

The American Community Survey

Resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives

IS YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION SAFE?

Yes. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you.

Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)?



The ACS is a part of the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census program and is designed to provide timely and accurate social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates throughout the decade. The questions on the ACS supply the tribes with data they may need for a range of programs affecting education, veterans, employment, housing and community development, public health care, services for the elderly and disabled, and assistance programs for low-income families and children. Statistics produced by the ACS can guide tribes and tribal organizations as they make important decisions.

WHY IS TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?



Responses to the questions on the ACS supply the statistics needed to assess a variety of programs. When American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) complete the ACS, they are helping to ensure that the best statistics are available to their communities to inform future decisions. This need for accurate and complete data is particularly important for tribes and tribal organizations.

HOW DO WE COMPLETE THE ACS?



The Census Bureau samples addresses—not individuals. Most households selected to participate in the ACS receive a letter with instructions to access and complete the survey online.



If you have questions about the survey, please call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Line at **1-800-354-7271**.



The Census Bureau works with tribal leaders to conduct in-person interviews on tribal lands. Field representatives who may also be tribal members will conduct personal interviews using laptop computers.



WHAT QUESTIONS DOES THE ACS ASK?

The topics included on the ACS were chosen because the federal government requires the data to manage or evaluate programs.

For example, information on income is required by the Social Security Administration, the National School Lunch Program, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, and the U.S. Department of Education for grant allocation. The following federal laws and programs affecting AIAN also use ACS estimates:

- Civil Rights Act (1964)
- Native American Programs Act (1974)
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act (1976)
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (1997)
- Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (1994)

You can find fact sheets that explain why we ask each question and provide common uses of each question on the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov/ACSWhyWeAsk.



HOW CAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES USE ACS DATA?

Tribal planners and administrators, as well as national organizations serving the AIAN community, may find ACS estimates useful in accessing funding for tribal programs and initiatives or planning for future economic development, housing needs, and access to health and educational services for the people in their communities.

In combination with information from tribal administrative records, ACS estimates complete the portrait of a community and provide an enhanced view of a community's current and future needs. However, to ensure that these estimates are accurate, we need your help to encourage your tribal community members to respond.

HOW DOES THE CENSUS BUREAU HELP TRIBAL COMMUNITIES ACCESS ACS ESTIMATES?



ACS estimates are available at www.census.gov/tribal. The ACS website, www.census.gov/acs, also provides a free series of handbooks, presentations, and data user guidance that make accessing this important information easier.

Local data dissemination specialists are available to give presentations and help people find, use, and understand ACS statistics. You can find contact information for these local specialists by e-mail at census.askdata@census.gov or by calling **1-844-275-3282**.






You can also find contact information for the many groups that participate in the Census Bureau State Data Center and Census Information Center programs, including those serving the AIAN community at www.census.gov/sdc.

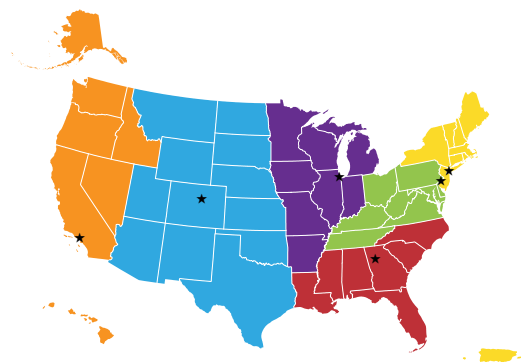
WHO CAN WE CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL HELP?



For additional assistance, please contact our ACS helpline at 1-800-354-7271, or your Census Bureau regional office listed below.

Census regional offices:

	Atlanta: 1-800-424-6974
	Chicago: 1-800-865-6384
	Denver: 1-800-852-6159
	Los Angeles: 1-800-992-3530
	New York: 1-800-991-2520
	Philadelphia: 1-800-262-4236



To get more information about AIAN participation in the ACS and other Census Bureau surveys, please contact a member of the Tribal Affairs Team by e-mail at OCIA.TAO@census.gov or by calling **301-763-6100**. For more information about the ACS, visit www.census.gov/acs.

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