

# **Your Neighborhood by the Numbers: Accessing Census Tracts, Block Groups, & Blocks**

Access the Audio:

Toll-free number: 1-877-914-6811

Participant passcode: 9416339

October 4, 2017

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**U.S. Census Bureau**

# Webinar Outline

- ACS Overview
- Census Geography
- Accessing ACS Data Products
- Additional Resources
- Questions
- Online Demonstration

# ACS Basics: The Survey

- Ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses per year to produce detailed population and housing estimates each year
  - Visit 20,000 Group Quarter facilities and sample approximately 194,000 residents each year
- Designed to produce *critical information on small areas and small population groups* previously collected on the decennial long form
- Covers 35+ topics and supports over 300 known Federal Government uses
- Data released twice annually
  - 1-year estimates (12 months of data)
  - 5-year estimates (60 months of data)



# 2010 Census vs. ACS

2010  
Census

**100 % Data**

How many  
people live in  
the U.S.?

**Point in time**  
April 1, 2010

**Count** - People,  
Housing units,

American  
Community  
Survey

=

2000 Long Form  
SF3 & SF4

Sample Data

How do people  
live in the U.S.?

**Period in Time**  
1yr, 5yr

**Characteristics**  
Income, Poverty,  
Education

# ACS Content

Items in **red** were also collected on the **2010 Census**

## Demographic Characteristics

- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Hispanic Origin
- Household Relationship
- Group Quarters

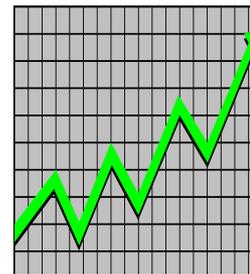


## Social Characteristics

- Families
- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Language Spoken at Home
- Ancestry/ Tribal Affiliation

## Economic Characteristics

- Income
- Poverty
- Benefits
- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work



## Housing Characteristics

- Tenure (Rent/Own)
- Occupancy
- Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/ Monthly Rent



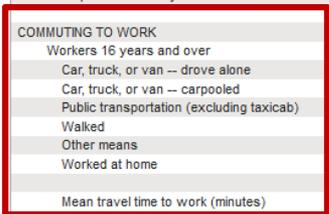
# ACS Data Products

Data Product	Description
Data Profiles	Provide broad social, economic, housing, and demographic profiles.
Narrative Profiles	Summarize the information in the data profiles using concise, nontechnical text.
Comparison Profile	Compares over 5-year period selected enhancements.
Selected Population Profiles	Provide broad social, economic, and housing profiles for a large number of race, ethnic, ancestry, and country/region of birth groups.
Detailed Tables	Provide access to the most detailed ACS data and cross tabulations of ACS variables.
Subject Tables	Similar to data profiles but include more detailed ACS data, classified by subject.
Ranking Tables	Provide state rankings of estimates across 86 key variables.
Geographic Comparison Tables	Compare geographic areas other than states (e.g., counties or congressional districts) for key variables.
Supplemental Tables	Detailed tables available for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 or more.

# Data Profile vs. Detailed Table

137 of 137

Subject	College Park city, Maryland			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>				
Population 16 years and over	28,690	+/-368	28,690	(X)
In labor force	14,997	+/-559	52.3%	+/-1.9
Civilian labor force	14,938	+/-557	52.1%	+/-1.9
Employed	13,243	+/-619	46.2%	+/-2.1
Unemployed	1,695	+/-313	5.9%	+/-1.1
Armed Forces	59	+/-47	0.2%	+/-0.2
Not in labor force	13,693	+/-601	47.7%	+/-1.9
Civilian labor force	14,938	+/-557	14,938	(X)
Percent Unemployed	(X)	(X)	11.3%	+/-2.1
Females 16 years and over	13,697	+/-462	13,697	(X)
In labor force	6,982	+/-400	51.0%	+/-2.7
Civilian labor force	6,971	+/-401	50.9%	+/-2.7
Employed	6,429	+/-429	46.9%	+/-3.0
Own children under 6 years	851	+/-210	851	(X)
All parents in family in labor force	569	+/-184	66.9%	+/-14.2
Own children 6 to 17 years	1,242	+/-254	1,242	(X)
All parents in family in labor force	919	+/-199	74.0%	+/-12.9
<b>COMMUTING TO WORK</b>				
Workers 16 years and over	12,874	+/-642	12,874	(X)
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	6,220	+/-494	48.3%	+/-2.9
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	1,162	+/-277	9.0%	+/-2.2
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1,686	+/-306	13.1%	+/-2.2
Walked	2,670	+/-304	20.7%	+/-2.2
Other means	433	+/-138	3.4%	+/-1.0
Worked at home	703	+/-210	5.5%	+/-1.6
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	26.7	+/-1.3	(X)	(X)
<b>OCCUPATION</b>				
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	13,243	+/-619	13,243	(X)
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	6,203	+/-536	46.8%	+/-3.5
Service occupations	2,456	+/-382	18.5%	+/-2.6
Sales and office occupations	3,309	+/-373	25.0%	+/-2.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	709	+/-201	5.4%	+/-1.5
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	566	+/-126	4.3%	+/-0.9
<b>INDUSTRY</b>				
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	13,243	+/-619	13,243	(X)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	6	+/-9	0.0%	+/-0.1
Construction	502	+/-172	3.8%	+/-1.3



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	College Park city, Maryland	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Total:</b>	12,874	+/-642
Car, truck, or van:	7,382	+/-525
Drove alone	6,220	+/-494
Carpooled:	1,162	+/-277
In 2-person carpool	973	+/-235
In 3-person carpool	77	+/-56
In 4-or-more-person carpool	112	+/-93
Public transportation (excluding taxicab):	1,686	+/-306
Bus or trolley bus	596	+/-174
Streetcar or trolley car (carro publico in Puerto Rico)	0	+/-26
Subway or elevated	935	+/-201
Railroad	155	+/-89
Ferryboat	0	+/-26
Bicycle	350	+/-123
Walked	2,670	+/-304
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	83	+/-59
Worked at home	703	+/-210
<b>Male:</b>	6,548	+/-480
Car, truck, or van:	3,699	+/-387
Drove alone	3,134	+/-377
Carpooled:	565	+/-166
In 2-person carpool	461	+/-143
In 3-person carpool	49	+/-43
In 4-or-more-person carpool	55	+/-51
Public transportation (excluding taxicab):	1,050	+/-238
Bus or trolley bus	362	+/-140
Streetcar or trolley car (carro publico in Puerto Rico)	0	+/-26
Subway or elevated	576	+/-151
Railroad	112	+/-81
Ferryboat	0	+/-26
Bicycle	229	+/-93
Walked	1,163	+/-191
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	59	+/-49
Worked at home	348	+/-168
<b>Female:</b>	6,326	+/-439
Car, truck, or van:	3,683	+/-409
Drove alone	3,086	+/-380
Carpooled:	597	+/-171
In 2-person carpool	512	+/-147
In 3-person carpool	28	+/-37
In 4-or-more-person carpool	57	+/-55
Public transportation (excluding taxicab):	636	+/-154
Bus or trolley bus	234	+/-104
Streetcar or trolley car (carro publico in Puerto Rico)	0	+/-26
Subway or elevated	359	+/-103
Railroad	43	+/-44
Ferryboat	0	+/-26
Bicycle	121	+/-69
Walked	1,507	+/-208
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	24	+/-29
Worked at home	355	+/-99

# Current ACS 1-year/5-year Data

- **Areas with a population 65,000+: 1-year estimates**

(2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, **2016**)

**All areas** (incl. census tracts & block groups): **5-year estimates**

(2005-2009, 2006-2010, 2007-2011, 2008-2012, 2009-2013, 2010-2014, **2011-2015**)

# Future ACS Data Releases

## 2016 ACS 1-Year Supplemental Estimates (**Geographies of 20,000+**)

- Thursday, October 19: Public Release

## 2012-2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates (**All geographic areas**)

- Tuesday, December 5: Embargo Begins
- Thursday, December 7: Public Release

## Public Use Microdata Sample Files (PUMS)

- Thursday, October 19: 2016 1-Year PUMS File
- January 18, 2018: 2012-2016 5-Year PUMS File

## 2012-2016 Variance Replicate Estimates

- January 18, 2018: Public Release

## 2016 Puerto Rico Community Survey 1-year and 5-year Spanish Release

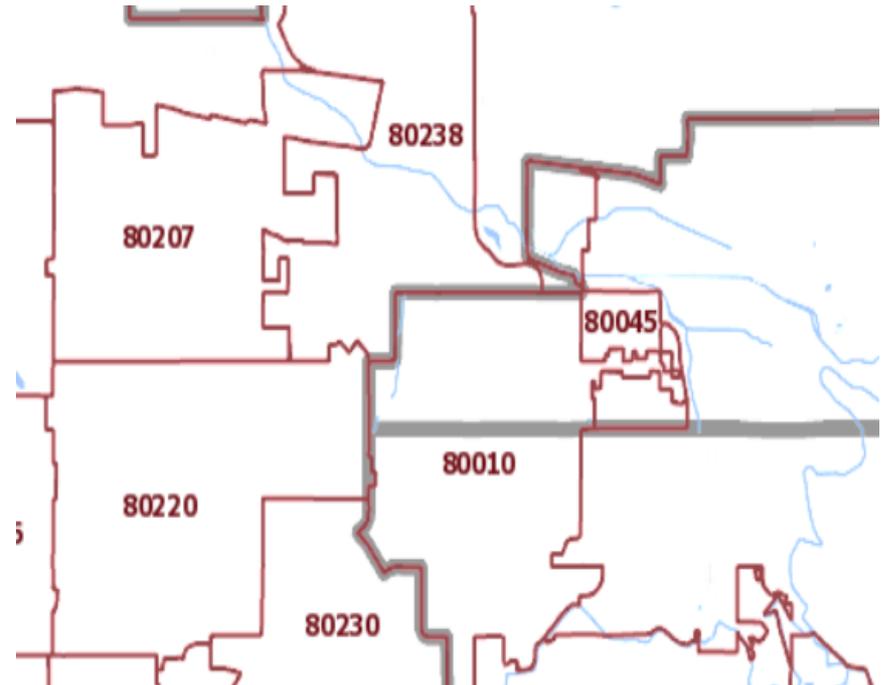
- January 18, 2018: Public Release

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2016/release-schedule.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2016/release-schedule.html)

# Census Geography

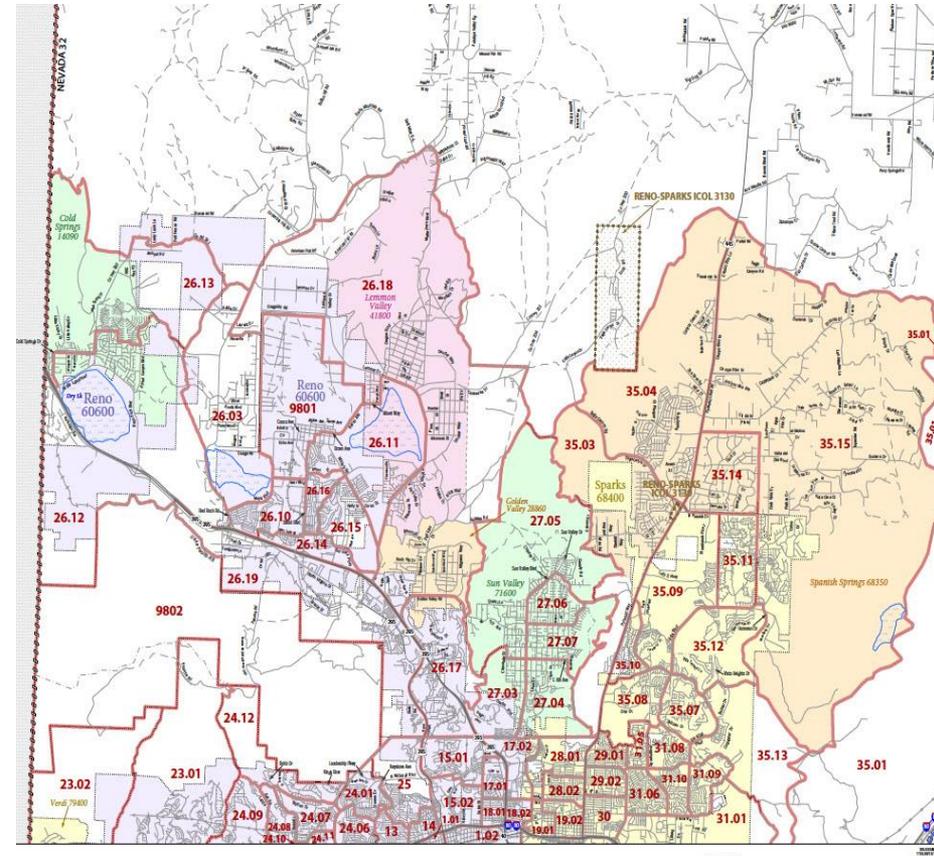
# Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Legal Areas

- Nation
- States
- Counties
- Incorporated Places
- Minor Civil Divisions
- Congressional Districts
- School Districts
- Zip Codes

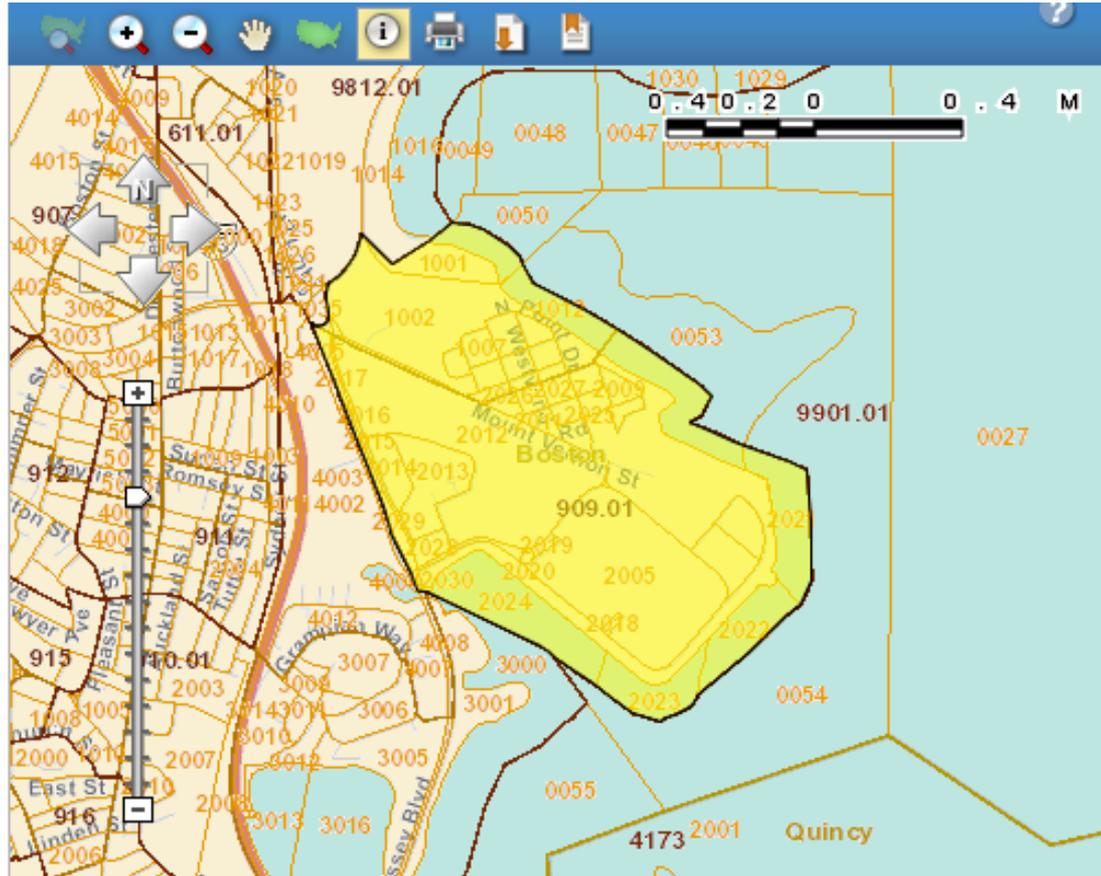


# Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Statistical Areas

- Regions
- Divisions
- Census Designated Places
- Census County Divisions
- Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA)
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
- Census Tracts
- Block Groups
- Block

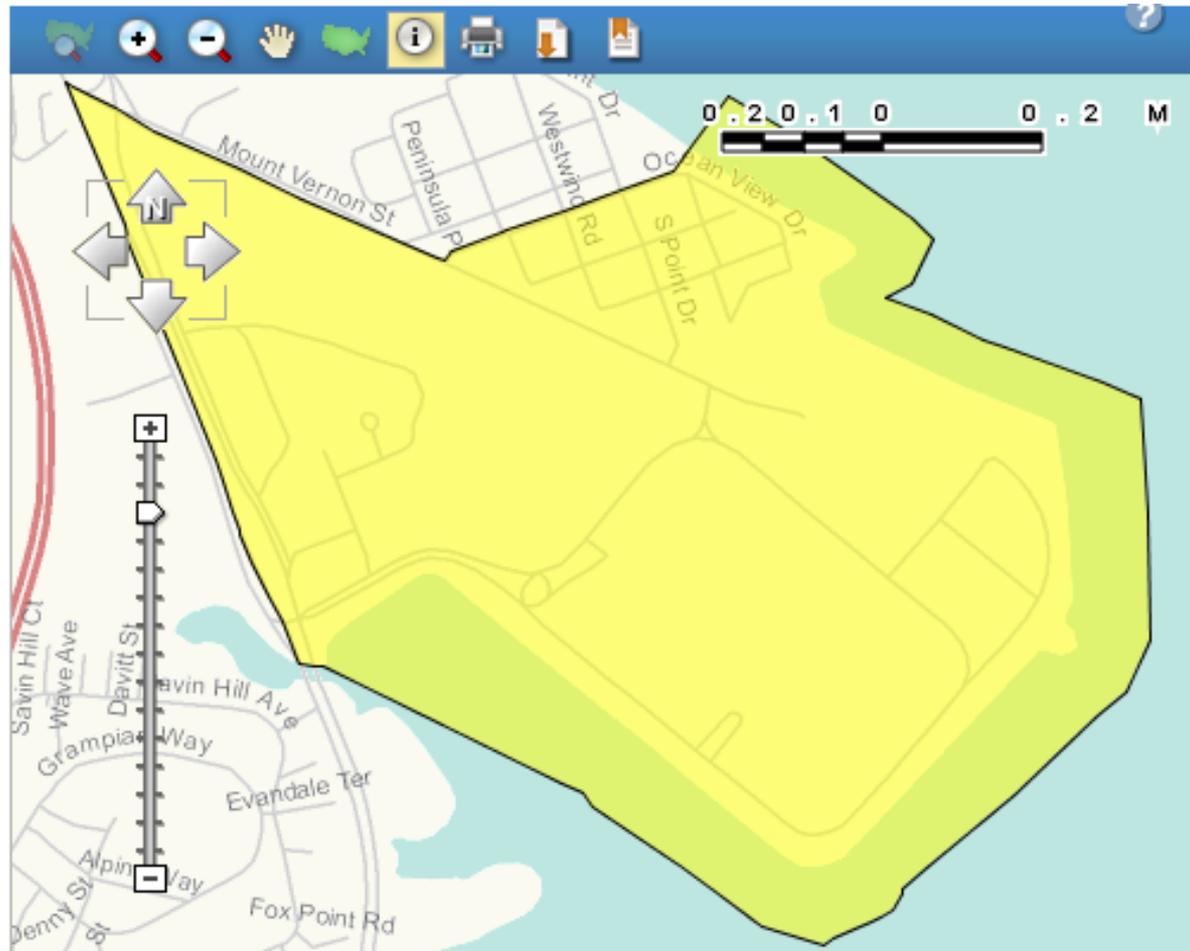


# Census Tract 909.01, Suffolk County, MA



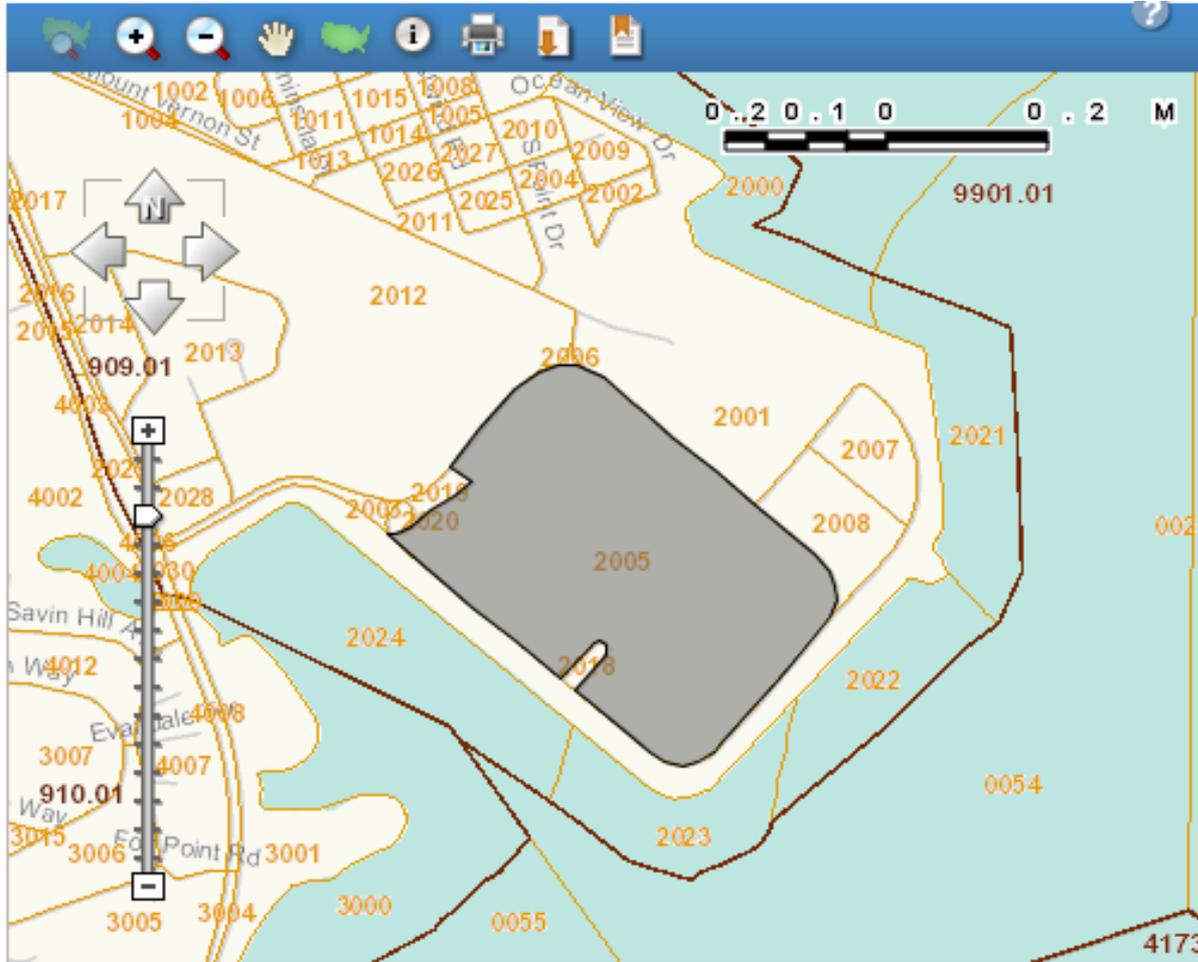
- **Census Tracts** generally have a population of 1,200 to 8,000 (optimum **4,000**) and follow physical boundaries.

# BG 2, Tract 909.01, Suffolk County, MA



- **Block Groups** generally have a population of 600 to 3,000 (optimum 1,500) and follow physical boundaries.

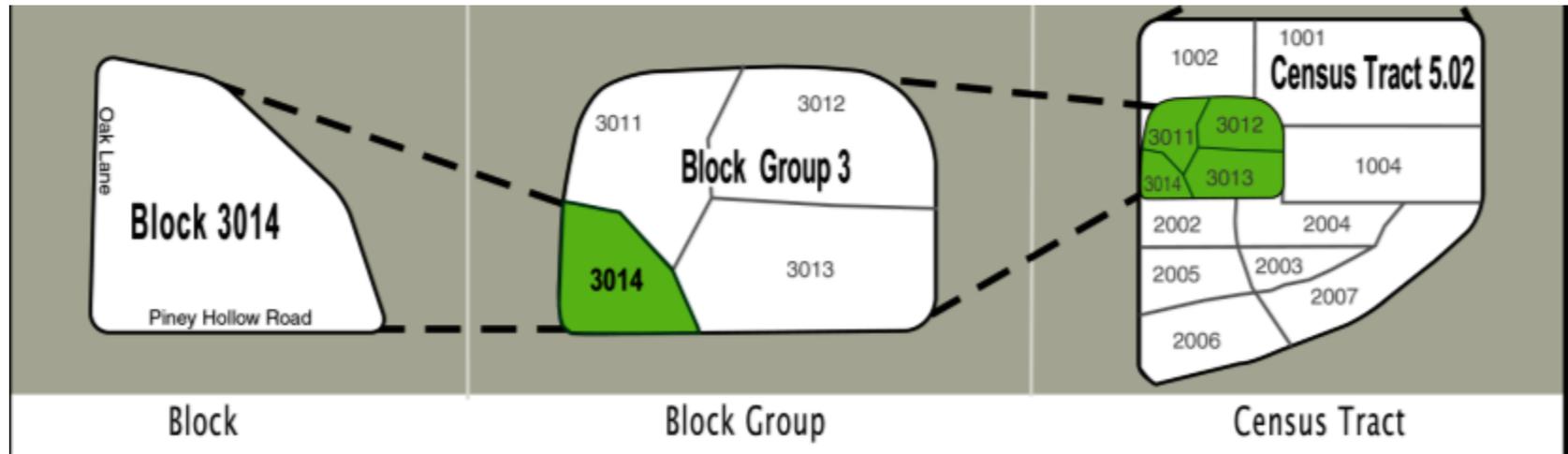
# Block 2005, BG 2, Tract 909.01, Suffolk County, MA



- **Blocks**: the smallest geographic level for which census data is available. No population threshold. Size varies.

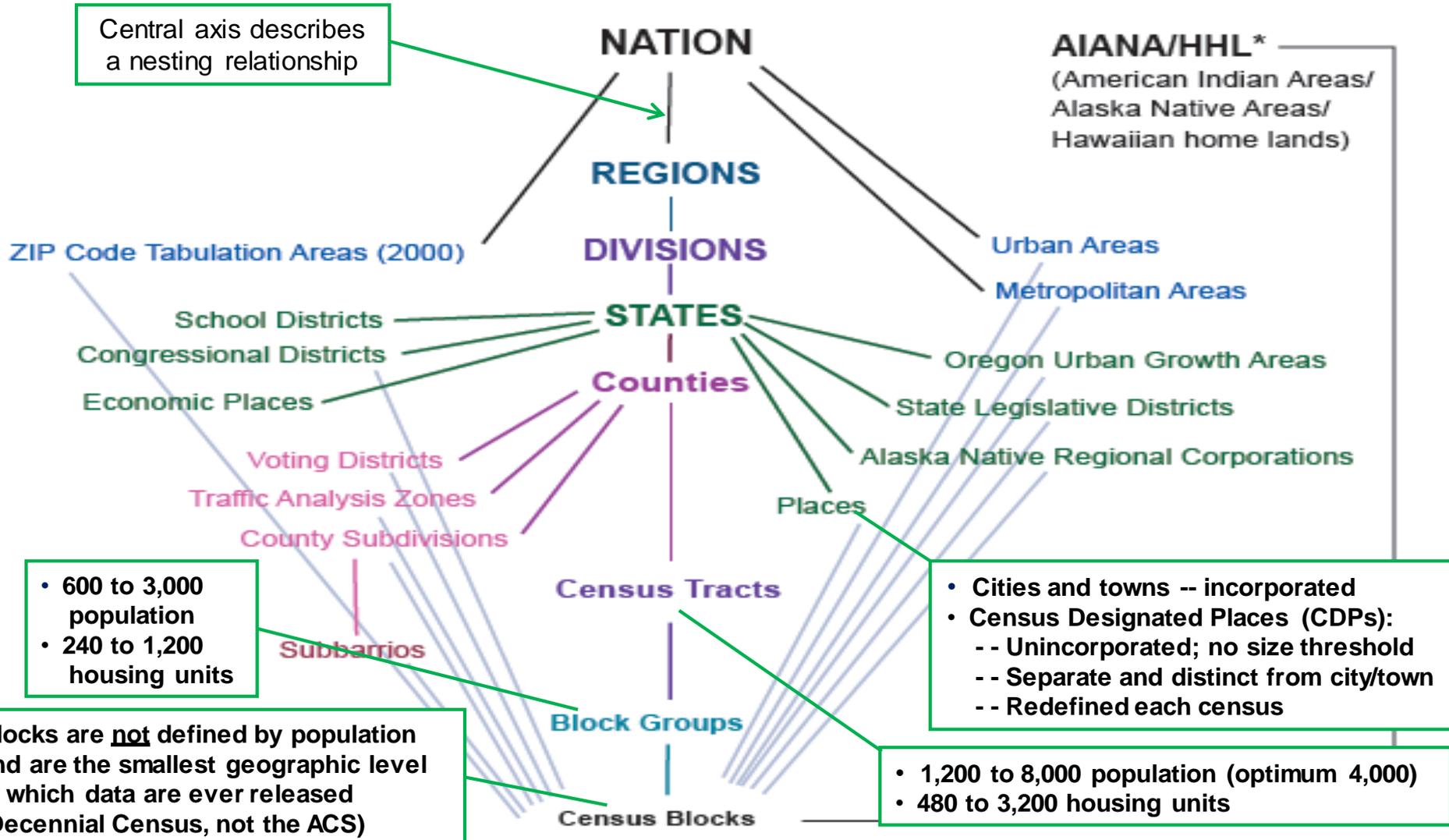
# Small Area Census Geography

## How it Fits Together



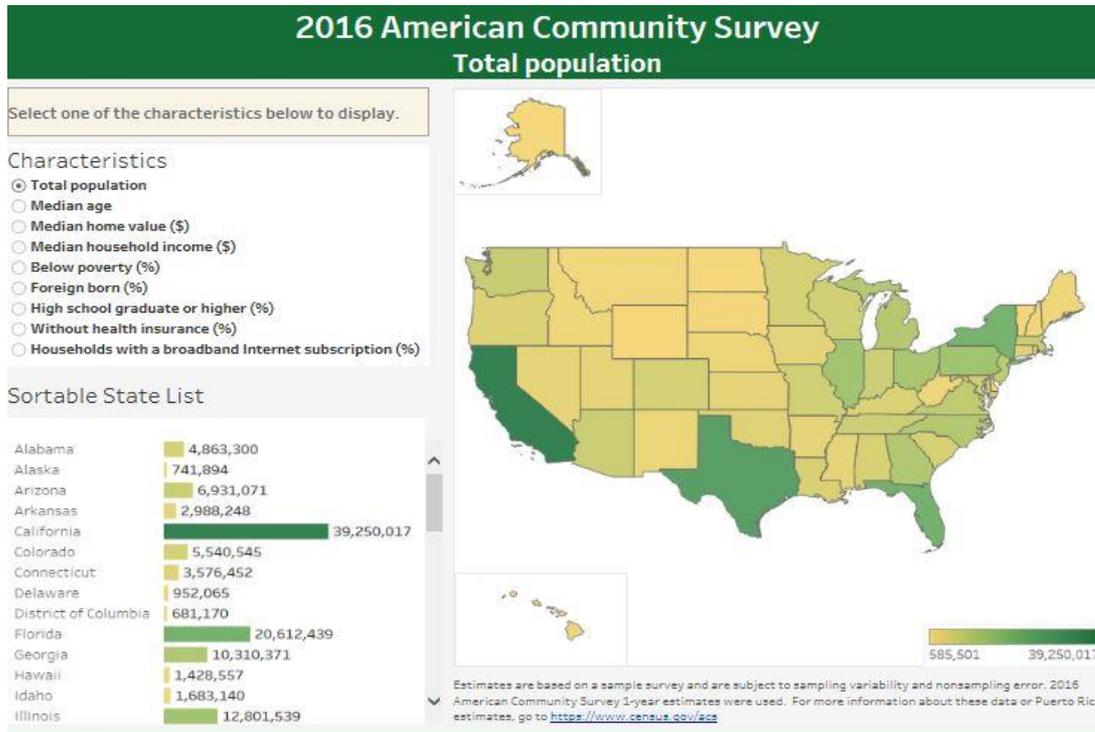
**Census Tract > Place (City or CDP) > Census County Division (CCD) > County**

# Census Geography Hierarchy



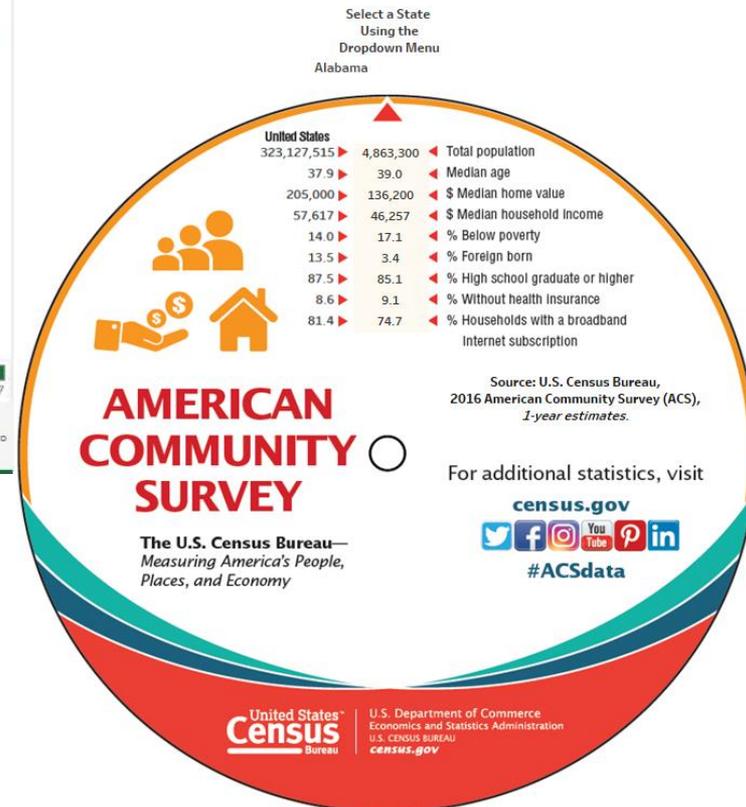
# Accessing ACS Data Products

# New Data Visualization Tools



The [Data Wheel Dashboard](#) includes a bar graph and map of the U.S. highlighting ACS characteristics for all 50 states.

The [ACS Data Wheel](#) allows users to explore ACS data for all 50 states.



# ACS Website

U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs | Index A-Z | Glossary | FAQs

United States Census Bureau

Search

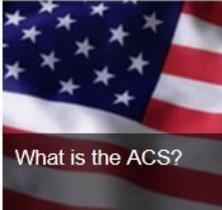
Topics: Population, Economy | Geography: Maps, Products | Library: Infographics, Publications | Data: Tools, Developers | Surveys/Programs: Respond, Survey Data | Newsroom: News, Blogs | About Us: Our Research

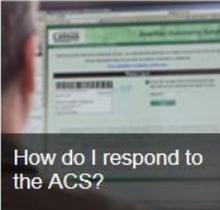
Census.gov | Our Surveys & Programs | American Community Survey (ACS)

## American Community Survey (ACS)

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?



### Latest

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

#### 2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Selected Population Tables and American Indian and Alaska Native Tables

Discover new statistics released July 13 on detailed race, Hispanic Origin, ancestry, and tribal population groups, based on the 2011-2015 ACS.

 Respond to the ACS  
Learn how

[census.gov/acs](https://census.gov/acs)

# Data Tables & Tools

## American Community Survey

- About the Survey
- Respond to the Survey
- News & Updates
- Data
- Data Tables & Tools
- Data Profiles
- Narrative Profiles
- Subject Tables
- Ranking Tables
- Supplemental Tables
- American FactFinder
- Data via FTP
- Summary File Data
- PUMS Data
- Variance Replicate Tables
- Race/Ethnicity & AIAN Data
- Custom Tables
- Guidance for Data Users
- Geography & the ACS
- Technical

### Ranking Tables Tell Us What You Think!

Show  entries Filter by keyword:

Table Title	Topic	Table ID
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are White Alone	Race	R0201
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are Black Or African American Alone	Race	R0202
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are American Indian And Alaska Native Alone	Race	R0203
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are Asian Alone	Race	R0204
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are Native Hawaiian And Other Pacific Islander Alone	Race	R0205
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are Some Other Race Alone	Race	R0206
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are Two Or More Races	Race	R0207
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are Two Or More Races Excluding Some Other Race	Race	R0208
Percent Of The Total Population Who Are White Alone, Not Hispanic Or Latino	Race	R0209
Percent Of People Who Are Foreign Born	Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year of Entry; Nativity	R0501
Percent Of Foreign-Born People Born In Europe	Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year of Entry; Nativity	R0502
Percent Of Foreign-Born People Born In Asia	Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year of Entry; Nativity	R0503

[census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/](https://census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/)

# Narrative Profiles

## Population and Housing Narrative Profile 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Select a New Geography

While the ACS produces sample-based population group and housing estimates used in this report, the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program produces and disseminates official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns, as well as estimates of housing units for states and counties. For more information see: <http://www.census.gov/popest/>

Note that for small geographic areas, the sample used for the Narrative Profile may be small as well. Users are encouraged to examine the detailed tables on [American FactFinder](#) that are associated with the Narrative Profile text. These tables provide additional information on sampling variability associated with the estimates in this report.

### Geography: Pahrump, Nevada

>> Expand All Sections

<< Collapse All Sections

### Households and Families

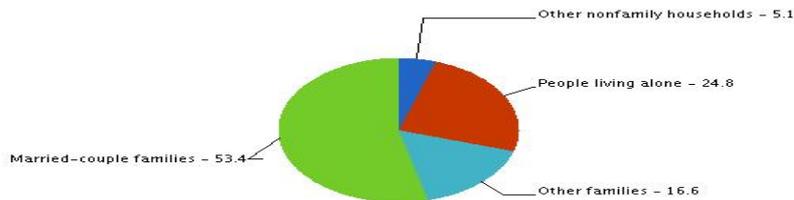
In 2009-2013 there were 14,900 households in Pahrump, Nevada. The average household size was 2.4 people.

Families made up 70 percent of the households in Pahrump, Nevada. This figure includes both married-couple families (53 percent) and other families (17 percent). Of other families, 5 percent are female householder families with no husband present and own children under 18 years. Nonfamily households made up 30 percent of all households in Pahrump, Nevada. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

In Pahrump, Nevada, 25 percent of all households have one or more people under the age of 18; 45 percent of all households have one or more people 65 years and over.

Types of Households in Pahrump, Nevada in 2009-2013

[click graph to view data in table format](#)

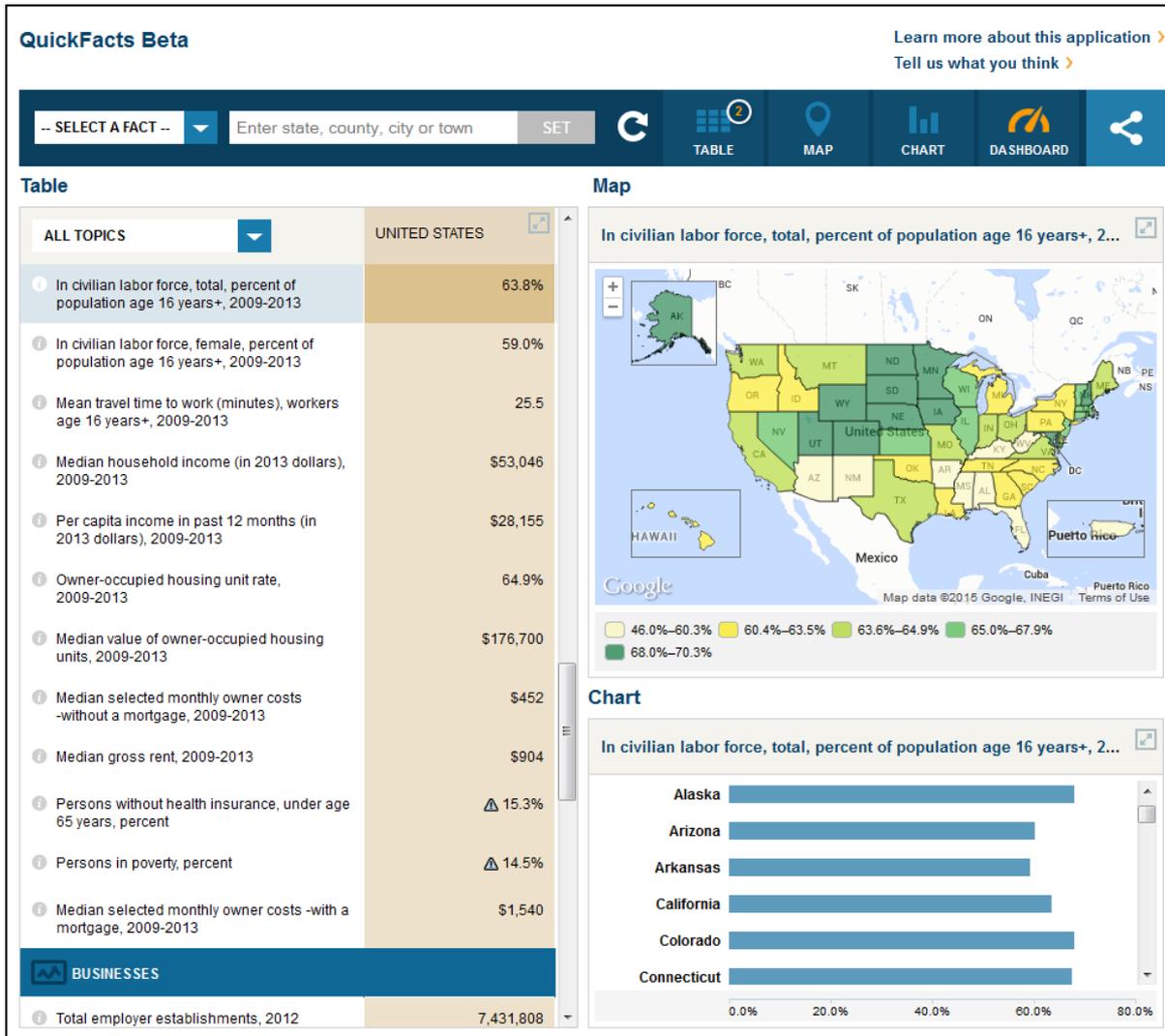


## When to use:

Browse statistics presented as a text-based report with plenty of colorful graphs and charts.

[census.gov/acs/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles](http://census.gov/acs/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles)

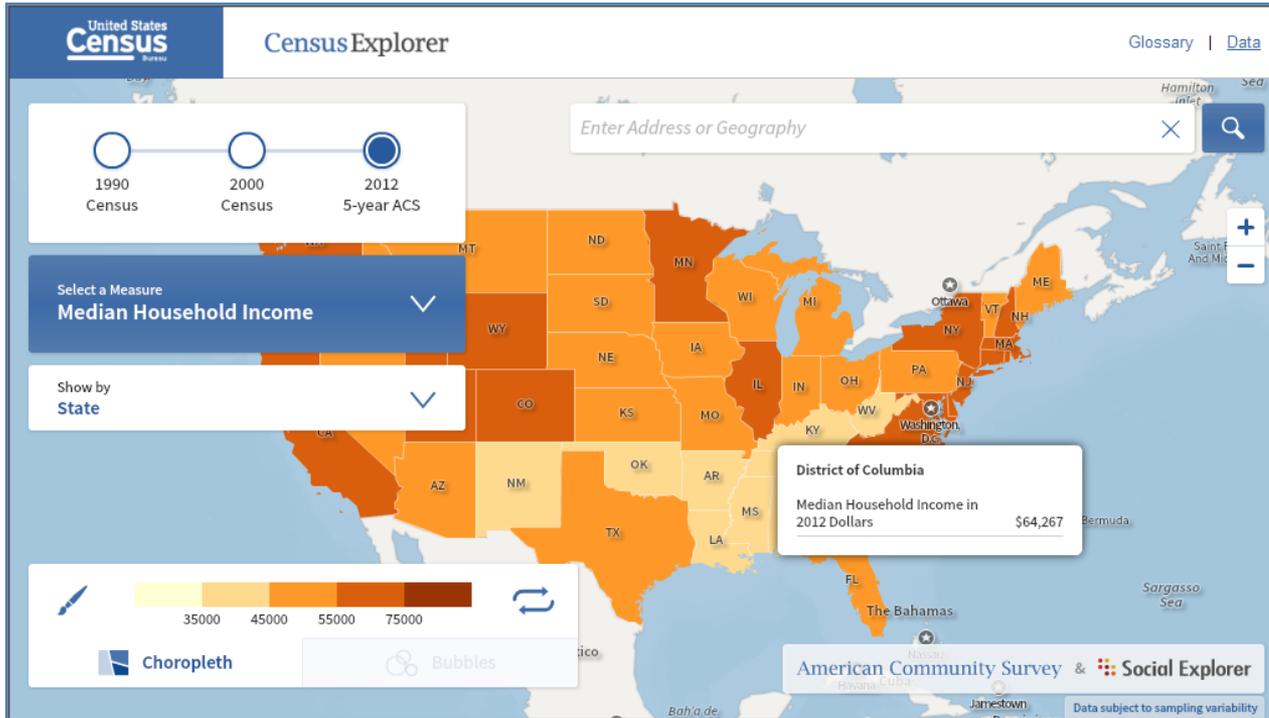
# QuickFacts



**When to use:**  
 Find a fact fast. View selected estimates about social, economic, and housing characteristics for all states and counties, and for cities with more than 5,000 people.

[census.gov/quickfacts](http://census.gov/quickfacts)

# Census Explorer



**When to use:**  
Explore selected estimates about people, education, income, and commuting in an interactive map to visualize how statistics change over time and across geographies.

[census.gov/censusexplorer](https://census.gov/censusexplorer)

# Census Business Builder

United States Census Bureau  
 Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition - 2.0 (Beta)  
 Privacy Act Statement | FAQs | Send Feedback

Change Your Industry: Food Services, Food trucks  
 Change Your Location: Las Vegas city, Nevada  
 Select Map Variable: Total population  
 Select Your Filter: Not Applied

County: City/Town | ZIP Code | Neighborhood

Please Select a Map Variable

Primary Category: My Potential Customers | Other Businesses Like Mine | Consumer Spending

Secondary Category:  Demographic Characteristics (2014) |  Socioeconomic Characteristics (2014) |  Housing Characteristics (2014)

Map Variables:  Total population |  Percent under 5 years |  Percent under 18 years |  Percent 18 years and over

Select Variable | Cancel

These data are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. See [Methodology](#) on the ACS Home Page for more information. Includes key information that you can use to better understand your market. For additional variables, see [www.census.gov](#)

Las Vegas city, Nevada

597,353  
Total population

597,353  
398,235  
199,118  
2008-2009  
2010-2014  
Total population

No Data Available

\$50,903  
Median household income (\$)

83.0%  
Percent high school degree or higher

52.5%  
Homeownership rate (%)

4  
Employer establishments

Total population  
 478,606 - 597,353  
 359,860 - 478,605  
 241,113 - 359,859  
 122,367 - 241,112  
 3,620 - 122,366  
 Not Available/Suppressed

Clark County Dept of Aviation, Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS

**When to use:**  
 Offers prospective business owners selected Census Bureau statistics to guide their research into opening their new business.

[census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb](https://census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb)

# My Congressional District

Tell us what you think

114th Congress

## My Congressional District

1 Select a State

2

People Workers Housing Socio-Economic Education Business

My Congressional District gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bureau through the [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) and [County Business Patterns \(CBP\)](#). The ACS provides detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing statistics every year for the nation's communities. CBP provides annual statistics for businesses with paid employees at a detailed geography and industry level. My Congressional District is powered by ACS and CBP data through the [Census Application Programming Interface \(API\)](#).

**Sources: 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates and 2014 County Business Patterns**

United States™  
Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
census.gov

POWERED BY  
The American Community Survey and County Business Patterns

**When to use:**  
Access selected statistics about your Congressional district collected through the American Community Survey (ACS) and County Business Patterns (CBP).

[census.gov/mycd/](https://census.gov/mycd/)

# My Tribal Area

Tell us what you think >

## My Tribal Area

Enter name of Tribal Area  
OR

1 Select a State

2

People Jobs Housing Economy Education

The Census Bureau collects data for the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population and publishes specific counts, estimates, and statistics. My Tribal Area gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS provides detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing statistics every year for the nation's communities. My Tribal Area is powered by the Census Application Programming Interface (API).

**Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates**

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
census.gov

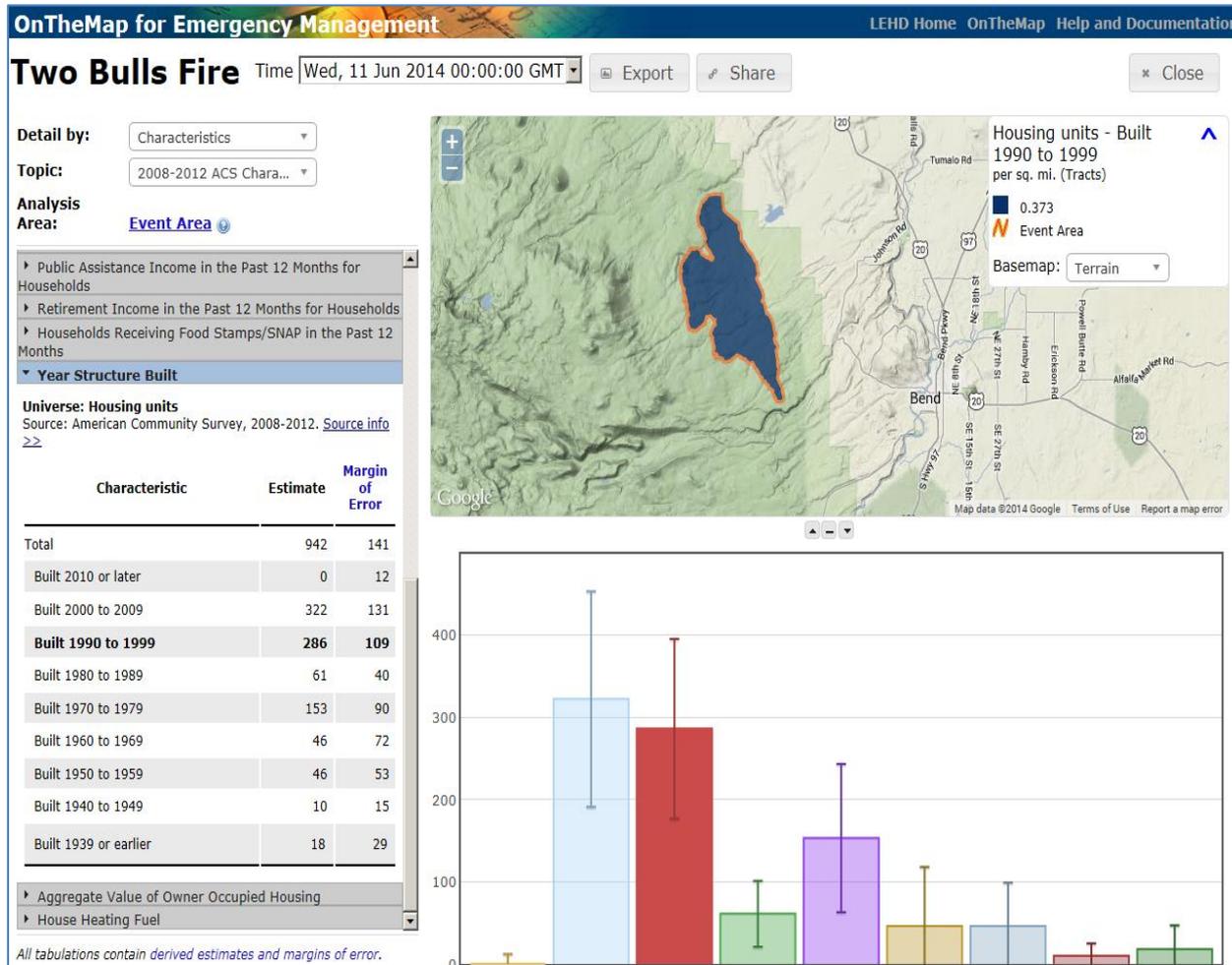
POWERED BY  
**The American Community Survey**

Glossary >

**When to use:**  
The Census Bureau collects data for the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population and publishes specific counts, estimates, and statistics. My Tribal Area gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics from the American Community Survey.

[census.gov/tribal/](https://census.gov/tribal/)

# OnTheMap for Emergency Management



**When to use:**  
 Learn about social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics from the ACS, for all current declared emergency zones. The types of emergencies include disasters, natural hazards, and weather events, such as: hurricanes and tropical storms, floods, winter storms, and wildfires disaster declaration areas

[onthemap.ces.census.gov/em](http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/em)

# American FactFinder

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Commerce logo, the United States Census Bureau logo, and the American FactFinder title. A search bar is visible with a magnifying glass icon and the word 'KANSAS' entered. To the right of the search bar are links for 'Feedback', 'FAQs', and 'Glossary'. Below the navigation bar is a main menu with options: 'MAIN', 'COMMUNITY FACTS', 'GUIDED SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', 'DOWNLOAD CENTER', and language options 'English' and 'Espa'. A notification banner states: 'The U.S. Census Bureau's newly designed American Community Survey (ACS) website is now available.' The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a 'Community Facts' section with a description and a search input field containing 'e.g., Atlanta, GA' and a 'GO' button. Below this are links for 'Guided Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Download Center'. The right column features a large image of a smiling young woman in a classroom. Below the image is a 'Popular Tables' section with two columns of links: 'Population and Housing' (Annual Population Estimates, Demographic and Housing Estimates, General Housing Characteristics, General Demographic Characteristics) and 'Poverty and Income' (General Economic Characteristics). Below the 'Poverty and Income' section is another column for 'Age, Race, Sex and Education' (Selected Social Characteristics, Educational Attainment). At the bottom, there is a 'News and Notes' section with a date of 'June 02, 2015' and a 'GET EMAIL UPDATES' button.

**When to use:**  
Search all ACS data for  
all geographies down to  
the block group level

[factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov)

# Application Programming Interface (API)

Census.gov Data Developers

## Developers

About this Section

API Forum

App Gallery

Available APIs

Geography

Guidance for Developers

News

Terms of Service

Updates

The Census Bureau has begun rolling out our datasets via APIs. Check out our [Discovery Tool](#). Sign up for our [newsletter](#) to get the latest updates and newest dataset addition. We also invite you to make requests for features / data via our [forum](#).

[Read More](#)

CITY SDK



MYOM: Make Your Own Maps!



Developers' Forum (Gitter.im)



Join the Mailing List

CitySDK Tutorial with Jeff Meisel

Toolbox for civic innovators to connect local and public data

Sources: Three of the "Building Better" datasets from the Urban Research and Real Estate Institute

Code Examples: Learn how to use the CitySDK API to get data and how to use the CitySDK API to get data

Gallery: Browse the CitySDK API datasets and see how they are used in various applications

The Opportunity Project: Let's build something amazing together. [The Opportunity Project](#) [View Project](#)



Latest

Updates

Available APIs

News

**International Trade (Time Series: 2005 - present)**

June 02, 2017

The International Trade Datasets provide detailed monthly and annual statistics on trade between the United States and its international trade partners.

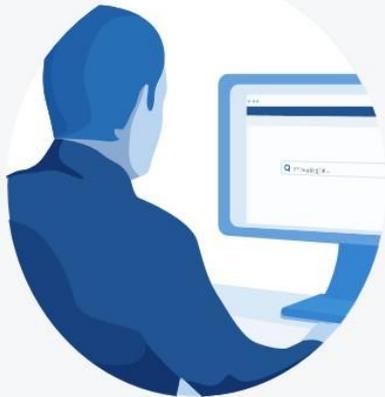
# Preview New Data Dissemination on [Data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)



## Explore Census Data

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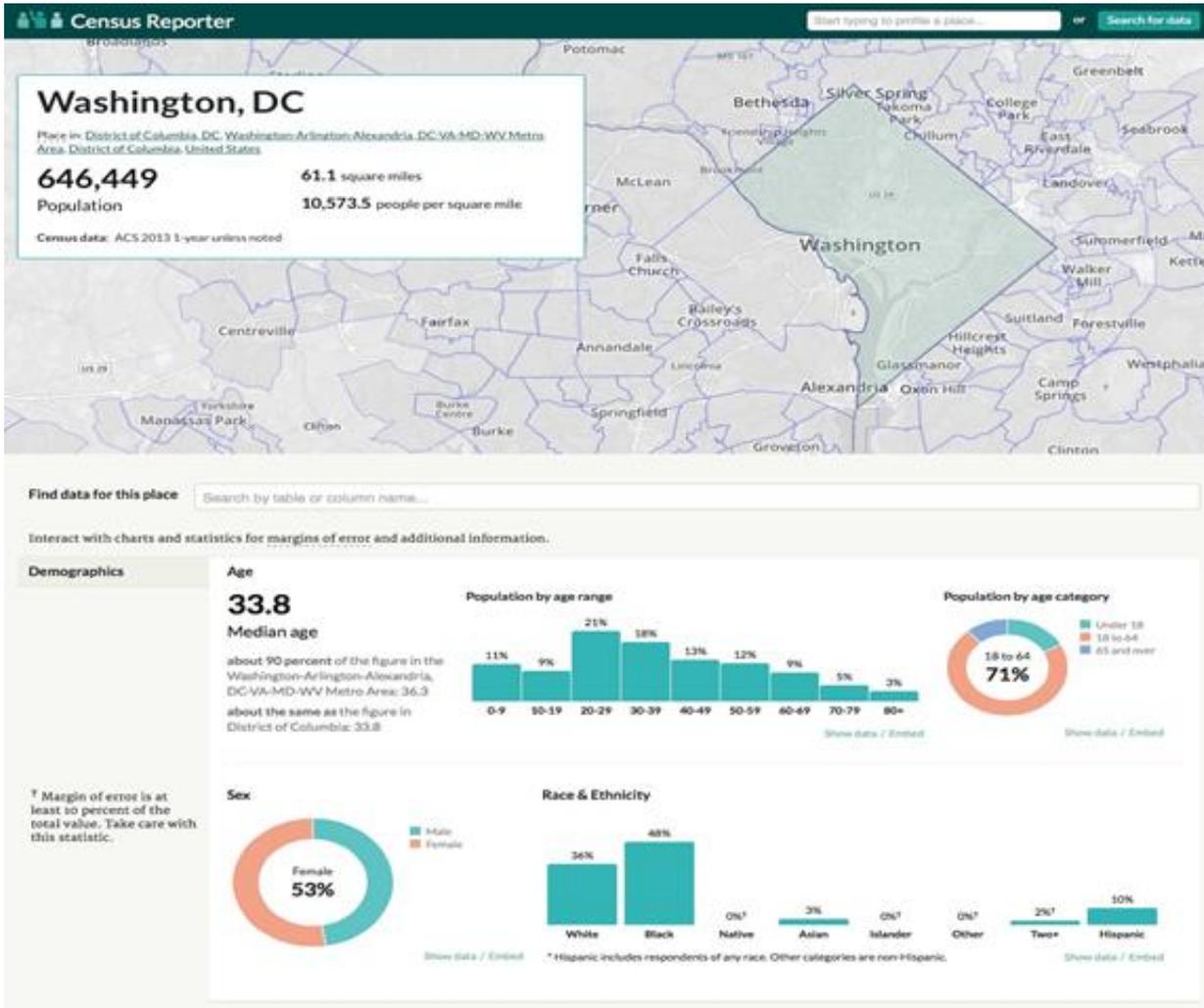
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Email feedback to: [cedsci.feedback@census.gov](mailto:cedsci.feedback@census.gov)

\*For official statistics, continue to use existing data tools on [census.gov](https://census.gov), such as American FactFinder

# Census Reporter



**When to use:**  
Place profiles and comparison pages provide a friendly interface for navigating data, including visualizations for a more useful first look. Census Reporter also offers handy tools for data comparison and makes it easy to create exports for further analysis in tabular or GIS formats.

[censusreporter.org](https://censusreporter.org)

# Source Us!

*U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey*

#ACSdata

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# Resources: Need Assistance?

U.S. Census Bureau  
Data Dissemination Specialist (DDS)



**Eric Coyle**

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**Contact your local DDS**

**Toll-free number:**

**1-844-ASK-DATA (1-844-275-2342)**

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# Questions?

