

2015 American Housing Survey Metropolitan Public Use File (PUF) Versioning Document

The purpose of this document is to provide data users with information regarding updates to the 2015 AHS PUFs. Each release is accompanied by a list of changes and their potential impact on data analysis.

Version	Release Date
V 1.0	March 29, 2017
V 1.1	May 24, 2017
V 1.2	June 20, 2017
V 1.3	August 9, 2017
V 1.4	September 28, 2017
V 2.0	March 20, 2018
V 2.1	August 30, 2018
V 2.2	October 2, 2018
V 3.0	April 24, 2019
V 3.1	November 30, 2020

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 1.0 and 1.1			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
RACEPI	Race of person (Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander group)	Added to PUF	None
HHRACEPI	Race of householder (Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander group)	Added to PUF	None
FSMEALDAYS	Number of days adults in the household cut or skipped meals, in the last 30 days	Added to PUF	None
FSNODAYS	Number of days adults in the household did not eat, in the last 30 days	Added to PUF	None
MULTIGEN	Type of multigenerational household	Added to PUF	None
MVG3TYP	Type of structure of former home (mover group 3)	Added to PUF	None
HCAMT	Amount of housing counseling fee	Added to PUF	None
POVLVLINC	Federal poverty level threshold	Added to PUF	None
SUBDIV	Flag indicating house is part of a subdivision or housing development	Added to PUF	None
SPLITSAMP	Flag indicating split sample group	Added to PUF	None
BATHROOMS	Number of bathrooms in unit	More values now available	None
NATVTY	Country of birth of person	More values now available	None
HHNATVTY	Country of birth of householder	More values now available	None

OMB13CBSA	2013 OMB CBSA code	More values now available	None
RENTSUB	Type of rental subsidy or reduction (based on respondent report)	More values now available	None
SPOUSE	Line number of spouse of person	Edited M/N values	None
FIRPARENT	Line number of parent number one	Edited M/N values	None
SECPARENT	Line number of parent number two	Edited M/N values	None
JOBCOST	Cost of home improvement job	There are 103 home improvement projects where JOBCOST was mistakenly shown as \$4 on v1.0; these records have been corrected to M. This correction decreased REMODAMT for 90 households.	Minimal
REMODAMT	Total cost of home improvement jobs in last two years	See JOBCOST	Minimal

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 1.1 and 1.2			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
HUDSUB	Subsidized renter status and eligibility	Added to PUF	None
MOVERGRP	Recent mover group	Added to PUF	None
MVG_ variables	Series of variables that begin with MVG	As MOVERGRP was developed, some of the MVG_ variables were adjusted.	Minimal
TOTHCAMT	Monthly total housing costs	Some components of this variable were mistakenly excluded. This correction increases TOTHCAMT for some records.	Minimal

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 1.2 and 1.3			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
RACEAS HHRACEAS	Race of person (Asian group) Race of householder (Asian group)	RACEAS has been corrected. Previously, an edit was mishandling the Vietnamese (RACEAS=6) category, leading to underreporting of that category. The correction impacted all other categories due to imputation parameters.	High (only for users of these variables)

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 1.3 and 1.4			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
DIVISION	Census division	Removed from PUF	None

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 1.4 and 2.0			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
Weight Variables	Final Weight (as well as Split Sample and Replicate Weights)	Minor adjustments were made to the weighting. This includes WEIGHT, SP1WEIGHT, SP2WEIGHT, and the related replicate weight variables.	High
AGE	Age of person	AGE has been corrected. Previously, some ages were 6 months older than they should be.	Minimal
MVGxSTAT (x indicates mover group number 1, 2, or 3)	Flag indicating former home was owned/rented by someone in current home	These variables were not properly set to not applicable (N) for selected mover groups, thus inflating the previous estimates.	Minimal

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 2.0 and 2.1			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
BATHROOMS	Number of bathrooms in unit	Previously some cases that reported having no bathroom were incorrectly categorized as 1 bathroom units. This correction caused a significant shift in those reporting no bathrooms, but not for other categories. Three other variables (ADEQUACY, BATHEXCLU, and NOTOIL) were adjusted as a result of this correction.	High (only for users of no bathrooms estimates)
ADEQUACY	Type of housing adequacy		
BATHEXCLU	Flag indicating the unit's bathroom facilities are for the exclusive use of the household		
NOTOIL	Flag indicating if unit had any toilet breakdowns in last 3 months		
ROACH	Number of times there were signs of live or dead cockroaches in last 12 months	RODENT and ROACH have been corrected for an imputation error. This only impacted units that had reported signs of a roach/rodent, but didn't	Minimal
RODENT	Number of times there was signs of rodents in last 12 months		

ADEQUACY	Type of housing adequacy	report how many times. The number of cases impacted is minimal.	
TOTHCAMT	Monthly total housing costs	TOTHCAMT has been adjusted. Previously some imputed housing costs were not included. This impacted 2.4% of cases eligible for TOTHCAMT.	Moderate
UNITSIZE	Unit size (square feet)	UNITSIZE was corrected for 227 (.2%) housing units where the variables had been incorrectly edited.	Minimal
MVG1TYPE, MVG2TYPE, MVG3TYPE	Type of structure of former home	These variables have been corrected, removing an assumption that movers moving from owner occupied housing units were single family. This impacted only records where the structure type was not reported.	Minimal
ELECAMT GASAMT OILAMT OTHERAMT TRASHAMT WATERAMT UTILAMT	Monthly electric amount Monthly gas amount Monthly oil amount Monthly amount for other fuels Monthly trash amount Monthly water amount Monthly total utility amount	Previously these utility variables were incorrectly classified as not applicable (and the other way around) for some vacant and URE units. This fix only impacts units that are not regularly occupied.	Moderate (High impact on vacant utility billing status, no impact on utility costs)
JFINROOMS	Number of other finished rooms in unit	JFINROOMS is now populated correctly; it previously had no values. Note that the large number of 1 values are due to edits that set room counts to 0 when a respondent answered "no" to a screener question.	Minimal

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 2.1 and 2.2 (CSV and CSV Flat only)			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
CSV	Not Reported and Not Applicable values	In order to maintain consistency with the 2013 AHS and earlier, the “-6” and “-9” values in the CSV files have been switched so that “-6” now represents “not applicable” and “-9” now represents “not reported.”	None

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 2.1/2.2 and 3.0			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
MARKETVAL	Current market value of unit	Added to PUF. These variables are on the household file.	None
MORTAMT	Monthly total mortgage amount (all mortgages)		
TOTBALAMT	Total remaining debt across all mortgages or similar debts for this unit		
PROTAXAMT	Monthly property tax amount		
INSURAMT	Monthly homeowner or renter insurance amount		
HOAAMT	Monthly homeowners or condominium association amount		
LOTAMT	Monthly lot rent amount		
MAINTAMT	Amount of annual routine maintenance costs		
HOWBUY	Description of how owner obtained unit		
DWNPAYPCT	Down payment percentage		
FIRSTHOME	Flag indicating if first-time home buyer		
LEADINSP	Flag indicating lead pipes inspected before purchase		

PMTAMT	Amount of mortgage payment	Added to PUF. These variables are on the mortgage file, which is being released for the first time.	None
INTRATE	Interest rate of mortgage		
MORTPURCH	Percentage of mortgage used for purchase of home		
MORTLINE	Line number of mortgage		
LOANTYPE	Type of loan		
MORTNEW	Mortgage new or assumed		
REFI	Flag indicating mortgage is a refinance of previous mortgage		
INTPMT	Flag indicating interest included in mortgage payment		
TAXPMT	Flag indicating property taxes included in mortgage payment		
MISCPMT	Flag indicating homeowners insurance or mortgage insurance (PMI) is included in the mortgage payment		
PERSONID	Person identifier (PERSONID is an 11-digit variable that serves as a unique identifier for each household member on the Person dataset. The variable is created by concatenating the CONTROL number with a 3-digit, zero-padded person integer, starting with '001' and incrementing by one for each additional person in the housing unit. The PERSONID value for each person will remain the same across survey years.)	Added to PUF	None
TOTHCAMT	Monthly total housing costs	Variable changed from categorical to numeric.	None
REMODAMT	Total cost of home improvement jobs in last two years	Owner-occupied units without home improvement jobs were accidentally coded as N instead of 0. These have now been corrected to 0.	Minimal

Changes Between 2015 AHS PUFs 3.0 and 3.1			
Item	Item Label	Change	Analysis Impact
VACANCY	Vacancy status	The JVACANCY edit flag was previously not populated for all cases where it should have been. The error was corrected and JVACANCY now has the correct edit information.	Minimal
DWNPAYPCT	Down payment percentage	Variable changed from numeric to character.	Minimal
WHYCD1...5	Unit cold due to utility interruption	These variables were not properly set to not applicable (N) for selected groups that reported "yes", "don't know", or "refused" when asked if their main heating equipment broke down AND reported "no", "don't know", or "not applicable" when asked if their unit was not cold for some other reason. Upon correcting this, some missing values became N.	Minimal