

Memo



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Date: Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017
To: Multifamily Project Team: Elizabeth Cole, City of Beaverton; Tenille Baseda, Clackamas County; Shauna Sutcliffe-Shadle, City of Gresham; Amanda Romero, City of Portland; Heather Robinson, Washington County; Rosalynn Greene, Metro
From: Sara Kirby, Senior Solid Waste Planner; Al Mowbray, Assistant GIS Specialist
Subject: Multifamily Garbage and Recycling Service Levels

Background

In 2016 Metro, Clackamas and Washington counties, and the cities of Beaverton, Gresham and Portland, conducted a study on the availability and volume of garbage and recycling service at multifamily housing properties. Collection companies submitted multifamily account information to their regulating city or county. The account information was then matched to the Regional Multifamily Housing Inventory (a database maintained by Metro's Data Resource Center). This study had a match rate of 72% for apartment and condominium unit types in the aforementioned local jurisdictions.

Statistical analysis was performed at the census block level to determine if bias was present in demographic indicators including race/ethnicity and income. The analysis did not identify a significant collection bias of the reported properties in comparison to the unreported properties. The reported data is assumed to be adequately representative of all multifamily properties within the participating jurisdictions.

Findings

Access

- 92 percent of the reported properties (95 percent of units) have access to mixed recycling service
- 72 percent of properties (75 percent of units) have access to glass recycling service

Access to service indicated only any amount of service was reported for the property, it does not make any other implications about the service.

Median service level

- Garbage, 40 gallons per unit per week
- Mixed recycling, 17 gallons per unit per week
- Glass recycling, 3 gallons per unit per week
- Service ratio, 0.4 available mixed recycling service to garbage service

Due to the nature of the data, specifically that it only contained high end outliers, median numbers were used as the median is less susceptible to outlier influence than mean.

Additional bias testing was conducted on the reported data and, while there was significant regional variability of the provided services for each waste stream, the volume of service provided for any waste stream was not found to have significant correlation to any tested demographic variable, race/ethnicity and income, at the census block level.

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