

An Update on the American Community Survey

Decennial Census

In Census 2000, the census used 2 forms

1. “short” form – asked for basic demographic and housing information, such as age, sex, race, how many people lived in the housing unit, and if the housing unit was owned or rented by the resident
2. “long” form – collected the same information as the short form but also collected more in-depth information such as income, education, and language spoken at home

Only a small portion of the population, called a sample, received the long form.

2010 Census and American Community Survey

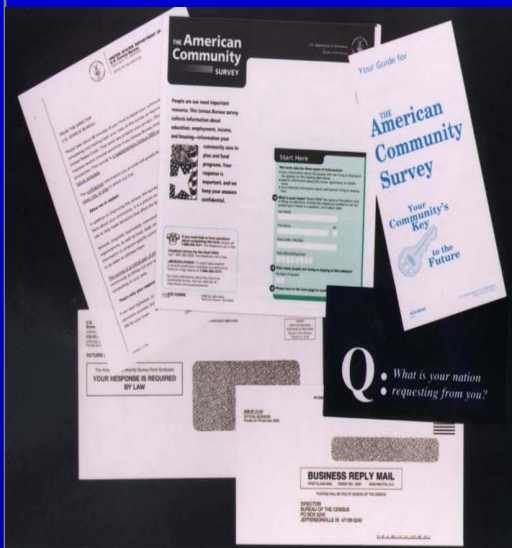
- 2010 Census will focus on counting the U.S. population
- The sample data are now collected in the ACS
- Puerto Rico is the only U.S. territory where the ACS is conducted
- 2010 Census will have a long form for U.S. territories such as Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands
- Same “short form” questions on the ACS

American Community Survey Content



American Community Survey Methodology

Mail



Telephone



Personal Visit



American Community Survey

Group Quarters

- Place where people live or stay that is normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing or services for the residents.
- 2 categories of group quarters:
 - Institutional
 - Non-institutional

American Community Survey

Period Estimates

- ACS estimates are period estimates, describing the average characteristics over a specified period
- Contrast with point-in-time estimates that describe the characteristics of an area on a specific date
- 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates will be released for geographic areas that meet specific population thresholds

American Community Survey

Period Estimates

From *The Washington Post*:

“...were compiled from three years of responses from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which collects information from more than 250,000 households a month. The recently released data cover 2005 to 2007, with information from locations with as few as 20,000 residents.”

American Community Survey Data Products Release Schedule

Data Product	Population Size of Area	Data released in:						
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1-Year Estimates for Data Collected in:	65,000+	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
3-Year Estimates for Data Collected in:	20,000+			2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011
5-Year Estimates for Data Collected in:	All Areas*					2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011

* Five-year estimates will be available for areas as small as census tracts and block groups.
Source: US Census Bureau

MWCOG Members

Virginia

Virginia MWCOG	1-year estimates	3-year estimates
Arlington County	✓	✓
Fairfax County	✓	✓
Loudon County	✓	✓
Prince William County	✓	✓
Alexandria City	✓	✓
Falls Church City		
Fairfax City		✗
Manassas City		✗
Manassas Park		

MWCOG Members

Maryland

Maryland MWCOG	1-year estimates	3-year estimates
Prince George's County	✓	✓
Montgomery County	✓	✓
Frederick County	✓	✓
Bowie City		✗
College Park City		✗
Frederick City		✗
Gaithersburg City		✗
Greenbelt City		✗
Rockville City		✗
Tacoma Park City		
Bladensburg Town		

American Community Survey

2008 Content Changes

- Three new questions
 - Health Insurance Coverage
 - Veteran's Service-connected Disability
 - Marital History
- Deletion of one question
 - Time and main reason for staying at the address
- Changes in some wording and format

American Community Survey

Data Products

Profiles

- Data Profiles
- Narrative Profiles
- Comparison Profiles
- Selected Population Profiles

Tables

- Detailed Tables and Collapsed Tables
- Subject Tables
- Ranking Tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables

Thematic Maps

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

Data Products

Comparison Profiles

An * indicates that the estimate is significantly different (at a 90% confidence level) than the estimate from the most current year. A 'c' indicates the estimates for that year and the current year are both controlled; a statistical test is not appropriate.

	2007 Percent Distribution	2006 Percent Distribution	Statistical Significance
Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2007			
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE			
Total households	112,377,977	111,617,402	*
Family households (families)	66.8%	66.8%	
With own children under 18 years	31.1%	31.3%	*
Married-couple family	49.7%	49.7%	
With own children under 18 years	21.4%	21.6%	*
Male householder, no wife present, family	4.6%	4.6%	
With own children under 18 years	2.3%	2.2%	
Female householder, no husband present, family	12.5%	12.5%	
With own children under 18 years	7.4%	7.4%	
Nonfamily households	33.2%	33.2%	
Householder living alone	27.3%	27.3%	
65 years and over	9.1%	9.1%	
Households with one or more people under 18 years	34.4%	34.6%	*
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	23.4%	23.2%	*
Average household size	2.61	2.61	
Average family size	3.20	3.20	
RELATIONSHIP			
Population in households	293,499,975	291,332,841	c
Householder	38.3%	38.3%	
Spouse	19.0%	19.0%	
Child	30.5%	30.5%	
Other relatives	6.7%	6.7%	

Data Products

Selected Population Profiles

United States

S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States ?

Country of Birth: Japan

Data Set: 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Survey: American Community Survey

Subject	Total population	Margin of Error	Japan	Margin of Error
Total population	301,621,159	*****	352,933	+/-11,315
TOTAL NUMBER OF RACES REPORTED				
One race	97.8%	+/-0.1	97.9%	+/-0.4
Two races	2.0%	+/-0.1	2.1%	+/-0.4
Three races	0.1%	+/-0.1	0.0%	+/-0.1
Four or more races	0.0%	+/-0.1	0.0%	+/-0.1
SEX AND AGE				
Male	49.3%	+/-0.1	34.9%	+/-1.2
Female	50.7%	+/-0.1	65.1%	+/-1.2
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH				
Population 5 years and over	280,950,438	+/-17,610	346,391	+/-10,699
English only	80.3%	+/-0.1	18.5%	+/-1.1
Language other than English	19.7%	+/-0.1	81.5%	+/-1.1
Speak English less than "very well"	8.7%	+/-0.1	50.8%	+/-1.5
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Population 16 years and over	236,416,572	+/-47,218	329,589	+/-9,485
In labor force	64.8%	+/-0.1	52.6%	+/-1.5
Civilian labor force	64.4%	+/-0.1	52.5%	+/-1.5
Employed	60.3%	+/-0.1	50.7%	+/-1.6
Unemployed	4.1%	+/-0.1	1.8%	+/-0.4
Percent of civilian labor force	6.3%	+/-0.1	3.4%	+/-0.8
Armed Forces	0.4%	+/-0.1	0.1%	+/-0.1
Not in labor force	35.2%	+/-0.1	47.4%	+/-1.5

Data Products

Detailed Tables for Quality Measures

■ Choose a table selection method

■ Select one or more tables and click 'Add'

[i explain table numbers](#)

B98001. Unweighted Housing Unit Sample	▲
B98002. Unweighted Group Quarters Population Sample	
B98011. Housing Unit Coverage Rate	
B98012. Total Population Coverage Rate by Sex	
B98013. Total Population Coverage Rate by Weighting Race and Hispanic or Latino Groups	
B98014. Group Quarters Population Coverage Rate	
B98021. Housing Unit Response and Nonresponse Rates with Reasons for Noninterviews	
B98022. Group Quarters Population Response and Nonresponse Rates with Reasons for Noninterviews	
B98031. Overall Person Characteristic Imputation Rate	
B98032. Overall Housing Unit Characteristic Imputation Rate	▼

Data Products

Detailed Tables – Collapsed Version

[C16007. AGE BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER - Universe: POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER](#)
Data Set: [2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates](#)
Survey: American Community Survey

View the [non-collapsed version of this table.](#)

	United States	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total	280,950,438	+/-17,610
5 to 17 years:	53,237,254	+/-25,343
Speak only English	42,318,910	+/-46,666
Speak Spanish	7,872,291	+/-34,011
Speak all other languages	3,046,053	+/-36,690
18 to 64 years:	189,872,626	+/-26,305
Speak only English	150,634,896	+/-85,397
Speak Spanish	24,333,144	+/-59,411
Speak all other languages	14,904,786	+/-62,263
65 years and over:	37,840,558	+/-17,617
Speak only English	32,552,347	+/-31,473
Speak Spanish	2,341,642	+/-12,989
Speak all other languages	2,946,569	+/-21,333

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey



Total:
5 to 17 years:
Speak only English
Speak Spanish
Speak other Indo-European languages
Speak Asian and Pacific Island languages
Speak other languages

Data Products

Geographic Comparison Tables

	A	B	C
1	GCT2502: Percent of Housing Units That Were Built in 2005 or Later		
2	Universe: Total housing units		
3	Data Set: 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates		
4	Survey: American Community Survey		
5	Geographic Area: Virginia -- County		
6			
7	NOTE. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology.		
8			
9	Geographic area	Percent	Margin of Error
10			
11	Virginia	1.8	+/-0.1
12			
13	COUNTY		
14	Loudoun County	6.8	+/-0.6
15	Prince William County	4.8	+/-0.5
16	Fairfax city	1.8	+/-0.9
17	Fairfax County	1.4	+/-0.2
18	Alexandria city	1.4	+/-0.5
19	Arlington County	0.8	+/-0.3
20	Manassas city	0.6	+/-0.5
21			
22	Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2007 American Community Survey		
23			
24			
25			

Data Products

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 2005-2007 3-Year

You are here: [Main](#) ▶ [Data Sets](#) ▶ ACS PUMS 2005-2007 3-Year

PUMS Data and Documentation:

- ▶ 2005-2007 3-Yr
 - [2007 1-Yr](#)
 - [2006](#)
 - [2005](#)
 - [2004](#)
 - [2003](#)
 - [2002](#)
 - [2001](#)
 - [2000](#)

The Public Use Microdata Sample files, or PUMS, are a sample of the actual responses to the American Community Survey and include most [population and housing characteristics](#). These files provide users with the flexibility to prepare customized tabulations and can be used for detailed research and analysis. Files have been edited to protect the confidentiality of all individuals and of all individual households. For an overview of the file, please see the [American Community Survey PUMS overview](#).

The 2005–2007 American Community Survey Three-Year PUMS file contains the same sample of actual responses provided in the 2005, 2006, and 2007 One-Year PUMS files. For an overview of the files, please see the American Community Survey Multiyear PUMS overview.

The one-year 2007 PUMS file is also available (see left menu).

Download 2005-2007 3-Year PUMS Data

■ Select a data type, data format, and state. Click 'GO'.

Data Type

Population Records

Housing Records

Data Format

CSV (comma separated values)

PC SAS Data Set

UNIX SAS Data Set

State

United States

Documentation

- [Subjects available in PUMS files](#)
- [2007 PUMS top coded values](#)
- 2005-2007 PUMS Code Lists
 - [Ancestry](#)
 - Geographic Equivalency Files:
 - [One-Percent PUMA](#)
 - [Five-Percent PUMA](#)
 - [Group Quarters](#)
 - [Hispanic Origin](#)
 - [Industry](#)
 - [Language](#)
 - [Migration](#)
 - [Migration PUMA](#)
 - [Occupation](#)
 - [Place of Birth](#)
 - [Place of Work](#)
 - [Place of Work PUMA](#)
 - [Race 1 \(9 categories\)](#)
 - [Race 2 \(67 categories\)](#)
 - [Race 3 \(72 categories\)](#)
 - [State Code List](#)

PUMS DataFerrett

The image shows a screenshot of the U.S. Census Bureau website. The main navigation bar includes "U.S. Census Bureau", "Subjects A to Z", "FAQs", "Privacy Policy", and "Help". A search bar is present with "SEARCH:" and "GO" buttons. A "Data Finders" section displays "Population Clocks" and "U.S. 303,304,418". A left sidebar lists various site sections, with "Data Tools" circled in red. A red arrow points from this circle to a callout box titled "U.S. Census Bureau Data Access Tools".

U.S. Census Bureau

Data Access Tools

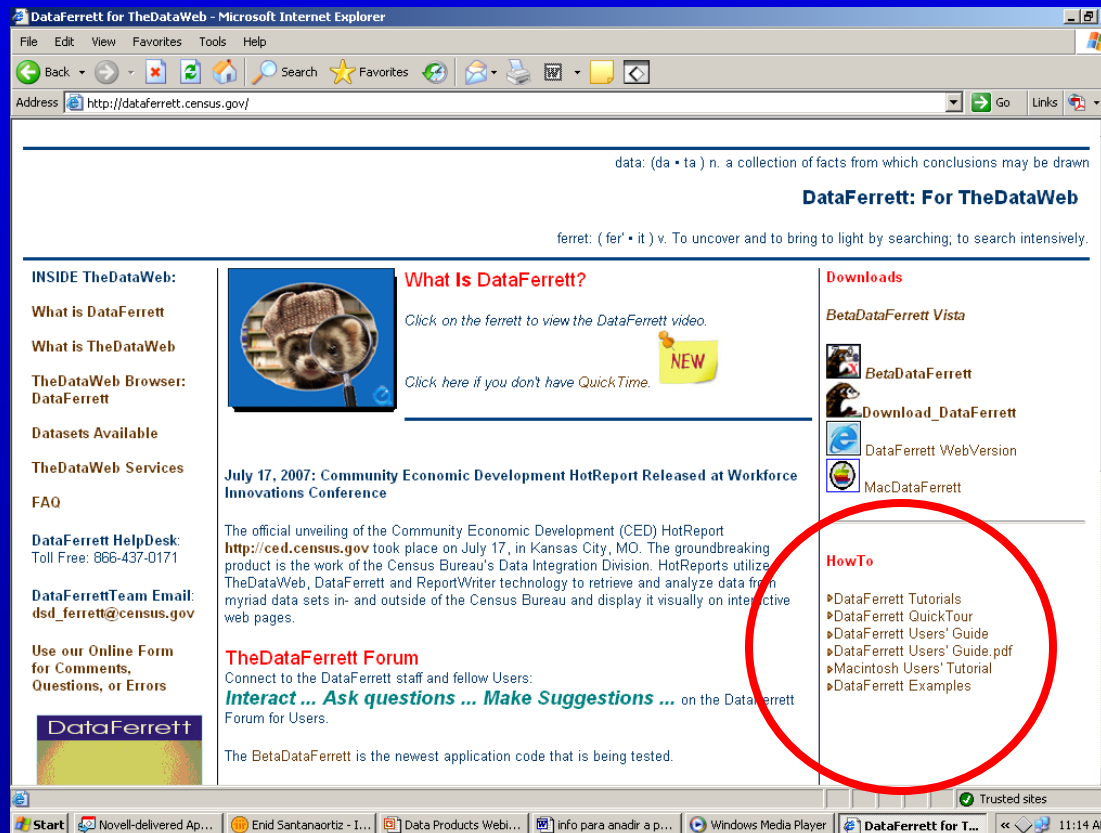
[The American FactFinder](#) - This interactive application supports the Economic Census, the American Community Survey, and the latest Population Estimates.

[Census 2000 EEO Data Tool](#) - Using the web-based tool, you can select tabulations for various levels of geography and data estimates available present information for various occupation groupings by race and ethnicity.

Interactive Internet Tools

- [Censtats](#) - Applications available include: Census Tract Street Locator, County Business Patterns, and more.
- [QuickFacts](#) - State and County QuickFacts provides frequently requested Census Bureau information.
- [Online Mapping Tools](#) - using TIGER and the American FactFinder
- [US Gazetteer](#) - Place name, and ZIP code search engine.
- [DataFerrett](#) is a tool and data librarian that searches and retrieves data across federal, state, and local government data sources. It creates complex tabulations and business graphics. Current Population Survey, Survey of Income and Program Participation, American Housing Survey, Small Area Income Poverty Estimates, Population Estimates, and more. DataFerrett's newest tool, the [Community Economic Development HotReport](#) provides community profiles on counties and the Employment & Training Administration's Workforce Innovation in Regional Growth Act.

DataFerrett



<http://dataferrett.census.gov/>

USCENSUSBUREAU

American Community Survey

Learning More

- ACS Main Page
- 2007 Data Product Details
- Guidance on Comparing 2007 Data to Other Sources
- The ACS Compass Products

Learning More ACS Main Page

American Community Survey (ACS)

ACS Main | **About the ACS** | Access Data | How to Use the Data | About the Data | Site Map | Search ACS

ACS Alerts
Alert 63 - released 1/16/2009

Contact Us
Contact the American Community Survey Office by email or by phone at 1-800-923-8282, or visit ask.census.gov for further information on the American Community Survey.

News Releases
December 9th, 2008
American Community Survey Gives Mid-sized Areas Their First Detailed Update Since 2000
December 9th, 2008
Spanish Version -- American Community Survey Gives Mid-sized Areas Their First Detailed Update Since 2000
September 23rd, 2008
One-in-Five Speak Spanish in Four States -- New Census Bureau Data Show How America Lives
[more News Releases »](#)
[Media Tool Kit »](#)


THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

- is an on-going survey
- is sent to a small sample of the population
- tells us what the population looks like and how it lives
- helps communities determine where to locate services and allocate resources

HIGHLIGHTS

2007 ACS Data Release
Find detailed information and guidance about the 1-year and 3-year data products, including guidance on using multiyear estimates.
new! 2005-2007 ACS 3-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files now available

The ACS Compass Products



The ACS Compass Products are educational materials to help users better understand and appropriately use ACS data.

Handbooks (released on a flow basis) - user-friendly information about the ACS targeting specific user groups --
new! [What Federal Agencies Need to Know](#) [PDF 2.1 MB]
new! [What High School Teachers Need to Know](#) [PDF 2.3 MB]

PowerPoint Presentations - fully scripted presentations covering various topics from the ACS basics to understanding ACS multiyear estimates --
new! [Introduction to the ACS PUMS Files](#) [PPT .6 MB]

Get Data
American FactFinder
2007 ACS 1-year data and 2005-2007 ACS 3-year data now available in [American FactFinder \(AFF\)](#).

Coming Soon
Our site is undergoing new and exciting changes. Please check again as we move from this modest look to an expanded face for the American Community Survey. To receive periodic updates, please subscribe to the ACS Alert.

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Learning More 2007 Data Release

2007 ACS Data Release

Available in this Section

[2007 ACS Data Release Main](#)

Get Data

- [American FactFinder \(AFF\) FTP Site](#)
- [PUMS Files](#)
- [Request a Custom Tab](#)

Data User Tools and Tips

- [Data Release Schedule](#)
- [What's New & Different](#)
- [2007 Data Product Details](#)
- [ACS 1-Year](#)
- [ACS 3-Year](#)
- [The ACS Compass Products](#)
- [Comparing ACS Data](#)
- [Using Multiyear Estimates](#)

Documentation

- [Media Tool Kit](#)
- [Questionnaires](#)
- [Subject Definitions](#)
- [Accuracy of the Data](#)
- [Errata](#)
- [User Notes](#)
- [ACS Design and Methodology \[PDF\]](#)
- [Quality Measures](#)

Special Project

- [The 2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area](#)

GET DATA

- [American FactFinder \(AFF\)](#)
- [File Transfer Protocol \(FTP\) Site](#)
- [Public Use Microdata Sample \(PUMS\) Files](#)
- [Request a Custom Tabulation](#)

DATA USER TOOLS & TIPS

- [2007 Data Release Schedule](#)
Details on 2007 data products availability
- [What's New & Different](#)
Changes in the data products since the 2006 ACS, including new products
- [2007 Data Product Details](#) ←
Table shells/IDs, maps, geographic areas, and more
- [2007 ACS 1-Year Estimates](#)
- [2005-2007 ACS 3-Year Estimates](#)
- [The ACS Compass Products](#)
User-specific handbooks and other educational materials
- [Comparing ACS Data](#) ←
Guidance on making data comparisons between the 2007 ACS, 2006 ACS, and Census 2000
- [Using Multiyear Estimates](#)
Guidance on how to use the new ACS multiyear estimates

DOCUMENTATION

- [Media Tool Kit](#)
News releases and general information about the ACS
- [Questionnaires](#)
Sample ACS questionnaires and instruction guides, and why we ask each question
- [Subject Definitions](#) ←
Glossary of all ACS variables
- [Accuracy of the Data](#)
Sample design, weighting methodology, and guidance on measuring the reliability
- [Errata](#)
Updates made to the data due to detected errors
- [User Notes](#)
- [ACS Design and Methodology \[PDF\]](#) ←
Comprehensive description of the ACS methods and procedures
- [Quality Measures](#)
Documentation of specific measures of quality associated with ACS published data

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/>

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Learning More 2007 Data Product Details

ACS Main | About the ACS | Access Data | How to Use the Data | About the Data | Site Map | Search ACS

Census > ACS Home > Using The Data > 2007 Data Product Details

Using the Data: 2007 Data Product Details

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN 2007

Select a state

ACS 2007 Reference Maps

Detailed Table Shells - by topic

- Age of Householder
- Ancestry
- Bedrooms
- Citizenship Status
- Class of Worker
- Disability
- Earnings
- Educational Attainment
- Employment Status
- Fertility
- Food Stamps
- Grandparents
- Group Quarters
- Heating Fuel
- Hispanic Origin

SELECTED PRODUCTS:

- Comparison Profile Table Shells (xls)
- Data Profile Table Shells (xls)
- Ranking Tables
- Selected Population Profiles
- Subject Tables

FINDING BASIC DATA

Two easy steps to ACS data:

Go to the ACS page on the American FactFinder web site:
[ACS on American FactFinder.](#)

Click on any of the data products on the lower right of the Webpage.

Guide to the ACS Data Products from Other Years

- ▶ 2005-2007 Guide to the Data Products
- ▶ 2006 Guide to the Data Products
- ▶ 2005 Guide to the Data Products
- ▶ 2004 Guide to the Data Products

Document download

-- Download these documents and guides:

- ACS 2007 Detailed Table Shells for August 26th Data Release (xls)
- ACS 2007 Detailed Table Shells for September 23rd Data Release (xls)
- All ACS 2007 Detailed Table Shells (xls)
- ACS 2007 Data Product Geographic Restriction (xls)
- ACS 2007 Geographical Areas (xls)
- ACS 2007 Geographic Overview (pdf)
- ACS 2007 Iteration List (xls)
- ACS 2007 Selected Population Profiles (xls)
- ACS 2007 Table IDs (xls)
- Census 2000 Summary File 3 detailed tables with comparable ACS tables (xls)
- Changes to the 2007 Data Products - Complete lists of New, Removed, and Modified Tables (xls)
- Instructions for Applying Statistical Testing to ACS Data (pdf)

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/
USCENSUSBUREAU

Learning More

Comparison Guidance

- Comparing 2007 ACS to 2006 ACS
 - Census Bureau supports comparisons made between 2006 and 2007 ACS data
- Comparing 2007 ACS to Census 2000
 - Differences between the 2007 ACS and Census 2000 include residence rules, universes, and reference periods.

Learning More The ACS Compass Products

American Community Survey (ACS)


[ACS Main](#) | [About the ACS](#) | [Access Data](#) | [How to Use the Data](#) | [About the Data](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Search ACS](#)

Census > ACS Main > [How to Use the Data](#) > The ACS Compass Products

The ACS Compass Products

Available in this Section

- [How to Use the Data Main](#)
- [ACS and Intercensal Population Estimates](#)
- The ACS Compass Products**
- [Comparing ACS Data to Other Sources](#)
- [Subject Definitions](#)
- [Accuracy of the Data](#)
- Quality Measures**
 - Sample Size:
 - [Data](#)
 - [Definitions](#)
 - Coverage Rates:
 - [Data](#)
 - [Definitions](#)
 - Response Rates:
 - [Data](#)
 - [Definitions](#)
 - Item Allocation Rates:
 - [Data](#)
 - [Definitions](#)
- ACS Group Quarters**
 - [2006 GQ Data Products](#)
- Errata**
 - [ACS 2000 Errata \(11/7/02\)](#)
 - [ACS 2000 Errata \(3/25/02\)](#)
- User Notes**
 - [ACS 1999 Limitations](#)
 - [ACS 2000 Notices](#)
- [Geography Explanation](#)
- [Data Products Details](#)
- [Using Data from the 2006 ACS \(PDF\)](#)



In recognition of the need to provide guidance on new concepts and the challenges they bring to users of American Community Survey (ACS) data, the U.S. Census Bureau has developed a series of educational materials called *The ACS Compass Products*. The Census Bureau will release data from the ACS in the form of 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates. These estimates represent concepts that are fundamentally different from those associated with sample data from the decennial census long form. We hope *The ACS Compass Products* give direction and guidance to you in using ACS data.

Handbooks

These handbooks provide user-friendly information about the ACS and the new multiyear estimates available in 2008. Each handbook targets a specific user group including first time ACS data users.

Presentations

Need to conduct your own training? These PowerPoint presentations with fully scripted text allow individuals to conduct their own training on key aspects of the ACS. They are designed to help data users learn about the ACS and cover various topics from the ACS basics to understanding ACS multiyear estimates.

E-learning Tutorial - forthcoming

An on-line tutorial that enables users to understand and appropriately use ACS data. Basic and advanced topics on the ACS are covered and case studies to illustrate concepts are provided.

If you have questions, comments, or identify any areas of concern, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us by email at acso.users.support@census.gov.

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/compass_series.html

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

The ACS Compass Products

A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data

Released

- General Data Users
- Businesses
- High School Teachers
- Congress
- Federal Agencies
- Media
- PUMS
- State and Local Governments

Planned

- Researchers
- Rural Areas
- American Indian and Alaskan Native Populations
- Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS)

The ACS Compass Products

A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data

- Fully scripted PowerPoint presentations
 - An Overview of the ACS
 - Things that May Affect the Estimates
 - Understanding Multiyear Estimates
 - Data Products
 - Geographic Areas and Concepts
 - Introduction to the PUMS files
- E-learning ACS Tutorial (*forthcoming*)

For more information

Subscribe to “ACS Alert”

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Special/Alerts.htm>

Visit the ACS/PRCS website:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>

Contact by telephone:

301-763-1405

Contact by email:

acso.users.support@census.gov