

# Nunavut Housing Needs Survey

## Background

**Issue:** Release of the results of the *Nunavut Housing Needs Survey (NHNS)*.

### Survey Highlights:

- 35 % of Nunavut homes are overcrowded;
- 23% of Nunavut homes are in need of major repairs;
- Approximately 4% of the population (1,220 individuals) is “homeless”.

### Background:

In 2009, the Nunavut Housing Corporation commissioned the first ever Nunavut wide Housing Needs Survey to provide accurate and current data on the housing needs of Nunavummiut. The survey included all residential dwellings, such as public housing, staff housing, other rental housing and privately owned housing. Close to 100 local interviewers were hired to collect data in every community in Nunavut.

The initial report on the survey results provides an analysis of the survey to present:

1. A picture of the current housing stock using standard housing indicators;
2. An examination of the need for additional housing; and
3. A look at people in need of housing.

This report is an initial summary of survey findings that will be enriched with more detailed analysis as additional data tables become available.

### Survey Objectives:

The objectives of the Housing Needs Survey were to:

- Collect detailed, accurate and up to date data on the housing needs of Nunavummiut;
- Quantify and identify the factors related to the housing shortage in Nunavut;
- Provide communities with information on their housing conditions;
- Provide the ability to compare the living situations of Nunavummiut to Canadian housing standards; and
- Assist the Government of Nunavut in planning and providing for the housing needs of Nunavummiut.

### Survey Overview:

The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey obtained an overall response rate of 79%.

Response rates were lower in larger communities such as Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. If results from these three regional centres are excluded, the response rate rises to 87%.

The sample design consisted of a sample survey of residential dwellings in Iqaluit and a census of dwellings in the 24 other communities.

There are 9,400 dwellings in the 25 communities in Nunavut, of which 8,550 dwellings were occupied by usual residents. The remaining 850 dwellings were unoccupied or occupied temporarily by persons who considered their usual home elsewhere.

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Of the dwellings by usual residents:

- 4,400 or 51% are public housing units
- 1,880 or 22% are privately-owned dwellings
- 1,350 or 16% are government staff housing
- 930 or 11% were other types of rental housing, of these:
  - 350 were non-government staff-housing
  - 340 were private market rentals
  - 240 were “other type of rental” or unstated housing tenure

The survey found that almost half of occupied dwellings were below housing standards, meaning they were either crowded or in need of major repair or a combination of both.

- 63% of Public Housing units were found to be below housing standards;
- 47% of homeowner units were reported to be below housing standards;
- 22% of Government staff housing and 26% of other dwellings were deemed to be below housing standards.

Of the dwellings found to be below housing standards:

- 1,270 or 32% had residents who did not want to move out;
- In 1,480 or 37% of dwellings, the entire household would move out;
- In 990 or 25% of dwellings, some household members would move out and others would stay; and
- In 290 or 6% of dwellings, the information was not stated.

About 1,220 Nunavummiut reported not having a usual home at the time of the survey and were living temporarily in another person’s dwelling.

The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey’s report is available for download on the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s website at [www.nunavuthousing.ca](http://www.nunavuthousing.ca)

For more information on the findings of the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey, contact:

Alain Barriault, President  
Nunavut Housing Corporation  
867.975.7200 - [abarriault@gov.nu.ca](mailto:abarriault@gov.nu.ca)

For information regarding the methodology of the Nunavut Housing Needs Survey contact:

Stéphanie Langlois  
Survey Manager, Nunavut Bureau of Statistics  
Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs  
867.473.2653 – [slanglois@gov.nu.ca](mailto:slanglois@gov.nu.ca)