

The American Community Survey
Group Quarters Data Collection Operation:
Issues Relating to Operations, Access, and Cost

Meetings of the Special Population Working Group of the
Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee (April 27 - 28, 2006)
and the 2010 Census Advisory Committee (May 11 - 12, 2006)

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US Census Bureau

This draft document is being provided to the Census Bureau's Advisory Committees prior to upcoming meetings. It is preliminary in nature and in the early stages of development. As such, it is subject to revision. Our intent in making this working document available at this time is to inform ongoing discussions related to 2010 planning and the American Community Survey.

*The American Community Survey Group Quarters Data Collection Operation:
Issues Relating to Operations, Access, and Cost
April 2006*

I. Background

All living quarters are classified as either housing units (HUs) or group quarter (GQ) facilities. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as a separate living quarters or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other people in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

GQ facilities are places where people live or stay that are normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. People living in GQ facilities are usually not related to each other. GQ facilities include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' dormitories, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness. GQ facilities are defined according to the housing and/or services provided to residents and are identified by Census GQ type codes.

II. Introduction

In January 2006, the Census Bureau began GQ data collection for the American Community Survey (ACS). As is the case with any new operation, a continuing review and assessment is necessary for the operation to achieve its full potential. As we begin the second quarter of 2006, it is appropriate and timely for the Census Bureau to begin that review and assessment process. To that end, we are identifying broad questions and issues for consideration by our stakeholders so that we can engage in a productive dialog with them about ways to improve the ACS GQ operation.

1. Gaining access to GQ facilities has always posed some challenges in previous censuses, and that is also the case with ACS GQ data collection. For example, we have faced repeated challenges in gaining access to colleges and universities, as well as to some state correctional facilities. Do you have any specific suggestions for assisting the Census Bureau in gaining access to these types of GQ facilities?
2. Are there any new materials the Census Bureau should solicit or develop to improve ACS GQ data collection, for example, to improve access to facilities or to improve the quality of the data we collect?
3. The January and February 2006 GQ operations cost significantly more than anticipated. While the Census Bureau is considering ways of reducing costs within the broad structure of current methods and procedures currently in use, it may be necessary to implement more fundamental changes to the ACS GQ operation to keep

costs under control. What ideas would you suggest for modifications to the operation in order to help the Census Bureau control costs?

In sections III and IV, we provide background information to describe the ACS GQ operation, and how data collection statistics are being developed to monitor the operation and ensure the quality of data collection. We also describe in these sections the challenges we have faced to date, and how we are trying to meet them. Attachments A, B, C, and D provide additional details beyond the scope of a general summary of the GQ operation.

III. GQ Data Collection Process: Preparations and Data Collection

Following successful operational testing of the ACS GQ sampling methods, field procedures, and interview process in 1999, 2001, and 2005, and the solicitation of input from affected GQ facilities and organizations representing them, the Census Bureau began ACS GQ data collection in the United States and Puerto Rico in January 2006. A sample of approximately twenty thousand facilities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico were randomly selected for the 2006 GQ sample. From this sample universe, 12 independent samples were identified for each month of 2006. A comprehensive definition of a GQ is provided as Attachment A.

As with the housing unit sample, the GQ sample cases are distributed among the 12 Regional Offices (ROs) based on the ROs' geographic boundaries. The Boston RO is responsible for GQ data collection in Puerto Rico. For each monthly sample, approximately 1,800 Census Bureau Field Representatives (FRs) conduct the ACS GQ data collection over a six-week period.

The ACS GQ data collection operation is conducted in two phases. In some ways it may be thought of as two surveys. First, Census Bureau FRs conduct interviews with a GQ contact or administrator of a selected GQ to explain the operations, identify the role of the GQ contact or administrator in facilitating data collection, collect information required, including the total number of GQ residents, and distribute information such as advance letters that help explain the requirement to respond and solicit cooperation. In this phase, the FR uses a computer and automated Group Quarters Facility Questionnaire to conduct the interview with the GQ contact or administrator.

Second, on the same visit, or on a separate visit shortly following the initial visit, the FR conducts interviews with a sample of individuals of the selected GQ, using prepared survey packages. Depending on the size of the GQ facility, the FR will collect data for 10 to 15 sample residents. Data are collected from sampled residents using a paper, bilingual (English/Spanish) questionnaire. The GQ questionnaire records detailed information for one person. FRs collect data from approximately 200,000 sample GQ residents per year.

The Census Bureau identified six possible methods of GQ data collection, a larger number of data collection options than was used for Census 2000. While the first method, face-to-face interview, is preferred, the use of other methods is possible and provides greater

flexibility for the FRs in obtaining a completed interview. The sixth option is only used as a last resort when options 1-5 are not possible. These methods are described below:

1. FR completes questionnaire based on a face-to-face interview with sample resident.
2. FR completes questionnaire based on a telephone interview with the sample resident.
3. FR conducts a face-to-face proxy interview with a relative or guardian of the sample resident, or with the GQ contact where the resident lives.
4. FR leaves the questionnaire with the sample resident to complete.
5. FR leaves the questionnaires with the GQ contact to distribute to the sample residents, and collects the questionnaires when they are completed.
6. FR uses administrative records to complete the ACS GQ questionnaire.

(Note: Before implementing method 4 or 5, the FR determines in advance that the sample resident is physically and mentally able to understand and complete the questionnaire himself/herself.)

Completed questionnaires, and the GQ facilities that they represent, are assigned outcome codes, so that all aspects of the GQ assignment, questionnaire distribution, and data collection are documented. Based on the geographic location of GQs and security requirements imposed by the GQ facilities themselves, the Census Bureau adopted special procedures for collecting data in federal prisons, military GQ facilities, and in GQ facilities in remote Alaska.

IV. Current Status of 2006 ACS GQ Data Collection and Operational Challenges

The success of the GQ data collection in January can be measured by analyzing preliminary GQ-level noninterview rates and preliminary person-level noninterview rates. GQ-level noninterview rates are unweighted and defined as the proportion of noninterviewed GQ facilities out of the total GQ facilities in the January 2005 sample. Person-level noninterview rates are also unweighted and defined as the proportion of noninterviews out of the total GQ persons in the January 2005 sample. Attachment B shows preliminary noninterview rates for January by GQ type.

The Census Bureau encountered major challenges in gaining access at four major categories of GQ types: State Prisons; Colleges and Universities; Military facilities; and facilities providing shelter to needy populations.

In the majority of cases, the FRs eventually gained access. However, some universities in New York and Massachusetts have refused to cooperate, and a few organizations that offer shelter to needy populations nationwide have resisted cooperation to the extent that data collection in facilities run by these organizations has not been possible. To address these challenges, we are taking the following steps:

1. The Census Bureau's legal staff is assisting in acquiring written authorization by the national directors of the organizations that offer shelter to needy populations to gain entry into facilities they run.

2. The Census Bureau is strengthening its current working relationships with government agencies and organizations that can help the Census Bureau achieve full participation by GQ facilities in the ACS. In addition, we are making arrangements to work with additional groups that we believe can help us achieve a successful ACS GQ operation. A list of these agencies and organizations is provided in Attachment C.
3. New information packages for GQ facilities and the Governors of each state are being developed to alert them to the importance of the ACS, and the mandatory requirement of GQ facilities to cooperate in the GQ operation. These materials represent an addition to a group of materials developed in preparation for the start of the GQ operation. The new information packages are tailored to each GQ; for example, those for colleges and universities include a letter to the President of the college or university. The information packets include letters from the Census Bureau's Director as well as a "Frequently Asked Questions" guide and information on a point of contact at the Census Bureau. Examples of some materials developed initially are provided in Attachment D.
4. Information on the GQ program has been added to the Census Bureau's web site on the ACS Home page (www.census.gov.ACS/).
5. Our ACS managers are working closely with the Field Division to identify and share information on best practices for achieving full participation in the ACS by GQ facilities. We rely on a variety of status reporting tools to measure the effectiveness of the ACS GQ operation. One or more meetings is scheduled in the spring that will allow a representative group of FRs to share their experiences with managers in our ACS Office.

The Census Bureau's past experience with the collection of GQ data through the decennial censuses indicated that the collection of quality data would be difficult. In order to build off of the lessons learned from our previous experiences and improve data collection we implemented a two-phase approach for collection of GQ data in the ACS. However, the access issues encountered in the initial implementation of the GQ data collection effort indicate that the Census Bureau can not continue its operations as planned. Results from the first quarter of operation indicate that increased access issues have led to significant increases in cost in the field. During the first quarter, we have found the GQ data collection effort to be more difficult and more expensive than initially anticipated. While we do expect to gain efficiencies over time and with more experiences, these increases in cost are leading us to explore options for collection of these data to contain costs.

V. Summary

Based on a foundation of early testing and partnership relationships with stakeholders, the Census Bureau launched its ACS GQ operation in January 2006. As the second quarter of the operation begins, we have started to review that operation for its strengths and weaknesses, so that we can correct the course we set late last year. We recognize the need to improve by addressing challenges related to access and cost control. We continue to monitor operations closely, and work across divisions to assess the effectiveness of our operations and outreach materials. We are mindful that changes to the operation and

additional outreach measures, whether initiated by our ROs, or by Headquarters staff, can add costs to the GQ operation. The best outcome is to achieve full participation in the GQ operation as soon as possible at the lowest possible cost. We welcome the input of our Advisory Committees to achieve that goal.

Attachment A

Group Quarters Definition

All living quarters are classified as either housing units (HUs) or group quarters (GQs). A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room occupied as a separate living quarters or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other people in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

GQs are a place where people live or stay that is normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. People living in GQs are usually not related to each other. GQs include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' dormitories, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness. GQs are defined according to the housing and/or services provided to residents and are identified by Census GQ type codes.

Attachment B
January 2006 ACS GQ Response x Group Quarters Type Code

Type Code Group	GQ Type Code Description	GQ Interviews		Personal Interviews	
		GQ Hits in Sample	Preliminary Interview Rates	Persons In Sample	Preliminary Interview Rates
100 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	372	67.2%	3709	90.3%
	Federal Detention Centers*				
	Federal Prisons*				
	State prisons				
	Local jail & other municipal confinement facilities				
	Correctional residential facility				
	Military Disciplinary Barracks/Jails				
	Privately Operated Correctional Facility				
200 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	31	83.9%	294	81.3%
	Group home for juveniles (non-correctional)				
	Residential Treatment Centers for Juveniles				
	Correctional Facilities intended for Juveniles				
	Type of juvenile care unknown				
300 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	368	86.7%	3686	84.3%
	Skilled nursing facility				
400 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	44	59.1%	453	57.0%
	Mental (psychiatric) hospital/psychiatric unit in hospital				
	Hospitals with patients who have no usual home elsewhere				
	In-patient hospice facility				
	Residential schools for people with disabilities				
500 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	447	87.2%	4485	80.0%
	College, University, and Seminary				
600 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	73	50.7%	742	56.9%
	Military barracks/dormitory at military academies				
	Military transient quarters				
	Military ship				
700 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	35	68.6%	348	63.2%
	Shelter and emergency shelters				
800 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	125	64.8%	1,232	50.8%
	Group home for adults				
	Residential treatment center for adults				
900 Series	SUMMARY TOTALS	154	53.9%	1,483	37.8%
	Workers' group living quarters & Job Corps				
	Religious group quarters				
	YMCA/YWCA, hostel				
	Residential care facility - protective oversight				
	TOTALS	1,649	75.0%	16,432	75.3%

* Data collection at federal correctional facilities will be conducted during the September - December 2006 sample months.

Source: 2005 ACS - January Sample

GQ-level noninterview rates are unweighted and defined as the proportion of noninterviewed GQ facilities out of the total GQ facilities in the January 2005 sample.

Person-level noninterview rates are unweighted and defined as the proportion of noninterviews out of the total GQ persons in the January 2005 sample.

Attachment C

Working Relationships To Support the Group Quarters Operation

To achieve a successful ACS GQ operation, the Census Bureau has developed or is in the process of developing working relationships with a variety of federal agencies and organizations.

Current working relationships have been established with the following cabinet-level departments and agencies:

Department of Defense

- Office of the Secretary of Defense
- Defense Manpower Data Center (EAST)
- U.S. Marine Corp
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force

Department of Education

- Institute of Education Sciences
- National Center of Education Statistics

Department of Health and Human Services

- General Council
- Office of Civil Rights
- Administration for Children and Families
- Agency for Health Care Research and Quality
- Administration on Aging
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Institutes of Health

Department of Homeland Security

- U.S. Coast Guard

Department of Justice

- Federal Bureau of Prisons

We are in the process of establishing working relationships with the following organizations:

- National Alliance to End Homelessness
- National Coalition for the Homeless
- Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Travellers Aid
- Volunteers of America

Attachment D
Outreach Materials To Support the Group Quarters Operation

The attached outreach materials are currently in use or will shortly be in use for the ACS GQ operation.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting a very important national survey called the American Community Survey (ACS). In the next few weeks, one of our Census Bureau Field Representatives will call you to discuss the survey and to schedule an appointment to visit your facility.

There are two reasons for the Field Representative's visit:

- First, to collect basic information about your facility to update our address records. Our Field Representative will verify and update information, such as the contact name and type of facility, as well as answer any questions you might have about the ACS.
- Second, to ask for a list of the people who are currently staying at the facility. The Field Representative will use this list to select a random sample of residents to take part in the ACS. The Field Representative also may need your assistance in collecting these data from the sample of residents.

The ACS collects information about various topics, such as education, health status, and jobs. Information from this survey is used by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as by businesses and private non-profit organizations, to meet the needs of communities across America.

Local governments use these data for budgeting, evaluating programs, and planning for community development projects, such as those for the elderly, Scout programs, libraries, and hospitals. Other organizations use this information to provide services to the community and to plan or establish new facilities, buildings, and programs.

The enclosed brochure provides answers to frequently asked questions about the ACS. If you have access to the Internet and want to learn more about the ACS, please visit the Census Bureau's Web site at: **<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>**

If you have any further questions, please call the Census Bureau's Atlanta Regional Office toll-free number on 1-800-424-6974.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Charles Louis Kincannon

Enclosure

ACS-18(L)(GQ)(ATLANTA)(2006) (9-20-2005)

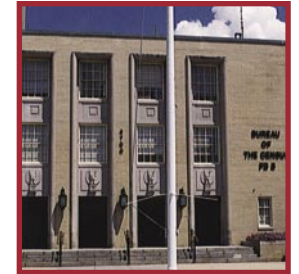
U S C E N S U S B U R E A U
Helping You Make Informed Decisions

www.census.gov

Questions and Answers

American Community Survey *Group Quarters*





What is the American Community Survey?

It is a new survey the U.S. Census Bureau developed as part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program.

- The American Community Survey will provide critical economic, social, demographic, and housing information to this country's communities every year, instead of once in 10 years. Communities tell us the American Community Survey helps them make informed decisions and is a key to their future.
- The American Community Survey doesn't count the population, but it does provide information that reflects what the population looks like and how it lives. That information is vital for states and local communities in determining how to plan for schools, roads, senior citizen centers, and other goods and services.

- The Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, and Hawaiian Home Land. It replaces the long form in the 2010 census and greatly simplifies operations so that the focus of the 2010 census is solely on counting the population.

I have not heard of the American Community Survey. How long have you been conducting it?

The American Community Survey began in 1996 in a sample of counties across the country. Today the survey is conducted in all U.S. counties and Puerto Rico municipios.



How can I see the results of the survey?

This information is published on the Census Bureau's American FactFinder® Web site at <factfinder.census.gov>. The data are provided in several formats for everyone from beginners (who may just want to look at the data) to experienced researchers.

American FactFinder® provides:

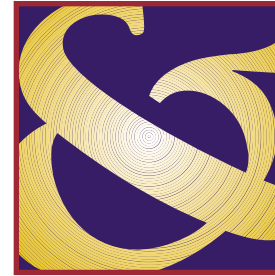
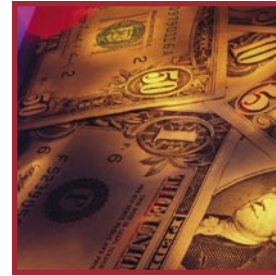
- Quick Tables that provide an overview of the data quickly.
- Geographic Comparison Tables that compare data for different places.
- Detailed Tables that provide more extensive data for more detailed research.

When will the results of the survey be available?

The results of the American Community Survey are released every summer. Survey results are released each year for areas of 65,000 or more people. For smaller areas, results are available in the form of 3-year and 5-year averages.

How do I benefit by answering the American Community Survey?

Federal agencies, states, and communities say that they do not have the up-to-date information they need to better understand community issues, respond to needs, and allocate programs and resources. As one community leader said, "Guessing is always fun, but seldom effective."



By responding to the American Community Survey questionnaire, you are helping your community establish goals, identify problems and solutions, locate facilities and programs, and measure the performance of community programs.

The American Community Survey data are used by:

- *Local governments* for budgeting, evaluating programs, and planning for community development projects.
- *Community programs*, such as those for the elderly, scout programs, libraries, banks, hospitals, and other community organizations to provide services to the community and to locate buildings, services, and programs.

- *Transportation planners* use journey-to-work information to make decisions to build new roads, or add capacity to existing roads and to develop transit systems, such as light rail or subways, by projecting future ridership.

Do the sampled Group Quarters (GQ) and individuals have to answer the questions on the American Community Survey?

Yes; your response to this survey is required by law (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193). Title 13, as changed by Title 18, imposes a penalty for not responding. The survey is approved by the Office of Management and Budget. We estimate that the facility-level survey will take about 15 minutes to complete, and the individual survey will take about 25 minutes to complete.



Why did you select this GQ facility, and how did I get selected?

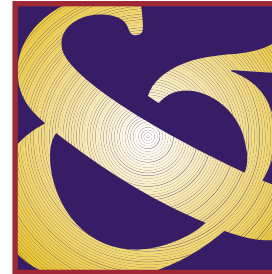
This GQ was selected from a sample of all GQs in your area. The GQ and individuals are randomly selected from this list each year, so we cannot substitute another GQ for this one. One of the advantages of a random sample is that we can use it to measure the whole population without having to actually interview every person at every GQ. But in order for it to work, we cannot substitute sampled facilities or individuals—the sample has to be truly random. Your participation is very important if we’re going to be able to produce accurate statistics from this survey.

How will the Census Bureau use the information that I provide?

The Census Bureau can only use the information you provide for statistical purposes and cannot publish or release information that would identify you. Your information will be used in combination with information from other individuals to produce statistical data for your community. Similar statistics will be produced for communities across the United States.

Will the Census Bureau keep my information confidential?

Yes. Your answers are confidential by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. This law specifies that the Census Bureau can use the information provided by individuals for statistical purposes only and cannot publish or release information that would identify any individual.



Can the police or any regulatory agency see my answers to the survey?

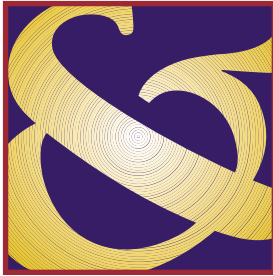
No. The Census Bureau protects the privacy of your information. The police cannot see it and no court of law can see it. No one can see or use your specific answers to enforce any type of law or amend any kind of benefit. Your individual responses will only be seen by authorized persons with a Census Bureau work-related need to know. The Census Bureau compiles and publishes summary data for geographical areas, and cannot publish or release information that would identify an individual.

If any Census Bureau employee were to violate these provisions, he or she would be subject to severe criminal sanctions imposed by Congress—up to 5 years’ imprisonment and/or up to a \$250,000 fine for any Census

Bureau employee who violates those provisions (Title 13 U.S.C., Section 214, as amended by Title 18 U.S.C., Sections 3559 and 3571).

I am elderly, disabled, or otherwise unable to complete the American Community Survey questionnaire. What do I do?

You may designate another person to help you or a Census Bureau representative may assist you in completing the survey. Respondents may call their regional office for assistance. To produce the most accurate results, it is very important that every respondent selected for the survey participate.



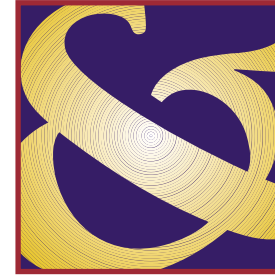
Do I have to answer these questions every year?

A random sample of GQ facilities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico and a random sample of the people staying at these sampled facilities are selected each year to participate in the ACS GQ data collection. You will not be asked to complete the ACS GQ questionnaire every year. You will be asked to complete the survey information only when you are randomly selected from all people staying at a sampled GQ.

It is important that each sampled person respond to this mandatory survey so that the Census Bureau can produce characteristics about the GQ populations in your community and in the U.S. each year.

Why does the American Community Survey ask one question about race and another question about Hispanic origin?

Race and Hispanic origin (or ethnicity) are considered distinct concepts and, therefore, require separate questions in censuses and surveys. Hispanics or Latinos may be of any race. The Office of Management and Budget issues the standards governing the collection of data on race and ethnicity, and all federal agencies, including the Census Bureau, must follow these standards.



Where can I get assistance or find more information about the American Community Survey?

For questions or assistance with completing this survey, call the Census Bureau's Regional Office nearest you as listed below:

Census Bureau Regional Offices	
Atlanta, GA	1-800-424-6974
Boston, MA	1-800-562-5721
Charlotte, NC	1-800-331-7360
Chicago, IL	1-800-865-6384
Dallas, TX	1-800-835-9752
Denver, CO	1-800-852-6159
Detroit, MI	1-800-432-1495
Kansas City, KS	1-800-728-4748
Los Angeles, CA	1-800-992-3530
New York, NY	1-800-991-2520
Philadelphia, PA	1-866-238-1374
Seattle, WA	1-800-233-3308

For more information about the American Community Survey, or to obtain survey results from past years, we encourage you to visit our Web site at:

www.census.gov/acs/www

You may also contact us by calling 301-763-INFO (4636), through e-mail at <cmo.acs@census.gov> or by mailing your information request to the following address:

American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau
4700 Silver Hill Rd., Room 1657-3
Washington, DC 20233-7500

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



E-mail: cmo.acs@census.gov



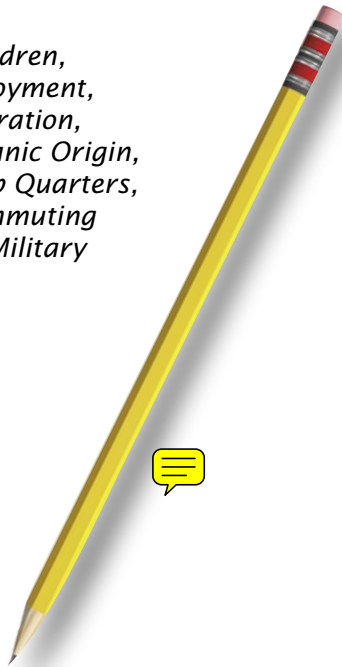
Phone: 1-888-346-9682



Internet:
www.census.gov/acs/www

Bringing
you data
every year
about ...

*Education, Children,
Families, Employment,
Income, Immigration,
Race and Hispanic Origin,
Housing, Group Quarters,
Rural Life, Commuting
Patterns, and Military
Service.*



How do I get more information about the American Community Survey?

For more information about the American Community Survey data or to obtain survey results, we encourage you to visit our Web site at:

www.census.gov/acs/www

You may also contact us by mail at the following address:

American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau
4700 Silver Hill Rd., Room 1657/3
Washington, DC 20233-7500

You can also telephone the Census Bureau's Regional Office nearest you as listed below:

Census Bureau Regional Offices

Atlanta, GA	1-800-424-6974
Boston, MA	1-800-562-5721
Charlotte, NC	1-800-331-7360
Chicago, IL	1-800-865-6384
Dallas, TX	1-800-835-9752
Denver, CO	1-800-852-6159
Detroit, MI	1-800-432-1495
Kansas City, KS	1-800-728-4748
Los Angeles, CA	1-800-992-3530
New York, NY	1-800-991-2520
Philadelphia, PA	1-866-238-1374
Seattle, WA	1-800-233-3308

The American Community Survey

Group Quarters



What is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program. It is a survey that provides information each year about social, economic, and housing characteristics of the United States. Previously, this information was available only once every 10 years when the U.S. Census Bureau conducted the decennial census.

Only a small sample of addresses is selected to participate in the American Community Survey and represent other addresses in the community. In addition to this household sample, the Census Bureau selects a sample of group quarters (GQ) facilities from a sample of all GQs in your area each year. Individuals from sampled GQs are randomly selected to participate in the ACS. A Census Bureau representative will contact the sample GQs and individuals and conduct a personal interview. If a personal interview is not possible, the Census Bureau representative may collect your information over the telephone or ask that you complete the survey questionnaire. If you complete the survey yourself, a Census Bureau representative will arrange for a day and time to return to the GQ to pick up the completed questionnaire.

Do the sampled Group Quarters (GQ) and individuals have to answer the questions on the American Community Survey?

Yes. Your response to this survey is required by law (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141, 193, and 221). The Census Bureau estimates that the facility



level survey will take about 15 minutes to complete and the individual survey will take about 25 minutes to complete.

How will my participation help me and my community?

Billions of government and business dollars are distributed among states, communities, and population groups based on the social, economic, housing, and GQ information available for that area.

The information you provide will help you and other individuals, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and businesses to:

- Help distribute resources to communities.
- Improve your community by deciding where in your town new highways, schools, and hospitals can do the most good.
- Measure changes in the well-being of children, families, and senior citizens to help plan future programs.
- Help communities plan for emergency situations that might affect you such as floods, fires, and other natural disasters.



Is the information I provide confidential?

Yes. Your answers are confidential by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. This law requires that every Census Bureau employee—including the Director and every Census Bureau representative—take an oath and be subject to a jail term, a fine, or both if he or she discloses ANY information that could identify you. Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes.