

# Flood Insurance Penetration

## FLOOD INSURANCE PENETRATION

According to a RAND Corporation study conducted for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, about 49 percent of single-family homes in special flood hazard areas (SFHAs) nationwide are covered by flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program. In the South and West the percentage is about 60 percent. Outside of the high-risk areas there is a steep drop-off in coverage. Only about 1 percent of homeowners in non-SFHAs purchase the coverage. Homes located in SFHAs that have mortgages from federally insured or regulated lenders must purchase flood insurance, under federal law.

## MARKET PENETRATION RATE OF FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, 2004 (1)

### Location

### Market penetration rate (percent)

### Inside SFHAs (2)

Northeast  
28.0%

South  
61.0

Midwest  
22.0

West  
60.0

Total U.S.  
49.0

### Outside SFHAs (2)

Northeast  
0.6

South  
3.0

Midwest  
0.4

West  
1.0

Total U.S.  
1.0

(1) Projected, based on "address matching" analysis by RAND.

(2) Special Flood Hazard Areas.

Source: RAND.

## FLOOD INSURANCE IN THE TOP 75 COUNTIES, RANKED BY MARKET PENETRATION RATE, 2005

Rank

County

State

Residential policies in force at end of year

Total single family homes in 2004 (1)

Market penetration rate (Percent)

1  
Jefferson Parish  
Louisiana  
105,615

131,883  
84.0%

2  
Walton County  
Florida  
13,919  
17,454  
81.5

3  
Broward County  
Florida  
402,964  
516,584  
80.0

4  
Collier County  
Florida  
76,199  
100,259  
78.7

5  
Lee County  
Florida  
135,324  
181,331  
77.1

6  
Galveston County  
Texas  
56,495  
79,505  
74.1

7  
Glynn County  
Georgia  
15,232  
22,976  
69.6

8  
St. Bernard Parish  
Louisiana  
13,874  
21,010  
68.4

9  
Miami-Dade County  
Florida  
378,708  
574,616

68.1

10  
Orleans Parish  
Louisiana  
76,966  
121,730  
66.7

11  
Carteret County  
North Carolina  
14,205  
22,616  
65.9

12  
St. Charles Parish  
Louisiana  
9,625  
15,153  
65.5

13  
St. Johns County  
Florida  
31,236  
51,820  
62.4

14  
Charlotte County  
Florida  
37,363  
65,488  
59.0

15  
St. Tammany Parish  
Louisiana  
37,284  
68,729  
56.2

16  
Horry County  
South Carolina  
36,904  
73,514  
51.6

17  
Indian River County  
Florida  
22,371  
47,134  
49.6

18  
Bay County  
Florida  
23,639  
51,022  
48.0

19  
Brunswick County  
North Carolina  
13,904  
31,449  
46.3

20  
Nassau County  
Florida  
8,887  
20,836  
44.4

21  
Berkeley County  
South Carolina  
17,525  
44,339  
42.8

22  
Pinellas County  
Florida  
128,583  
323,781  
42.8

23  
Brazoria County  
Texas  
29,953  
76,338  
42.0

24  
Chatham County  
Georgia  
27,734  
68,708  
41.9

25  
Terrebonne Parish  
Louisiana  
12,133  
31,858  
40.1

26  
Baldwin County  
Alabama  
21,253  
54,414  
39.8

27  
Sarasota County  
Florida  
55,194  
142,906  
39.7

28  
Palm Beach County  
Florida  
154,081  
404,960  
39.2

29  
Charleston County  
South Carolina  
37,778  
99,950  
39.1

30  
Manatee County  
Florida  
41,335  
109,674  
38.7

31  
Martin County  
Florida  
18,910  
52,301  
37.2

32  
Atlantic County  
New Jersey  
27,869  
78,444  
36.5

33  
Lafourche Parish  
Louisiana  
10,043  
29,171  
36.2

34  
Okaloosa County  
Florida  
18,935  
57,576  
34.2

35  
Georgetown County  
South Carolina  
6,564  
20,946  
33.0

36  
Flagler County  
Florida  
8,759  
27,722  
32.1

37  
Maui County  
Hawaii  
11,563  
38,618  
30.6

38  
Livingston Parish  
Louisiana  
9,143  
33,835  
28.3

39  
Brevard County  
Florida  
49,466  
184,495  
27.6

40  
Sussex County  
Delaware  
16,160  
61,556  
27.0

41  
Volusia County  
Florida  
42,761  
168,616  
26.8

42

St. Lucie County  
Florida  
20,890  
80,907  
26.4

43  
Jefferson County  
Texas  
18,528  
74,208  
26.1

44  
Hampton,Independent City Of  
Virginia  
10,082  
40,515  
25.4

45  
Ocean County  
New Jersey  
48,336  
195,555  
25.3

46  
Harris County  
Texas  
209,146  
862,472  
25.2

47  
Pasco County  
Florida  
32,575  
144,098  
23.4

48  
Bossier Parish  
Louisiana  
6,989  
31,691  
23.3

49  
New Hanover County  
North Carolina  
12,043  
56,533  
22.1

50  
Bronx County

New York  
19,761  
94,501  
21.7

51  
Cameron County  
Texas  
13,337  
71,064  
21.6

52  
Fort Bend County  
Texas  
22,407  
112,805  
20.9

53  
Santa Rosa County  
Florida  
9,059  
45,914  
20.1

54  
Harrison County  
Mississippi  
9,900  
55,761  
19.1

55  
Jackson County  
Mississippi  
7,423  
42,081  
18.3

56  
Norfolk, Independent City Of  
Virginia  
9,136  
53,143  
17.8

57  
Hillsborough County  
Florida  
55,600  
327,376  
17.7

58  
Lafayette Parish  
Louisiana

9,579  
57,678  
17.5

59  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
Louisiana  
18,461  
116,035  
16.7

60  
Virginia Beach, Independent City  
Virginia  
20,907  
131,023  
16.3

61  
Escambia County  
Florida  
14,883  
98,093  
15.8

62  
Honolulu County  
Hawaii  
32,420  
212,760  
15.6

63  
Sacramento County  
California  
56,323  
378,524  
15.4

64  
Calcasieu Parish  
Louisiana  
8,004  
58,225  
14.5

65  
Montgomery County  
Texas  
12,680  
94,717  
14.0

66  
Citrus County  
Florida  
6,548

53,436  
13.3

67  
Merced County  
California  
6,827  
55,752  
12.9

68  
Chesapeake, Independent City O  
Virginia  
7,664  
62,490  
12.6

69  
Osceola County  
Florida  
6,903  
61,007  
11.7

70  
Hudson County  
New Jersey  
9,320  
83,463  
11.6

71  
Duval County  
Florida  
25,924  
238,658  
11.3

72  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts  
8,427  
87,506  
10.2

73  
Marin County  
California  
6,372  
74,514  
9.3

74  
Tulare County  
California  
8,447  
98,042

9.1

75  
Monmouth County  
New Jersey  
15,331  
188,377  
8.5

(1) Based on 2004 census data of all single family homes, both owner-occupied and renter-occupied. If county or parish was not surveyed in 2004, the number of single-family homes was estimated based on 2000 census data and on overall growth in the county or parish.

Note: List includes 75 counties or parishes that sold the highest number of flood insurance policies. A few counties were not included in the ranking because reliable estimate of single-family homes could not be obtained.

Sources: National Flood Insurance Program, U.S. Census Bureau, Staff Research By New Orleans Times-Picayune.