

Introduction to the American Community Survey (ACS)

Dial-in (For Audio): 888-790-3585 (Passcode: 5117145)

August 12, 2020

Caleb Hopley
Survey Statistician

The American Community Survey

About the U.S. Census Bureau

- The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency.
- We conduct more than 100 censuses and surveys each year, including
 - **The Decennial Census** – the once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states and U.S. territories
 - **The American Community Survey** – the ongoing, annual survey of the social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics of the nation's population
 - **The Economic Census** – the official five-year measure of American businesses
- Our mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.



The American Community Survey

Outline

- **American Community Survey (ACS) basics**
- Accessing ACS data products
- Demonstration of ACS data tools
- Resources for learning more
- Questions

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 **40+ 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)

13190012

 **The American Community Survey**

This booklet shows the content of the American Community Survey questionnaire.

Start Here

You have two ways to respond:

 Respond online today at:
<https://respond.census.gov/acs>

OR

 Complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.

Your response is required by law.
The American Community Survey is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. This survey is one of only a few surveys for which all recipients are required by law to respond. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information.

 **If you need help or have questions about completing this form, please call 1-800-354-7271.**

Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD):
Call 1-800-582-8330.

¿NECESITA AYUDA? Llame sin cargo alguno al 1-877-833-5625.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our website at: <https://www.census.gov/acs>

Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form. We will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

Last Name

First Name MI

Area Code + Number
 -

How many people are living or staying at this address?

- **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.

Number of people

Fill out pages 2 - 7 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form.

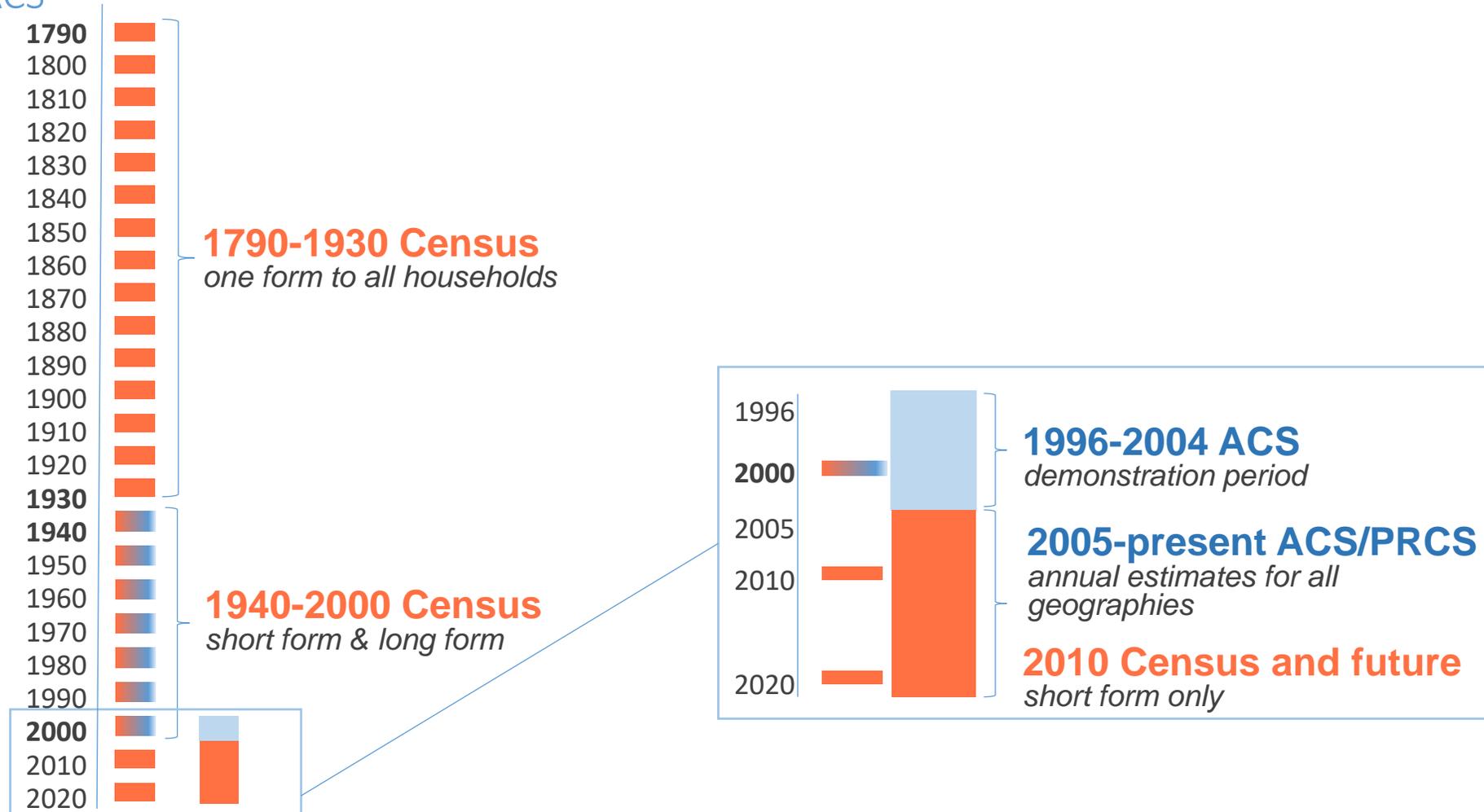
FORM ACS-1(INFO)(2020)
01-13-2016

OMB No. 0507-0810
OMB No. 0507-0536



The American Community Survey

Census & ACS



The American Community Survey

How is the American Community Survey Different from a Census?

	ACS	Census
<i>Purpose</i>	Sample estimates	Official counts
<i>Collects</i>	Detailed social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics	Basic demographics
<i>Produces</i>	Population and housing characteristics	Population and housing totals
<i>New Data Every</i>	Year	10 years
<i>Data Reflect</i>	Period of time	Point in time

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Data Collection Process

SELF-RESPONSE



NONRESPONSE FOLLOWUP



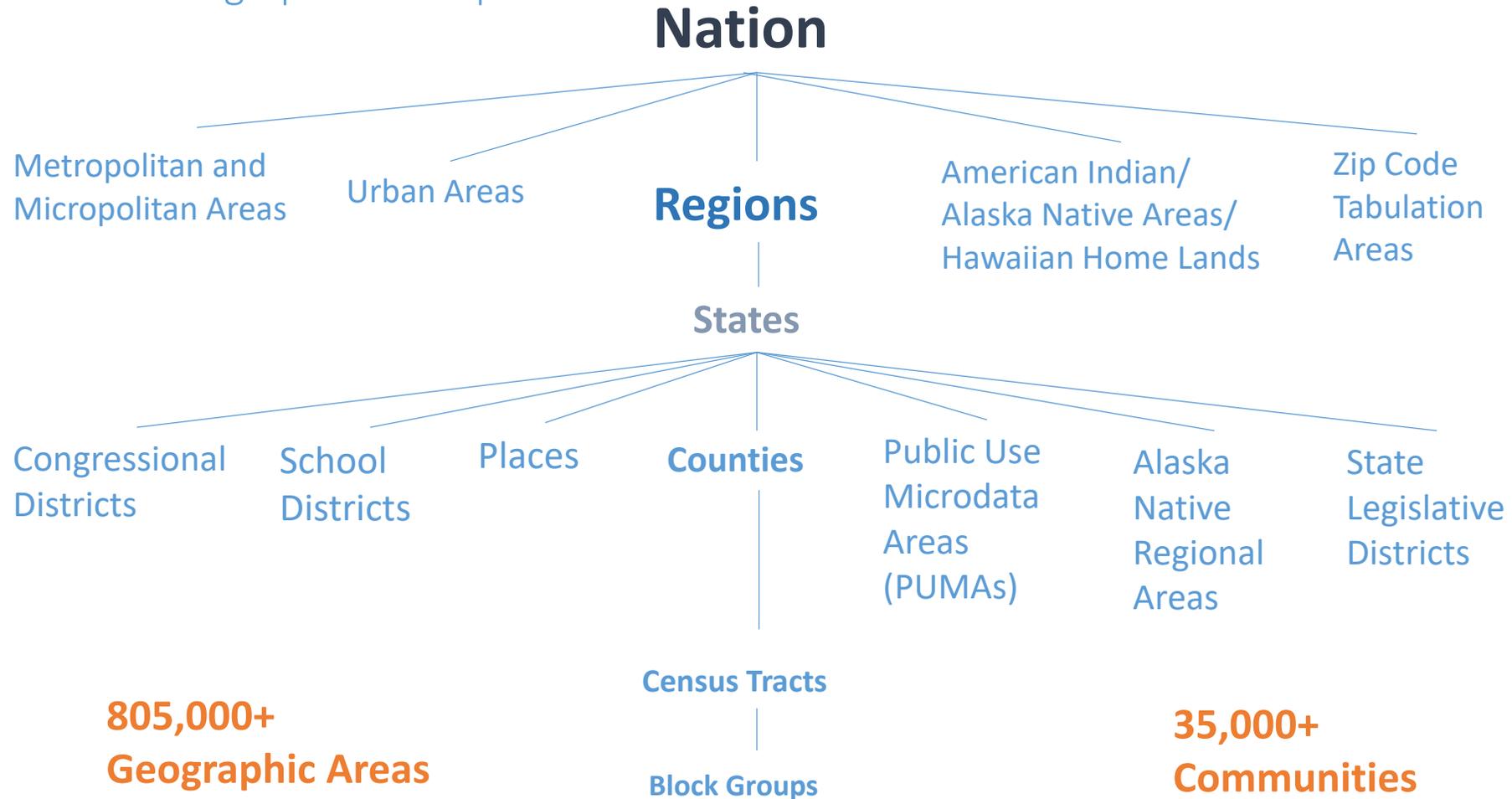
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Content Overview

POPULATION		HOUSING
SOCIAL Ancestry Citizenship Citizen Voting Age Population Disability Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents Language Marital Status Migration School Enrollment Veterans	DEMOGRAPHIC Age Hispanic Origin Race Relationship Sex ECONOMIC Class of Worker Commuting Employment Status Food Stamps (SNAP) Health Insurance Hours/Week, Weeks/Year Income Industry & Occupation	Computer & Internet Use Costs (Mortgage, Taxes, Insurance) Heating Fuel Home Value Occupancy Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities Structure Tenure (Own/Rent) Utilities Vehicles Year Built/ Year Moved In

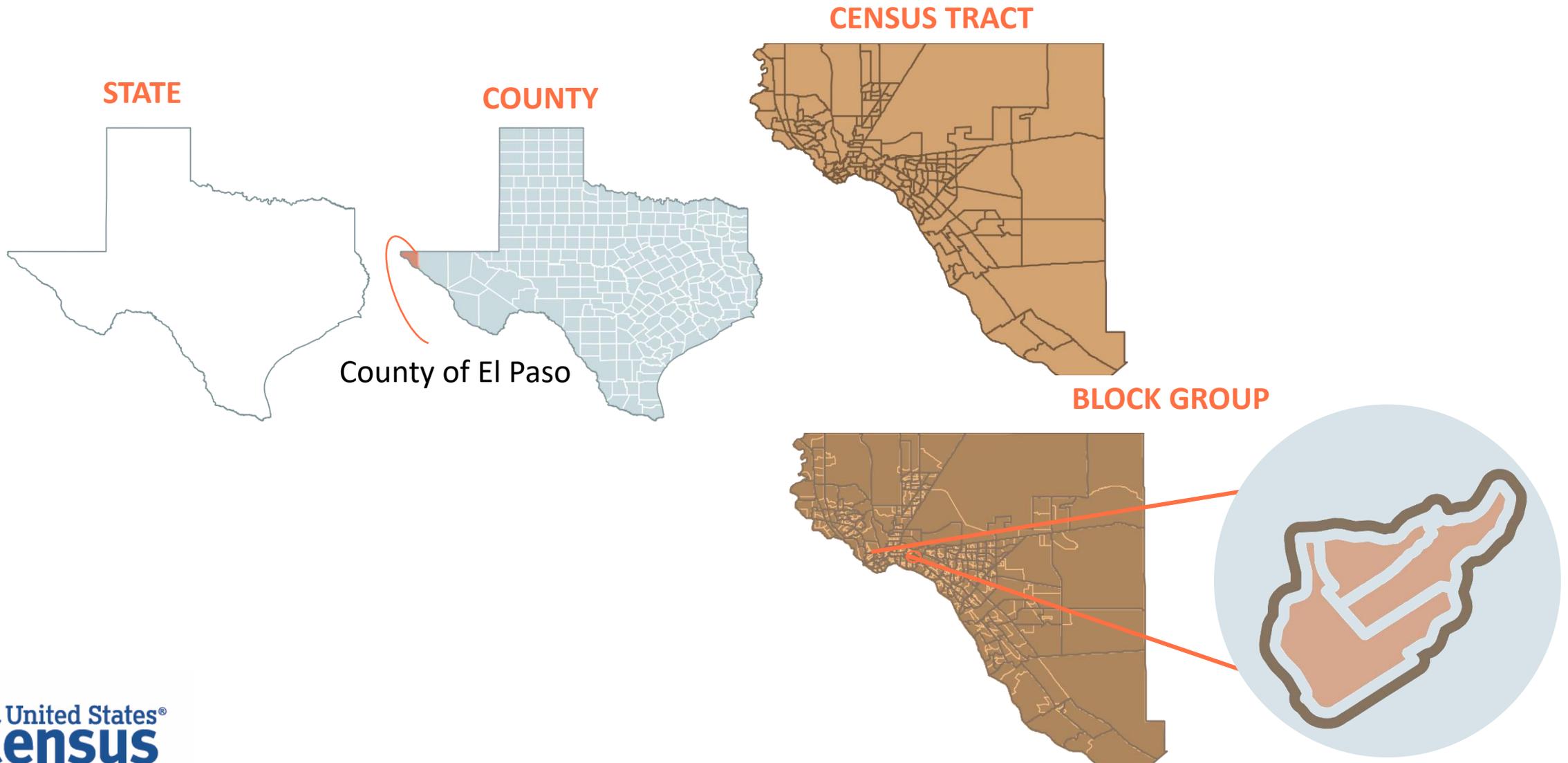
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Selected Census Geographic Concepts



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Selected Census Geographic Concepts



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Availability of 2019 Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	1-Year Supplemental Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Release Date	September 17, 2020	October 15, 2020	December 10, 2020

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

The American Community Survey Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- **Accessing ACS data products**
- Demonstration of ACS data tools
- Resources for learning more
- Questions

The American Community Survey Selected Ways to Access Data

- QuickFacts
- My Congressional District
- My Tribal Area
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
- Census Business Builder
- data.census.gov
- Census COVID-19 Data Hub
- TIGER/Line Shapefiles w/ Selected Demographic Data
- Application Programming Interface (API)

QUICKFACTS UNITED STATES

Table

ALL TOPICS	UNITED STATES
POPULATION	325,719,174
Population, July 1, 2019 (EST.)	325,719,174
Population, July 1, 2010 (EST.)	307,621,051
Population, July 1, 2000 (EST.)	281,421,906
Population, July 1, 1990 (EST.)	248,709,874
Population, July 1, 1980 (EST.)	226,542,869
Population, July 1, 1970 (EST.)	203,211,926
Population, July 1, 1960 (EST.)	179,322,799
Population, July 1, 1950 (EST.)	151,953,002
Population, July 1, 1940 (EST.)	131,629,103
Population, July 1, 1930 (EST.)	113,832,046
Population, July 1, 1920 (EST.)	97,071,289
Population, July 1, 1910 (EST.)	81,519,478
Population, July 1, 1900 (EST.)	67,947,727
Population, July 1, 1890 (EST.)	55,499,740
Population, July 1, 1880 (EST.)	44,489,826
Population, July 1, 1870 (EST.)	35,991,764
Population, July 1, 1860 (EST.)	29,092,603
Population, July 1, 1850 (EST.)	23,194,528
Population, July 1, 1840 (EST.)	18,187,644
Population, July 1, 1830 (EST.)	14,180,760
Population, July 1, 1820 (EST.)	10,173,876
Population, July 1, 1810 (EST.)	6,166,992
Population, July 1, 1800 (EST.)	2,160,108
Population, July 1, 1790 (EST.)	1,153,224
Population, July 1, 1780 (EST.)	153,340
Population, July 1, 1770 (EST.)	15,456
Population, July 1, 1760 (EST.)	1,572
Population, July 1, 1750 (EST.)	158
Population, July 1, 1740 (EST.)	16
Population, July 1, 1730 (EST.)	2
Population, July 1, 1720 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1710 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1700 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1690 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1680 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1670 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1660 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1650 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1640 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1630 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1620 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1610 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1600 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1590 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1580 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1570 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 1530 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1520 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1510 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1500 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1490 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1480 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1470 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1460 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1450 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1440 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1430 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1420 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1410 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1400 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1390 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1380 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1370 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1360 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 1270 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1260 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1250 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1240 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1230 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1220 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1210 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1200 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1190 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1180 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1170 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1160 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1150 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1140 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1130 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1120 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1110 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1100 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1090 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1080 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1070 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1060 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1050 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1040 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1030 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1020 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1010 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 1000 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 990 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 980 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 970 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 880 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 870 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 850 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 840 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 830 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 810 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 800 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 790 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 780 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 770 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 760 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 750 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 740 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 730 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 720 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 710 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 700 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 690 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 680 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 670 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 660 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 620 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 610 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 600 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 590 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 580 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 570 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 560 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 550 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 530 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 520 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 510 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 500 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 490 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 480 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 470 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 460 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 450 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 440 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 430 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 410 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 400 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 390 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 300 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 290 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 280 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 270 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 260 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 250 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 240 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 230 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 220 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 210 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 200 (EST.)	0
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Population, July 1, 130 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 120 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 110 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 100 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 90 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 80 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 70 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 60 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 50 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 40 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 30 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 20 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 10 (EST.)	0
Population, July 1, 0 (EST.)	0

My Tribal Area

Tell us what you think >

Enter name of Tribal Area

OR

1 Arizona

2 Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservati...

Navajo Nation Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, AZ--NM--UT

Source: 2012-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Sex and Age	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total population	174,692	(+/-1,002)
Male	85,042	(+/-1,087)
Female	89,650	(+/-1,131)
Under 5 years	13,644	(+/-470)
5 to 9 years	15,376	(+/-426)
10 to 14 years	15,084	(+/-428)
15 to 19 years	15,023	(+/-478)
20 to 24 years	14,659	(+/-517)
25 to 34 years	22,279	(+/-643)

My Congressional District

116th Congress

Congressional District 2, Arkansas

Source: 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment Status	Estimate
Population 18 years and over	600,985
In labor force	367,537
Civilian labor force	363,512
Employed	343,958
Unemployed	19,554
Armed Forces	4,026
Not in labor force	233,428
Civilian labor force	363,512
Unemployment Rate	5.2%

Commuting to Work
Workers 18 years and over
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone

OnTheMap for Emergency Management

Search: Filter U.S. Census Bureau data for disasters, natural hazards, and weather events. Click for more information on Pacific Storms.

Events as of 11/06/2017

- Hurricanes: Tropical Depression Nineteen Nov 04/22 Affected Population: 0
- Wildfires: Abney Fire California, Oregon Affected Population: 7
- Trout Creek Fire Nov 04/22 Affected Population: 0
- Tank Hollow Fire Utah County, UT Affected Population: 0
- 2017 Windfall Mt Overwinter 1 Fire CA 10/30 Affected Population: 0
- Bear Mountain Fire No data Affected Population: 0
- Federal Disaster Declarations DR-4305 Kern County, CA, Kern County, CA, Riverside County, CA and 19 other Counties Affected Population: 23,369,369
- DR-4337

STATE COVID-19 IMPACT PLANNING REPORT

New York (FIPS 36)

United States Census Bureau

POPULATION 65 AND OLDER

KEY FACTS

Year Population	Year Unemployed	Age 65 and Older	Health Insurance Coverage
19,618,453	7,316,537	2,60	38.7
81.2%			

BUSINESSES

Total Establishments	Total Employees	Total Revenue (2019)
547,034	8,261,269	\$547,344,236

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE BY AGE

Age Group	Total Population	Total Revenue (2019)
0-17	1,751,378	\$92,939,642
18-24	1,044,943	1,094,793
25-34	1,731,073	867,926
35-44	2,125,466	

Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition - 2.2

Average revenue per employee

Average revenue per employee	Median household income	Percent high school degree or higher	Homeownership rate	Employment establishments
\$112,552	\$112,552	92%	67.7%	775

Explore Census Data

The Census Bureau is the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy.

I'm looking for ...

Advanced Search

Send Feedback
cedsci.feedback@census.gov

The American Community Survey

QuickFacts

QuickFacts
United States

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more.

Enter state, county, city, town, or zip code - Select a fact --

CLEAR TABLE MAP CHART DASHBOARD MORE

What's New & FAQs >

Table

All Topics	United States
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	328,239,523
PEOPLE	
Population	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	328,239,523
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	308,758,105
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	6.3%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	308,745,538
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent	22.3%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	16.5%
Female persons, percent	50.6%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	76.3%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	13.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	1.3%
Asian alone, percent (a)	5.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	0.2%
Two or More Races, percent	2.6%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	18.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	60.1%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2014-2018	18,611,432
Foreign born persons, percent, 2014-2018	13.5%
Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	139,884,244

The American Community Survey

My Congressional District

116th Congress
My Congressional District

1 Select a State

2

People Workers Housing Social-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: 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates and 2018 County Business Patterns

Need help finding your Congressional District?
Enter ZIP code
Window opens in new tab.

United States[®] Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

POWERED BY
The American Community Survey and County Business Patterns

116th Congress
My Congressional District

1 Florida

2 Congressional District 8

People Workers Housing Social-Economic Education Business

Congressional District 8 (116th Congress), Florida
Source: 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Sex and Age	Estimate
Total population	768,139
Male	372,615
Female	395,524
Under 5 years	36,374
5 to 9 years	35,100
10 to 14 years	42,190
15 to 19 years	40,641
20 to 24 years	35,797
25 to 34 years	83,905
35 to 44 years	78,858
45 to 54 years	93,473
55 to 59 years	59,091
60 to 64 years	67,145
65 to 74 years	105,457
75 to 84 years	61,795

Need help finding your Congressional District?
Enter ZIP code
Window opens in new tab.

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The American Community Survey and County Business Patterns

Display ACS Margin of Error

Congressional District 8 (116th Congress), Florida
Source: 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Sex and Age	Estimate
Total population	768,139
Male	372,615
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Under 5 years	36,374
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45 to 54 years	93,473
55 to 59 years	59,091
60 to 64 years	67,145
65 to 74 years	105,457
75 to 84 years	61,795

Display ACS Margin of Error

The American Community Survey

My Tribal Area

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: 2014-2018 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 >](#)

The American Community Survey OnTheMap for Emergency Management



Hurricanes, Floods,
Winter Storms



Disaster Areas



Wildfires



Demographic &
Economic Data

United States Census Bureau **OnTheMap for Emergency Management** LEHD Home OnTheMap Help and Documentation

Search: Filter Update (August 5, 2020): Click here to read about application changes related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Events as of 08/06/2020

Hurricanes
 Post-tropical
 North Carolina, New York, Virginia and 15 other States
 Affected Population: 59,731,839

Wildfires
North Fire
 Nevada, California
 Affected Population: 219
Bush Fire
 Maricopa County, AZ, Gila County, AZ
 Affected Population: 182
Apple Fire
 Riverside County, CA, San Bernardino County, CA
 Affected Population: 181
Caldwell Fire
 Siskiyou County, CA, Modoc County, CA
 Affected Population: 28
Drops Fire
 Zip 83352
 Affected Population: 16
Gold Fire
 Zip 96006, 96009

Legend & Map Controls

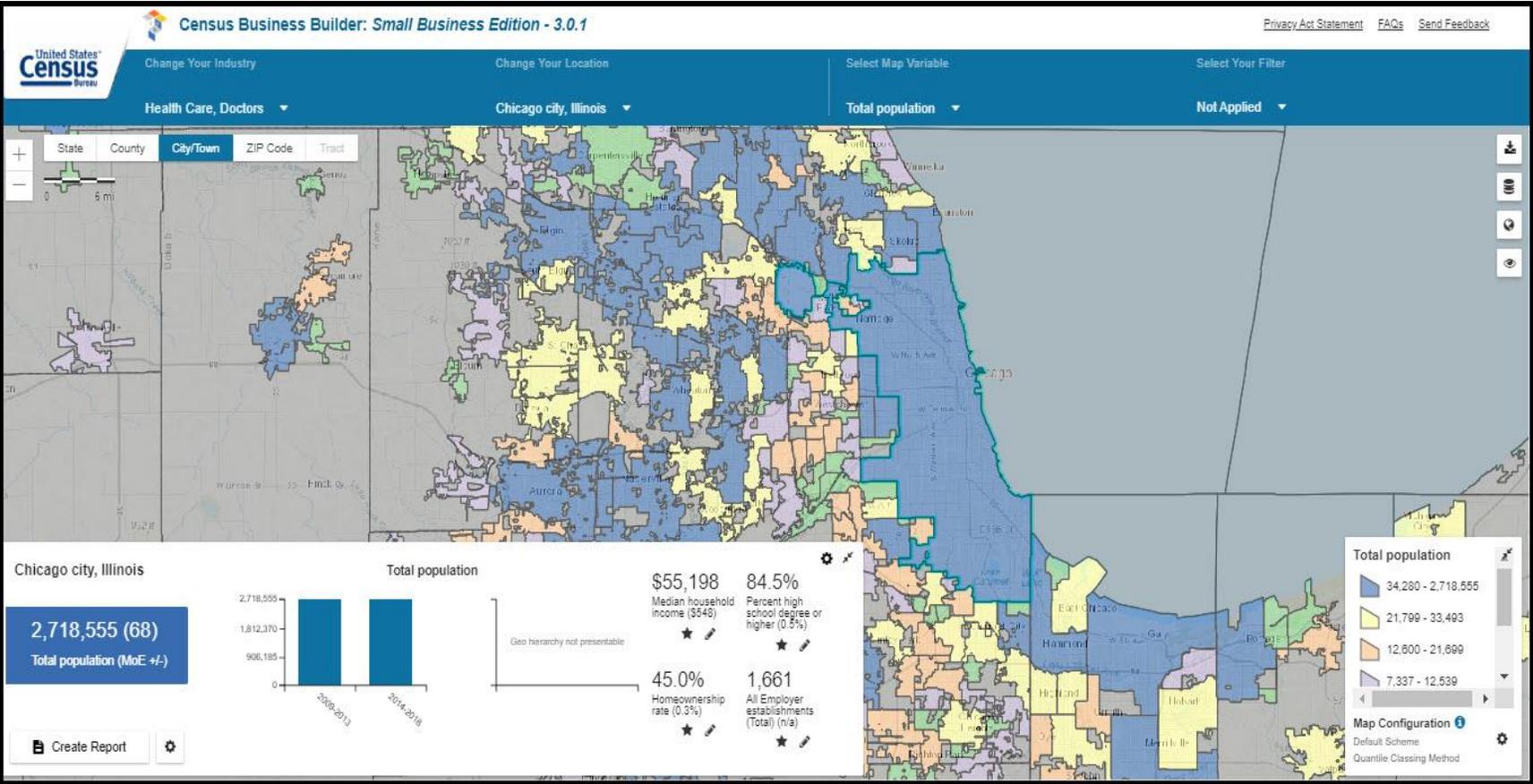
Event Types

- Tropical Storms
 - Current Wind Radii
 - Wind History (Cumulative Swath)
 - Forecast Area (Cone of Uncertainty)
- Wildfires
 - Perimeter
- Floods
 - Likely
 - Occurring or Imminent
- Winter Weather
 - Forecasted Snowfall
 - Forecasted Freezing Rain
- Disaster Declaration Areas
 - Emergency or Disaster Declaration
 - COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Emergency or Disaster Declaration

Basemap: Terrain

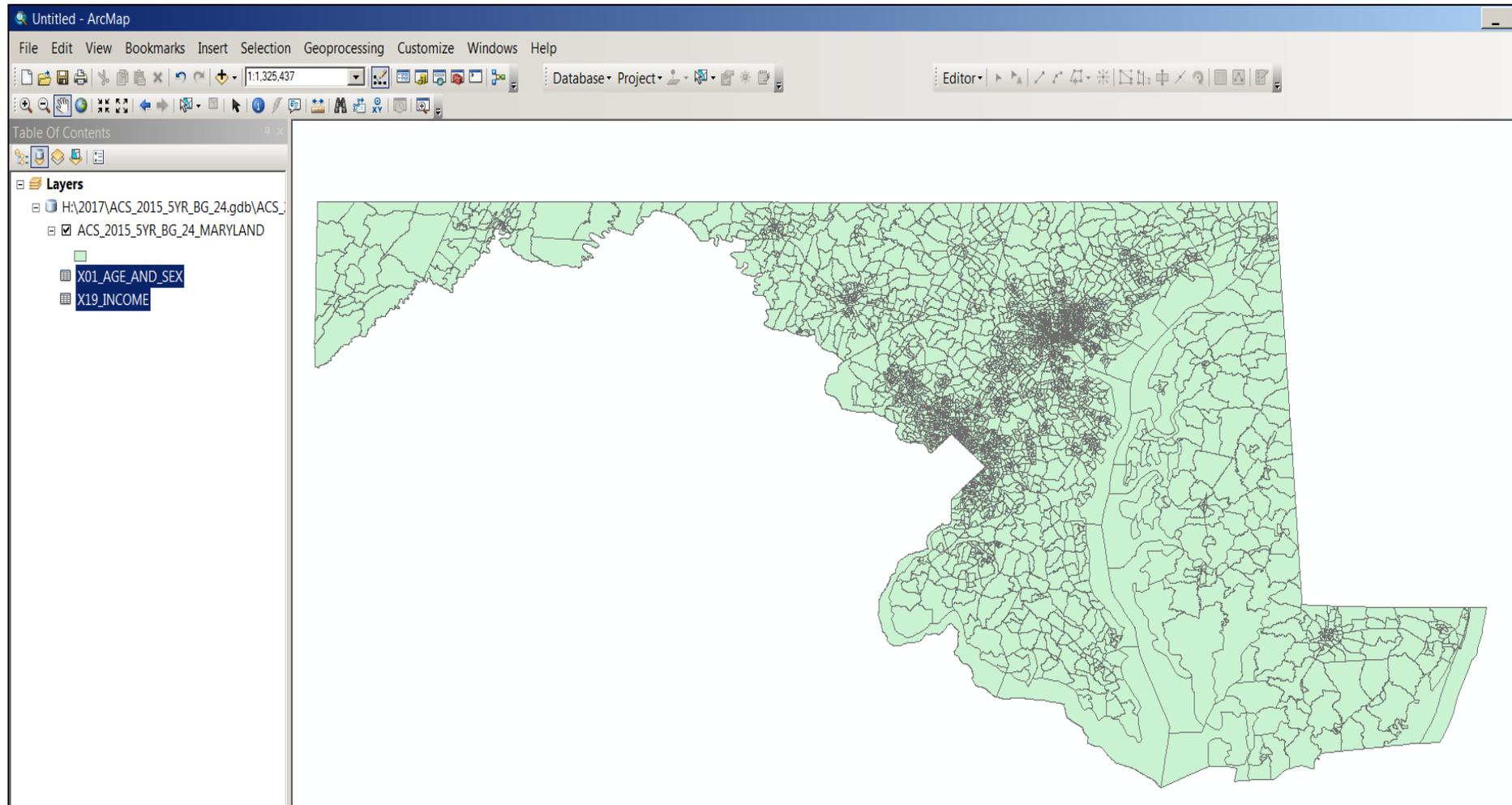
The American Community Survey

Census Business Builder

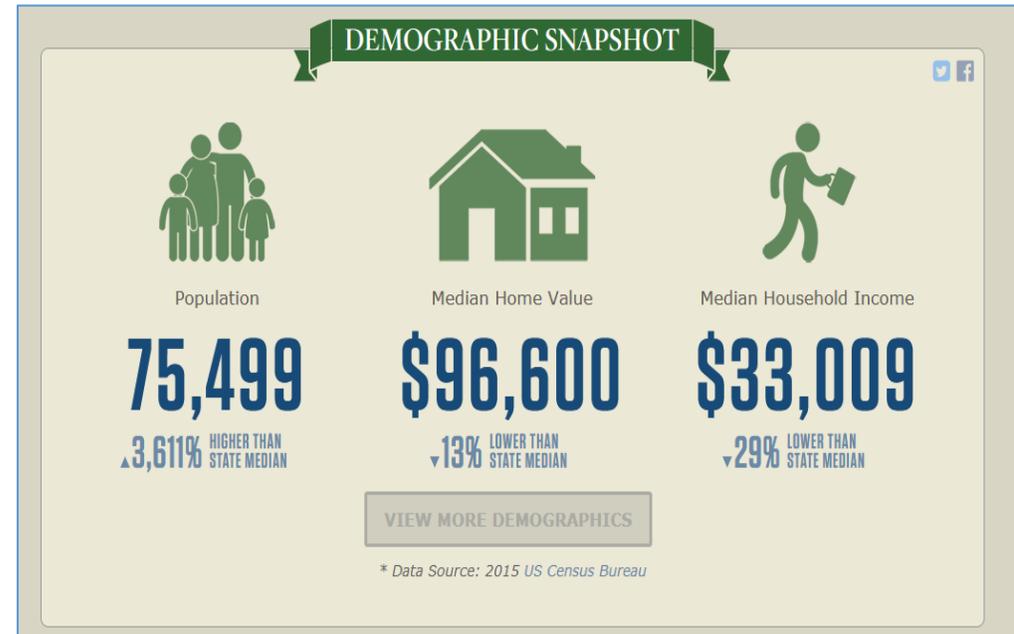
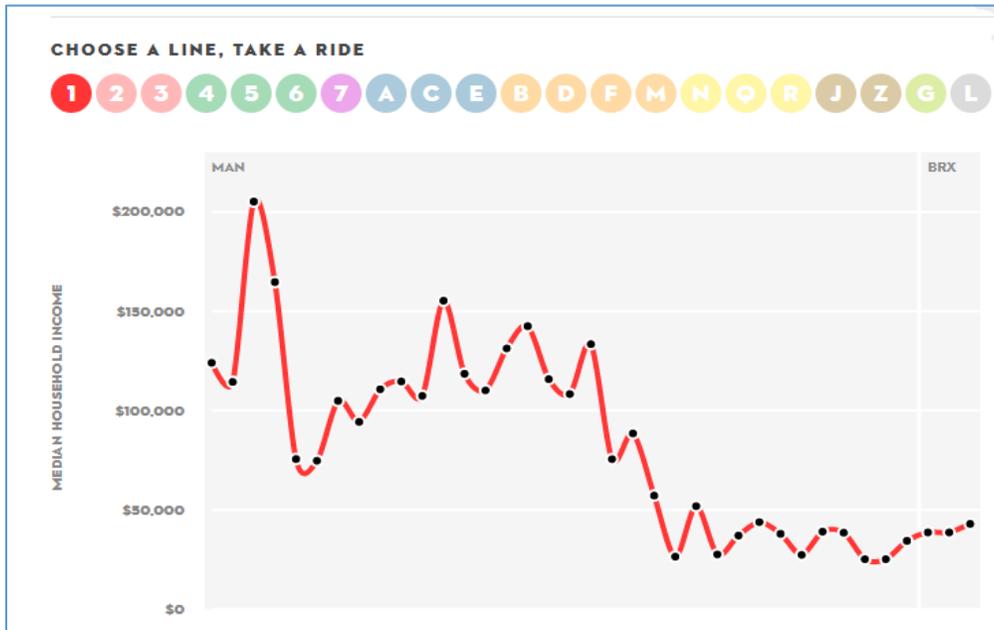


census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html

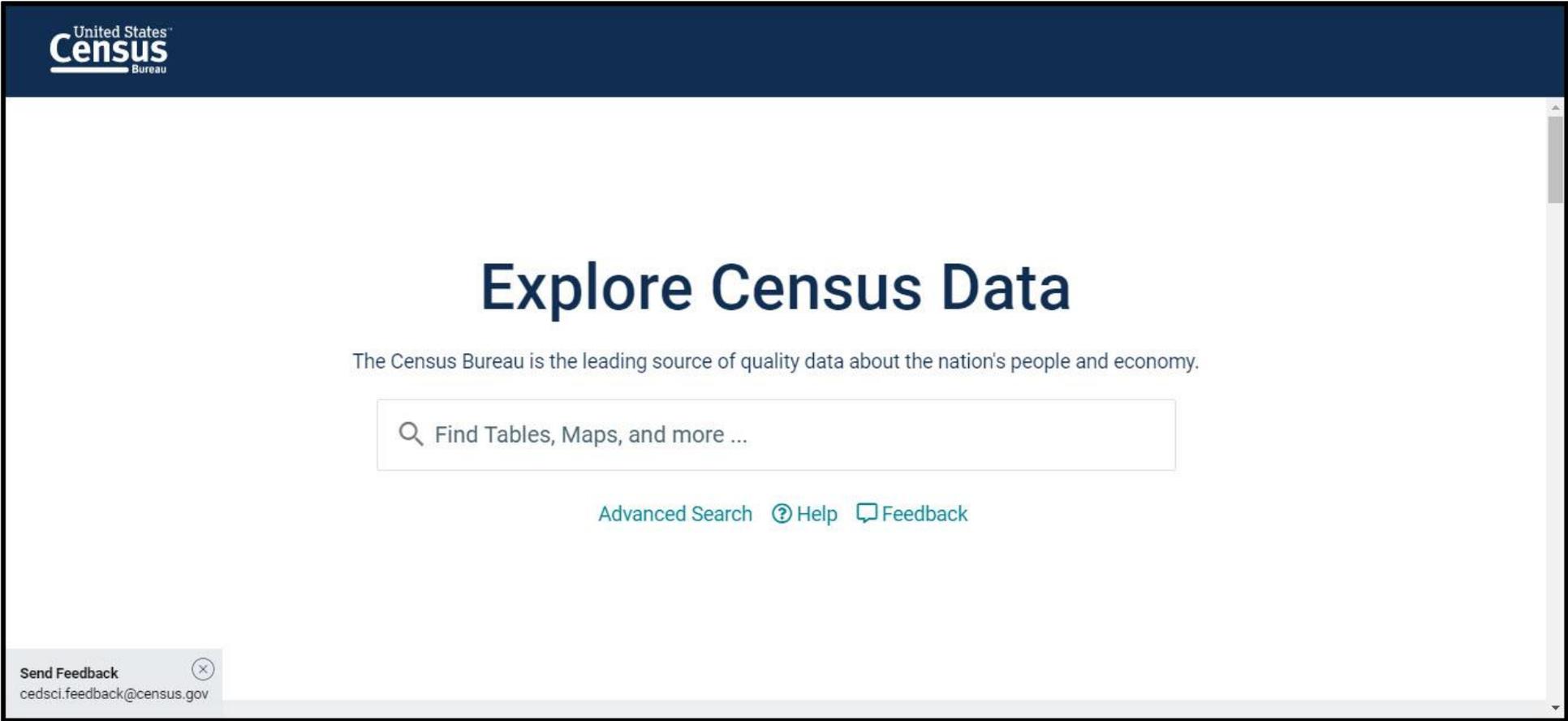
The American Community Survey TIGER/Line Shapefiles w/ Selected Demographic Data



The American Community Survey Application Programming Interface (API)

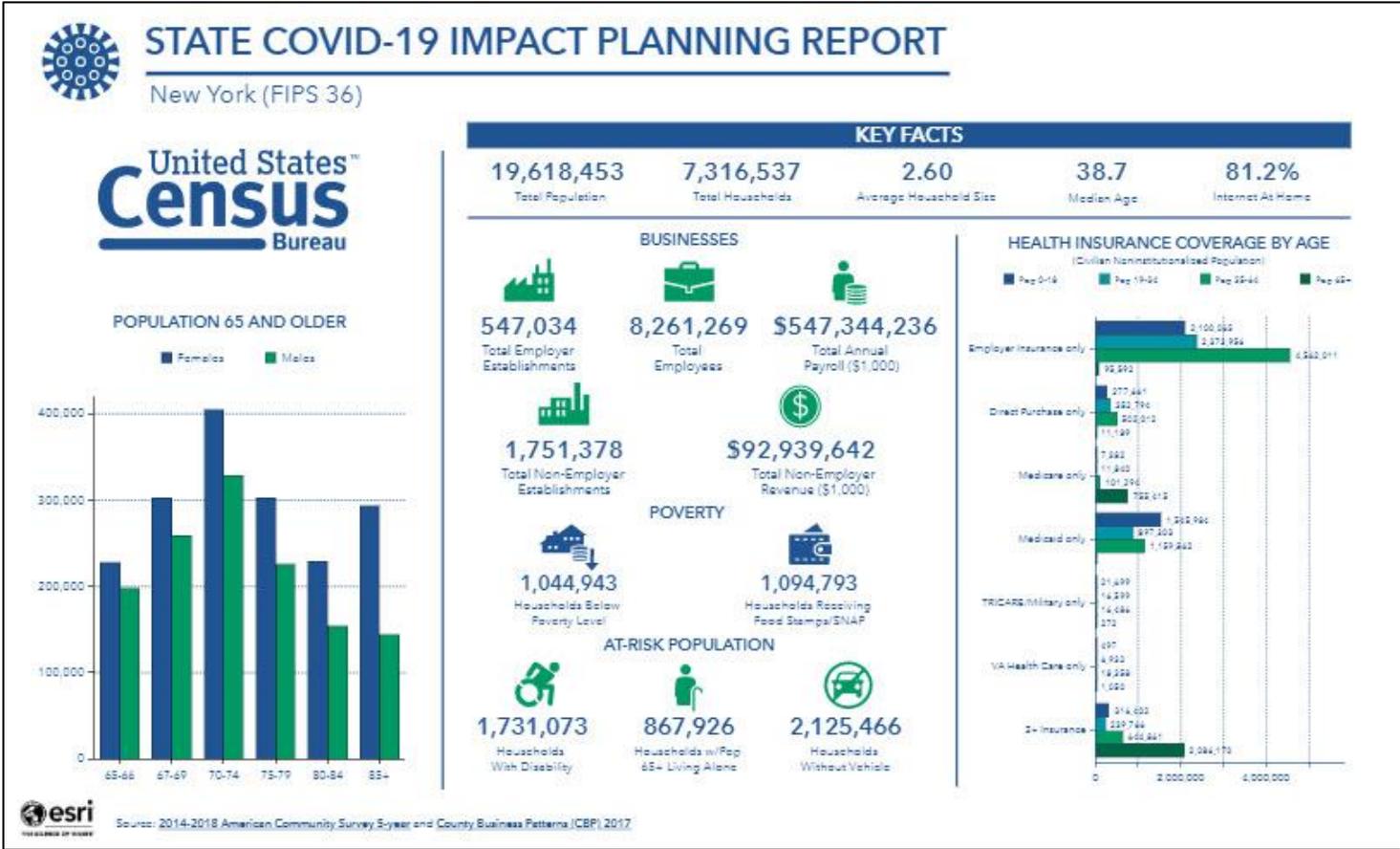


census.gov/developers



data.census.gov

census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html



The American Community Survey

Data Product Type: Profiles

Description

- Offer a broad look at a community's social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics
- Generally include many different variables
- Geography or population group is at the center

Types

- Data Profiles (DP)
- Comparison Profiles (CP)
- Selected Population Profiles (S0201)

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html

The American Community Survey

Data Product Types: Tables

Description

- A precise or detailed view of a subject
- Subject matter is at the center of the table

Types

- Detailed Tables (B or C)
- Supplemental Table (K20)
- Subject Tables (S)
- Ranking Tables (R)
- Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html

The American Community Survey

Table/Profile Numbering

B06004APR

- B=Data Product Type (Base Table)
- 06=Subject (Place of Birth)
- 004=Sequential Number (2 or 3 digits)
- A=Race/Hispanic Origin (White Alone)
- PR=For Puerto Rico Geographies Only

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html

The American Community Survey

Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Accessing ACS data products
- **Demonstration of ACS data tools**
- Resources for learning more
- Questions

Quick Live Demo

data.census.gov

All Topics	United States
PEOPLE	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (v2019)	328,239,523
Age and Sex	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (v2019)	328,239,523
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (v2019)	308,758,105
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (v2019)	6.3%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	308,745,538
Persons under 5 years, percent	▲ 6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent	▲ 22.3%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	▲ 16.5%
Female persons, percent	▲ 50.8%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	▲ 78.3%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	▲ 13.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	▲ 1.3%
Asian alone, percent (a)	▲ 5.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	▲ 0.2%
Two or More Races, percent	▲ 2.6%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	▲ 18.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	▲ 60.1%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2014-2018	18,611,432
Foreign born persons, percent, 2014-2018	13.5%
Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (v2019)	136,684,244

census.gov/quickfacts

census.gov/mycd

The American Community Survey

Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Accessing ACS data products
- Demonstration of ACS data tools
- **Resources for learning more**
- Questions

The American Community Survey

Main Page

The screenshot shows the main page of the American Community Survey (ACS) on the Census Bureau website. The page features a dark blue header with the United States Census Bureau logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for BROWSE BY TOPIC, EXPLORE DATA, LIBRARY, SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS, INFORMATION FOR..., FIND A CODE, and ABOUT US. The main content area is titled "American Community Survey (ACS)" and includes a brief description: "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." To the left of the main content is a sidebar with various navigation options such as "About the Survey", "Respond to the Survey", "News & Updates", "Data", "Guidance for Data Users", "Geography & ACS", "Technical Documentation", "Methodology", "Library", "Operations and Administration", and "Contact Us". Below the sidebar is a "Respond to the ACS" button with a "Learn how" link. The main content area also features a video player titled "The Importance of the A..." and three featured articles: "How do I respond to the ACS?", "ACS data help with COVID-19 response efforts", and "Should I respond to both the ACS and 2020 Census?". At the bottom of the page, there is a "Data" section with a "2018 Data Release" link and a brief description of the release.

United States
Census
Bureau

Search

BROWSE BY TOPIC EXPLORE DATA LIBRARY SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS INFORMATION FOR... FIND A CODE ABOUT US

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

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.

[How do I respond to the ACS?](#)

[ACS data help with COVID-19 response efforts](#)

[Should I respond to both the ACS and 2020 Census?](#)

[The Importance of the A...](#)

[Data](#)

2018 Data Release

Learn more about 2018 ACS data releases, including the latest release of new 2014-2018 ACS 5-year PUMS files and Variance Replicate Estimates, as well as the new 2018 ACS 1-year Supplemental

[Back to Our Surveys & Programs](#)

[Respond to the ACS](#)
Learn how

The American Community Survey

Why We Ask

American Community Survey

[← Back to Topics Page](#)

Why We Ask Questions About...

Commuting / Journey to Work

We ask questions about where people work, how they get there, when they leave home, and how long it takes, to create statistics about commuting, or a person's journey to work.

Commuting patterns and characteristics are crucial to planning for improvements to road and highway infrastructure, developing transportation plans and services, and understanding where people are traveling in the course of a normal day.



Your privacy concerns

"I Don't Want Everyone to Know What Time I Leave"

We use your confidential survey answers to create statistics like those in the results below and in the full tables that contain all the data—no one is able to figure out your survey answers from the statistics we produce. The Census Bureau is legally bound to strict confidentiality requirements. Individual records are not shared with anyone, including federal agencies and law enforcement entities. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone—not the IRS, not the FBI, not the CIA, and not with any other government agency.

Questions as they appear on the form

We ask five questions about a person's journey to work to create a profile of a community's commuting patterns.

[View Questions](#)

census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question

The American Community Survey

Data Tables and Tools

The screenshot shows the 'Data Tables & Tools' section of the American Community Survey website. The page has a dark blue header with the 'United States Census Bureau' logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: 'BROWSE BY TOPIC', 'EXPLORE DATA', 'LIBRARY', 'SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS', 'INFORMATION FOR...', 'FIND A CODE', and 'ABOUT US'. The main heading is 'American Community Survey'. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with items like 'About the Survey', 'Data Tables & Tools' (highlighted), 'Data Profiles', 'Narrative Profiles', 'Subject Tables', 'Ranking Tables', 'Supplemental Tables', 'data.census.gov', 'More ACS Tools & Apps', 'Data via FTP', 'Summary File Data', 'PUMS Data', 'Variance Replicate Tables', 'Race/Ethnicity & American Indian & Alaska Native Data', 'Custom Tables', 'Guidance for Data Users', 'Geography & the ACS', 'Technical Documentation', 'Methodology', 'Library', and 'Operations and Administration'. The main content area is titled 'Data Tables & Tools' and includes a 'Data Profiles Selector' section with a paragraph about the selector, a 'Narrative Profiles' section with a paragraph about finding profiles, a 'Subject Tables' section with a paragraph about topic-based searches, and a 'Supplemental Tables' section with a paragraph about mid-sized population statistics. A 'data.census.gov' link is provided. On the right, there is a 'Share Your ACS Data Story!' link and a 'Data by Topic' list with categories like 'Age and Sex / Aging', 'Race and Ethnicity', 'Ancestry', 'Place of Birth', 'Language', 'Migration / Mobility', 'Children', 'Grandparents', 'Households & Families', 'Marital Status', 'Fertility', 'Disability', 'Health Insurance', 'Education', 'Commuting to Work', 'Employment Status', 'Industry & Occupation', 'Veterans', 'Income', 'Earnings', 'Poverty', 'Food Stamps', 'Housing Characteristics', and 'Computer/Internet Use'.

The American Community Survey Comparison Guidance

United States
Census
Bureau

Search

BROWSE BY TOPIC EXPLORE DATA LIBRARY SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS INFORMATION FOR... FIND A CODE ABOUT US

// Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS) > Guidance for Data Users > Comparing ACS Data

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)

2018
2017
2016
2015
2014
2013
2012
2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006

< Back to Guidance for Data Users

Respond to the ACS
Learn how

Comparing ACS Data

The strength of the American Community Survey (ACS) is in estimating characteristic distributions. If you are looking for population totals, we recommend the 2010 Census or Population Estimates Program.

It is also important to keep in mind that **all ACS data are estimates**. We collect data from a sample of the population in the United States and Puerto Rico rather than from the whole population. To help you interpret the reliability of the estimates, the Census Bureau publishes a margin of error (MOE) for every ACS estimate.

Can I compare ACS estimates?

Yes Compare non-overlapping datasets (example: compare 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates to 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates).

No Do not compare overlapping datasets (example: do not compare 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates to 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates).

Because ACS variables change over time, some areas and subjects must be **compared with caution**, or **not compared at all**. Use the years in the **left navigation** to get yearly guidance on specific topics/subjects.

Can I compare ACS estimates with Census 2000?

Yes Compare ACS 1-year, 3-year or 5-year estimates **with** Census 2000 data. However, differences in the **universe, question wording, residence rules,**

Related Information

[Share Your ACS Data Story](#)

[Contact Us](#)

You May Be Interested In

RELATED TOPICS

[Contact Us](#)

AROUND THE BUREAU

[Email Updates](#)

MOST POPULAR

[Share Your ACS Data Story](#)

The American Community Survey

Comparison Guidance

Do	Do Not
Use ACS for population characteristics (i.e., percents, means, medians, rates)	Use ACS for population totals (instead use decennial census or the Population Estimates Program)
Compare non-overlapping datasets (i.e., 2009-2013 to 2014-2018)	Compare overlapping datasets (i.e., 2013-2017 to 2014-2018)
Compare similar period lengths (i.e., 1-year to 1-year)	Compare estimates from different period lengths (i.e., 1-year to 5-year)
Conduct statistical testing when making comparisons between estimates	Look at estimates alone to decide if they are higher or lower than one another

The American Community Survey

What is the Margin of Error (MOE)?

Definition: An MOE is a measure of the possible variation of the estimate around the population value

- At a given confidence level, the estimate and actual population value will differ by no more than the MOE
- 90% confidence level is the Census standard and ACS MOEs are provided in the same unit as the estimate

Example: How many males under age 5 live in WY?

$$\text{Lower bound} = 18,356 - 1,365 = 16,991$$

$$\text{Upper bound} = 18,356 + 1,365 = 19,721$$

We are 90% confident the true number of males under age 5 in Wyoming falls **between 16,991 and 19,721**

	Wyoming	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
✓ Total:	577,737	*****
✓ Male:	292,619	+/-2,316
Under 5 years	18,356	+/-1,365
5 to 9 years	17,875	+/-1,525
10 to 14 years	20,646	+/-1,786
15 to 17 years	11,067	+/-1,022
18 and 19 years	9,941	+/-1,336
20 years	2,634	+/-715

The American Community Survey

What is Statistical Testing?

- **Definition:** A test to determine if a difference is unlikely to occur by chance
- To be “statistically different”, there must be statistical evidence that there is a difference between two estimates
- Testing should be conducted for all comparisons

The American Community Survey Statistical Testing Tool

Algebraically, the significance test can be expressed as follows:

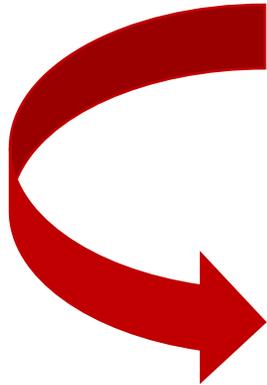
$$\text{If } \left| \frac{\hat{X}_1 - \hat{X}_2}{\sqrt{SE_1^2 + SE_2^2}} \right| > Z_{CL}, \text{ then the difference}$$

between estimates \hat{X}_1 and \hat{X}_2 is statistically significant at the specified confidence level, CL

where \hat{X}_i is estimate i ($i=1,2$)

SE_i is the SE for the estimate i ($i=1,2$)

Z_{CL} is the critical value for the desired confidence level (=1.645 for 90 percent, 1.960 for 95 percent, 2.576 for 99 percent).



// Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS) > Guidance for Data Users > Statistical Testing Tool

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)

Subjects Included in the Survey

Which Data Table or Tool Should I Use?

When to Use 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year Estimates

Handbooks

Comparing ACS Data

Statistical Testing Tool

Training Presentations

< Back to Guidance for Data Users


Respond to the ACS
Learn how

Statistical Testing Tool

Comparing American Community Survey (ACS) estimates involves more than determining which statistic is higher or lower. Users should also conduct statistical testing to make sure differences are statistically significant and are unlikely to have occurred by chance. This testing takes into account the margin of error (MOE) associated with survey estimates, which are based on responses from only a sample of the full population.

Looking for an easy way to conduct statistical testing? Try the Census Bureau's new [Statistical Testing Tool](#). Simply copy or download ACS estimates and their MOEs into the spreadsheet to get instant results of statistical tests.



Download Statistical Testing Tool [XLSX - 3.5 MB]

Tool Features:

- Compares up to 3,230 pairs of estimates at once
- Compares multiple estimates simultaneously (up to 150 estimates)
- Displays statistical testing results ("Yes", "No") automatically
- Handles special formatting and characters, such as the '+/-' in front of the MOE, without additional editing by the data user
- Uses the Census Bureau's standard 90% confidence level, but can also process statistical testing at 95% or 99% confidence levels
- May be used to conduct statistical testing for other Census Bureau surveys

Related Information

VIDEO

[Population Reference Bureau: Assessing ACS Reliability](#)

[Share Your ACS Data Story](#)

[Contact Us](#)

You May Be Interested In

RELATED TOPICS

[Contact Us](#)

AROUND THE BUREAU

[Email Updates](#)

MOST POPULAR

[Share Your ACS Data Story](#)

The American Community Survey Technical Documentation Page

The screenshot shows the American Community Survey (ACS) Technical Documentation page. The page has a dark blue header with the United States Census Bureau logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: BROWSE BY TOPIC, EXPLORE DATA, LIBRARY, SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS, INFORMATION FOR..., FIND A CODE, and ABOUT US. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: // Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS) > Technical Documentation. On the left is a sidebar with a list of links: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS), Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy, User Notes, Errata Notes, Data Suppression, Table & Geography Changes, Table Shells and Table List, Summary File Documentation, PUMS Documentation, Variance Replicate Tables Documentation, Race/Ethnicity and American Indian & Alaska Native Documentation, and a back button for the ACS. The main content area features a large heading 'Technical Documentation' with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Below the heading is a paragraph: '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.' This is followed by three sections: 'Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy' (with a sub-heading and description), 'User Notes' (with a sub-heading and description), and 'Errata Notes' (with a sub-heading and description). Below these is a date 'OCTOBER 01, 2016' and a section for 'Data Suppression' (with a sub-heading and description). The final section is 'Table & Geography Changes' (with a sub-heading and description). On the right side, there are two sections: 'Related Information' with links for 'American Community Survey Data', 'Share Your ACS Data Story', and 'Contact Us'; and 'You May Be Interested In' with sections for 'RELATED TOPICS' (link to 'Contact Us'), 'AROUND THE BUREAU' (link to 'Email Updates'), and 'MOST POPULAR' (link to 'Share Your ACS Data Story'). At the bottom left of the page is a 'Respond to the ACS' button with the text 'Learn how'.

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

The American Community Survey Glossary

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

United States Census Bureau

TOPICS: Population, Economy | GEOGRAPHY: Maps, Products | LIBRARY: Infographics, Publications | DATA: Tools, Developers | SURVEYS/PROGRAMS: Respond, Survey Data | NEWSROOM: News, Blogs | ABOUT US: Our Research

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Census.gov > Glossary

Glossary

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Select All 111 Terms Returned

- Ability to speak English [View](#)
- Accessibility [View](#)
- Accommodation and Food Services [View](#)
- Accounts Receivable [View](#)
- Accuracy [View](#)
- Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (A.C.E.) [View](#)
- Acquisition [View](#)
- Acreage [View](#)
- Active members (of retirement systems) [View](#)
- Actual Production [View](#)
- Adjustments [View](#)
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services [View](#)
- Administrative costs (of retirement systems) [View](#)
- Administrative data [View](#)
- Administrative Entities [View](#)

Selected Terms

The American Community Survey

Data Tell Stories. Tell us Yours!

The screenshot shows the 'Share Your ACS Data Story' form on the American Community Survey website. The form is titled 'Share Your ACS Data Story' and includes the following text: 'We want to hear about how you use American Community Survey (ACS) data to make an important decision, hire, open an office, expand a business, etc? If so, we are eager to learn more about how you use ACS data in action. Share your story by completing the fields below to help us showcase the value of the ACS.' Below this is a link to 'Need help getting started? Check out featured examples from our current collection of ACS data stories.' The form has three main sections: 'Your Story *' with the instruction 'Tell us how you use ACS data.' and a text input field; 'Outcome *' with the instruction 'Tell us about any outcomes or decisions that you or your organization have made based on ACS data. For example: selecting a location for a \$250 million department store distribution center that brought 4,000 jobs to Denver, CO.' and a text input field. A red asterisk indicates a required field. The form is part of a larger page with a dark blue header containing navigation links: 'GEOGRAPHY Maps, Products', 'LIBRARY Infographics, Publications', 'DATA Tools, Developers', and 'SURVEYS/PROGRAMS Respond, Survey Data'. The page title is 'American Community Survey'.



Your story



Your data details



Your outcome

census.gov/acs/www/share-your-story

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/acs-data-stories.html



- Purpose:
 - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
 - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications.
- Includes users group website and online community
- ACS Data Users Conference
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users

acsdatacommunity.prb.org

The American Community Survey

Need Local Stats?

- **FREE 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
(1-844-275-2382)
census.askdata@census.gov



The American Community Survey

Continue the Conversation



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



Social media: @uscensusbureau
#ACSdata



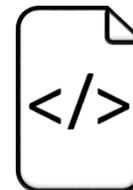
More information online:
census.gov/acs



acso.users.support@census.gov



Census Customer Service Center
800-923-8282



Source Us:
*U.S. Census Bureau's [YYYY – YYYY] American
Community Survey
[1/3/5]-year [estimates/statistics/data release]*

The American Community Survey
Questions?

You can *also* ask questions via:

Phone - Census Customer Service Center 800-923-8282

Email - acso.users.support@census.gov