Notes on NYC HVS:

The New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey is a triennial survey which asks a weighted representative sample of New York households a variety of questions regarding their housing circumstances. It should be noted that the unit of observation is a housing unit, NOT the people living in the housing unit.

The first wave was conducted in 1968. We have data dating back to 1980 but if so desired the Census Bureau would provide us earlier data as well. Our contacts at Census were incredibly friendly and happy to both provide data and answer questions.

Updating our results from NYC HVS will need to be almost entirely re-done by the data team member who is most familiar with survey methodology. The reason being that the survey is altered to lesser and greater extents every fourth wave. This is largely manifested in the way in which categorical responses are coded. However, particularly when comparing surveys which are temporally quite distant, the wording of questions changes and some questions are dropped entirely. Census will most often say flat out that they are not comparable. However, because we are using the data in a way that was not intended and do not need the level of accuracy other users require this is not necessarily the case for us. Judgement needs to be used as to whether questions are compatible and how to match the response coding.

The question of rent stabilization program should not be trusted. Many buildings can be stabilized under more than one program and the response only shows one of these. Precedence of the program changes. Most importantly our friends Melissa Klein and Bob (last name not known) at the Census Bureau indicated that this question was for internal use and the values should not be trusted.

Currently we calculate our proportions city-wide. The survey would allow us to do so based on more granular geographies if we so chose to do so. This should be approached carefully. We already need to combine multiple questions and might quickly run out of statistical power. Because the survey is representative and not random degrees of freedom calculations are somewhat complex. Instructions are indicated in the NYC HVS documentation but do not directly apply to our usage of the data.

Currently the most recent wave of NYC HVS we use is 2014. The 2017 wave will be available shortly

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nychvs/data/datasets.html

If more detailed information is required contact Melissa Kresin at the Census Bureau. Let her know you work for Hodges Ward Elliott and have taken over for Bill Bachrach. Be sure to offer

profuse thanks for their assistance and let them know that the data has been extremely valuable to us.

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301.763.9825

In the event Melissa no longer works in there or is unable to help, her colleague Bob (didn't ever catch his last name) was also of great assistance. The department they work in is:

Financial & Market Characteristics Branch
Social, Economic & Housing Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau