

IV. CONCLUSION

After three years of occupancy at least sixty-six percent of the original residents of the three CEDEN Projects continue to reside in their houses. There is good reason to believe that the percentage of continued residency is even higher if we include residents who reported in 1978 that they were original occupants, but we have not done this since we did not verify their occupancy in our 1976 survey. If these occupants were included in our calculations the overall continued occupancy rate would be 74.4% (253 of 340). We could argue that the continued occupancy rate is even higher, but we hesitate to even speculate on this due to the difficulties we encountered in identifying and matching the occupants during our three annual surveys.

Both the 66.4% and the 74.4% appear to be respectable rates of continued residency, but we have no comparable data with which this might be compared. We do know that 64.5% of the occupants in a Comparison Project we used in our 1977 survey had lived in their previous houses more than three years. This, however, is also not strictly comparable data.

It is generally accepted that United States citizens move at the rate of one in five each year. This would leave 40% continuing their residence after three years. This high rate of geographic mobility is very unusual and should not be considered similar to the data herein. Until there is data of a comparative nature we cannot say with certainty how normative the 66.4% is after three years. Based on our 1977 survey, however, we feel very safe in saying that occupants at that time were very satisfied with their place of occupancy. (See Field Report #2)

In order to investigate the correlates of continued occupancy and attrition we analyzed seven variables that the authors felt might be related

to such. Of the seven we found three to be statistically significant: (1) the number of persons per household (2) religious affiliation, and (3) participation in the construction of the houses. The four variables that were not significant were: (1) the previous residence of occupants, (2) the distance from their work place, (3) employment by non-household heads, and (4) occupation of the head of household.

With reference to household size it was quite evident that households with few members moved at a disproportionate rate from the Projects while respondents with medium size households (five to six persons) remained at an unusually high rate. In terms of religious affiliation it was Protestants who were moving disproportionately to their numbers while Catholics were not. It was made very clear that participation in the construction of the houses was closely associated with continued residency.

After three years nearly ninety percent of the occupants surveyed had made some improvement on their houses (out of a total of 218 houses where occupancy was continuous for the three years). Most of the improved houses fell within our "Moderate" category of improvement which, aside from corrugated tin for roofs, involved the utilization of indigenous materials and not manufactured materials. This use of indigenous materials should not be viewed negatively since it generally represents a serious investment of both time and energy. Approximately one-fourth (24.8%) of the total number of houses had received improvements utilizing the manufactured materials. Many of these houses also had a larger number of improvements than was the case in the Moderate category.

Of the five variables we examined with reference to housing improvement only one proved to be statistically significant and this was the number of persons per household. Differences based on religious affiliation, non-

household head employment, participation in the construction of the houses, and occupational status proved not to be significant. With reference to persons per household it was the low level of improvement by small size households (1-4 persons) that made the significant difference.