What data is readily available that can help shed light on the quality and composition of your housing stock?

Here we are looking to gain an understanding of characteristics of your housing stock that can be helpful in designing and targeting resources available for carrying out your local housing strategy. This guidance shows how to display (“visualize”) and weave together such basic information on the quality and condition of your existing housing stock as the age of the housing, variations in the level of code violations across neighborhoods, the mix of unit size compared to household composition, and flood-danger risk.

Key data points
To analyze these basic characteristics of your housing stock, we identify the following key data points that are relatively easy to gather from generally available data sources.

- How old is the housing stock?
- What is the condition of the housing stock and how does it vary across neighborhoods?
- How at-risk of flooding is the housing stock?
- How well does the distribution of unit sizes match the distribution of household size?

Weave together the relevant data points
The key data points can be illustrated (“visualized) and woven together into a single narrative to demonstrate some basic facts for designing and targeting resources in your local housing strategy. Additional information that might be helpful regarding the quality and condition of your local housing stock might include trends over time or comparisons of your housing stock characteristics to those of 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 some key characteristics of the housing stock 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 go the Visualization landing page where you will find a directory for all of the visualizations.
Issues of Housing Quality and Condition Add to New York City’s Affordability Challenges

How old is the housing stock?

Much of New York City’s housing stock is quite old with over two-thirds built before 1960 and only about 10 percent of the housing stock built since 2000, suggesting that much of it requires or has required capital improvements to remain viable and to meet current resiliency standards.

Age Distribution of the Housing Stock in 2016, New York City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-1940</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1959</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1979</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1999</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2009</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010+</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Housing code violations by community district

Neighborhoods with the highest levels of housing code violations are concentrated in the Bronx, southern Brooklyn, and northern Manhattan. Programs such as code enforcement and direct government assistance may be necessary to ensure these units meet minimum quality standards.

Housing Code Violations by Community District, 2017
How many units are in the 100- and 500-year floodplains?

Also requiring attention the effects of climate change with some 100,000 housing units (2.9% of the housing stock) now in the 100-year floodplain and additional 114,000 units in the 500-year floodplain—amounting altogether to an important 6.2 percent of the housing stock.

Housing Units in the 100- and 500-Year Floodplain in 2016, New York City
The number and share of housing units that are studios and one-bedroom compared to the number and share of households that are one- or two-person households

Meanwhile in 2016, the number of studio or one-bedroom housing units (1.33 million or 38% of all housing units) appears to fall well short of the number of one- and two-person households (1.9 million or 61% of all households), possibly aggravating the affordability challenge in New York City for those who might be willing and able to live in smaller units.

Number of Small Units and Households in 2016, New York City

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