

The State of Homeownership In California

Dr. Raphael W. Bostic, Professor and Bedrosian Chair Price School of Public Policy University of Southern California

Presentation to the California State Assembly

March 25, 2015



Overview

- Describe the California housing market
 - Punch line 1: It is expensive everywhere
 - Punch line 2: New homebuyers are less common
- Discuss causes
 - Punch line: There are many angles, some of which the state has jurisdiction over



THE CALIFORNIA HOUSING MARKET





California is a High Cost Market

	US states	Avg. listing price Week ending Mar 4
	Name 🔻	Amount
	Hawaii	\$1,110,041
	District Of Columbia	\$907,886
	New York	\$846,476
	California	\$829,634
	Colorado	\$684,097
	Connecticut	\$618,320
	Utah	\$593,176
	Massachusetts	\$590,212
	Wyoming	\$516,748
	Montana	\$486,653
	Florida	\$480,743
	Rhode Island	\$456,455
	New Jersey	\$444,346
	Nevada	\$407,231
2:		

Source:

http://www.trulia.com/home_prices/



Heat Map Shows California is HOT



Source: http://www.trulia.com/home_prices/





California Prices Skyrocketed in the 2000s







Lack of Affordability Has Increased



*Affordability percentage is percent of median income needed to make monthly payments on a median priced home with a 10 percent down payment.

Source: http://www.realtytrac.com/content/foreclosure-market-report/home-price-bubble-early-warning-signs-report-december-2014-8196





FTHB Share Down Since Crisis



Source: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/shp/web_hcd_stateofhousing_april2014.pdf



The High Cost Problem is not Limited to Ownership



Source: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/shp/web_hcd_stateofhousing_april2014.pdf



CAUSES OF THE DECLINE





California is a Low Homeownership State



Southern California



The State's Homeownership Drop Was Steep



Source:: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Census





Financing Will Be a Challenge



NOTE: Pre-crisis loan limits were \$417,000 for the GSEs and \$367,000 for the FHA.



Young Adults Live at Home More Frequently



Source: Kwan Ok Lee & Gary Painter (2013), Journal of Urban Economics.





Being At Home More Means Owning Less



Source: http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/staff reports/sr700.pdf

Southern California



Household Formation Rates Remain an Unknown



"...the surprise in the recent recession is that the number of households did not fall more than it did..."

Source: Jung Hyun Choi & Gary Painter (2014), Journal of Real Estate Finance & Economics.





Summary of Causes

- California housing's **high cost:**
 - Translates to lower ownership rates in general
 - Means there are (will be) fewer **financing** options
 - Makes wealth, income, and credit barriers steeper
- Young people are **forming their households** later



Thank You

Raphael W. Bostic bostic@usc.edu 213-740-1220

