

## Goals

Examine links between housing markets and young adult living arrangements in metro areas.

## Living arrangements

- Living alone
- Parents
- Married
- Roommates
- Cohabiting
- Subfamily  
(married couple in someone else's household)

## Data

American Community Survey 2012

Young adults, 23 – 34 year olds

N = 583,759

366 metropolitan areas

## Housing markets

Housing cost – sum of mortgage, taxes, utilities, insurance

Availability – number of housing units per 100 adults

Housing type – single family or multi-dwelling (apartments)

Size – median number of rooms

Unemployment rate (all ages)

## Analysis

OLS, regressing the logged percent of young adults in each living arrangement on MSA housing market conditions

Controls: unemployment rate, racial and age composition, college enrollment, net migration flow

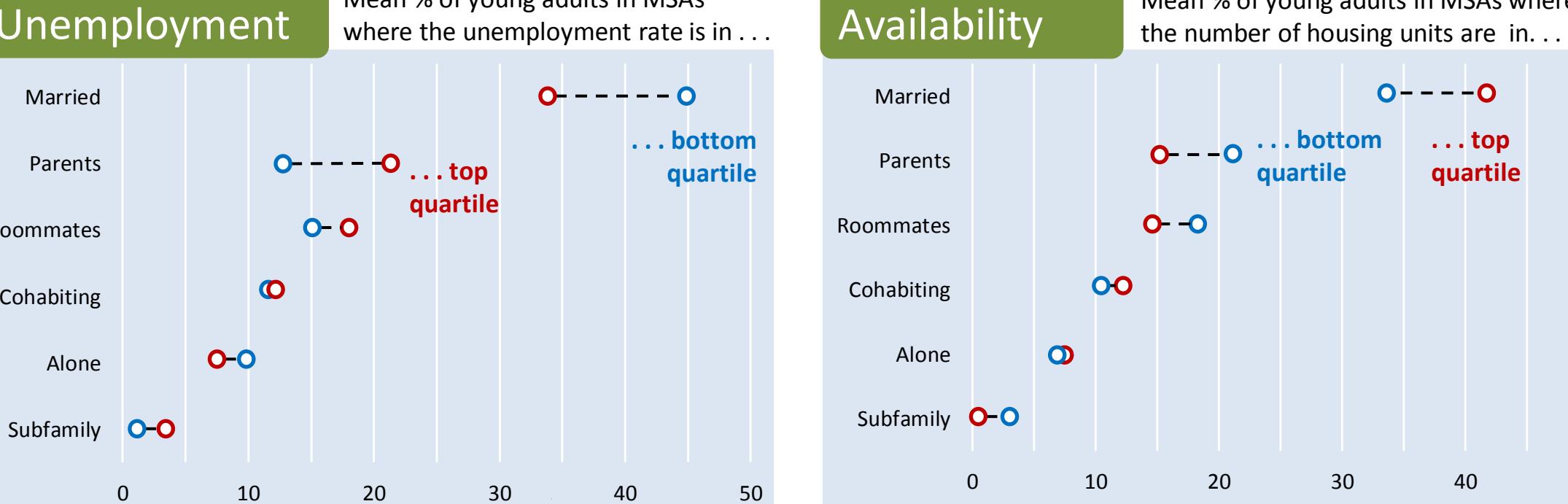
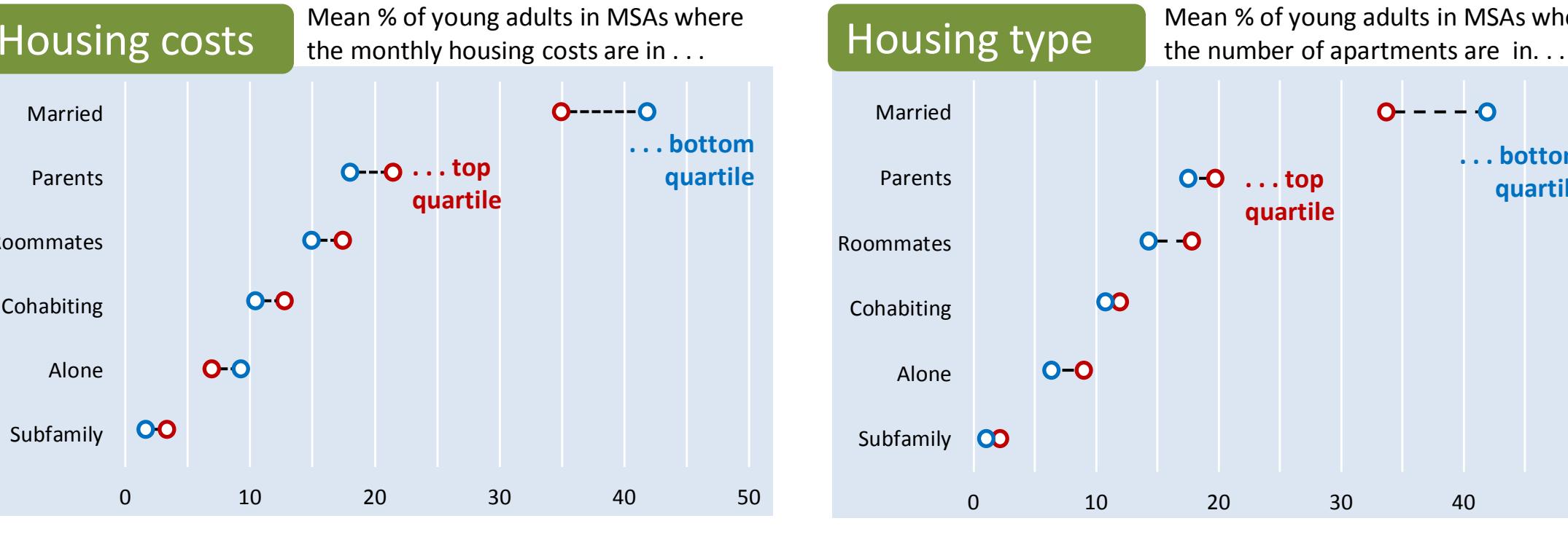
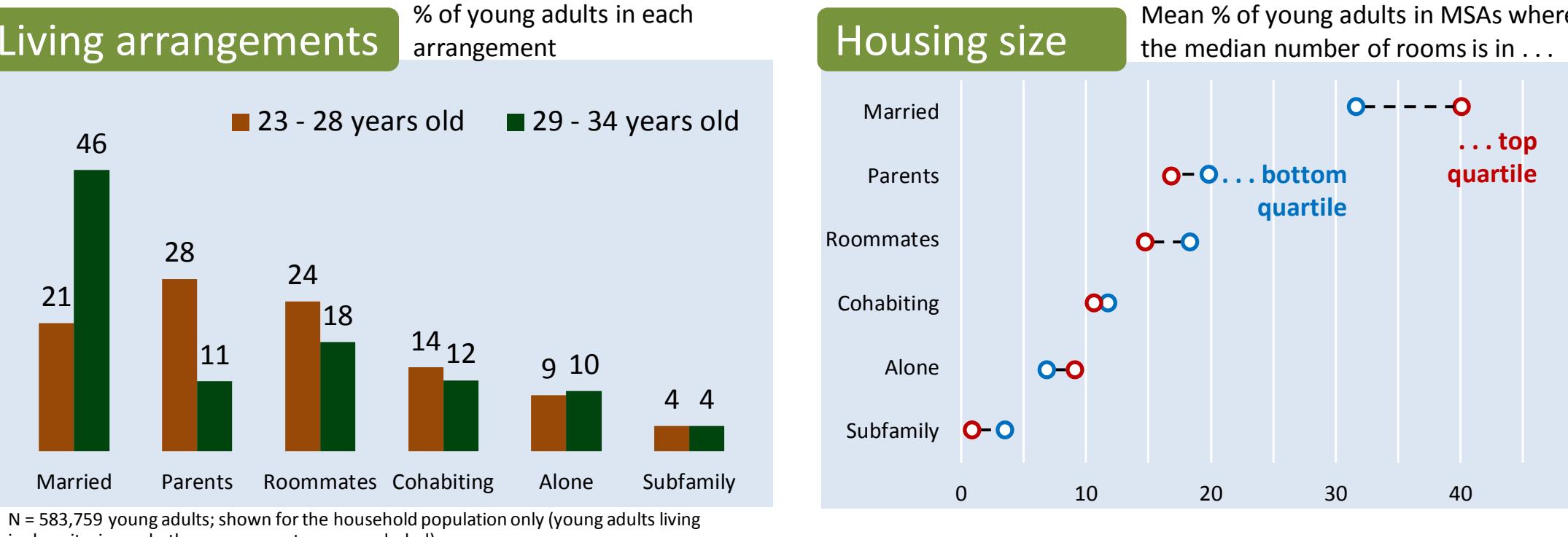
# The white picket fence

## Housing markets and the living arrangements of Millennials

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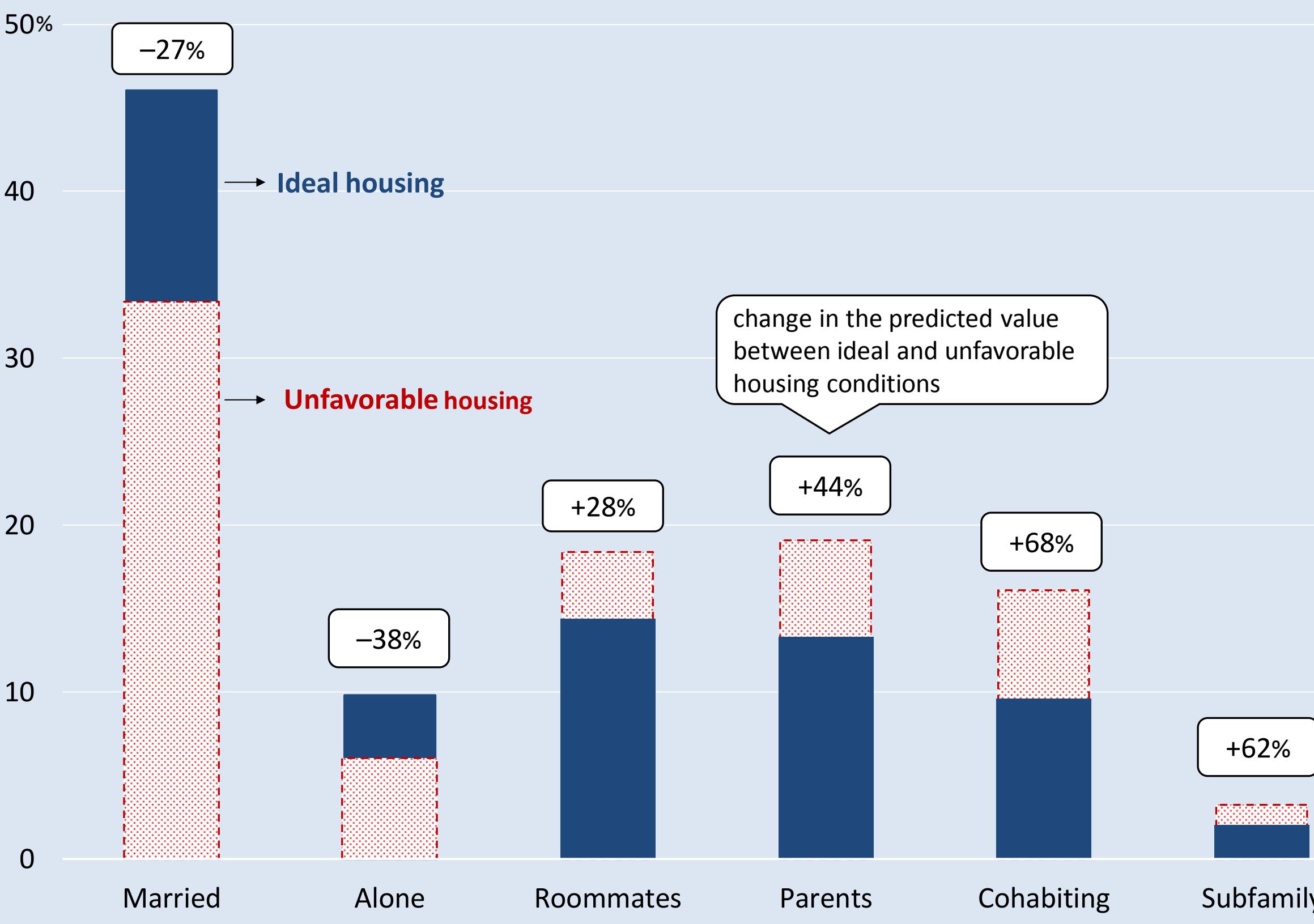
Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division  
US Census Bureau  
Department of Commerce

### Metropolitan housing markets and living arrangements



### Ideal housing conditions favor living alone or with a spouse

#### Predicted values of the percent of young adults in each living arrangement



#### Regression

To account for variation in young adult living arrangements, we controlled at the MSA-level:

- Unemployment rate
- Racial and age composition
- College enrollment
- Net migration flow and prior year's residency
- Size of college educated population
- Size of the population living in a city center
- Size of the foreign-born population

#### Findings

- Marriage and living alone are more prevalent under "ideal" housing conditions, where housing is low cost, abundant, and dominated by single family houses.
- Expensive housing is linked with living with a roommate, parent, cohabiting partner, or in a subfamily.
- Economic and housing constraints in local markets may delay living alone or with a spouse among young adults.

#### Definitions

- Ideal housing – low cost, high availability, abundant detached houses, more rooms, low unemployment.
- Unfavorable housing – high cost, low availability, more multi-dwelling housing, fewer rooms, high unemployment.

This poster is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. Any views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.