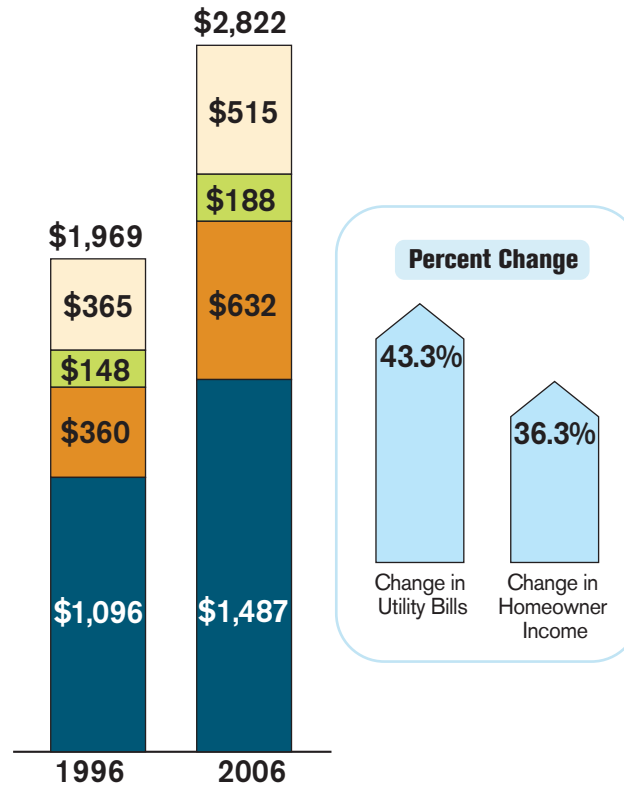


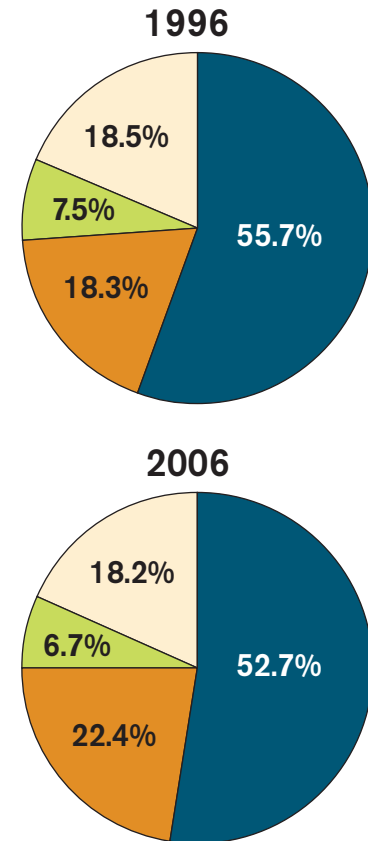
Utility Bills Rose Faster Than Homeowner Incomes

Homeowners' average total utility bills rose 43 percent between 1996 and 2006, in contrast with a rise of 36 percent in homeowners' median incomes. Over half of average utility spending is for electricity. Utility bills consume nearly five percent of median homeowner income.

Average Total Utility Bill: Homeowners 1996–2006



Components of the Average Utility Bill



■ Electric
 ■ Natural Gas
 ■ Fuel Oil and Other Fuel
 ■ Water/Other*

Source: Current Population Survey, Consumer Expenditure Survey, and the authors' calculations.

*Water/other includes water, sewer, trash, and septic bills.

