

Vermont Mobile Home Parks: Information for Emergency Planners

RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

Average residency in park:
11 years

Median household size:
2.36 persons

26% of households have at least one child under 18
Compared to:
30% statewide in Vermont ²

37% of households had at least one person over 65
Compared to:
24% statewide in Vermont ²

41% of households reported a person with a health condition or disability that would be a concern in an emergency situation

EMPLOYMENT

64% of households had at least one person employed

32% of households had at least one retired senior

INCOME

Median income reported by mobile home park residents: \$30,000

State Median Income?:
\$51,841

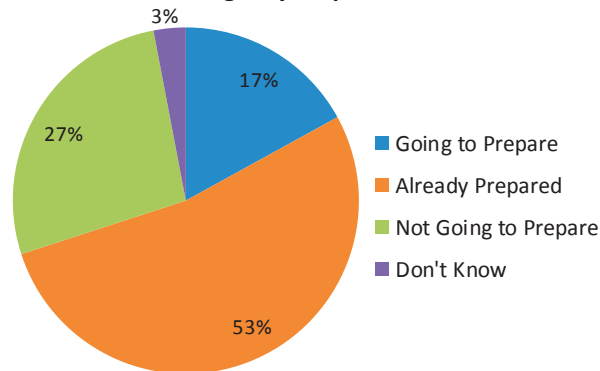
VERMONT MOBILE HOME PARK OVERVIEW

Mobile home parks provide an important affordable housing option to many Vermonters. In 2010, there were 22,317 mobile homes in Vermont—7% of the total housing stock². Nearly one-third of Vermont's mobile homes are sited in 248 parks¹ where mobile home owners pay a monthly lease fee for the lot. The statewide average lot rent is \$302 per month¹.

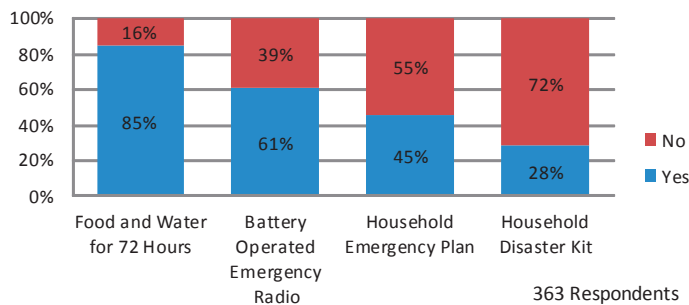
2011 PARK RESIDENT DISASTER RESILIENCE SURVEY

During the fall of 2011, UVM and the CVOEO Mobile Home Program conducted a statewide survey of park residents. We asked 363 households from 127 parks about their levels of disaster awareness and preparedness as well as demographic questions (see sidebar). There are a number of reasons why parks can be especially vulnerable to hazards: 1) physical location—many parks are sited in flood hazard areas; 2) structural characteristics of the mobile home unit; and 3) social and economic vulnerability of park residents.

Park Resident Emergency Preparedness Status



Emergency Preparedness: Does your household have the following items?



MOBILE HOME CHARACTERISTICS

- 92% had a working smoke alarm
- 72% had a working carbon monoxide detector
- 59% of those with fuel tanks reported that the tanks were secured.
- Less than one-third (30%) reported knowing that their home was secured to its lot.

Anchors and tie downs are two methods used to secure mobile homes to the ground. Their main function is to prevent flotation, collapse, or movement in high winds or flood conditions.

ABOUT US: The University of Vermont Department of Community Development and Applied Economics and the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Mobile Home Program formed a research collaborative to increase knowledge of disaster vulnerabilities of Vermont's mobile home parks and to engage park residents in emergency management planning. This three-year research project is funded by the USDA's Disaster Resilience for Rural Communities Program. To learn more about this work, visit www.uvm.edu/~cdaemhp

How to Cite this Fact Sheet: Baker, Hamshaw, & Woodward. (2012). Vermont Mobile Home Parks: Information for Emergency Planners [Fact Sheet]. University of Vermont: Burlington, VT.

¹ Vermont Department of Economic, Housing, and Community Development. (2012). Summary of 2011 Park Registration Data. Available at: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/housing/mobile_home_parks/facts

²US Census Bureau (2010). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for Vermont. Tables DP02, DP03, & HP03.