

Selected Census Concepts for Data Users



SOCIAL:

What is a Household?

A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. Two kinds of households:

- **Family Households** – A family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family.
- **Nonfamily Household** -- A householder living alone or with nonrelatives only. Same-sex couple households with no relatives of the householder present are tabulated in nonfamily households.

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2011_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf
http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm#glossary/glossary.htm

- **Group Quarters (GQ)**--The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units as living in group quarters. There are two types of group quarters: institutional group quarters (for example, correctional facilities for adults, nursing homes, and hospice facilities) and noninstitutional group quarters (for example, college/university student housing, military quarters, and group homes.).

How does the Census Bureau classify Race and Hispanic Origin?

Race and Hispanic Origin: OMB requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino.

- **Race:** Starting in 1997, OMB required federal agencies to use a minimum of five race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. For respondents unable to identify with any of these five race categories, OMB approved the Census Bureau's inclusion of a sixth category—Some Other Race.
- **Origin:** viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.
- **Hispanic or Latino:** "Hispanic or Latino" refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial categories.
- **Non-Hispanic White alone persons:** Individuals who responded "No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino" and who reported "White" as their only entry in the race question.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg_1997standards; <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>

ECONOMIC:

What is the difference between Household and Family Income?

Household Income– This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

Family Income – In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

How does the Census Bureau define Poverty?

Poverty-Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family (and every individual in it) or unrelated individual is considered in poverty.

Poverty Threshold: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2011_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf

http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm#glossary/glossary.htm

GEOGRAPHY:

Census tract

A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county delineated by a local committee of census data users for presenting data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other non-visible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions at the time of establishment, census tracts average about 4,000 inhabitants. They may be split by any sub-county geographic entity.

Census block

A statistical area bounded by visible features, such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracts, and by nonvisible boundaries, such as selected property lines and city, township, school districts, and county limits. A block is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates 100-percent data. Many blocks correspond to individual city blocks bounded by streets, but blocks – especially in rural areas – may include many square miles and may have some boundaries that are not streets. (100)

Census Designated Place (CDP)

CDP is the abbreviation for Census designated place, the statistical counterpart of incorporated places and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. State and local officials and the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines, delineate CDPs cooperatively.

Incorporated Places

An incorporated place is established to provide governmental functions for a concentration of people as opposed to a minor civil division, which generally is created to provide services or administer an area without regard, necessarily, to population. Places always are within a single state or equivalent entity, but may extend across county and county subdivision boundaries. An incorporated place usually is a city, town, village, or borough, but can have other legal descriptions.

LINKS:

ACS definitions:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2011_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf

Factfinder definitions: http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm#glossary/glossary.htm



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY TABLE NUMBERS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Since the release of the 2005 American Community Survey (ACS) data, detailed tables, as well as other tables and maps, use the same numbering scheme.

An ACS detailed table number consists of up to **five elements**:

1. An initial character which is either "B" or "C."

- A "B" is used for base tables. These tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies.
- A "C" is used for a collapsed version of a "B" table. A "C" table is very similar to a "B" table with the same number (e.g., C07001 and B07001), but two or more lines from the "B" table have been collapsed to a single line in the "C" table. For example, the lines "75 to 79 years", "80 to 84 years" and "85 years and over" from a "B" table may be collapsed to a single line of "75 years and over" in a "C" table.
- Not every "B" table has a collapsed version.

2. The next two characters identify the subject of the table.

01 = Age and Sex
02 = Race
03 = Hispanic or Latino Origin
04 = Ancestry
05 = Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year or Entry; Nativity
06 = Place of Birth
07 = Residence 1 Year Ago; Migration
08 = Journey to Work; Workers' Characteristics; Commuting
09 = Children; Household Relationship
10 = Grandparents; Grandchildren
11 = Household Type; Family Type; Subfamilies
12 = Marital Status and History
13 = Fertility
14 = School Enrollment
15 = Educational Attainment
16 = Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English
17 = Poverty
18 = Disability
19 = Income (Households and Families)
20 = Earnings (Individuals)
21 = Veteran Status
22 = Food Stamps
23 = Employment Status; Work Experience; Labor Force
24 = Industry; Occupation; Class of Worker
25 = Housing Characteristics
26 = Group Quarters
27 = Health Insurance
98 = Quality Measures
99 = Imputation table for any subject

3. The next 3 digits are a sequential number, such as 001 or 002, to uniquely identify the table within a given subject.

4. For selected tables, an alphabetic suffix follows to indicate that a table is repeated for the nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups:

A = White Alone

B = Black or African American Alone

C = American Indian and Alaska Native Alone

D = Asian Alone

E = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone

F = Some Other Race Alone

G = Two or More Races

H = White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino

I = Hispanic or Latino

5. For selected tables, a final alphabetic suffix "PR" follows to indicate a table used for Puerto Rico geographies only. These Puerto Rico-specific tables exist because for some geography-based subjects, the wording of the Puerto Rico Community Survey questionnaire differs slightly but significantly from the American Community Survey questionnaire. The matching table used for United States geographies has the same ID but without the trailing "PR" (e.g., B06014 and B06014PR).

Reference: census.gov: American Community Survey FAQs

Link: <https://askacs.census.gov/faq.php?id=5000&faqId=1687>

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