

What's in a Home: Evaluating the State of Housing Conditions

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The Severity of Poor Housing Conditions

Our Mission To analyze key issues related to housing quality, including elevated temperatures and utility cost burdens, and propose solutions to mitigate the impacts of poor housing conditions while promoting financial stability.

Rent Versus Own Among the respondents, approximately 26% own their home, while 74% rent. Renters reported having worsened housing conditions.

Housing Quality Elevated temperature levels within homes are a significant concern for the Tucson area, making it difficult for residents to live comfortably.

Utility Cost Burden Assess a household's energy cost burdens by income percentage and compare a household's utility spending to Tucson's 2% average.

Resident-Home Perceptions

What Would Residents Change About Their Homes?

46% Found their home uncomfortably hot to live in during the summer months.

"Everything. My landlord's a slumlord, and I have no kitchen floor. My ceilings caving in, the bathtub's been running for months..."

"A lot of just structural stuff...My landlord and I have a very different idea about...what kind of living conditions are acceptable."

Service Deficit for Hot Homes

61% of our survey respondents indicate that they find it challenging to access government or state-sponsored services in their neighborhood.

Nearly half of respondents feel their homes are "too hot" to live in, with most finding it challenging to access services, highlighting a service gap.

How do respondents cope?

- "Filled in the gaps in the doors and windows...to keep it dark inside."
- "We would just stick it out like there's nothing else you can really do."

Whether Accessing Services is Challenging	No	Yes
Challenging	23.7%	12.5%
Not Challenging	29.8%	34.0%

Utilities Cost Concerns

Residents facing uncomfortably hot living conditions bear a high utility cost burden and are spending more than the average estimate of 2.5% of their income on utility costs.

Believe their overall cost of living will increase within the next few years.

Demographics

Poverty & Populations

- Of Tucson residents, 45% are Hispanic and 11% are veterans.
- Hispanics have a poverty rate of 18%; veterans have a rate of 8%.

Living With Heat Issues Based on Race

Hispanics/Latinos Living With Home Heat Issues

Veterans Living With Home Heat Issues

Future Considerations

Respondents' suggestions for improving services and programs: Many emphasized the need to expand eligibility criteria and enhance accessibility to better serve the community. Suggestions included increasing assistance with utility and housing costs.

To address service gaps for residents in uncomfortably hot homes: Strengthen outreach and accessibility of services while expanding eligibility criteria to better support affected residents struggling with utility costs.

To achieve these initiatives: Improve utility assistance programs and promote energy efficiency practices to help residents manage high utility costs. Prioritize programs and policies that advocate for improve housing insulation and cooling systems.