

# The American Community Survey: New Questions in 2008

The 2008 American Community Survey includes new questions on health insurance status, marital history and VA service-connected disability rating. Each was added to comply with federal program needs, and each was thoroughly tested prior to inclusion in the American Community Survey in January 2008.

## Health Insurance Coverage

Added to enable the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to more accurately distribute resources and better understand state and local health insurance needs.

**15** Is this person **CURRENTLY** covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? Mark "Yes" or "No" for EACH type of coverage in items a – h.

|   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. TRICARE or other military health care  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Indian Health Service  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan – <i>Specify</i> ↘                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Marital History

Marital history data enable multiple agencies to more accurately measure the effects of federal and state policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families.

**20** In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get –

|              | Yes                      | No                       |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**21** How many times has this person been married?

Once

Two times

Three or more times

**22** In what year did this person last get married?

Year

**27** a. Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?

Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ... , 100%)

No → SKIP to question 28a

b. What is this person's service-connected disability rating?

0 percent

10 or 20 percent

30 or 40 percent

50 or 60 percent

70 percent or higher

## VA Service-Connected Disability Rating

Added to enable the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to measure Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability rating entitlement status. This information will improve the VA's ability to accurately anticipate the need for VA care and its associated cost.