

## Demographic Facts Residents Living in Public Housing

Across the nation there are 8.7 million residents living in public housing. Over 2.2 million residents live in traditional public housing, and another 6.5 million residents use the Housing Choice Voucher program (formally known as Section 8 Housing).

### Resident Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

#### Families with Children

- There are 3.3 million children under the age of 18 living in public housing, which is approximately 38% of the total population of residents.
- 37% of public housing and 48% of Housing Choice Voucher households are headed by single female with children.

#### Seniors

- 31% of residents in public housing and 18% Housing Choice Voucher households include are seniors residents (age 62 and above).

#### People with Disabilities

- 30% of public housing and 32% of Housing Choice Voucher households include a family member under the age of 62 who is disabled.

#### Income

- Social Security payments are the primary source of income for approximately 55% of seniors in public housing and 53% of seniors living with Housing Choice Vouchers.
- The primary source of income is salary and wages for 30% of public housing residents.
- Despite the efforts of this working population, 89% of Public Housing residents and 96% Housing Choice Voucher residents fall into HUD's "Very Low Income" category, with an income of less than 50% of the national median.

### Health Status of Residents<sup>2</sup>

Although there is little national data on the health status of residents living in public housing, the information below about the health of residents in Boston demonstrates the disparities in health status between residents of public housing and the general public.

#### Healthy Weight Management

- Poor nutrition and the unavailability of healthy food options in some public housing communities may be a contributing factor to resident's poor health. 31% of residents are considered to be obese, compared to 16% of the general population.

#### Oral Health Care

- 23% of residents are missing six or more permanent teeth compared to 12% of the general population due to the lack of oral health care.

### **Chronic Disease Prevalence**

- Smoking can have significant health care effects for many, especially those with chronic health conditions. 28% of residents smoke compared to 17% of the general population.
- The percent of residents with diabetes is 12%, compared to 5% of the general population.
- 32% of residents have hypertension, compared to 19% of the general population.

### **Population Distribution**<sup>3</sup>

The following chart denotes the number of units and residents in the nation's public housing and housing choice vouchers programs.

Housing Authority Name		Public Housing		Housing Choice Voucher		Total	
		Units	Residents	Units	Residents	Units	Residents
1	New York City Housing Authority	172,423	398,689	91,581	233,060	264,004	631,749
2	Chicago Housing Authority	21,442	19,655*	48,108	93,089	69,550	112,744*
3	Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration	53,208	131,216	*	*	53,208	131,216
4	City of Los Angeles Housing Authority	6,298	20,356	41,506	94,086	47,804	114,442
5	New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal	*	*	38,322	96,894	38,322	96,894
6	Philadelphia Housing Authority	14,485	30,245	18,314	34,358	32,799	64,603
7	New York City Department of Housing Preservation	*	*	27,325	54,842	27,325	54,842
8	Housing Authority of Baltimore City	11,781	10,230*	16,196	16,352*	27,977	26,582*
9	Miami-Dade Housing Agency	9,087	16,051	14,585	25,447	23,672	41,498
10	Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority	10,130	16,950	14,056	36,759	24,186	53,709
11	Michigan State Housing Development Authority	*	*	24,497	58,023	24,497	58,023
12	Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles	2,964	6,162	20,843	52,002	23,807	58,164
13	Boston Housing Authority	11,101	20,075	12,240	26,859	23,341	46,934
14	Atlanta Housing Authority	5,909	8,145	17,066	22,494	22,975	30,639
15	Housing Authority of the City of Dallas	3,409	6,844	17,570	41,534	20,979	48,378
16	D.C. Housing Authority	8,067	1,733*	12,555	10,166*	20,622	11,899*
17	State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	*	*	19,748	46,596	19,748	46,596
18	Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development	*	*	18,929	47,190	18,929	47,190
19	Houston Housing Authority	3,517	7,651	14,688	38,978	18,205	46,629
20	San Antonio Housing Authority	6,364	14,083	11,692	27,291	18,056	41,374

\* Insufficient data collection responses

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Public Housing Agency Profiles available at: <http://www.huduser.org/DATASETS/pdrdatas.html>

<sup>2</sup> Health Surveillance Systems Help Assess Health Status of Boston Public Housing Residents; Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/prc/research-highlight/health-surveillance-systems.htm#refs>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Public Housing Agency Profiles available at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/systems/pic/haprofiles/index.cfm>