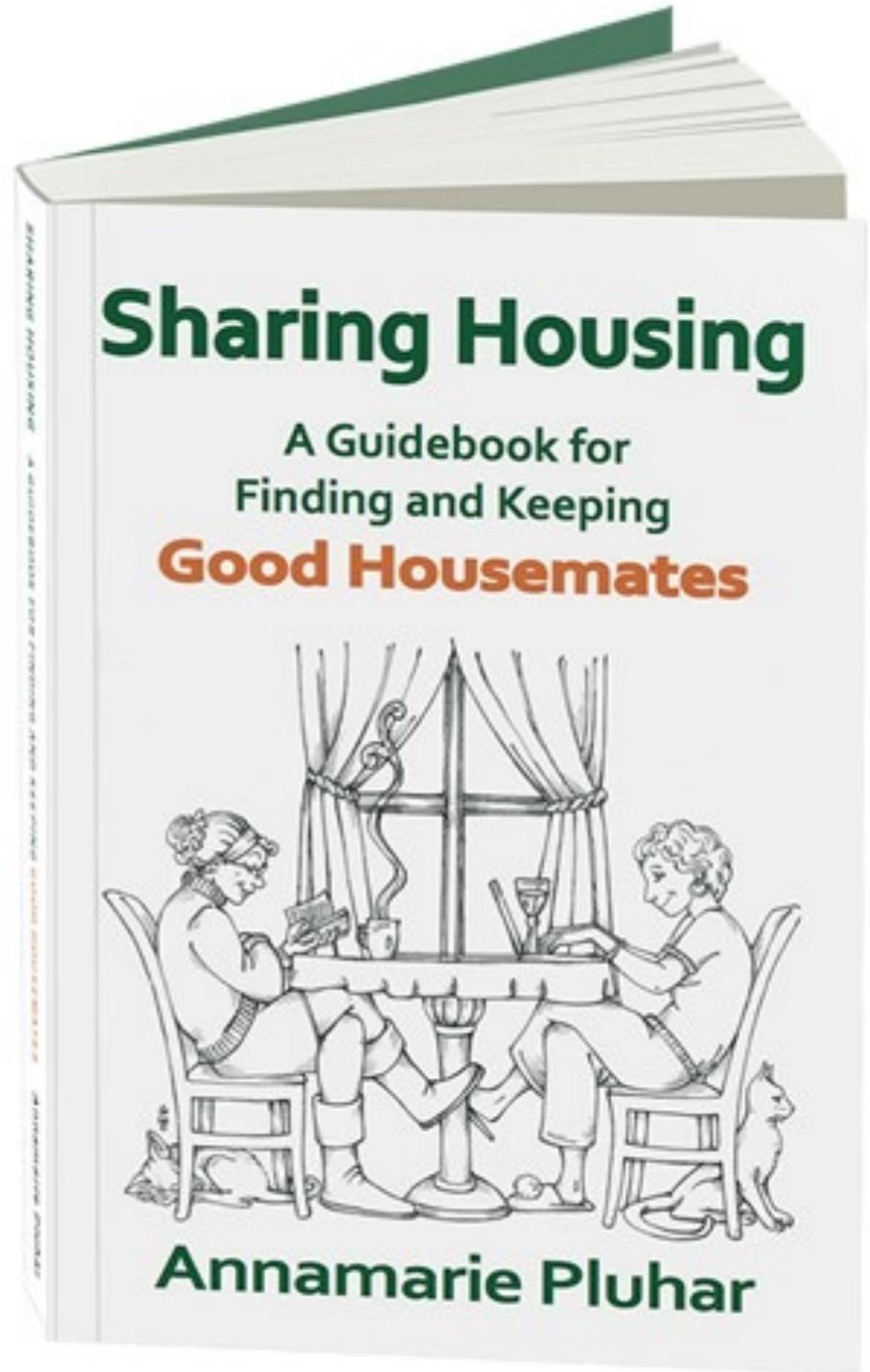


Testimony—Omnibus Housing Bill Senate Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs

February 2, 2023



Annamarie Pluhar, MDiv





SharingHousing.com

Advocacy

- Newsletter
- Blog
- Presentations

Education

- Workshops
- Online courses
- Books
- Q&A sessions

SharingHousing.org





Vision

Shared housing is a universally accepted living arrangement—individuals feel happy, safe and at peace with home-mates, and organizations encourage shared housing for their constituents.



Home-mate

A person you like and respect whose way of living is compatible ENOUGH that you are comfortable living together



Today's Housing Crisis

The Problem

- **Shortage of affordable housing**
- **Single adults living alone in houses with 2+ bedrooms**
 - **33,924 seniors / 81,715 people living alone.**

The Solution

- **Create systems to encourage home share**





Mission

We work with organizations, housing professionals, the aging network, individuals, and local officials who are seeking to develop shared housing in communities. The twin crises of high housing costs and an increase in social isolation combine to make cooperative living arrangements an excellent solution. With education, advocacy, and model development we help individuals to choose, create and sustain shared housing.



Our new pilot program

SHIFT 

Shared Housing Incentives
for Taking Action





Want to reduce housing costs?

Would an extra \$600–\$800/month in rental income make a difference in your life?

Ever considered having a housemate?

SHIFT → will show you how ↪



SHIFT

Shared Housing Incentives *for Taking Action*

Incentives up to \$500 are available for Windham and Windsor County homeowners.

LEARN

- View online classes
- Receive consultation on how to adapt your home* to make it more comfortable for sharing

ACT

- Adapt your home*
- Find a housemate
- Sign an agreement

ENJOY

- Get reimbursed up to \$500 for costs related to adapting your home*
- Receive ongoing support

** Some examples of ways you might adapt your home: move a wall, build a door, hire an organizer to clear out space, buy a larger fridge, etc.*

LIFE IS BETTER WITH A HOUSEMATE • Monthly income • Companionship • Mutual assistance



For more information go to

sharinghousing.com/shift

or call 802-387-0487

*** If you work with us, having a housemate will not affect your Vermont Homestead tax credit.*



Sharing
Housing,
Inc.

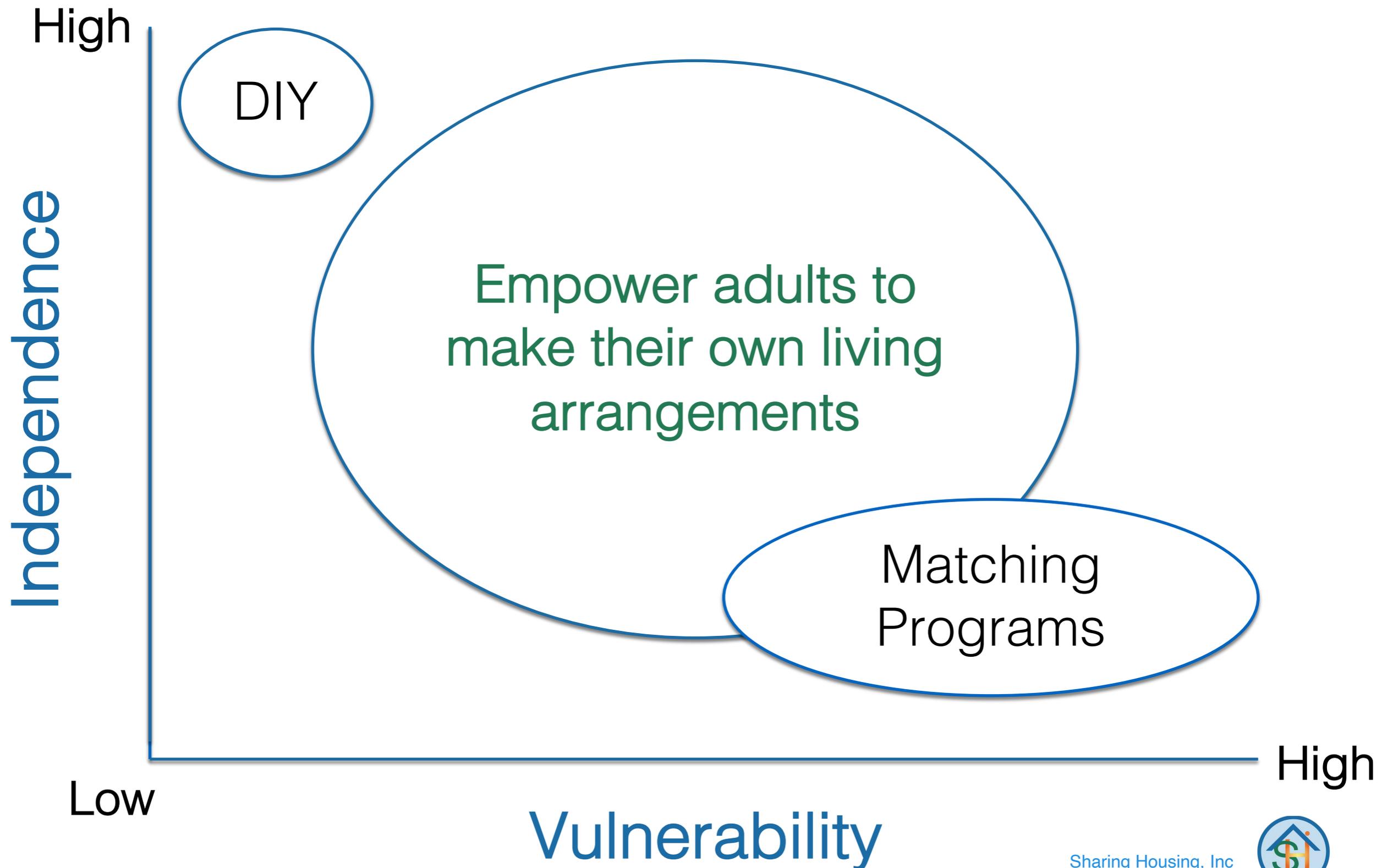
FUNDED BY:



Sharing Housing, Inc



How We Fit



Creating acceptance of home share

Change the paradigm

- From “less than” to “win/win”

Where’s the leverage point?

- A small change for big results



What you can do

Support home share by making income from sharing housing tax-free.

Consider providing funding to help us:

- Expand SHIFT
- Build our capacity



“I think it is an almost universal human need to have someone who wonders where you are when you don’t come home at night.”

Margaret Mead



Questions?



THE ICEBERG MODEL

Use this tool to help you think more systemically!



EVENTS

What is happening?

PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR

What trends are there over time?

SYSTEMS STRUCTURE

How are the parts related?
What influences the patterns?

MENTAL MODELS

What values, assumptions, + beliefs shape the system?

Increasing Leverage

Events

What is happening?

Pattern of Behavior

What trends are there over time?

Systems Structure

How are the parts related?
What influences the patterns?

Mental Models

What beliefs, assumptions and beliefs shape the system?



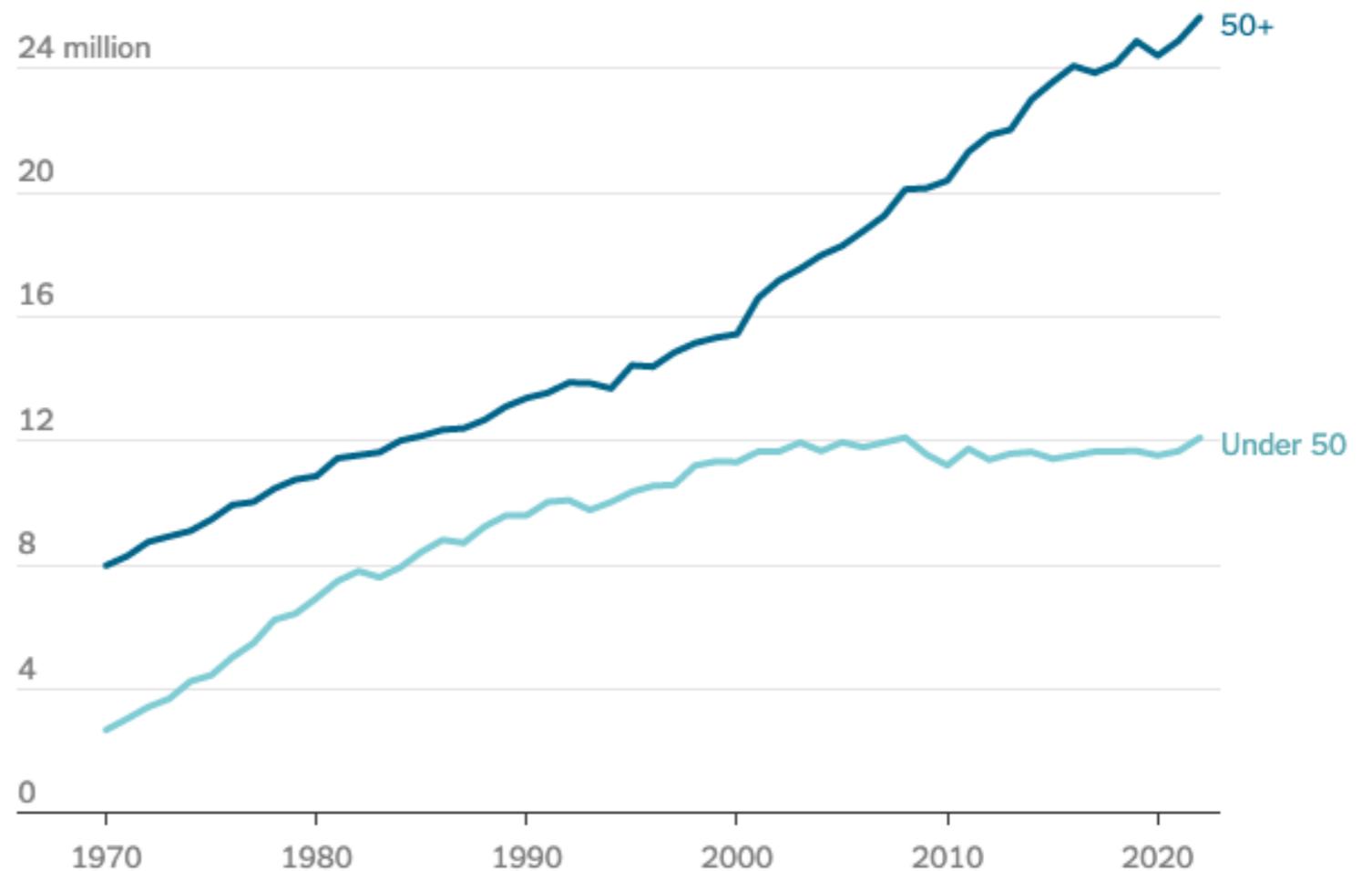
“As Gen X and Boomers Age, They Confront Living Alone

More older Americans are living by themselves than ever before. That shift presents issues on housing, health care and personal finance.”

Pattern

More Older Adults Are Living Alone

Number of adults living alone in the United States, by age group



Source: Current Population Survey, via IPUMS • By Christine Zhang



System Structures

- Social acceptance of single adults
- Paucity of systems to support and encourage living with others
- Profit motives of corporations encouraging single living



Mental Models

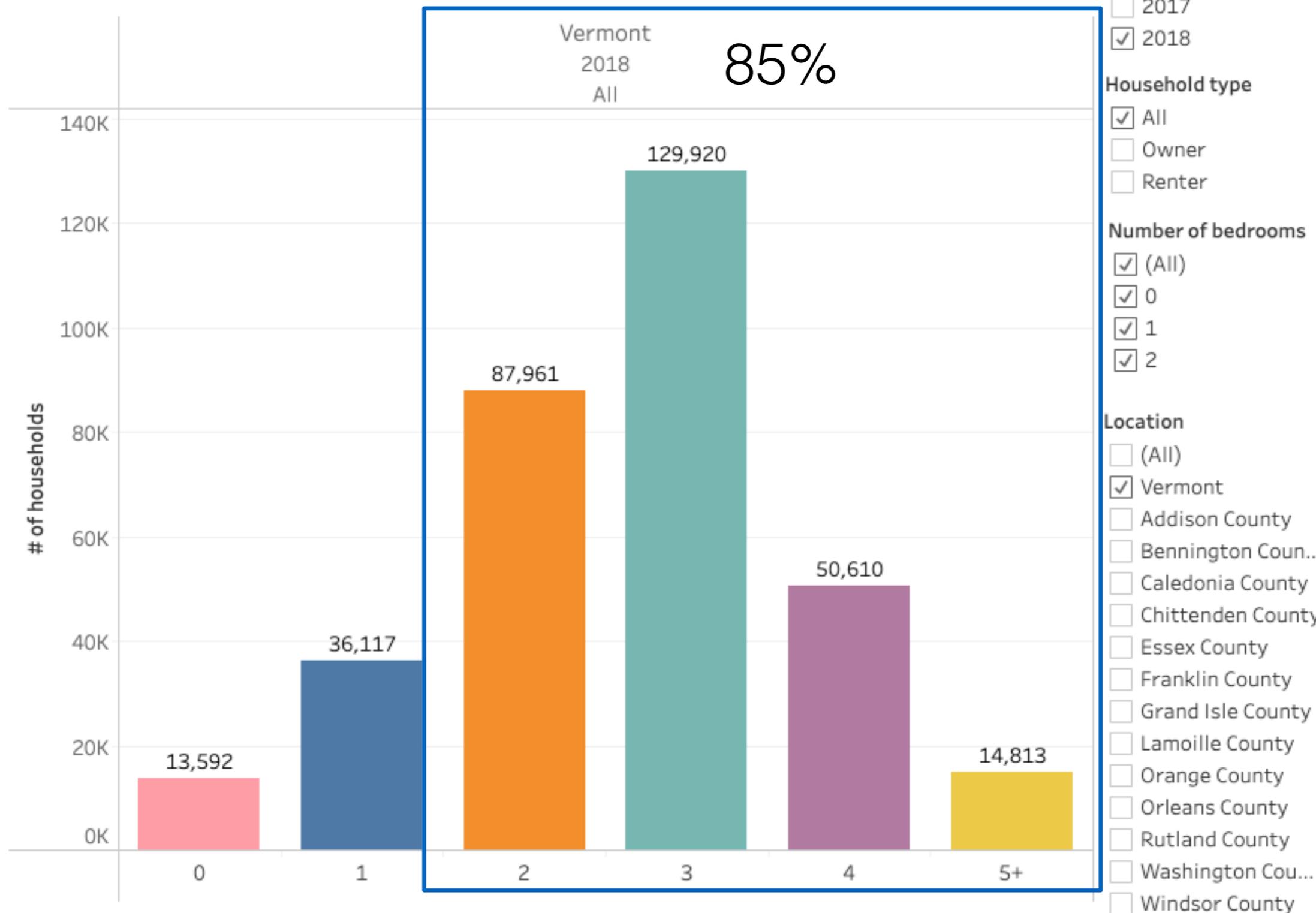


I am an adult, I'm supposed to be independent and self-reliant.



Number of bedrooms

Estimated occupied housing units by number of bedrooms



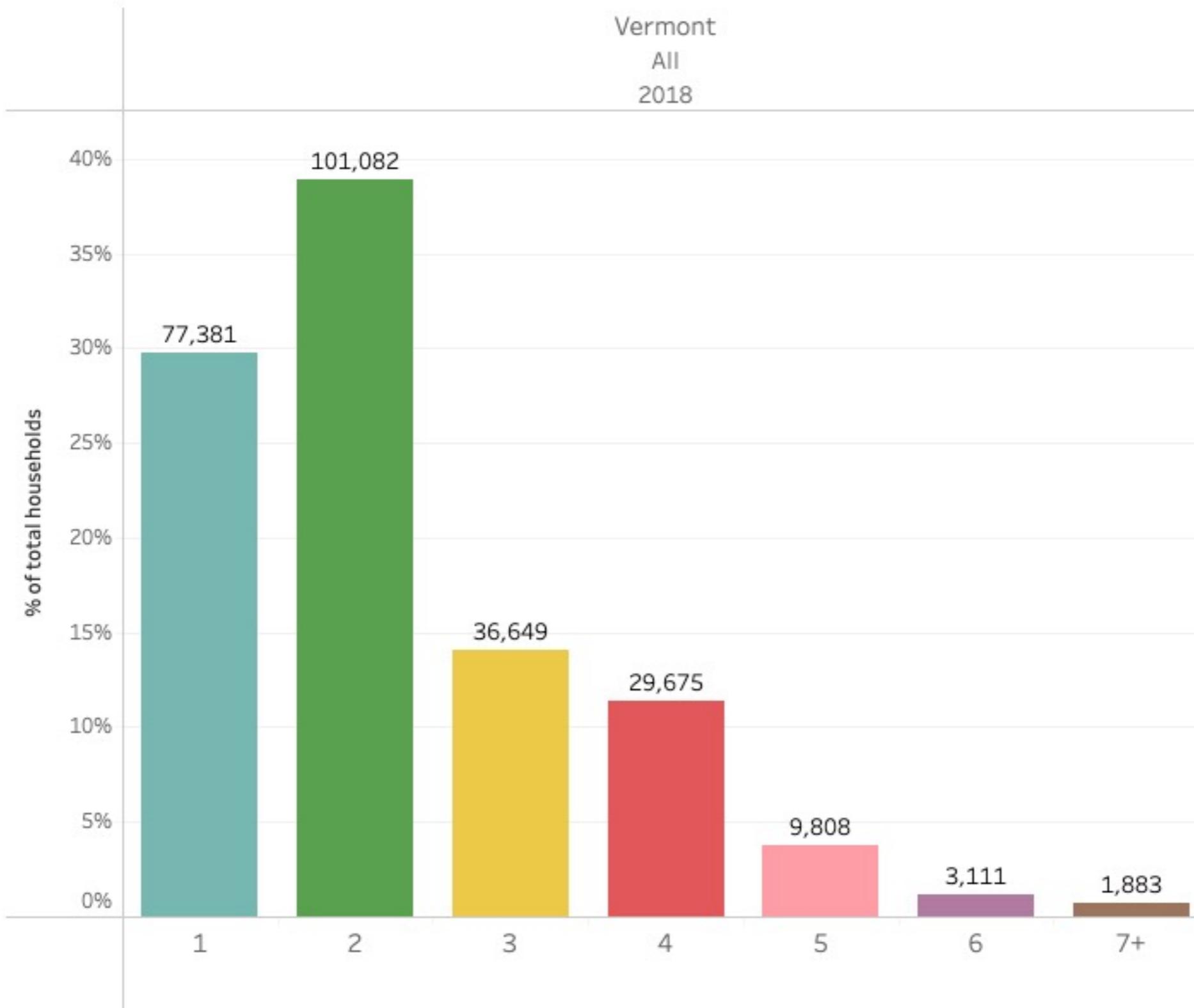
Source:

U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey 5-year estimates (Table B25041, B25042)

Household size



Estimated households by number of people



Year

- (All)
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018

Household type

- All
- Owner
- Renter

Location

- (All)
- Vermont
- Addison County
- Bennington County
- Caledonia County
- Chittenden County
- Essex County
- Franklin County
- Grand Isle County
- Lamoille County
- Orange County
- Orleans County
- Rutland County
- Washington County
- Windham County
- Windsor County
- Addison
- Albany
- Albany Village
- Alburgh