

# Welcome! An Introduction to American Community Survey

United States™  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

# American Community Survey Overview

# ACS History

1940-2000

- Decennial Census: Short Form & Long Form

2005

- American Community Survey Replaces Decennial Long Form

2010

- Decennial Census: Short Form Only

# Differences Between Decennial Census and ACS

## Census

Every 10 Years

100 Percent Data

Official Count

Point In Time  
(April 1<sup>st</sup>)

## ACS

Yearly

Sample Data (3.5 million  
year/291K monthly)

Estimates  
(trends/comparisons)

Period of Time  
(1yr, 3yr, 5yr)

# American Community Survey



## Social

- *Household Type*
- *Marital Status*
- *Education*
- *Grandparent Caregivers*
- *Veterans*
- *Disability Status*
- *Poverty*
- *Citizenship*
- *Language*

## Demographic

- *Age*
- *Sex*
- *Race*
- *Hispanic Origin*

## Economic

- *Income*
- *Benefits*
- *Employment Status*
- *Occupation*
- *Industry*
- *Commuting to Work*
- *Place of Work*

## Housing

- *Tenure*
- *Housing Value*
- *Occupancy*
- *Taxes & Insurance*
- *Household Size*
- *Utilities*

# ACS Period Estimates

## 1-Year Estimates

- Geographies of 65,000 or more

## 5-Year Estimates

- All geographies



# ACS Data Products

## Annual Releases with Population Thresholds

Data Product (next release)	Population Threshold of Statistical Area	Year of Data Release									
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		Year(s) of Data Collection									
1-Year Estimates (September)	65,000 +	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
3-Year Estimates (October)	20,000 +			2005 - 2007	2006 - 2008	2007 - 2009	2008 - 2010	2009 - 2011	2010 - 2012	2011 - 2013	
5-Year Estimates (December)	All Areas *					2005 - 2009	2006 - 2010	2007 - 2011	2008 - 2012	2009 - 2013	2010 - 2014

\* All Areas = All legal, administrative, and statistical geographic areas down to the block group level. Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) estimates first became available in 2012, with the 2007 – 2011 estimates.

# Now to American FactFinder!





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