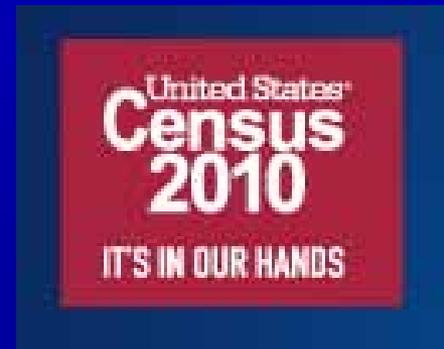


An Overview of the American Community Survey, 2010 Census and Population Estimates

MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee
July 27, 2010



Overview

- What is the American Community Survey?
- Content
- Survey Methodology
- Data Products
- How is it different from Census 2000?

What is the American Community Survey?



**AMERICAN
COMMUNITY
SURVEY**

**America is changing,
and so is the census.**

A detailed look at how our communities are changing every year—not just once every ten years. That's what the powerful new American Community Survey provides. Your community needs current information about its residents' education, employment, income, housing and more in order to plan and fund local services that are important to you.

Your response is important and completely confidential.

For more information, please visit
www.census.gov/acs

Or call the Census Bureau's ACS toll-free number at
888-346-9682

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
1600 L STREET, N.W.

USCENSUSBUREAU

United States
**Census
2010**

10-year 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 (16 .5%) 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
- Same “short form” questions on the ACS

Minimizing Confusion Among ACS Respondents

- ACS Initial Letter
 - *Some households, including yours, will receive both the American Community Survey and the 2010 Census this year. **Your response to both is required by U.S. law.** The Census Bureau is required by U.S. law to keep your answers confidential.*

2010 Census Content

Demographic Characteristics



- Sex
- Age
- Race
- Hispanic Origin
- Household Relationship
- Tenure

American Community Survey Content



American Community Survey

Social Characteristics



- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Language Spoken at Home
- Ancestry / Tribal Affiliation

American Community Survey

Economic Characteristics

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



American Community Survey

Housing Characteristics



- Tenure
- Occupancy & Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/Monthly Rent



American Community Survey

Methodology

- Sample includes about 3 million addresses each year
- Three modes of data collection
 - mail
 - phone
 - personal visit
- Data are collected continuously throughout the year

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 are being released for geographic areas that meet specific population thresholds

American Community Survey 2010 Data Release Schedule

*September -- 1 year estimates for all areas
over 65,000 population

*November-- 5 year estimates for all areas
including census tract and block

*December—3 year estimates for all areas
over 20,000 population

American Community Survey

Data Products

Profiles

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

Tables

- Detailed Tables
- Subject Tables
- Ranking Tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables

Thematic Maps

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

American Community Survey

Learning More

- ACS Main Page
- Subject Definitions
- Guidance on Comparing 2007 Data to Other Sources
- Design and Methodology Report
- *The ACS Compass Products*

American Community Survey

ACS Main Page

U.S. Census Bureau

People | Business | Geography | Newsroom | Subjects A to Z | Search@Census

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 58 - released 6/26/2008 [Archives >](#)

Contact Us

Contact the American Community Survey Office by [email](#) or by phone at **1-888-456-7215**, or visit [ask.census.gov](#) for further information on the American Community Survey.

News Releases

August 6th, 2008
Media Advisory -- Census Bureau to Release New Data on Income, Poverty and Health Insurance

July 15th, 2008
Media Advisory -- 2008 Release Schedule for American Community Survey Data

April 30th, 2008
Kim M. Williams Selected for Census Bureau's African-American Advisory Committee

[more News Releases >](#)

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

Preparing to use the 2007 ACS estimates? Find detailed information and guidance about the data products here.

Get Data - American FactFinder (AFF)

2007 ACS data available starting August 26, 2008

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.

[PDF] or denotes a file in Adobe's Portable Document Format. To view the file, you will need the [Adobe® Acrobat® Reader](#), available free from Adobe.

This symbol indicates a link to a non-government web site. Our linking to these sites does not constitute an endorsement of any products, services or the information found on them. Once you link to another site you are subject to the policies of the new site.

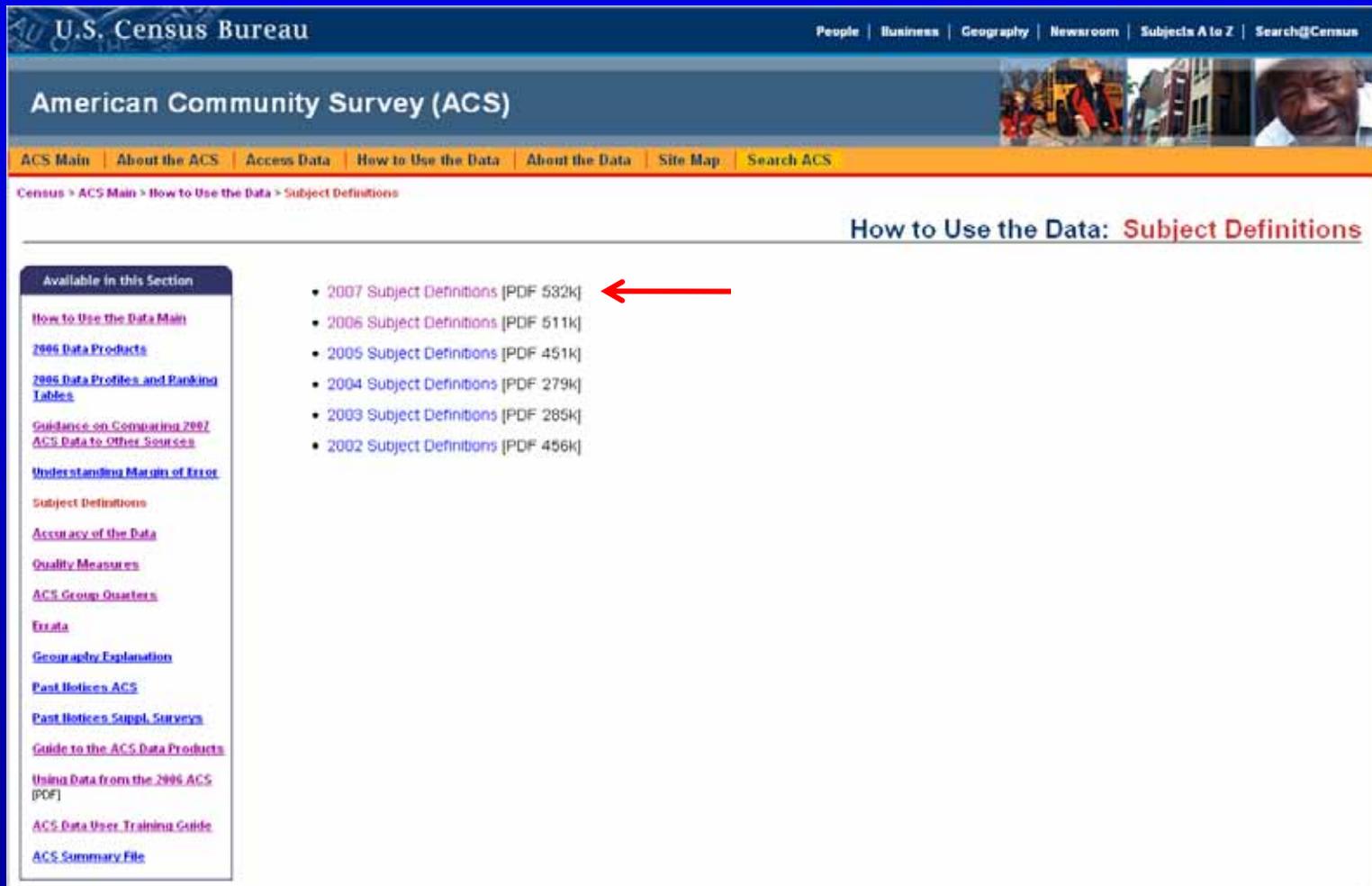
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Helping You Make Informed Decisions

Home | Search | Subjects A-Z | FAQs | Data Tools | Catalog | Census 2000 | Quality | Privacy Policy | Contact Us

Source: U.S. Census Bureau | American Community Survey Office | Page Last Modified: August 19, 2008

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

American Community Survey Subject Definitions



The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website for the American Community Survey (ACS). The page title is "How to Use the Data: Subject Definitions". A red arrow points to the link for "2007 Subject Definitions [PDF 532k]".

U.S. Census Bureau

People | Business | Geography | Newsroom | Subjects A to Z | Search@Census

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 > Subject Definitions

How to Use the Data: Subject Definitions

Available in this Section

- [How to Use the Data Main](#)
- [2006 Data Products](#)
- [2006 Data Profiles and Ranking Tables](#)
- [Guidance on Comparing 2007 ACS Data to Other Sources](#)
- [Understanding Margin of Error](#)
- [Subject Definitions](#)
- [Accuracy of the Data](#)
- [Quality Measures](#)
- [ACS Group Quarters](#)
- [Errata](#)
- [Geography Explanation](#)
- [Past Notices ACS](#)
- [Past Notices Suppl. Surveys](#)
- [Guide to the ACS Data Products](#)
- [Using Data from the 2006 ACS \[PDF\]](#)
- [ACS Data User Training Guide](#)
- [ACS Summary File](#)

- [2007 Subject Definitions \[PDF 532k\]](#)
- [2006 Subject Definitions \[PDF 511k\]](#)
- [2005 Subject Definitions \[PDF 451k\]](#)
- [2004 Subject Definitions \[PDF 279k\]](#)
- [2003 Subject Definitions \[PDF 285k\]](#)
- [2002 Subject Definitions \[PDF 456k\]](#)

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.htm>

American Community Survey

Subject Definitions

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English

Language Spoken at Home – Data on language spoken at home were derived from answers to the 2007 American Community Survey Questions 13a and 13b. These questions were asked only of persons 5 years of age and older. Instructions mailed with the American Community Survey questionnaire instructed respondents to mark “Yes” on Question 13a if they sometimes or always spoke a language other than English at home, and “No” if a language was spoken only at school – or if speaking was limited to a few expressions or slang. For Question 13b, respondents printed the name of the non-English language they spoke at home. If the person spoke more than one non-English language, they reported the language spoken most often. If the language spoken most frequently could not be determined, the respondent reported the language learned first.

Questions 13a and 13b referred to languages spoken at home in an effort to measure the current use of languages other than English. This category excluded respondents who spoke a language other than English exclusively outside of the home.

American Community Survey

How to Use the Data

U.S. Census Bureau

People | Business | Geography | Newsroom | Subjects A to Z | Search@Census

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** |

How to Use the Data

Available in this Section

- [How to Use the Data Main](#)
- [ACS and Intercensal Population Estimates](#)
- [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](#)

Section Overview

Each year we add new documentation to reflect changes in the survey or update the existing documents to help you understand the data better.

Subject Definitions

We have identified and **defined** population and housing variables to help you understand the results of the American Community Survey. These include information on how the data were collected and how they are presented in data products.

Accuracy of the Data

These documents provide data users with a basic understanding of the sample design, confidentiality, sampling error, nonsampling error, estimation methodology, and **accuracy of the data**.

Errata

Quality measures

The content in **quality measures** provides discussion and data tables at the state and national level on 4 key indicators of survey data quality -- response rates, coverage rates, sample size and allocation rates.

ACS Group Quarters

Definitions and Type Codes are available! The content in **ACS Group Quarters** provides the definitions and type codes that help users understand the scope of American Survey Group Quarters data collection.

Geography Notes

The **geography notes** gives a brief explanation of the Census Bureaus geographic hierarchy and common terms as well as details on specific geographic areas presented in the American Community Survey data products.

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

American Community Survey Geography Notes

The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website. At the top, the navigation bar includes links for People, Business, Geography, Newsroom, Subjects A to Z, and Search@Census. The main header features the title 'American Community Survey (ACS)' and a collage of three images: a school bus, a street scene, and a portrait of a man. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links for ACS Main, About the ACS, Access Data, How to Use the Data, About the Data, Site Map, and Search ACS. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Census > ACS Main > How to Use the Data > Geography Explanation'. The main content area is titled 'How to Use the Data: Overview of Geographic Areas'. On the left, a sidebar titled 'Available in this Section' lists various links: How to Use the Data Main, ACS and Intercensal Population Estimates, Comparing ACS Data to Other Sources, Subject Definitions, Accuracy of the Data, and Quality Measures (with sub-links for Data and Definitions under Sample Size, Coverage Rates, and Response Rates). The main text explains that the 2007 ACS 1-year data release provides products for areas with populations of 65,000 or more, while the 2005-2007 ACS 3-year data release provides products for areas with populations of 20,000 or more. It also addresses the question 'WHAT TYPE OF GEOGRAPHIC AREAS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE 1-YEAR AND 3-YEAR ACS?' by stating that the Census Bureau produces information for a wide spectrum of geographic areas, including states, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, counties, municipalities, minor civil divisions (MCDs), incorporated places, and congressional districts. It further notes that data products are available for other geographic entities like census regions, urbanized areas (UAs), census designated places (CDPs), and Public Use Microdata Sample Areas (PUMAs). Finally, it mentions the release dates for the 2007 data: September 23rd for the 1-year estimate and December 9th for the 3-year estimate.

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/geo.htm>

American Community Survey

The ACS Compass Products

- Set of educational handbooks aimed at specific audiences
- Presentation slides on important ACS topics
- E-learning tutorial

American Community Survey

Similarities with Census 2000

- Same questions and many of the same basic statistics
- 5-year estimates will be produced for same broad set of geographic areas including census tracts and block groups

American Community Survey

Key Differences from Census 2000

- Beginning in 2010, data for small geographic areas will be produced every year versus once every 10 years
- Census 2000 data described the population and housing as of April 1, 2000 while ACS data describe a period of time and require data for 12 months, 36 months, or 60 months

American Community Survey

Key Differences from Census 2000

- The goal of ACS is to produce data comparable to the Census 2000 long form data
- These estimates will cover the same small areas as Census 2000 but with smaller sample sizes
- Smaller sample sizes for 5-year ACS estimates results in reductions in the reliability of estimates

2010 Census and ACS

Similarities

Nearly all the Census 2000 topics are on the ACS

ACS produces many of the same tables and characteristics as Census 2000

Same broad set of summary levels (geographic areas)

Same data dissemination vehicle – American FactFinder

ACS 5-Year Estimates Release Restrictions

Unlike the 1- and 3-year estimates, there will be no 5-year population thresholds and no table restrictions based on reliability

Only restrictions will be to protect the confidentiality of the data

Margins of error will be published with all ACS estimates

ACS 5-year Estimates Data Dissemination Plan

We plan to release 5-year estimates annually and disseminate all 5-year ACS data products through the American FactFinder

We plan to release census block group data only in a summary file format, accessible from the American FactFinder download center

The 2010 Census—What Your Community Needs To Know



The Magnitude of the 2010 Census

309 Million People

134 Million Housing Units

236,000 Group Quarters Counted

3.8 Million People Recruited (in 2009 & 2010)

494 Local Census Offices

223,000+ Partner Organizations

10,250 Complete Count Campaigns

\$400 Billion+ in Federal Funds Distributed

Participation Rate Feedback Program

United States Census 2010

THE CENSUS IS | PRESS & MEDIA | PARTNERS

Easy | Important | Safe | Empowering

SEARCH

The form is coming to you by mail, you cannot get it online. Fill it out. Send it back.
Need help with any of the questions? Go to the interactive form. >

Every 10 years we take a picture of the entire country with the US Census. Every individual in that picture has a story. This is where those stories intersect.

GET IN THE PHOTO!
Make a difference. Help the Census save American tax dollars.
Text, App, and more

Where we are right now
The Census forms are coming in. See how your area is doing or check another state, town or region.
Enter zip code, city, or state **VIEW**

PREVIOUS | What People Are Asking | CONTACT US | NEXT

Census Multimedia

Watch the video

Media Here

United States Census 2010
IT'S IN OUR HANDS.

Data displayed as of:
April 27, 2010

National
72%
Participation Rate

2010 Census Key Dates

- **January 17, 2010** – Advertising Launch
- **March 8-10, 2010** – Advance Letters Mailed
- **March 15-17, 2010** – Questionnaire Mailed
- **March 18-19, 2010** – Reminder Postcard Mailed
- **April 1, 2010** – **CENSUS DAY**
- **May 1-July 10, 2010** – Non-Response Follow-Up
- **December 2010** – Deliver State Population Totals to President
- **March 2011** – Complete Delivery Redistricting Data to States



2010 Census Data Products

Release Schedule

Planned Release Date	Data Product
12/31/10	Apportionment Population Counts
2/11 – 3/11	Census Redistricting Summary File (P.L. 94-171) for States
5/11	Demographic Profile
6/11 – 8/11	Summary File 1 for States
12/11 – 4/12	Summary File 2 for States
12/12	American Indian and Alaska Native Summary File
1/13	Congressional District Summary File (113 th Congress)

2010 Census Data Release Schedule

2010 CENSUS DATA PRODUCTS:

February 2011 - March 2011

- Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File For States:**
- State population counts for race and Hispanic or Latino categories
 - State housing unit counts by occupancy status (occupied units, vacant units)
 - Lowest Level Geography: Blocks

March 2011 – February 2012

- 2010 Census Briefs:**
- Analysis of topics including graphs and tables
 - Topics based on 2010 Census questions
 - Similar to the Census 2000 Briefs series
 - Lowest Level Geography: Largest Places

April 2011

- National Summary File of 2010 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171):**
- Population and housing unit counts for the United States, regions, divisions, and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas

May 2011

- Demographic Profile:**
- Selected population and housing characteristics
 - Includes Congressional Districts of the 111th Congress
 - Lowest Level Geography: Places / Functioning Minor Civil Divisions

June 2011 – August 2011

- Summary File 1 (SF 1) for States:**
- Population counts for 63 race categories and Hispanic or Latino
 - Population counts for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes
 - Selected population and housing characteristics
 - Lowest Level Geography: Blocks

June 2011 – June 2013

- 2010 Census Special Reports:**
- Detailed analysis of topics including graphs, tables, and maps
 - Similar to the Census 2000 special Report series



November 2011

- National Summary file 1 (SF1) Update:**
- Counts for the United States, regions, divisions, and geographic areas that cross state lines such as American Indian Areas and Core-Based Statistical Areas

May 2012

- National Summary File 2 (SF2) Update:**
- Counts for the United States, regions, divisions, and geographic areas that cross state lines such as American Indian Areas and Core-Based Statistical Areas

May 2012 – December 2012

- Summary Population and Housing Characteristics Report Series:**
- Data Tables on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, households, families, housing tenure and occupation population density, and area

Redistricting Data File

- Deliver DVD to redistricting officials in each state on a flow basis (2/11-3/11)
- Included:
 - First race and Hispanic origin counts
 - Counts for 63 race combinations
 - Total population and age 18+
 - Housing unit counts (occupied and vacant)
- Geography:
 - States to blocks
 - Voting districts, state legislative districts, 111th Congressional Districts, school districts

Demographic Profile—DP-1

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Denver city, Colorado

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

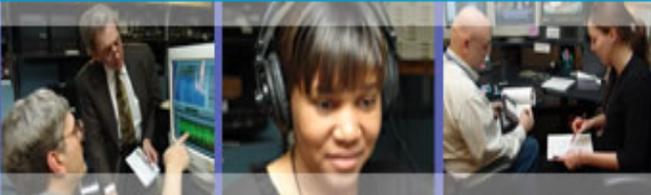
Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	554,636	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	554,636	100.0
Male.....	280,207	50.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	175,704	31.7
Female.....	274,429	49.5	Mexican.....	120,664	21.8
Under 5 years.....	37,769	6.8	Puerto Rican.....	1,632	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	34,473	6.2	Cuban.....	669	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	31,315	5.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	52,739	9.5
15 to 19 years.....	32,259	5.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	378,932	68.3
20 to 24 years.....	45,534	8.2	White alone.....	287,997	51.9
25 to 34 years.....	113,676	20.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	86,420	15.6	Total population.....	554,636	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	71,000	12.8	In households.....	541,917	97.7
55 to 59 years.....	22,573	4.1	Householder.....	239,235	43.1
60 to 64 years.....	17,191	3.1	Spouse.....	83,016	15.0
65 to 74 years.....	30,643	5.5	Child.....	131,799	23.8
75 to 84 years.....	23,369	4.2	Own child under 18 years.....	103,404	18.6
85 years and over.....	8,414	1.5	Other relatives.....	40,288	7.3
Median age (years).....	33.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	14,886	2.7
18 years and over.....	432,870	78.0	Nonrelatives.....	47,579	8.6
Male.....	217,604	39.2	Unmarried partner.....	15,737	2.8
Female.....	215,266	38.8	In group quarters.....	12,719	2.3
21 years and over.....	410,987	74.1	Institutionalized population.....	6,216	1.1
62 years and over.....	72,300	13.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	6,503	1.2
65 years and over.....	62,426	11.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	24,695	4.5	Total households.....	239,235	100.0
Female.....	37,731	6.8	Family households (families).....	119,300	49.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	55,598	23.2
One race.....	533,842	96.3	Married-couple family.....	83,016	34.7
White.....	362,180	65.3	With own children under 18 years.....	35,890	15.0
Black or African American.....	61,649	11.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	25,923	10.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	7,290	1.3	With own children under 18 years.....	15,212	6.4
Asian.....	15,611	2.8	Nonfamily households.....	119,935	50.1
			Householder living alone.....	94,044	39.3
			Householder 65 years and over.....	22,604	9.4

Population Estimates

U.S. Census Bureau

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Newsroom



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2010

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Census Bureau Releases 2009 City Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau today released July 1, 2009, population estimates for each of the nation's [incorporated places](#), including cities, boroughs and villages and minor civil divisions, such as towns and townships. The new estimates are not 2010 Census population counts. They are, however, the last estimates to use 2000 Census results as a base.

Release Information

CB10-90
Contact: Robert Bernstein
[Public Information Office](#)
301-763-3030/763-3762
(phone/fax)

[Detailed tables](#)
[State contacts](#)

In Summary....

Census, Surveys and Estimates

- q 2010 Census—counts people & housing units (early 2011)
- q Population estimates—estimates number of people (city estimates-June 2010)
- q American Community Survey—estimates demographic, social, economic characteristics of people & housing stock (September-December 2010)

**It's the NEW
American FactFinder (AFF)--
Coming in January 2011!**

Questions and Comments...

