



Community Housing Discrimination Survey

Where we live matters! Our homes have big impact on our opportunities, such as the ease of getting to work, school, healthcare and recreational services. When we don't have access to safe and stable homes, we lose out on these socio-economic benefits. To help make access more fair and to increase equal housing opportunity for everyone, we need to know what's not working and hear ideas from our community.

Have you been treated unfairly when renting, buying, financing an apartment or house, or while living in your home? Please take few minutes to tell us about any discrimination or harassment you have faced. This survey is confidential and for research purposes only. The results will be used to inform policy makers, educators, housing providers, advocates and program developers to design better strategies to ensure fair and equitable housing choices for all in the state of Vermont.

- **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** To use this survey in languages other than English, use the language selection drop down menu at the top right. (Please note that Google Translate may not provide exact translations.)
- **IMMERSIVE READER:** For audio and large font, click on the three dots at the bottom right of this window.
- **PRINT VERSION:** To download a print version of the survey, visit www.cvoeo.org/fhp. (<http://www.cvoeo.org/fhp>).

If you have questions, please contact Shiferaw Gemedra at the Fair Housing Project of CVOEO, sgemedra@cvoeo.org (<mailto:sgemedra@cvoeo.org>).

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey and sharing your experiences!

If you complete a paper version of this survey, please mail it to:

Shiferaw Gemedra
Fair Housing Project of CVOEO
PO Box 1603
Burlington, VT 05402

The survey is also available online at www.cvoeo.org/fhp-survey

1. Are you aware of state and federal fair housing laws that prohibit discrimination and harassment when buying, selling, renting, or financing a home based on the categories listed below?

Race, Color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, disability, age, marital status, receipt of public assistance (like Section 8), or because of abuse, sexual assault, stalking.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. Have you experienced anything like the examples of illegal discrimination listed below?

- *A real estate agent doesn't show you a house because they assume you don't have money to buy it because of your race or the color of your skin, or because you have a disability.*
- *A landlord asks you for a larger security deposit, a background check, to check your income or asks you more questions than others who are outside of your race, gender, gender identity, without children, without disability, etc.*
- *A bank refuses to lend you money because the house you want to buy is in a minority neighborhood.*
- *A landlord refuses to take your rent check late even though they accept it late from other tenants who are outside of your race, gender, gender identity, without children, without disability, etc.*
- *A landlord tells you that the house is not safe or is too small or not a good fit for children.*
- *A landlord says you can't have service animal because they have a no-pet policy or charges you a pet deposit.*
- *A landlord, property manager, realtor, or other housing professional harasses you because of your race, skin color, national origin, disability, etc. or sexually harasses you.*
- *Any other situation where you have been treated differently than others, been denied housing or financing, or been harassed because of your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, disability, age, marital status, receipt of public assistance (like Section 8), or because of abuse, sexual assault, stalking*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3. What were the discriminatory or harassment actions? Check all that apply.

- Refusal to rent
- Refusal to sell
- Falsely told that housing was not available
- Impose different amount for rent or security deposit
- Given different terms or conditions for a rental lease or for home purchase
- Charged fees not asked of others
- Discrimination in financing (denied loan, higher interest rates, etc.)
- Denied reasonable accommodation for disability (service animal, reserved parking, etc.)
- Denied reasonable modification for disability (ramp, grab bar, etc.)
- Discriminatory advertising or statements (ie. No Section 8, professional couples only, etc.)
- Retaliation (termination of lease, refusal to negotiate, etc.)
- Harassment (verbal, sexual)
-

Other

4. Who was responsible for the discrimination or harassment? Check all that apply.

Landlord (private, non-profit, housing authority)

Property Manager

Maintenance Personnel

Mortgage Provider/Bank

Seller

Real Estate Agent/Broker/Realtor

Condo Association

Neighbor

Other

5. On what basis do you believe you were discriminated against or harassed? Check all that apply.

- Race
 - Color
 - National Origin
 - Religion
 - Sex
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Gender Identity
 - Familial Status (ie. presence of minor children, pregnancy)
 - Disability
 - Age
 - Marital Status
 - Receipt of Public Assistance (ie. Section 8, 3SquaresVT or other vouchers)
 - Because you have experienced abuse, sexual assault, or stalking
 -
- Other

6. In what county of Vermont did the discrimination or harassment occur?

- 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

7. When did the discrimination or harassment occur? Please write approximate month and year.

8. Did you report the discrimination or harassment?

- Yes
- No

9. To whom did you report the discrimination or harassment?

10. Why you did not report the discrimination or harassment? Check all that apply.

Didn't know where to report it

Afraid of retaliation

Too much trouble

Didn't believe it would make a difference

Other

11. Did you file a formal Fair Housing complaint?

No

Yes, to HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Yes, to the Vermont Human Rights Commission

Yes, to Vermont Legal Aid

Other

12. Why you did not file a formal Fair Housing complaint?

- Did not know where to file it
- Afraid of retaliation
- Did not believe it would make a difference
- Language barrier

Other

The next few questions are related to the stability of your housing.

Stable housing is having a home that is affordable based on your income and having choice over when and under what circumstances you want to move.

13. Do you think you have stable housing?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

14. What is the reason for not having stable housing? Please explain below.

15. Have you ever had to leave your home against your wishes because of a termination of tenancy or eviction?

This includes leaving after receiving a termination notice, at any point in the appeal process, or following a court-ordered eviction.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

16. What were the reasons for your termination of tenancy or eviction?

17. Did you go through a formal court eviction process?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

18. If you did not go through court eviction process, what were the reasons?

For example, did you move before the court process, file a successful appeal, reach an agreement with the landlord, etc.

Demographic questions

19. What is your age group?

- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55- 64 years
- 65 years and above

20. What is your Gender?

- Woman
- Man
- Transgender woman
- Transgender man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer

Other

21. What is your annual household income range?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$21,000-\$40,000
- \$41,000-\$60,000
- \$61,000-\$80,000
- \$81,000 -\$100,000
- \$100,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

22. What is your race? (Select all that apply)

- White
 - Black or African American
 - Asian
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Hispanic or Latino
 -
- Other

23. Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

24. Have you ever attended a Fair Housing training?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

25. Please share any comments on housing access and equity in Vermont or on what would make it easier for people to have stable, affordable, and inclusive housing.

26. May we contact you for more information?

Your contact information is confidential and will not be used for any purposes other than potential follow up on this survey. If you would like more information about your fair housing rights or would like to file a complaint. Please use the contact links available at the end of this survey.

- Yes
- No

27. Please provide your name and email address below:

More information and how to file a complaint:

Please note that the information collected in this survey is for research purposes. Filling in this survey does not register a formal fair housing discrimination complaint.

If you would like more information about your fair housing rights or would like to file a complaint, please contact:

- Vermont Human Rights Commission (complaints, investigation, conciliation, education): Call 802-828-1625, 1-800-416-2010, or 1-877-294-9200 (TDD) or visit <https://hrc.vermont.gov> (<https://hrc.vermont.gov>).
- Vermont Legal Aid/Legal Services of Vermont (free legal advice, referrals, eviction support, education): Call 1-800-889-2047 or visit <https://vtlawhelp.org/how-we-can-help> (<https://vtlawhelp.org/how-we-can-help>).
- U.S. Attorney's Office, District of VT (complaints – especially sexual harassment in housing): Email usavt.ContactUs1@usdoj.gov (<mailto:usavt.ContactUs1@usdoj.gov>) or visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/civil-division> (<https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/civil-division>).
- United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) (complaints, investigations, referrals): Call 1-800-827-5005 or 617-994-8200 visit https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint).
- Fair Housing Project of CVOEO (consultation, referrals, resources, education): Email fhp@cvoeo.org (<mailto:fhp@cvoeo.org>), call 802-660-3456, or visit <https://www.cvoeo.org/fhp> (<https://www.cvoeo.org/fhp>).

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