The American Community Survey and YOUR Community by the Numbers

Anthony Eremitaggio, Data Dissemination & Training Branch
Outline – PART 1

- **American Community Survey (ACS) basics**
- Resources for learning more
- How Census Data can help you!
- Accessing ACS and other data products (PART 2)
- Stay in touch and Evaluation/Questions (PART 2)

What do We Do?

**Decennial Census**
- Every 10 years, Counts Residents

**American Community Survey (ACS)**
- Annual Social, Economic and Housing data

**Other Surveys and Censuses**
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- National Crime and Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- Health Interview Survey (HIS)
- Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE)
- Population Estimates
- Economic Census
- Census of Governments

+ over 130 statistical programs

[http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveys-programs.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveys-programs.html)
The American Community Survey: The Foundation

The American Community Survey is on the leading edge of survey design, continuous improvement, and data quality

- The nation’s most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment
- Surveys 3.5 million addresses and informs over $675 billion of Federal government spending each year
- Covers 35+ topics, supports over 300 evidence-based Federal government uses, and produces 11 billion estimates each year
- Three key annual data releases:
  - 1-year Estimates (for large populations)
  - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations)
  - 5-year Estimates (for very small populations)

Census / ACS History

- 1790-1930
  Census: one form to all households
- 1940-2000
  Census: short form and long form
- 2000
  ACS: large-scale demonstration
- 2005-present
  ACS / PRCS: full implementation
- 2010
  Census: short form only
How is the ACS Different from a Census?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>ACS</th>
<th>2010 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>produces</td>
<td>Sample estimates</td>
<td>Official counts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new data every</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>data reflect</td>
<td>Period of time</td>
<td>Point in time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 1-year estimates (12 months of data)
• 5-year estimates (60 months of data)

ACS Best Local Data

• The survey is the only source of local statistics for most of the 35+ topics it covers, such as employment, language spoken at home, education and selected housing costs.

• Available for all geographies regardless of population size. Down to the block-group level.
ACS Data Collection Process

**Self-Response Modes**
- Online
- Mail

**Non-Response Modes**
- Telephone
- Personal Visit

**ACS Content**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Social</strong></th>
<th><strong>Demographic</strong></th>
<th><strong>Economic</strong></th>
<th><strong>Housing</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancestry</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Class of Worker</td>
<td>Computer &amp; Internet Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship Status</td>
<td>Hispanic Origin</td>
<td>Employment Status</td>
<td>Heating Fuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Status</td>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Food Stamps (SNAP)</td>
<td>Home Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Attainment</td>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>Occupancy Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Hours/Week, Weeks/Year</td>
<td>Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td></td>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Structure Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Spoken at Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>Industry &amp; Occupation</td>
<td>Tenure (Own/Rent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year Built/Year Moved In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Enrollment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of Entry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35+ Topics ➔ 1000+ Tables ➔ 11 Billion Estimates
Availability of 2017 ACS Data Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Population of Geographic Area</th>
<th>1-Year Estimates</th>
<th>1-Year Supplemental Estimates</th>
<th>5-Year Estimates</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65,000 or more</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>20,000 or more</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Release Date
- September 13, 2018
- October 18, 2018
- December 6, 2018

5-Year Estimates

- Describe characteristics over a specific period of time, not a single point in time
- Data are pooled across 60 months, weighted to produce estimates, and controlled for age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin
  - 5-year estimates are NOT an average of 1-year estimates
- Estimates are based on geographic boundaries as of January 1 of the last year in the 5-year period
- Dollar-value estimates are inflation adjusted to the most recent year for the period
ACS New Tables

Computer and Internet Use

- **B28001** – **B28008**: Computers and Internet Use by
  - Household Income
  - Age
  - Educational attainment
  - Labor force status

- **B28009A** – **B28009I**: Presence of a computer and type of internet subscription by race and Hispanic origin

- **B28010** – **B28011**: Computer and Internet Use by broader categories

- **B99281** – **B99283**: Allocation for Computer and internet use

ACS New Tables (continued)

Group Quarters

- Two new Subject Tables have replaced S2601B
  - **S2602**: Characteristics of the Group Quarters Population by Group Quarters Type (3 Types)
  - **S2603**: Characteristics of the Group Quarters Population by Group Quarters Type (5 Types)

- 55 new Detailed Tables as source tables for the new Subject Tables
ACS New Tables (continued)

Income and Earnings

- **B19122**: Number of Earners in Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table ID</th>
<th>Line Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B19122</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B19122</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No earners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B19122</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 earner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B19122</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 earners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B19122</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 or more earners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **B20018**: Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months (in 2017 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for the Population 16 Years and Over Who Worked Full-Time, Year-Round with Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Health Insurance

- **C27021**: Health Insurance Coverage Status by Living Arrangement
Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Resources for learning more
- How Census Data can help you!
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ACS Website

American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation.

[Image of ACS website] census.gov/acs
Data Release Information

American Community Survey (ACS)

Data Releases

Leading up to the annual release of new datasets, the Census Bureau publishes a schedule, notes about new estimates or new guidance, and technical information about geography and product changes. Users can also browse the notes from previous years using the links below.

2017

2017 Details About the 2017 Release

2017 Data Release New and Notable
Learn more about items of interest related to the 2017 ACS release.

2017 Data Release Schedule
Review the dates and components of the 2017 ACS release.

2017 Table & Geography Changes
View notes about changes to tables and geography for each ACS data release.

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html

Technical Documentation

American Community Survey (ACS)

Technical Documentation

The American Community Survey provides various documentation to assist users with our data releases. Click on the links below to learn more about these resources:

Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy

View the detailed codes and definitions for variables, statistical sampling, and an exploration of sample design, methodology, and accuracy for the ACS.

User Notes

Learn more about concepts impacting the American Community Survey including design, collection, production, and data releases.

Data Notes

Learn more about edits and/or corrections related to the American Community Survey.

OCTOBER 11, 2016

Data Suppression

Learn more about why some American Community Survey estimates are not available due to data suppression.

Table 6: Canvass/Chains

Related Information

American Community Survey Data
More About ACS How Do We... Contact Us
You May Be Interested In

RELATED TOPICS
ACCESS THE SURVEY
American FactFinder
Share Your ACS Data Story
Comparison Guidance

American Community Survey (ACS)

Comparing 2016 American Community Survey Data

Learn more about comparing the 2016 ACS 1-year estimates with:
- 2005 ACS 1-year estimates
- 2010 Census
- 2000 Census

To learn more about comparing the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates with the 2007-2011 ACS 5-year estimates visit ACS’s year to year Comparisons FAQ Page.

If you would like to compare the 2016 ACS 1-year with estimates with ACS estimates prior to the 2015 ACS, please refer to the year-by-year comparison guidance throughout the entire time span. For example, to compare the 2016 ACS 1-year estimates with the 2014 ACS 1-year estimates, please reference:
- Guidance for comparing 2016 ACS 1-year with 2015 ACS 1-year estimates
- Guidance for comparing 2015 ACS 1-year with 2014 ACS 1-year estimates

You can also visit ask.census.gov for FAQs.
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Why Census Data is Important

Grant Writing, development and business planning etc.
Helping You & Your Community Answer Questions Like …

- How many people live here?
- How has the number of people changed?
- How old or young are the people?
- What race and ethnicity are they?
- How well educated are the people?
- What languages do they speak?
- How many single parents?
- How many households are low-income?
Stats In Action: Target Uses
ACS Data

http://www.census.gov/library/video/sia_target_uses.html

Outline – PART 2

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Resources for learning more
- How Census Data can help you!
- Accessing ACS and other data products
- Stay in touch and Evaluation/Questions
Some Ways to Access Data

- QuickFacts
- American FactFinder (community facts)
- ACS Narrative Profiles
- My Congressional District
Data Tables & Tools

American Community Survey

Data Profiles
Data Profiles contain sets of five tables (Social, Economic, Housing, Demographics) to give a broad statistical view of a particular geography. We provide an easy-to-use Data Profiles geography selection for the most populous geographies: state, county and place. Our full data website, American FactFinder, provides additional geographies for this table type and more.

Narrative Profiles
The only place to find the current Narrative Profiles is right here on American Community Survey website. Narrative Profiles contain much of the same information found in the Data Profiles, arranged in a text-based report with plenty of colorful graphs and charts. Use the map selector or the drop-down boxes to generate a Narrative Profile for your favorite place.

Subject Tables
More interested in a particular topic than a particular geography? Check out our listing of ACS Subject Tables. Subject tables have both numbers and percentages making them the versatile choice for data seekers. You can search/brows the listing, and then link to American FactFinder (AFF) where you can change geographies and go back to level! Choose your subject table here.

Supplemental Tables
Looking for statistics about people or households located in geographies with real-valued populations? Check out our new Supplemental Tables! These tables are a broad summary of the Census 2020 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data. They will change over time and their contents may overlap with those of narrative profiles. Use the map selector or drop-down boxes to pick the geography of your choice.

Find Data Tools on Census.gov

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

American FactFinder

factfinder.census.gov
AFF Advanced Search

To search for tables and other items in American FactFinder:
1. Enter search terms and click GO
2. Select Geography (states, counties, cities, towns, etc.)
3. Select one or more Search Results and click View

AFF Geographies-List Tab
AFF Geographies-Name Tab

[Image of FactFinder interface]

AFF Geographies-Name Tab II

[Image of FactFinder interface]
AFF Topics

Selecting Topics in AFF
Data Product Type- PROFILES

• Data Profiles (DP)
  • Broad social, economic, housing & Demographic profiles.

• Narrative Profiles (NP)
  • Summarize the information in the DP using concise, nontechnical text and graphs.

• Comparison Profiles (CP)
  • Same layout as DP’s, but offer comparisons of estimates over time.
  • Only available for 1-year estimates.

• Selected Population Profiles (S0201)
  • Broad social, economic, housing & Demographic profiles for a large number of race, ethnic, ancestry, & country/region-of-birth groups. 1-year estimates only.

Data Product Type - TABLES

• Detailed Tables (B or C)
  • Most detailed ACS data and cross-tabulations of ACS variables.
    Base(B) are more detailed than collapsed tables (C).

• Subject Tables (S)
  • Similar to DP’s but include more detailed ACS data by subject.

• Ranking Tables (R)
  • State rankings of estimates across 86 key variables.

• Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)
  • Compare geo areas other than states (e.g., counties or cong. districts).
# Data Profile vs Detailed Table

## Narrative Profile

**When to use:**
Browse statistics presented as a text-based report with plenty of colorful graphs and charts.

[Image of a narrative profile]

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## Detailed Table

**When to use:**
Browse statistics presented as a table with detailed data.

[Image of a detailed table]

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[census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/]
Accessing the Narrative Profile

Narrative Profiles (Beta)

Narrative Profiles are short, analytic reports distilled from the ACS 5-year estimates. Each Narrative Profile covers 15 different topic areas and provides text and bar charts to display highlights of selected social, economic, housing and demographic estimates for a selected geographic area.

2017

2013—2017 ACS 5-Year Narrative Profile

Select a Geography Type

- Nation
- County
- State
- Place
- ZIP Code Tabulation Area
- Census Tract
- Metropolitan Area
- Metropolitan Statistical Area
- American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Home Land

Selected Geography: United States

SET NARRATIVE PROFILE

census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/

My Congressional District

https://www.census.gov/mycd/
# Data Tools Chart

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**Quick Facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Product Type Included</th>
<th>Year(s) Available &amp; Data Source(s) Included</th>
<th>Geographies Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QuickCensus</td>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>County, State, and Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QuickCount</td>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>County, State, and Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QuickFacts</td>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>County, State, and Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QuickProfile</td>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>County, State, and Places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Out of Line**

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• **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

• ACS Data Users Conference: May 14-15, 2019

• Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned

• Users group website and online community

acsdatacommunity.prb.org

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**Our Development Depends on YOUR Feedback**

Check out our preview platform at data.census.gov and tell us how we can make Census data easier to access for your news stories at cedsci.feedback@census.gov.
Continue the Conversation #ACSdata

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

facebook.com/ususcensusbureau
twitter.com/ususcensusbureau
youtube.com/user/ususcensusbureau
instagram.com/ususcensusbureau
pinterest.com/ususcensusbureau

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

 Scheduled RSS Feed 

FOR ACS specific questions: acso.users.support@census.gov

Receive weekly Data Gems. These short “how-to” videos are an easy and quick way to increase your knowledge of Census data. Get them in your inbox!

Get access to our data courses. You will learn at your own pace with these video tutorials designed for different skill levels.

Interact with our instructors via webinars. Learn about our data releases and tools while attending these live virtual classes.

Bring our data experts to you. TO Request free webinars for your organization/yourselves:
Anthony.Eremitaggio@census.gov

In-person free workshops: census.askdata@census.gov

Take part in this community Share your feedback and ideas for our educational content:
Census.academy@census.gov

✓

U.S. Census Bureau:

Email: census.askdata@census.gov
Census.academy@census.gov
Phone: 1-844-ASK-DATA (275-3282)
Please Complete the Evaluation!

- **Link:** https://questionweb.com/59212/
- **Type of Event:** Workshop/Training
- **Lead Census Presenter:** Anthony Eremitaggio

THANK YOU