

APPENDIX B

AMERICAN HOUSING SURVEY DEFINITIONS

The 1999 American Housing Survey defines home adequacy in three ways.

A unit is *severely inadequate* if any of the following conditions exist:

1. The unit lacks complete plumbing facilities.
2. There were three or more heating equipment breakdowns lasting six hours or more in the past ninety days.
3. The unit has no electricity.
4. The electrical wiring is not concealed; working wall outlets are not present in every room; and fuses/breakers blew three or more times in the past ninety days.
5. Five or more of the following conditions exist:

outside water leaks

inside water leaks

holes in the floor

cracks wider than a dime in the walls

areas of peeling paint or plaster larger than eight and a half by eleven inches

rodents seen in the unit recently

6. All four of the following conditions exist:

no working light fixtures or no light fixtures at all in public hallways

loose, broken, or missing steps in common stairways

stair railings not firmly attached or no stair railings at all on stairs

three or more floors between the unit and the main entrance to the building but no elevator

A unit is *moderately inadequate* if it is not severely inadequate and if any of the following conditions exist:

1. The unit lacks complete kitchen facilities.
2. There were three or more toilet breakdowns lasting six hours or more in the past ninety days.
3. An unvented room heater is the main heating equipment.
4. Three or four of the following conditions exist:

outside water leaks

inside water leaks

holes in the floor

cracks wider than a dime in the walls

areas of peeling paint or plaster larger than eight and a half by eleven inches

rodents seen in the unit recently

5. Three of the following conditions exist:

no working light fixtures or no light fixtures at all in public hallways

loose, broken, or missing steps in common stairways

stair railings not firmly attached or no stair railings on stairs at all

three or more floors between the unit and the main entrance to the building but no elevator

A unit is *adequate* if it is neither severely nor moderately inadequate.

