Characteristics of Housing in Maine

**Average Household Size**

Average household size has leveled off in recent years after declining through the latter decades of the 20th century.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 SF (1) Table H12; 2010 SF (1) Table H12; 2017 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table 25010

**Population by Age**

The aging of baby boomers will continue to raise Maine's overall median age. By 2032, all age cohorts under 60 will be less than 6% of the total population.

Source: Maine Office of Policy and Management, Demographic Projections

**Single Head of Family**

As a percent of all households, those with a single parent or head of household, rose from 2000 to 2010. Since that time however they have continued to decline.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 SF (1) Table HO17; 2010 SF (1) Table H18; 2017 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B25011

**Owner Households with & without Mortgages and Renters with & without Assistance**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table 25081

**Heating Fuel 2013 - 2017**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B25040

Older people often live in houses that are not easily accessible, are not energy efficient, and are expensive or labor intensive to maintain. The aging of Maine's population will shape our housing needs in the future.
Lack of access to internet limits social interaction and access to many important resources such as job listings, health and financial information, and opportunities to work from home.

From 2000 to 2017 all age groups gained in their share of rental housing with the exception being those 65 years of age and older. Both ownership and rental vacancy rates have continued since 2005 although changes in rental vacancy rates have leveled out.

Construction processes of homes built prior to 1980 included the widespread use of lead paint and inefficient heating systems. These homes in Maine comprise 56% of all homes rented and owned.