What are the specific housing needs of different household types (e.g. households with seniors, households with children, and single-person households)?

This guidance identifies key data points that can be displayed (“visualized”) and woven into a narrative that presents basic facts that can shed light on the extent of the rental affordability problem facing seniors in your jurisdiction. Similar analyses can be done for other subpopulations that are facing particular housing needs, such as households with children, households with disabled members, households with students, etc.

Key data points

To analyze the rental affordability problem facing seniors in your jurisdiction, we identify the following key data points that are relatively easy to gather from generally available data sources.

- How large is the senior population and how fast is it growing (or projected to grow)?
- How much of the housing stock is appropriately sized and accessible for seniors living alone?
- What is the poverty rate among the senior population?
- To what extent are senior households rent burdened?

Weave together the relevant data points

The data points can be woven together into a single narrative to show the extent of the rental affordability problem facing seniors in your locality. The narrative can be illustrated by converting/translation the data points in figures, tables, maps, or other visualizations that show how housing needs have changed over time or how they compare to other jurisdictions (e.g., the nation as a whole, the rest of the region, or other near-by jurisdictions) or even how needs vary across neighborhoods within your jurisdiction.

Prototypical presentation: a New York City example

The following example shows how data points can be displayed and woven together to show the extent of the rental affordability problems facing seniors in New York City.

You can learn how to replicate these same visualizations using data for your locality by clicking on the relevant visualization or by using the navigation column on the left to
Seniors in New York City Face Unique Housing Challenges

In 2016, there were over 700,000 senior-headed households – 22.6 percent of all households – in New York City. This represented an increase of about 103,000 households between 2006 and 2016 while the number of non-senior-headed households remained relatively flat.

### Number of Households by Age of Householder, New York City

![Graph showing number of households by age of householder, New York City]

Source: American Community Survey (accessed via American Fact Finder)

**FOOTNOTE:** To further demonstrate the size of the challenge of housing the growing share of senior households, locally available population forecasts could replace the data showing the recent rate of growth.

Senior Housing Challenges

Between 2006 and 2016, the number of studio or one-bedroom housing units grew by only 56,000, indicating a potential shortfall of units that are most likely needed in light of the increase in senior-headed households. While the 2016 total of 1.3 million of studios and one-bedrooms well exceeded the number of senior-headed households, the increased demand by seniors could further aggravate the housing affordability challenges faced by seniors.

### Number of Studio and One-Bedroom Housing Units, New York City

![Graph showing number of studio and one-bedroom housing units, New York City]

Source: American Community Survey (accessed via American Fact Finder)
Poor households face special challenges finding affordable housing. Some 18.4 percent of seniors live in poor households, similar to the 18.9 percent rate for the population as a whole.

**Poverty Rate by Age, New York City**

The share of senior households paying more than 30 percent of their income rose to more than 60 percent in 2016, a rate that continues to exceed that for households as a whole.

**Rent Burdened Households by Age, New York City**
Source: American Community Survey (accessed via American Fact Finder)