American Community Survey (ACS)
Why We Ask: Residence One Year Ago

We ask questions about whether a person moved in the last year, and where he or she lived one year ago to create statistics about where people are moving (among countries, and within the United States). These statistics help federal agencies assess residential stability, the effects of immigration, and the effects of migration in both urban and rural areas.

The questions as they appear on the 2016 ACS paper questionnaire. This topic was introduced on the Decennial Census of 1930, and transferred to the ACS when it replaced the Decennial Census long-form in 2005.

Examples of Federal Uses
- Required to produce estimates of international migration.
- Used to allocate funds to States for assistance to counties because of factors such as unusually large refugee populations and high refugee concentrations.
- Used to estimate the spread of communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis.

Examples of Other Uses
State and local agencies use these statistics to estimate residential turnover in their communities. These statistics can be used to plan programs, services, and infrastructure for new residents when there is a trend in people arriving, or to plan programs that attract new residents or employers when there is a trend in people leaving.