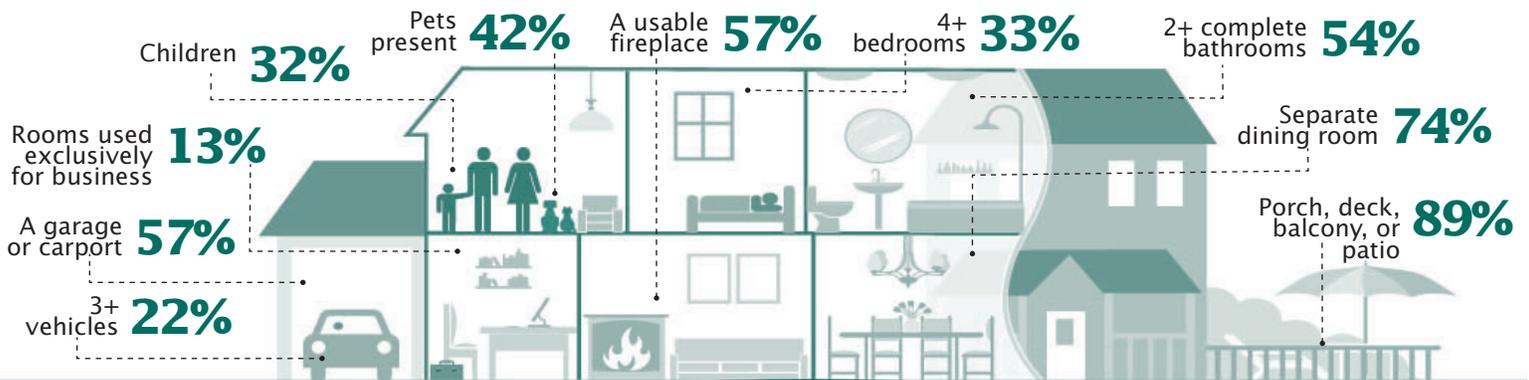
In the AHS, every housing unit represents itself and about 389 other units.

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

### HOUSING INVENTORY

	Number	Percent
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>1,199,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Owner-occupied units	674,600	56.3
Renter-occupied units	464,800	38.8
Vacant units	52,100	4.3
Seasonal units	7,500	0.6

### 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.

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: 2013

Characteristics	Total	Owner-occupied	Renter-occupied
<b>Total (thousands)</b> . . . . .	<b>1,139.3</b>	<b>674.6</b>	<b>464.8</b>
One unit, detached (percent) . . . . .	47.5	74.4	8.4
Newly constructed multiunits (percent) <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	0.2	0.1	0.5
Cooperative or condo (percent) . . . . .	14.1	15.8	11.6
<b>Median:</b>			
Year built . . . . .	1953	1954	1947
Square footage per unit . . . . .	1,467	1,900	800
<b>Percentage using:</b>			
Well water (primary source) . . . . .	2.1	3.2	0.5
Public sewer . . . . .	86.9	80.3	96.4
<b>Main house heating fuel (percent):</b>			
Electricity . . . . .	17.1	8.1	30.1
Piped gas . . . . .	52.8	54.9	49.8
Other . . . . .	30.1	37.0	20.1
<b>Percentage with:</b>			
Central air . . . . .	34.2	43.4	20.9
Warm-air furnace (main heating) . . . . .	41.0	41.5	40.3
Unsafe drinking water . . . . .	5.4	4.7	6.5
Prepared emergency evacuation kit . . . . .	45.6	44.5	47.1
House or building number clearly visible . . . . .	78.2	80.3	75.2
Signs of mice in last 12 months . . . . .	15.9	15.4	16.7
Waterfront property . . . . .	3.0	3.1	2.9
Missing roofing material <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	1.0	1.6	0.2
Leakage from outside structure . . . . .	8.8	10.3	6.7

<sup>1</sup> In past 4 years.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes multiunit structures.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2013 American Housing Survey.

Table 2.

## Financial Characteristics—Owner-Occupied Housing Units: 2013

Characteristics	Total	New construction past 4 years	Black alone	Hispanic	Elderly (65+ years)	Below poverty
<b>Median:</b>						
Year mortgage originated . . . . .	2009	2012	2005	2010	2002	2007
Purchase price (dollars) . . . . .	235,000	414,000	160,000	290,000	55,000	169,000
Home value (dollars) . . . . .	400,000	540,000	350,000	370,000	400,000	350,000
Current total loan as percentage of value (percent) . . . . .	57.0	81.0	63.0	73.0	27.0	50.0
Ratio of value to current income . . . . .	4.2	3.5	5.3	3.7	7.0	66.7
<b>Percentage with:</b>						
No mortgage, owned free and clear . . . . .	31.1	19.6	14.3	16.4	60.2	51.8
Regular and/or home equity mortgage <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	68.4	80.4	84.6	83.6	38.0	45.9
Line-of-credit . . . . .	9.8	Z	6.0	4.3	8.5	8.4
Refinanced primary mortgage . . . . .	33.0	37.3	28.3	32.8	15.2	16.8
Two or more regular and/or home equity mortgages <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	10.8	Z	12.3	7.0	4.1	4.2
Missed or late mortgage payment(s) . . . . .	2.8	7.8	7.4	6.3	0.9	4.8
<b>Median monthly expenditures (dollars)</b>						
Total housing . . . . .	1,684	2,790	1,662	2,051	983	1,039
Mortgage payment . . . . .	1,668	2,500	1,419	1,800	1,046	1,430
Property insurance . . . . .	94	100	100	100	85	88
Real estate taxes . . . . .	371	417	167	325	360	333
Routine maintenance . . . . .	83	42	79	83	42	33
Electricity . . . . .	89	100	84	95	79	78
Trash removal . . . . .	19	28	21	19	17	17

Z Rounds to zero.

<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, 2013 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 2013 AHS, using weighting consistent with the 2010 Census. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. For information on sampling and estimation methods, see <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/about/methodology.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/about/methodology.html)>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the AHS Web site for a complete set of tables, definitions, and more at <[www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html)>. 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.