

HOUSING

ES 4.1 INADEQUATE HOUSING

Housing is a major consumption item that can affect the quality of life of inhabitants in many ways. Housing-related factors that can affect well-being include the quality of the neighborhood in which the dwelling is located, the level of crowding, and the physical condition of the unit.

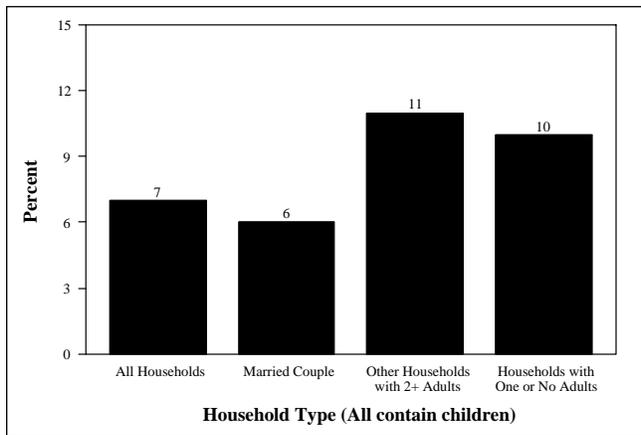
Table ES 4.1 presents recent trends in the physical quality of housing for children, reporting the percentage of families with children under age 18 living in housing units with moderate to severe physical problems as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.¹⁹ Data are presented for every other year from 1985 through 1993. Across the time period the percentage of children's households with moderate to severe physical problems ranges from 9 percent in 1985 to 7 percent in 1993.²⁰

Data are also presented separately for three types of households containing children: married couples, other types of households containing two or more adults (which could include, for example, cohabiting couples, adult siblings, mother and grandmother, or adult house mates), and households with one or no adults. The data are very consistent over time, indicating that married-couple families with children are the least likely to experience housing with physical problems as defined here, followed by households with one or no adults and, finally, households with two or more adults who are not married. In 1993, for example, the reported percentages living in housing with moderate to severe physical problems were 6 percent, 10 percent, and 11 percent for the three household types, respectively. (See Figure ES 4.1)

¹⁹Physical problems can include problems with plumbing, heating, electric, upkeep, and/or hallways.

²⁰It is not clear whether or not this downward trend is statistically significant. The level of fluctuation in this estimate from year to year would indicate that the contrast may be the result of random error.

Figure ES 4.1 INADEQUATE HOUSING: PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS CONTAINING CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN HOUSING WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: 1993



Note: Physical problems include problems with plumbing, heating, electric, upkeep, and/or hallways. For detailed definitions of “moderate” and “severe” physical problems, see *American Housing Survey for the United States, 1993*, page A-13.

Source: *Current Housing Reports: American Housing Survey for the United States for 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, and 1993*.

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	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993
All Households with Children under Age 18	9	8	9	9	7
Married couples	7	6	7	7	6
Other households with two or more adults	15	15	13	14	11
Households with one or no adults	12	13	13	13	10

Note: Physical problems include problems with plumbing, heating, electric, upkeep, and/or hallways. For detailed definitions of “moderate” and “severe” physical problems, see *American Housing Survey for the United States, 1993*, page A-13.

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