

# AHAB Utility Costs

October  
2017



City of Lawrence  
Douglas County  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES





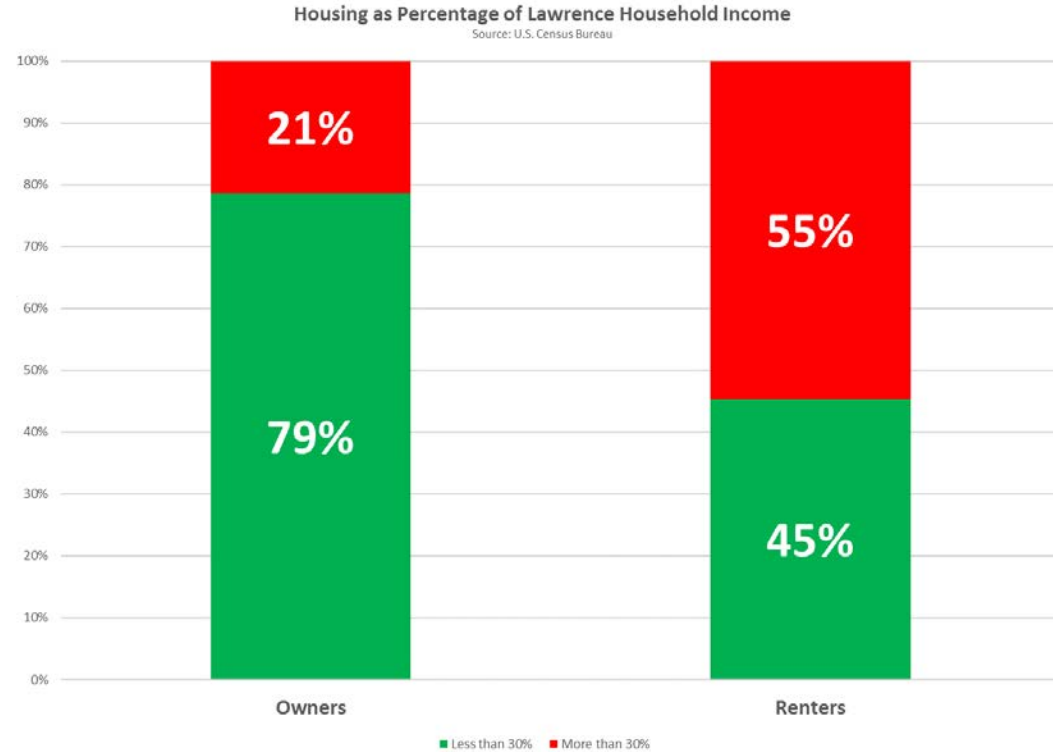
# Utilities & Housing

## Owners

- 1 in 5

## Renters

- 3 in 5



# Average Estimates

- Utility Costs: Per Square Foot
  - \$ 1.98
- Median Annual Expense on Utilities
  - \$ 3,035
- Annual Utilities / House Values Ratio
  - 1.75

**Utility Costs (2017\$)**  
**Per Square Foot (\$1.98)**

**\$ 1.78**

**\$ 2.18**

**\$ 1.77**

**\$ 2.18**



**Utility Costs (2017\$)**

Median Annual Expense (\$3,035)

**\$ 3,136**

**\$ 2,936**

**\$ 3,140**

**\$ 2,929**



**Utility Costs (2017\$)**  
Utility Cost/Home Value Ratio (1.75)

1.43

2.11

1.51

1.96

# Takeaways

## “Principal-Agent Problem”

- Upgrades & Appliances

## Pervasiveness

- Greater than Assumed

## Fluctuations

- Adaption is Limited

### “Energy Burden”

Income Bracket	Income Ratio to Energy
Middle/Upper	5%
Low	10%
Very Low	20%

Source: “[Energy Burden and the Need for Integrated Low-Income Housing and Energy Policy](#)”