

6 Housing Characteristics: 2010 (*Issued October 2011*)

7 INTRODUCTION

20 This report, part of a series that analyzes data from the 2010 Census,
31 highlights housing in 2010 and changes in housing characteristics between 2000
44 and 2010 in the nation, regions, states, metropolitan areas, counties, and ten most
46 populous cities.

57 Focusing on housing characteristics is a basic way to understand housing
69 markets and changes in housing throughout the nation. Since Census 2000, the
81 housing industry has been impacted by various events and conditions that have
93 resulted in noticeable shifts in housing characteristics within many parts of the
107 nation. As a result, housing markets in areas across the nation shifted to reflect
117 these changing conditions in the latter half of the decade.

128 A review of these events and circumstances, in combination with the
138 housing characteristics data within this report, helps provide a greater
141 understanding of housing in 2010 and the changes the nation has experienced in
144 the past decade.

155 Housing tenure identifies a basic feature of the housing inventory: whether
169 a unit is owner occupied or renter occupied. Data on housing tenure have been
183 collected in the census since 1890, when less than half of householders in the
188 United States owned their homes.