





The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)

The **American Community Survey (ACS)** is the premier source of detailed information about the nation's people and housing. It is an ongoing survey that provides vital information each year throughout the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Information from the survey generates data that help inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year.

The ACS is unique in its ability to produce estimates for a wide range of topics for multiple geographies including the nation, states, counties, American Indian areas, Alaska Native areas, Hawaiian Home Lands, and smaller areas such as census tracts and block groups.

What Topics Are Covered in the ACS?

The ACS covers a wide range of topics including social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics. Policymakers, business leaders, planners, and others nationwide rely on these data to make informed decisions.

Social 	Economic 	Demographic 	Housing 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ancestry• Citizen Voting-Age Population• Citizenship Status• Disability Status• Educational Attainment• Fertility• Grandparents as Caregivers• Language Spoken at Home• Marital History• Marital Status• Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago• Place of Birth• School Enrollment• Undergraduate Field of Degree• Veteran Status; Period of Military Service• Year of Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class of Worker• Commuting (Journey to Work) and Place of Work• Employment Status• Food Stamps/ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)• Health Insurance Coverage• Income and Earnings• Industry and Occupation• Poverty Status• Work Status Last Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age• Group Quarters Population• Hispanic or Latino Origin• Race• Relationship to Householder• Sex• Total Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bedrooms• Computer and Internet Use• Electric Vehicles• House Heating Fuel• Kitchen Facilities• Occupancy/Vacancy Status• Occupants per Room• Plumbing Facilities• Rent• Rooms• Selected Monthly Owner Costs• Solar Panels• Telephone Service Available• Tenure (Owner/Renter)• Units in Structure• Value of Home• Vehicles Available• Year Householder Moved Into Unit• Year Structure Built

How Often Are ACS Data Released?

ACS data are timely because they are released the year immediately following the year in which they are collected. The ACS creates period estimates, which means they represent the characteristics of the population and housing over a period of time. The ACS releases estimates for 1-year and 5-year periods.

1-Year Estimates	1-Year Supplemental Estimates	5-Year Estimates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cover 12 months of collected data.Data for areas with populations of 65,000+.Data available for 2005 onward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cover 12 months of collected data.Simplified versions of popular ACS tables.Data for areas with populations of 20,000+.Data available for 2014 onward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cover 60 months of collected data.Data available for geographic areas down to the block group level.Data available for the 2005–2009 5-year period onward.




How Are ACS Data Collected?

Households that receive the survey can respond via the internet, by mail, phone, or a personal visit with a field representative. The Census Bureau selects a random sample of about 3.5 million housing unit addresses to be included in the ACS. Each address has about a 1-in-480 chance of being selected in a month, and no address is selected more than once every 5 years. People living in group quarters facilities such as college dormitories, nursing homes, and prisons are also sampled.

Your Information Is Safe!

The U.S. Census Bureau is required under Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep all information about respondents strictly confidential. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household.

Resources for Accessing the Data and Learning More

<p>ACS Website</p> <p>Access a wealth of information about the survey, data products, tools for data users, and other helpful information at www.census.gov/acs.</p> 	<p>ACS Data Users Group</p> <p>Improve your understanding of the value and utility of ACS data, and connect with other data users at https://acsdatacommunity.prb.org.</p> 	<p>Census Academy</p> <p>Watch recorded webinars and take courses to learn more about how to access and use ACS data, content included in the survey, and more at www.census.gov/data/academy.html.</p> 
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For questions about using ACS data, please contact the ACS data user support team at acso.users.support@census.gov or **1-866-805-5993**.

To request a free data workshop, training, or presentation from the U.S. Census Bureau, please contact the Data Dissemination Office at census.askdata@census.gov or **1-844-ASK-DATA** (1-844-275-3282).