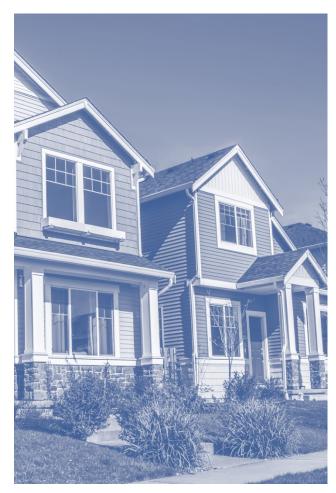
PLEASE TELL US ABOUT <u>YOUR</u> RECENT RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE EXPERIENCE

A nationwide survey of mortgage borrowers throughout the United States



Over the last few years the U.S. economy has gone through some dramatic changes that have affected mortgage practices. Learning directly from borrowers about their experiences will help us improve lending practices and the mortgage process for future borrowers.

This survey is being jointly sponsored by two Federal agencies that are working on behalf of all consumers:

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) created in 2008 to oversee and insure the safety of the U.S. housing finance system

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) created in 2011 to study consumer financial markets and help consumers get the information they need to make financial decisions that are best for themselves and their families.

Together we are working to improve the safety and transparency of the lending process for all consumers.

Thank you for your help with this important national study.

We are interested in learning about mortgages obtained to purchase or refinance either a personal home or a home for someone else, including rental property.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for helping us learn more about the process of obtaining mortgages throughout the United States.

1. At any time in 2013, did you sign or co-sign mortgage loan documents?

 \Box Yes \rightarrow If you took out or co-signed more than one mortgage in 2013, please refer to your experiences with the <u>first</u> mortgage you took out or co-signed in 2013 throughout this survey.

2. Did we mail this survey to the address of the house or property you financed with the mortgage?

□ Yes □ No

- 3. Including you, how many people signed or co-signed for this mortgage?
 - □ One
 - □ Two
 - □ Three
 - □ Four or more

If this loan was co-signed by others, we would like you to take into account all co-signers as best you can when answering the rest of the survey. Otherwise, it is your own situation that we want to know about.

4. When you began the process of getting your mortgage, how familiar were you (and any co-signers) with each of the following...

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not at all Familiar	
The mortgage interest rates available at that time				
The different types of mortgages available				
The process of taking out a mortgage				
The down payment needed to qualify for a mortgage				
The income needed to qualify for a mortgage				
Your credit history or credit score				
The money needed at closing				

5. How much did you use each of the following sources to get information about mortgages or mortgage lenders?

	A Lot	A Little	Not At All	
Your lender or broker				
Contact with other lenders or brokers				
Real estate agents or builders				
Material in the mail				
Websites that provide information on getting a mortgage				
Friends/relatives/co-workers				
Bankers or financial planners				
Other (specify)	🗆			

6. When you applied for your mortgage, how did you apply?

- \Box Applied directly to a lender, such as a bank or credit union
- □ Applied through a mortgage broker that works with different lenders to get a loan
- \Box Other (specify) ____

 $[\]square$ No \rightarrow You do not need to complete the rest of the survey. Please return the blank questionnaire so we know the survey does not apply to you. The money enclosed is yours to keep.

- 7. How many different lenders/brokers did you seriously consider before choosing where to apply for your mortgage? *Circle one.*
 - 1 2 3 4 5 or more

8. Thinking about the lenders/brokers you considered, were any of them...

	res	NO
A financial institution where you had a checking or savings account		
A lender/broker from whom you had a previous mortgage		
A lender/broker that, to your knowledge, operates only online		
A personal friend or relative		

9. How many different lenders/brokers did you apply to? Circle one.

1 2 3 4 5 or more

10. Who made the first contact in the application for the mortgage you took out?

- □ I or my co-signers made first contact
- $\hfill\square$ The lender/broker made first contact
- □ A third party (such as a real estate agent or home builder) made first contact

11. How important were each of the following in choosing where you applied for your mortgage?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	
Having an established banking relationship				
Used lender/broker previously to get a mortgage				
Lender/broker is a personal friend or relative				
Recommendation from a friend/relative/co-worker				
Recommendation from a real estate agent/home builder				
Recommendation from a lending website				
Reputation of the lender/broker				
Interest rate and terms offered				
Easier to qualify for a loan				
Spoke my primary language, which is not English				

12. Which of the following best describes how you (and any co-signers) felt before applying for your mortgage?

- □ Had a firm idea of the mortgage you wanted
- $\hfill\square$ Had some idea of the mortgage you wanted
- $\hfill\square$ Had little idea of the mortgage you wanted

13. How open were you to suggestions about your mortgage from your lender/broker?

- □ Very open
- \Box Somewhat open
- $\hfill\square$ Not at all open

14. How concerned were you about the following when applying for your mortgage?

	Very	Somewhat	Not	
	Concerned	Concerned	Concerned	
Qualifying for a mortgage				
Picking the best mortgage				

15. During the application process were you told about mortgages with any of the following?

	Yes	No
An interest rate fixed for the life		
of the loan		
An interest rate that could change		
over the life of the loan		
A term of less than 30 years (such as		
a 15- or 20-year term)		
A higher interest rate in return for		
lower closing costs		
A lower interest rate in return for		
paying discount points		
Interest-only monthly payments		
An escrow account for taxes		
and/or homeowner insurance		
A prepayment penalty (fee if the		
mortgage is paid off early)		
Reduced documentation or	_	_
"easy" approval		
An FHA or VA loan		

16. In the process of getting your mortgage, did you...

	Yes	No
Change lenders/brokers		
Add a co-signer		
Resolve credit report errors or		
problems		
Answer follow-up requests for more		
information about your income		
or assets		
Have multiple appraisals		
Redo/refile paperwork due to		
processing delays		
Delay or postpone closing date		
Receive misleading or inaccurate		
information from your		
lender/broker		

17. How important were each of the following in determining the mortgage you took out?

	Very	Somewhat	Not
	Important	Important	Important
Low APR			
Low interest rate			
Low closing fees			
Low monthly payment			
Fixed interest rate for th	e		
life of the loan			
Shorter term			

18. Did you follow the choice/recommendation of your lender/broker for any of the following?

			Does
	Yes	No	Not Apply
Title insurance			
Settlement or closing agent			
Mortgage insurance			
company			

19. Overall, how satisfied are you that the mortgage you got was the one with the...

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Best terms to fit your			
needs			
Lowest interest rate for			
which you could qualify			
Lowest closing costs			

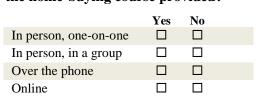
20. Overall, how satisfied are you with the...

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied
Lender/broker you used			
Application process			
Loan closing process			
Mortgage disclosure forn	ns 🗆		

21. In the process of getting your mortgage, did you talk to a credit counselor or take a course about home buying?

□ No □ Yes

22. (If Yes to Q21) How was counseling or the home-buying course provided?



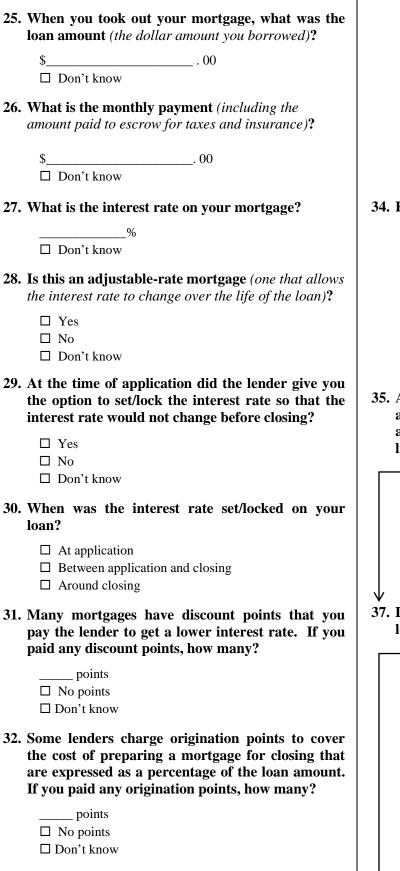
- 23. (If Yes to Q21) In total, how much time did you spend in counseling or the home-buying course?
 - \Box Less than 3 hours
 - \Box 3 6 hours
 - \Box 7 12 hours
 - $\hfill\square$ More than 12 hours

24. (*If Yes to Q21*) **Overall, how helpful was** counseling or the home-buying course?

- □ Very helpful
- □ Somewhat helpful
- Not helpful

Skip to Q25

Your Mortgage



33. Does your mortgage loan have any of the following features?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	
A prepayment penalty (fee if the				
mortgage is paid off early)				
An escrow account for taxes				
and/or homeowner insurance				
Interest-only payments				
Lender's title insurance				
Owner's title insurance				
Credit life/debt suspension/debt				
cancellation insurance				

34. How were the costs to close your loan paid?

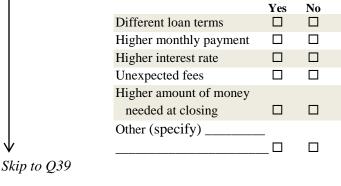
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
By me or a co-signer				
(check or wire transfer)				
By lender/broker				
By seller/builder				
Included in the mortgage amount				
Other (specify)				

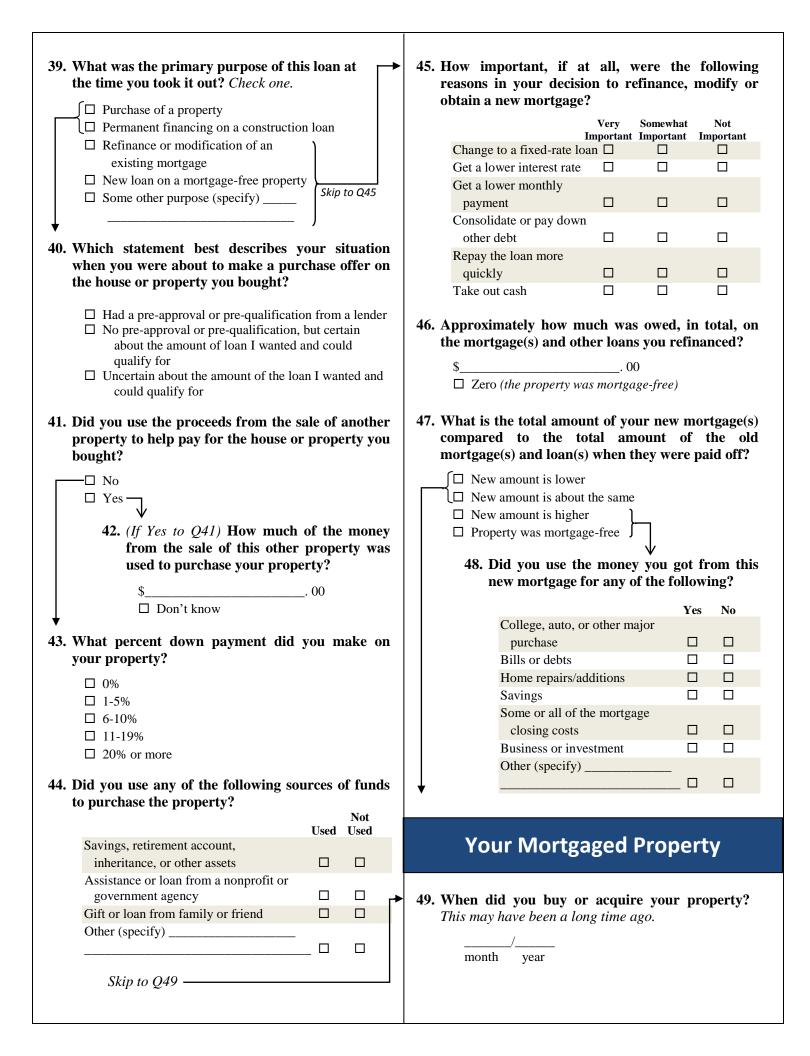
35. At the same time you got your mortgage, did you also take out another loan on your property, called a second lien, home equity loan, or home equity line of credit (HELOC)?

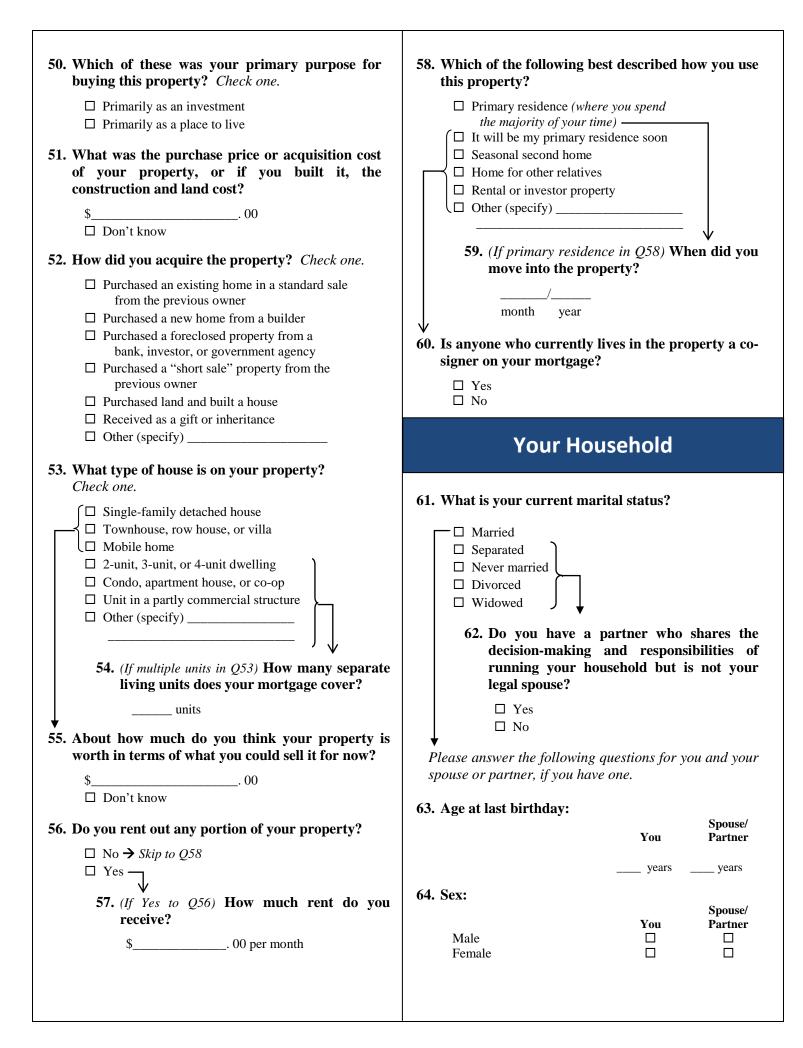
37. Did you face any unpleasant "surprises" at your loan closing?

$$\square$$
 No
 \square Yes \square

38. (*If Yes to Q37*) What unpleasant surprises did you face?







besides this one?		properties	
	X 7	Spouse/	
Yes	You □	Partner	
No			
			73.
66. Highest level of education ach	ieved:		
	You	Spouse/ Partner	
Some schooling			
High school graduate			
Technical school			
Some college			
College graduate			
Postgraduate studies			
-	_	_	
67. Are you Hispanic or Latino?		Spouse/	
	You	Partner	
Yes			74.
No			/4.
68 Dagos Chack all that and he			
68. Race: <i>Check all that apply.</i>		Spouse/	
	You	Partner	
White			
Black or African American			
American Indian or Alaska Nativ	∕e □		
Asian			
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific			
Islander			
69. Current work status: Check al	ll that app	ly.	
		Spouse/	
	You	Partner	
Self-employed/work for self			
Employed full time			
Employed part time			
Retired			
Temporarily laid-off or on leave			
Not working for pay (student,			
homemaker, disabled,	_	_	
unemployed)			
70. What is your official job		•	↓
employer uses)? If you have		-	78.
please describe the one at whi	ch you wo	ork the most	
hours.			
You:			
Spouse/Partner:			
71. Please describe your main job	. What do	you do?	
You:			1

72. In what business or industry do you work? *What is made or done at the place you work?*

You: ___

Spouse/Partner: _____

73. Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? (Active duty includes serving in the U.S. Armed Forces as well as activation from the Reserves or National Guard).

	You	Spouse/ Partner
Yes, on active duty in the past,		
but not now		
Yes, now on active duty		
No, never on active duty except		
for initial/basic training		
No, never served in the U.S.		
Armed Forces		

74. Besides you (and your spouse/partner), does anyone else live in your household? Include anyone with a permanent address here even if he or she does not currently live here, like a student away at college.

_____ household members

76. (*If Yes to Q74*) **How many of the other household members are older than 18**?

_____ household members

- 77. (*If Yes to Q74*) Do any of the other household members help pay for household expenses?
 - □ Yes

🗆 No

- **78. Approximately how much is your total annual household income from all sources** (wages, salaries, tips, interest, child support, investment income, retirement, social security, and alimony)?
 - □ Under \$25,000
 - □ \$25,000 to \$49,999
 - □ \$50,000 to \$74,999
 - □ \$75,000 to \$99,999
 - □ \$100,000 to \$149,999
 - □ \$150,000 or more

79. Would you say that over the last couple of years, your total household income has...

□ Increased

- \Box Stayed about the same
- □ Decreased
- 80. Which of the following best describes your total household income over the last couple of years?
 - □ Stable
 - □ Variable
- 81. Does anyone in your household have any of the following?

	Yes	No	
Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds			
401(k), IRA, or pension plan			
Certificates of deposit			

- 82. Which one of the following statements best describes the amount of financial risk you are willing to take when you make investments?
 - □ Take substantial financial risks expecting to earn substantial returns
 - □ Take above-average financial risks expecting to earn above-average returns
 - □ Take average financial risks expecting to earn average returns
 - □ Not willing to take any financial risks

83. In the last couple of years, have any of the following life events happened to you?

	Yes	No
Separated/divorced/widowed		
Married/remarried/new partner		
Death of a household member		
(other than spouse/partner)		
Addition to your household		
(not including spouse/partner)		
Person leaving your household		
(not including spouse/partner)		
Promotion or starting a new job		
Disability or serious illness of		
household member		
Disaster affecting either your house		
or your (or spouse/partner's) work		
Moved within current area		
(less than 50 miles)		
Moved to a new area		
(50 miles or more)		

84. In the last couple of years, have any of the following financial events happened to you or your spouse/partner?

	Yes	No	
Layoff, unemployment, or reduced			
hours of work			
Reduction in income			
Significant salary increase			
Significant increase in housing			
expenses or repairs			
Significant increase in non-housing			
expenses			
Took a second job			
Business failure			
Significant decrease in the value			
of your home			
A large number of foreclosures or			
short sales in your neighborhood			

85. Do you tend to agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree
Owning a home is a good financial		
investment		
It is okay to default or stop making		
mortgage payments if it is in the		
borrower's financial interest		
Mortgage lenders generally treat		
borrowers well		
I don't worry that paying my bills late		
will lower my credit rating		

86. How well could you explain to someone...

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not At All Well
The process of taking out			
a mortgage			
Mortgage disclosure forms			
The difference between a			
fixed- and an adjustable-			
rate mortgage			
The difference between a			
prime and subprime loan			
The difference between a			
mortgage's interest rate			
and its APR			
Loan amortization			
The consequences of not			
making required mortgage			
payments			

87. Did the mortgage loan disclosure documents, required by the government, do any of the following for you?

	Yes	No	
Helped me to shop for a mortgage			
loan			
Helped me understand the terms of			
my mortgage loan			
Prompted me to ask questions to			
understand the terms of my loan			
Confirmed that I was getting the loan			
terms that I had discussed with the			
lender/broker			
Prompted me to ask the lender/broker			
to change the terms of my loan			
Before closing, I carefully reviewed			
the disclosure documents			
My mortgage lender (or closing			
agent) guided me through the			
disclosure documents			

Your Future Expectations

- 88. Over the next couple of years, how do you think your income will change compared to the cost of living?
 - \Box Up more than the cost of living
 - \Box Up about the same as the cost of living
 - \Box Up less than the cost of living or down
- **89.** What do you think will happen to the prices of homes like yours in your community over the next couple of years?
 - □ Increase a lot
 - □ Increase a little
 - \Box Remain about the same
 - □ Decrease a little
 - Decrease a lot

90. If your household faced a major unexpected personal financial crisis, how likely is it you could...

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not At All Likely
Pay your bills for the next 3 months without borrowing			
Get significant financial help from family or friends			
Borrow enough money from a bank or credit union to pay your bills on time			
Significantly increase your income			

91. How likely is it that in the next couple of years you will...

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not At All Likely
Move and sell your property	y 🗆		
Move but keep your propert	ty 🗆		
Refinance your mortgage			
Retire			
Pay off your mortgage and own your property			
mortgage-free			
Lose your home because you cannot afford the			
loan payment			

92. How likely is it that in the next couple of years you will face...

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not At All Likely
Employment transfer or			
relocation			
A significant decline in			
household income			
A significant increase			
in household expenses			
A forced reduction in hours			
worked, a layoff, or a spel	1		
of unemployment			
A personal financial crisis			
Difficulties making your			
mortgage payments			

The Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau thank you for completing this survey.

We have provided the space below in case you wish to clarify or further explain any of your answers or share any other comments. **Please do <u>not</u> put your name or address on the questionnaire**.

Please use the enclosed business reply envelope to return your completed questionnaire.

FHFA 1234 Main Street Washington DC

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