



American Community Survey (ACS)

Introduction to the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

February 22, 2017

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Outline

- **PUMS Overview**
- PUMS Geography
- Accessing PUMS Data
- Common Questions
- Documentation and Guidance Resources

Why Use PUMS?

SEX BY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY
EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 16 TO 19 YEARS
Universe: Population 16 to 19 years ⓘ
2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

- Data needed are not supported by standard tables
 - Example: narrower categories (“16 to 17 years” and “18 years”)
- Users want to conduct sophisticated statistical analysis
 - Example: correlation analysis (age, employment, and language)
- Can create new measures
 - Example: looking at person and household variables together (new variable: presence of working teenagers in a household)



What are PUMS files?

Public Use Microdata Sample



Anonymized

Downloadable

- SAS and CSV
- AFF, FTP, DataFerrett

Individual Responses

- Must be tabulated and weighted by user

Representative Sample of the Population

- 1-year (1%)
- 5-year (5%)

Summary Data vs. Microdata

What's the Difference?

	Alaska	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	464,440	+/-368
Male:	241,144	+/-356
No schooling completed	1,347	+/-246
Nursery to 4th grade	1,036	+/-164
5th and 6th grade	1,123	+/-212
7th and 8th grade	2,753	+/-310
9th grade	1,972	+/-301
10th grade	3,614	+/-392
11th grade	4,313	+/-316
12th grade, no diploma	2,924	+/-355
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	74,450	+/-1,454
Some college, less than 1 year	17,835	+/-833
Some college, 1 or more years, no degree	50,723	+/-1,537
Associate's degree	17,947	+/-707
Bachelor's degree	38,722	+/-1,188
Master's degree	14,996	+/-775
Professional school degree	4,541	+/-415
Doctorate degree	2,848	+/-343

Aggregated tables for a geography:

“In Alaska, 38,722 males, 25 years and over, have a bachelor’s degree.”

RT	SERIALNO	SPORDER	AGEP	SCHL	SEMP	SEX
P	2011000000337	1	80	16	0	1
P	2011000000738	1	22	18	0	1
P	2011000000889	1	27	16	0	2
P	2011000000889	2	4	2		2
P	2011000000889	3	3	1		1
P	2011000000889	4	1			2
P	2011000001556	1	52	21	0	1
P	2011000001556	2	52	21	0	2
P	2011000003661	1	63	20	0	2
P	2011000003883	1	44	22	0	2

Individual responses:

“This 52-year-old male in AK has a bachelor’s degree.”

Summary Data vs. Microdata

Pros and Cons

	Summary Data (ex: AFF)	Microdata (ex: PUMS)
<i>Format</i>	Published tables designed by Census analysts (weighted with margins of error)	Sample of household and individual responses to questionnaire (and some recoded variables)
<i>Benefits</i>	Easy to use Small geographies	Enables custom tables and analyses More variable detail available
<i>Limitations</i>	Fixed content : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• categories• years• Topic combinations	More complex to use Smaller sample (larger Margins of Error) Edits to protect privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• top coding• broader categories No geographies smaller than PUMAs



PUMS Availability

- We release 2 new PUMS files every year
 - 1-year PUMS (example: 2015 1-year PUMS)
 - October 2016
 - 5-year PUMS (example: 2011-2015 5-year PUMS)
 - January 2017
- Some documentation is released a week earlier

Multiyear (5-year) PUMS Files

- 5-year PUMS files contain the same cases as their component 1-year files
 - 2011 ACS 1-year PUMS
 - 2012 ACS 1-year PUMS
 - 2013 ACS 1-year PUMS = 2011-2015 ACS 5-year PUMS
 - 2014 ACS 1-year PUMS
 - 2015 ACS 1-year PUMS
- Why do we release multiyear PUMS?
 - New weights are produced using latest population estimate “vintages”
 - Coding schemes and dollar amounts are standardized to latest year in the multi-year file.



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Limited Geographic Detail

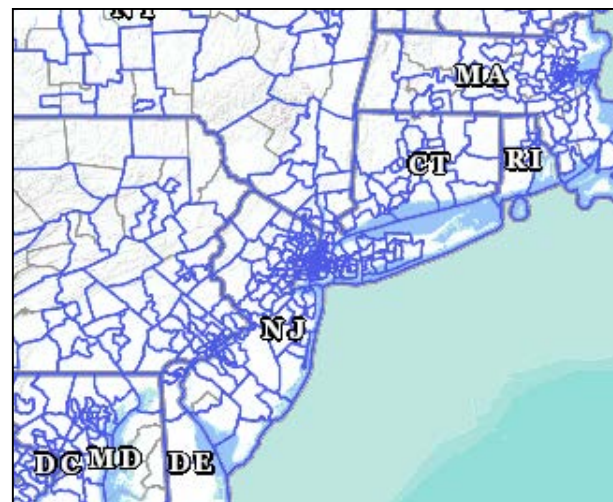
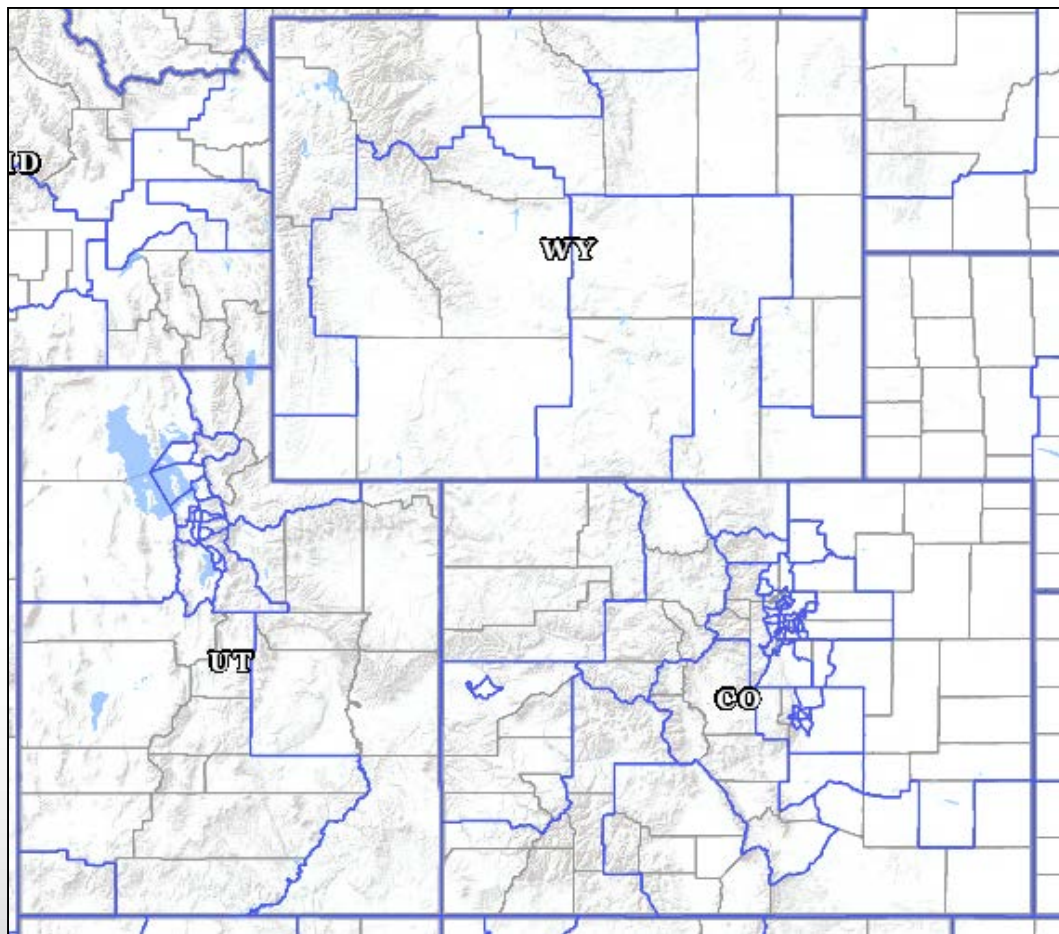
- Region, division, state, PUMA *only*
 - PUMAs can identify most cities of 100,000+ and many metropolitan areas, but not all
- PUMS is **not** designed for statistical analysis of small geographic areas



Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

- An area with 100,000+ population
- Identified by five-digit code (unique within each state)
- Nest within states or equivalent entities
- Geographically contiguous
- Defined after each census by states and the Census Bureau's Geography Division
 - 2010 Census PUMAs first used in the 2012 ACS
 - Multiyear files contain dual PUMA vintages

Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) Maps



Missouri Census Data Center's [MABLE](http://mcdc.missouri.edu/websas/geocorr14.html), can be used to calculate the proportion of a PUMA's population in other geographies and to identify PUMA code(s) for areas of interest.

<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/websas/geocorr14.html>

www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/reference.html

<http://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/>



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American FactFinder

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website. At the top, the United States Census Bureau logo is on the left, and the 'AMERICAN FactFinder' title is in the center. A navigation bar below the title contains links: MAIN, COMMUNITY FACTS, GUIDED SEARCH, ADVANCED SEARCH (highlighted with a red circle), and DOWNLOAD CENTER. Below the navigation bar, a search instruction reads: 'Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results'. On the left side, there is a 'Your Selections' box and a list of search options: Topics (circled in red), Geographies, Race and Ethnic Groups, Industry Codes, and EEO Occupation Codes. A 'Select Topics' modal window is open in the center, showing a list of topics to add to 'Your Selections'. The topics include People, Housing, Business and Industry, Governments, Year, Product Type (with sub-items like Comparison Profile, Data Profile, Detailed Table, Geography Comparison Table, Geography Header, Narrative Profile, and Public Use Microdata Sample (52) which is circled in red), Program, and Dataset. A note at the bottom of the modal states: 'Note: The Race & Ethnicity topic is available under the Race and Ethnic Groups button on the left.' There is also a checkbox for 'Include archived products in your search'.

factfinder.census.gov

American FactFinder

Your Selections

Search using...

Product Type:
Public Use Microdata Sample

clear all selections and start a new search

load search | save search

Search using the options below:

Topics
(age, income, year, dataset, ...)

Geographies
(states, counties, places, ...)

Race and Ethnic Groups
(race, ancestry, tribe)

Industry Codes
(NAICS industry, ...)

EEO Occupation Codes
(executives, analysts, ...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 52 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

topic or table name state, county or place (optional)
Refine your search results: **GO**

☒ topics ☐ race/ancestry ☐ industries ☐ occupations

Selected: View Download Compare ☐ Clear All Reset Sort

Show results from: All available years

	ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-CSV	2011-2015 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format	2015 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-CSV	2015 ACS 1-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format	2015 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-SAS	2011-2015 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - SAS format	2015 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-SAS	2015 ACS 1-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - SAS format	2015 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-CSV	2010-2014 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-CSV	2014 ACS 1-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-SAS	2010-2014 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - SAS format	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-SAS	2014 ACS 1-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - SAS format	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-CSV	2009-2013 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format	2013 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUMS-CSV	2011-2013 ACS 3-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format	2013 ACS 3-year estimates	

factfinder.census.gov

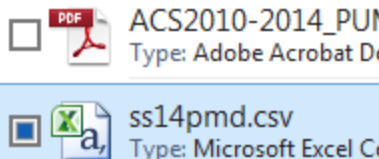
American FactFinder (cont'd)

2010-2014 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) - CSV format ⓘ

2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates

United States Population Records	United States Housing Unit Records
Alabama Population Records	Alabama Housing Unit Records
Alaska Population Records	Alaska Housing Unit Records
Arizona Population Records	Arizona Housing Unit Records
Arkansas Population Records	
California Population Records	
Colorado Population Records	
Connecticut Population Records	
Delaware Population Records	
District of Columbia Population Records	
Florida Population Records	






















csv_pmd.zip















ss14pmd

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	RT	SERIALNO	SPORDER	PUMA00	PUMA10	ST	ADJINC	PWGTP	AGEP	CIT
2	P	20100000000005	1	1201	-9	24	1094136	14	37	
3	P	20100000000005	2	1201	-9	24	1094136	16	36	
4	P	20100000000005	3	1201	-9	24	1094136	17	9	
5	P	20100000000005	4	1201	-9	24	1094136	17	7	
6	P	20100000000005	5	1201	-9	24	1094136	16	0	
7	P	20100000000007	1	1002	-9	24	1094136	23	58	
8	P	20100000000007	2	1002	-9	24	1094136	20	17	
9	P	20100000000007	3	1002	-9	24	1094136	26	13	
10	P	20100000000007	4	1002	-9	24	1094136	26	47	
11	P	20100000000007	5	1002	-9	24	1094136	34	18	

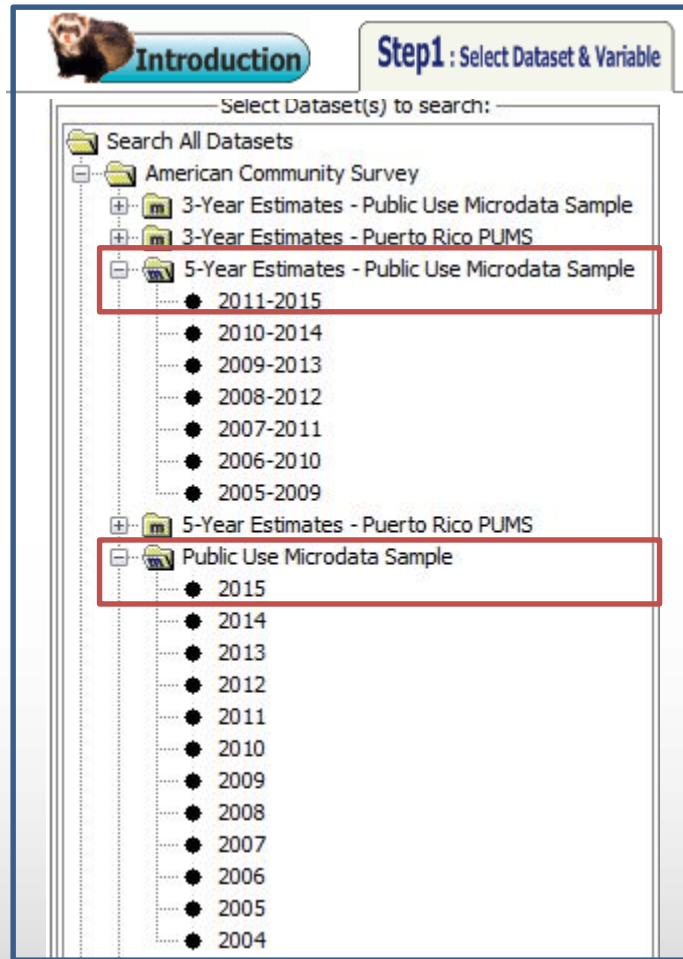
Census Bureau FTP Site

 Topics Population, Economy			
Name	Last modified	Size	Description
 Parent Directory		-	
 1996/	06-Aug-2003 13:41	-	
 1997/	06-Aug-2003 13:42	-	
 1998/	06-Aug-2003 13:42	-	
 1999/	06-Aug-2003 13:42	-	
 2000/	25-Oct-2012 09:15	-	
 2001/	25-Oct-2012 09:14	-	
 2002/	25-Oct-2012 09:14	-	
 2003/	25-Oct-2012 09:14	-	
 2004/	25-Oct-2012 09:13	-	
 2005/	25-Oct-2012 09:13	-	
 2006/	26-Oct-2007 11:19	-	
 2007/	23-May-2015 11:29	-	
 2008/	23-May-2015 19:20	-	
 2009/	23-May-2015 19:51	-	
 2010/	23-May-2015 20:14	-	
 2011/	24-May-2015 07:10	-	
 2012/	24-May-2015 14:36	-	
 2013/	24-May-2015 14:57	-	
 2014/	21-Jan-2016 00:01	-	

 Topics Population, Economy			
Name	Last modified	Size	Description
 Parent Directory		-	
 PUMS_file_naming_convention.pdf	07-Jan-2016 13:21	36K	
 csv_hak.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:54	2.4M	
 csv_hal.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:54	16M	
 csv_har.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:54	9.9M	
 csv_haz.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:53	21M	
 csv_hca.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:53	101M	
 csv_hco.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:50	16M	
 csv_hct.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:49	11M	
 csv_hdc.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:49	2.4M	
 csv_hde.zip	07-Jan-2016 10:49	3.2M	

www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums/

DataFerrett



- Menu driven system doesn't require users to have (or know how to use statistical software (i.e. SAS, STATA, SPSS, etc.)
- Can download specific variables only
- Create variable recodes

dataferrett.census.gov/

DataFerrett Assistance

Video Tutorials



Creating ACS Custom Tables Using DataFerrett - Part 1

May 09, 2014

Part 1 of this tutorial will show you how to make an ACS custom table using DataFerrett, the Census Bureau's free data analysis and extraction tool.

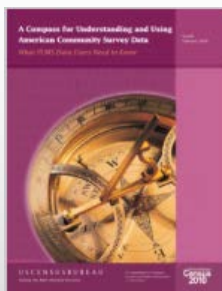


Creating ACS Custom Tables Using DataFerrett - Part 2

May 09, 2014

Part 2 of this tutorial will show you how to change the geography displayed from the default, United States, to a geography that you select.

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/dataferrett.html



What Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Data Users Need to Know (pages 12-23)

www.census.gov/library/publications/2009/acs/pums.html

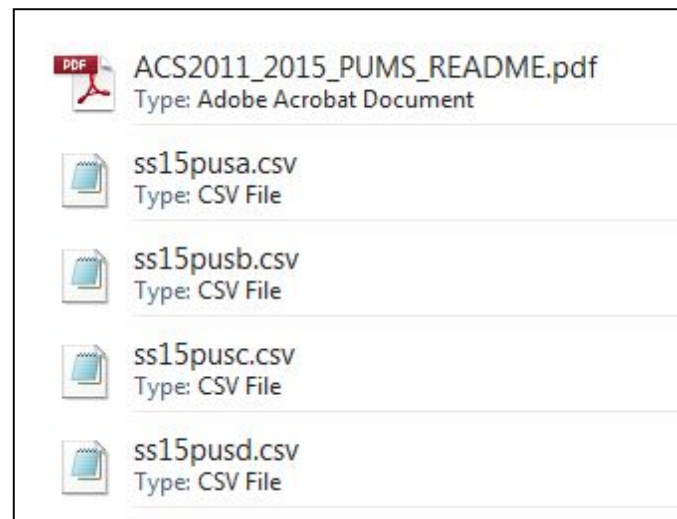


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How do I put PUMS files together?

- National level files are released in pieces that users download and concatenate.
- Housing variables and person variables are separated
- Users must merge housing and person files by using the SERIALNO variable.
- Find example code in the PUMS ReadMe and on the PUMS File Structure page



```
data population;  
set psam_pusa psam_pusb psam_pusc psam_pusd;  
run;  
  
data combined; merge population (in=pop)  
housing;  
by serialno;  
if pop;  
run;
```

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/filestructure.html

Which weight should I apply?

A weight defines how many persons and housing units one PUMS sample interview represents

- **WGTP: PUMS household weights**
 - used to produce housing unit estimates
- **PWGTP: PUMS person weights**
 - used to produce population estimates
- **WGTP1 – WGTP80, PWGTP1 – PWGTP80: PUMS Replicate Weights**
 - used to calculate standard errors



Why don't my PUMS estimates match AFF?

Estimates generated with PUMS microdata will be slightly different from AFF estimates:

- PUMS files include only about two-thirds of the cases that were used to produce estimates on American FactFinder
- PUMS files include additional edits

When data users have doubts about their PUMS estimates, they should attempt to reproduce the PUMS Estimates for User Verification, available on the Technical Documentation page.

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/documentation.html

How Do I Use Dual Vintage PUMAs?

Two sets of PUMA codes on 5-year files:

- Census 2000 PUMAs
- 2010 Census PUMAs

ACS PUMS does not use overlapping geographies for any record.

Estimate of 4-yr-olds in a city (2011-2015 ACS 5-year PUMS):

4-year-olds in the 2000 PUMAs (in 2011 records): X

4-year-olds in the 2010 PUMAs (in 2012-2015 records): Y

Add these two figures:

4-year-olds in the fuzzy PUMAs: $(X+Y)$

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/documentation.html



Use Caution...

- Be careful using estimates based on a small handful of cases. To obtain more cases, use multiyear files or combine geographic areas.
- Extreme values are masked to avoid disclosure. Some variables will be especially affected:
 - Dollar-amount variables (all kinds of income, mortgage, rent, utilities, property taxes, home value, property insurance costs)
 - Number of rooms and bedrooms
 - Age
 - Travel time to work, hours worked



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ACS Main Page



[Topics](#)
Population, Economy

[Geography](#)
Maps, Geographic Data

[Library](#)
Infographics, Publications

[Data](#)
Tools, Developers

[About the Bureau](#)
Research, Surveys

[Newsroom](#)
News, Events, Blogs

[About the Survey](#)

[Respond to the Survey](#)

[News & Updates](#)

[Data](#)

[Guidance for Data Users](#)

[Geography & ACS](#)

[Technical Documentation](#)

[Methodology](#)

[Library](#)

[Operations and Administration](#)

[Contact Us](#)

The American Community Survey helps local officials, community leaders and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed information about the American people and workforce.



What is the ACS?



How do I respond to the ACS?



Where can I get ACS data?

[Data](#)[News](#)[Events](#)[Library](#)

Respond to the ACS.
Learn how.

census.gov/acs

PUMS Data Page

About the Survey

Respond to the Survey

News & Updates

Data

Data Tables & Tools

Data via FTP

Summary File Data

PUMS Data

Variance Replicate Tables

Race/Ethnicity & AIAN Data

Custom Tables

Guidance for Data Users

Geography & ACS


Technical Documentation

Methodology



Library

Operations and Administration

Contact Us


Respond to the ACS
Learn how

PUMS Data

 Tweet  Share

Supporting documentation for the data below is available on the [PUMS Documentation](#) page.

PUMS Data 2005 - Current

Available through the American FactFinder website

2011-2015 ACS 5-year PUMS

2015 ACS 1-year PUMS

2010-2014 ACS 5-year PUMS

2014 ACS 1-year PUMS

2009-2013 ACS 5-year PUMS

2011-2013 ACS 3-year PUMS

2013 ACS 1-year PUMS

2008-2012 ACS 5-year PUMS

2010-2012 ACS 3-year PUMS

2012 ACS 1-year PUMS

2007-2011 ACS 5-year PUMS

2009-2011 ACS 3-year PUMS

2011 ACS 1-year PUMS

2006-2010 ACS 5-year PUMS

2008-2010 ACS 3-year PUMS

2010 ACS 1-year PUMS

Available through the FTP site

2004 ACS PUMS

2003 ACS PUMS

2002 ACS PUMS

2001 ACS PUMS

2000 ACS PUMS

1996-98 PUMS Files Available on DVD

Microdata for select test areas is available on DVD.

- To request a DVD, email your name and mailing address and specify dataset (PUMS 1996-1998) to acso.dvd.order@census.gov. You may be contacted for additional information before your request is filled.

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums.html

PUMS Technical Documentation

About the Survey
Respond to the Survey
News & Updates
Data
Guidance for Data Users
Geography & ACS

Technical Documentation

Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy

User Notes

Errata

Data Suppression

Table & Geography Changes

Summary File Documentation

PUMS Documentation

Race/Ethnicity and AIAN Release Documentation

Methodology

Library

Operations and Administration

Contact Us

About PUMS

Confidentiality of PUMS

PUMS Data

PUMS FAQs

PUMS File Structure

PUMS on DataFerrett

PUMS Technical Documentation

- **PUMS ReadMe:** Important information about 2015 geography and variable changes as well as guidance for novice ACS PUMS files users
- **Subjects in the PUMS:** A list of topics included in each of the housing and population record files
- **PUMS Data Dictionary:** Includes variables available for each PUMS release and how each variable is coded
- **PUMS Code Lists:** Detailed codes for variables that contain a large number of coded responses, such as ancestry and occupation.
- **PUMS Top Coded and Bottom Coded Values:** List of variables with responses exceeding a state specific value that are replaced with a predetermined value
- **Accuracy of the PUMS:** A basic explanation of the sample design, estimation methodology, and accuracy of the data
- **PUMS Estimates for User Verification:** A set of Census-created PUMS estimates for data users to verify their methods

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/documentation.html

PUMS Data Dictionary

RT	SERIALNO	SPORDER	AGEP	CIT	SEX
P	20100000000005	1	37	1	1
P	20100000000005	2	36	1	2
P	20100000000005	3	9	1	1
P	20100000000005	4	7	1	1
P	20100000000005	5			
P	20100000000007	1			
P	20100000000007	2			
P	20100000000007	3			
P	20100000000007	4			
P	20100000000007	5			

PERSON RECORD PERSON RECORD-BASIC VARIABLES

RT 1
Record Type
P .Person Record

SERIALNO 13
Housing unit/GQ person serial number
2011000000001..201599999999 .Unique identifier

SPORDER 2
Person number
01..20 .Person number

PUMA00 5
Public use microdata area code (PUMA) based on Census 2000 definition for data collected prior to 2012. Use in combination with PUMA10.
00100..08200 .Public use microdata area codes
77777 .combination of 01801, 01802, and 01905 in Louisiana
-0009 .Code classification is Not Applicable for data collected in 2012 or later

Note: Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) designate areas of 100,000 or more population. Use with ST for unique code. PUMA00 applies to data collected in calendar years 2011 and earlier. Users of multi-year datasets that contain data from before and after 2012 should use PUMA00 and PUMA10 together where possible, but not all PUMAs will be comparable. See the TIGERweb map application, <https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov>, to identify PUMA changes between the two vintages.

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/documentation.html

Estimates for User Verification

PUMS Estimates for User Verification

Note that some of these estimates may be different from the estimates for the same characteristics published in the American FactFinder. For an explanation of these differences, see the Accuracy of the PUMS above.

2011-2015 ACS 5-year PUMS estimates [SAS] [<1.0 MB]

2011-2015 ACS 5-year PUMS estimates [LST] [<1.0 MB]

2011-2015 ACS 5-year PUMS estimates [CSV] [<1.0 MB]

2015 ACS 1-year PUMS estimates [SAS] [<1.0 MB]

2015 ACS 1-year PUMS estimates [LST] [<1.0 MB]

2015 ACS 1-year PUMS estimates [CSV] [<1.0 MB]

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	st	state	characteristic	pums_est_11_to_15	pums_se_11_to_15	pums_moe_11_to_15
2	0	United States	Total population	316,515,024	63	103
3	0	United States	Housing unit population (RELP=0-15)	308,459,400	57	94
4	0	United States	GQ population (RELP=16-17)	8,055,624	6	10
5	0	United States	GQ institutional population (RELP=16)	3,963,061	359	590
6	0	United States	GQ noninstitutional population (RELP=17)	4,092,563	359	591
7	0	United States	Total males (SEX=1)	155,728,568	9188	15114
8	0	United States	Total females (SEX=2)	160,786,456	9189	15115
9	0	United States	Age 0-4	19,875,957	5398	8880
10	0	United States	Age 5-9	20,489,944	24560	40401
11	0	United States	Age 10-14	20,719,415	20409	33573

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/pums/documentation.html

Source Us!

U.S. Census Bureau's [YYYY-YYYY] American Community Survey [1/5]-year **PUMS** [estimates/statistics/data release]



"As the topic of who bikes in Philly always seems to be a hot topic of conversation on social media, we reached out again for some further analysis of cycling demographics. Econsult researcher Caitlin Furio crunched the numbers for us from the **2008-2012 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data from the ACS...**"

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/Who_bikes_drives_walks_or_rides_transit_to_work_in_Philly.html

HUFFPOST BUSINESS

"Homeownership rates are calculated from the **2013 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)** and are based on whether the head of household, spouse, or unmarried partner is a veteran. "

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jed-kolko/where-veterans-live_b_6134066.html



Household- and individual-level data are based on the. **2012 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)**

<http://www.citylab.com/housing/2014/08/where-private-school-enrollment-is-highest-and-lowest-across-the-us/375993/>

Continue the Conversation #ACSData



Sign up for and manage alerts at
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new>



More information on the
American Community Survey:
www.census.gov/acs



(800) 923-8282 or
(301) 763-1405



Email us at:
acso.users.support@census.gov



facebook.com/uscensusbureau



twitter.com/uscensusbureau



youtube.com/user/uscensusbureau



instagram.com/uscensusbureau



pinterest.com/uscensusbureau



linkedin.com/company/us-census-bureau



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA USERS GROUP

- Purpose:
 - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
 - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users
- 2017 ACS Data Users Conference, May 11-12, 2017
- Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned
- Users group website and online community

acsdatacommunity.prb.org

Need Local Stats?

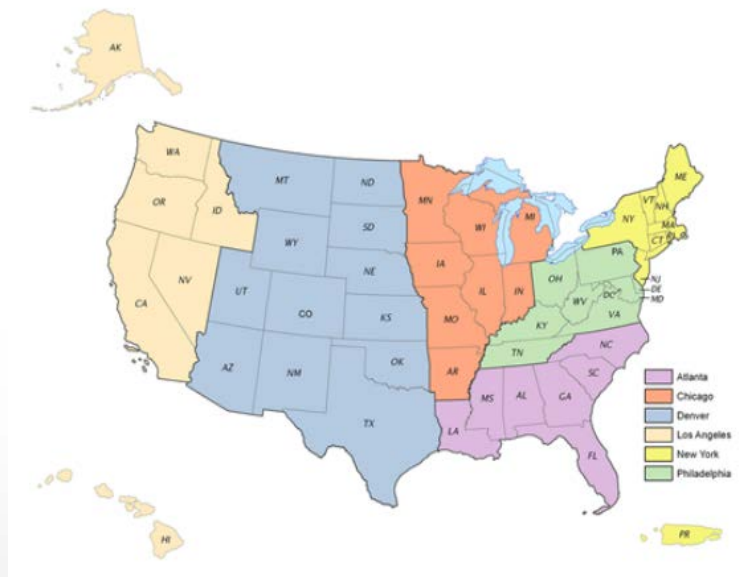
- Assistance Near You!

Our regional data staff can help you access local statistics from the ACS or offer training to help build your skills. Contact us at:

1-844-ASK-DATA

(1-844-275-3282)

census.askdata@census.gov



Questions?

acso.users.support@census.gov