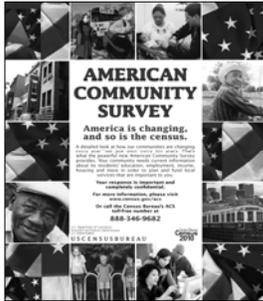


American Community Survey Data Products and Use of 2010 Statistical Geography

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What is the American Community Survey?



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2

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.

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3

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

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4

American Community Survey Content



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5

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

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6

**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
Demographic Characteristics**



- Sex
- Age
- Race
- Hispanic Origin

**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
Target Population**

- Resident population of the United States and Puerto Rico
 - Living in housing units and group quarters
- Current residents at the selected address
 - “Two month” rule

**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

General Data Product Notes (cont)

- No suppression at the tract or block group level
- Block group data available at less detail than tract data
- Disclosure avoidance relies on targeted swapping and / or synthetic data

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