

2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Embargo Release Webinar
December 6, 2011

Introductions

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Outline

- 5-Year Estimates Notes
- Data Product Changes
- Comparison Guidance
- Highlights
- Questions & Answers
- American FactFinder Demonstration

ACS is a Large, Continuous Survey

- Samples about 3.5 million addresses/year
- Multiple modes of data collection
- Estimates of social, economic, demographic and housing characteristics
- Estimates for small areas and population groups
- New 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates every year

ACS Estimates Are NOT the 2010 Census Population Counts

- 2010 Census **counted the population** to support apportionment and redistricting
- ACS surveys about 2% of the population to provide an annual portrait of community's characteristics
- ACS allows the decennial census to focus on providing the best count of the population

ACS Estimates are Period Estimates

- Describe the average characteristics over a specific period of time
 - 1 year (12 months)
 - 3 years (36 months)
 - 5 years (60 months)
- Do not represent a single point in time
- 5-year estimates are NOT an average of five 1-year estimates

5-Year Estimates Details

- Cover period from Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2010
- Geographic boundaries as of Jan. 1, 2010
- Dollar values inflation adjusted to 2010 dollars
- Over 11 billion characteristic estimates
- Nearly 700,000 unique geographic areas
- Estimates published regardless of margin of error

ACS Data Dissemination: 1-Year, 3-Year, and 5-Year Estimates

| Estimated Population of Geographic Area | Type of ACS Estimates Released |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 65,000 or more | 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year |
| 20,000 to 64,999 | 3-year, and 5-year |
| Less than 20,000 | 5-year |

5-Year Estimates Published for All Geographies

| | Percentage with Published ACS Estimates | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| | 1-Year | 3-Year | 5-Year |
| United States | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| State, DC, Puerto Rico | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| County or equivalent | 25 | 59 | 100 |
| Place (incorporated places and census designated places) | 2 | 8 | 100 |
| Unified School District | 7 | 26 | 100 |
| Census Tract | 0 | 0 | 100 |

5-Year Data Products

- Subset of the 1-Year and 3-Year Data Products
 - Fewer Detailed Tables
 - No Ranking Tables
 - No Comparison Profiles
 - No Selected Population Profiles
- Contains Fewer Topics
 - No Health Insurance Coverage (2008-2012)
 - No Disability Status (2008-2012)
 - No Marital History (2008-2012)
 - No Field of Bachelor's Degree (2009-2013)

5-Year Data Product Changes


- 10 New Detailed Tables:
 - 7 housing
 - 2 fertility
 - 1 place of birth
- 3 New Geographic Comparison Tables
- About 150 modified tables
 - Updates reflect 2010 Standard Occupational Classification
 - Universe descriptions changed to match 2010 Census
- 1 Deleted Geographic Comparison Table
- All tables, except block group tables, now available on AFF

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

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Latest Updates

2010 ACS Data Release Schedule (posted 08/11/11)

Corrections in DataFerrett Documentation (posted 08/11/11)

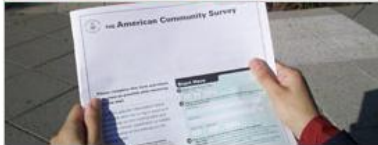
Vintage of Geographic Areas Chart (posted 07/21/11)

Language Brochures

Questions and Answers about the American Community Survey in 11 languages. [pdf format]

- العربية Arabic
- 中文 Chinese
- English English
- Français French
- Kreyòl ayisyen Haitian Creole
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Did You Receive a Survey?



Learn why you were [selected](#); why you should [participate](#); how to [respond](#); how we [protect your privacy](#); why we ask specific [questions](#); and more in [About the Survey](#).

New Data Every Year!

2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates are here!

- [2010](#) on the new American FactFinder
- [2009 and earlier](#)


2010 ACS Data Profile

Quick Links to Nation or State Level Profile


United States

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Watch more videos on how communities use ACS data to plan for the future.

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2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates

Data by Topic
Tip: Choosing a geography

People

- [Age and Sex / Aging](#)
- [Ancestry](#)
- [Disability](#)
- [Commuting to Work](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Family/Relationships](#)
- [Income and Earnings](#)
- [Language](#)
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- [Population Change](#)
- [Poverty](#)
- [Race and Ethnicity](#)
- [Veterans](#)

Housing

- [Financial Characteristics](#)
- [Physical Characteristics](#)

Data by Product

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- Downloadable data via FTP
- Summary File
- Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
- Custom Tabulations

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Yearly releases of [American Community Survey data](#) can be found on American FactFinder, the Census Bureau's data website. *

- 2009
- 2008

*Not all 5-year data are available on American Factfinder. Visit [2009 Data Release](#) for details.

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city/ town, county, or zip

or state

-- select a state -- [GO](#)

Data by Topic

People

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- [Aging](#)
- [Disability](#)
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Housing

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/

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- ▶ 2008 Data Release
- ▶ Product Descriptions
- ▶ 2007 Data Release

- Documentation
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- Custom Tabulations

Data

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Data Releases

We release 1-year, 3-year and 5-year data **every year**.

- **Get 2010 Data Release information**

View Data Online

We publish data in many forms on the Census Bureau's [American FactFinder website](#), including:

- Data Profiles - social, economic, housing and demographic data tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables - tables comparing selected data characteristics for geographies.
- And more
 - Browse [product descriptions](#)
 - Get [data products on American Factfinder](#)

Other Data Options:

- [Summary File](#) - comma-delimited files containing all Detailed Tables produced from ACS
- [Public Use Microdata Sample](#) (PUMS) files - anonymized individual-level datasets
- Other [Downloadable files](#) - comma-delimited versions of Data Profiles, Geographic Comparison Tables, and most other ACS data products
- [Custom Tabulations](#) - custom tables available on a cost-reimbursable basis
- [Restricted-use microdata](#) - qualified researchers with approved projects can work under strictly controlled conditions in secure Census Bureau facilities administered by the Center for Economic Studies

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Data by Topic

People

- [Age and Sex](#)

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2010_release/

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2010 Data Release

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New and Notable

2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates

posted December 1, 2011

New tables for the 2006-2010 ACS 5-year release ([Details](#))

2006-2010 ACS 5-year Summary File early documentation released ([Details](#))

Comparison Guidance

- Compare across geographies and population subgroups using 2006-2010 ACS
- Be careful comparing across data sets
 - Don't expect 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates to equal 2010 Census counts
 - Don't compare 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates to 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates
 - Do not mix 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates when making comparisons

Geographic Comparison Tables (GCTs)

- GCTs assist in comparing across geographies
- 78 characteristics
- Allow for comparisons across
 - States
 - Counties
 - Places
 - Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
 - Combined Statistical Areas
 - Congressional Districts
 - Urban/Rural Areas
 - Urbanized Areas
 - PUMAs
 - School Districts
 - American Indian Areas/Alaska Native Areas/Hawaiian Homelands/Alaska Native Regional Corporations

Comparing ACS and Census

- **Quick Guide** –
Simple topic by topic recommendations for making comparisons; what you **SHOULD** do
- **Comparison Guidance** –
More detailed explanation of how differences impact comparability
- **Table Comparison Tool** –
Helps you locate comparable ACS and Census 2000 Detailed Tables

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

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Guidance Main

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When to use 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year estimates

Comparing ACS Data

Handbooks for Data Users

Training Presentations

E-Tutorial

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- Income
- Language
- Origins
- Population
- Poverty
- Race and Ethnicity
- Relationships
- Veterans

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/

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You are here: [Census.gov](#) > [American Community Survey](#) > Guidance for Data Users: Comparing ACS Data

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Comparing ACS Data

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Comparing American Community Survey 1-year data with other data

Generally, you can compare American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates with Census 2000 and other ACS 1-year data. However, since ACS variables change over time, some areas and subjects must be compared with caution, or not compared at all.

Comparing American Community Survey 3-year and 5-year data with other data

Generally, you can compare American Community Survey (ACS) 3-year and 5-year estimates with Census 2000 data. There are differences in the **universe, question wording, residence rules, reference periods, and the way in which the data are tabulated** which can impact comparability.

Additional guidance is available for comparing 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates to Census 2000 data. For an overview, use the [quick guide](#), to compare by subject [browse the subject/topic comparison chart](#), or use the [table comparison tool](#) to search by table number.

General Guidance for comparing ACS multiyear estimates

- When comparing estimates for different areas, use the same period length for each estimate. This means you should not compare a 1-year estimate to a 3-year estimate.
- The Census Bureau discourages direct comparisons between estimates for overlapping periods. Instead, compare nonoverlapping estimates. This means we discourage you from comparing the 2005-2007 ACS estimates to the 2006-2008 ACS estimates. It is better for you to compare a 2005-2007 ACS estimate to a 2008-2010 ACS estimate.
- The strength of the ACS is in estimating characteristic distributions. We recommend users compare derived measures such as **percents, means, medians, and rates** rather than estimates of population totals.

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http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_2010/

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Comparing 2010 American Community Survey Data

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The 2009 ACS and 2010 ACS 1-year estimates use different Census base year for the population estimates used in the ACS weighting. As a result, users should use caution when making comparisons across years. Specifically, estimates of the number of people in a given location (population size) are not strictly comparable between these two years. In general, the change to more current population estimates is not expected to have a meaningful impact in the percent distributions, rates, or ratios for non-demographic characteristics for many of the largest geographic areas. The Census Bureau is currently researching the effect on these distributions. For more details, visit the ACS Research Note [Change in Population Controls](#).

Guidance on [comparing 2005-2007 ACS 3-year estimates to 2008-2010 ACS 3-year estimates](#)


| Subject Area ¹ | 2010 ACS 1-Year, 2008-2010 ACS 3-Year, and 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year with Census 2000 | 2010 ACS 1-Year with 2009 ACS 1-Year | 2010 ACS 1-Year, 2008-2010 ACS 3-Year, and 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year with 2010 Census |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| + Age and Sex (01) | | | |
| + Race (02) | | | |
| + Hispanic Origin (03) | | | |
| + Ancestry (04) | | | |

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/table_comparisons/

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Comparing ACS Data

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Table Comparisons: ACS 5-year estimates and Census 2000 SF3

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Enter a table number below to search for a comparable table between **ACS 5-year estimates** and **Census 2000 SF3** detailed tables. Or download all [table comparisons](#) [PDF 96KB].

ACS 5-year → Census 2000 SF3

Enter ACS Detailed Table #

example: B05008

OR

Census 2000 SF3 → ACS 5-year

Enter Census 2000 SF3 Detailed Table #

example: PCT63H

SUBMIT

RESET

Related Resources

Get [ACS detailed tables](#) on American FactFinder

Get [Census 2000 SF3 detailed tables](#) on American Factfinder

Browse ACS/Census 2000 [comparison guidance](#) by subject area/topic

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Margins of Error

- ACS publishes margins of error (MOEs) for most estimates
- Check MOEs to ensure estimates have sufficient reliability for their intended use
- Reliability can be improved by aggregating geographies or subpopulations

ACS 5-Year Briefs

Releasing Today

- Native North American Languages Spoken at Home in the United States: 2006-2010
- Areas with Concentrated Poverty: 2006-2010

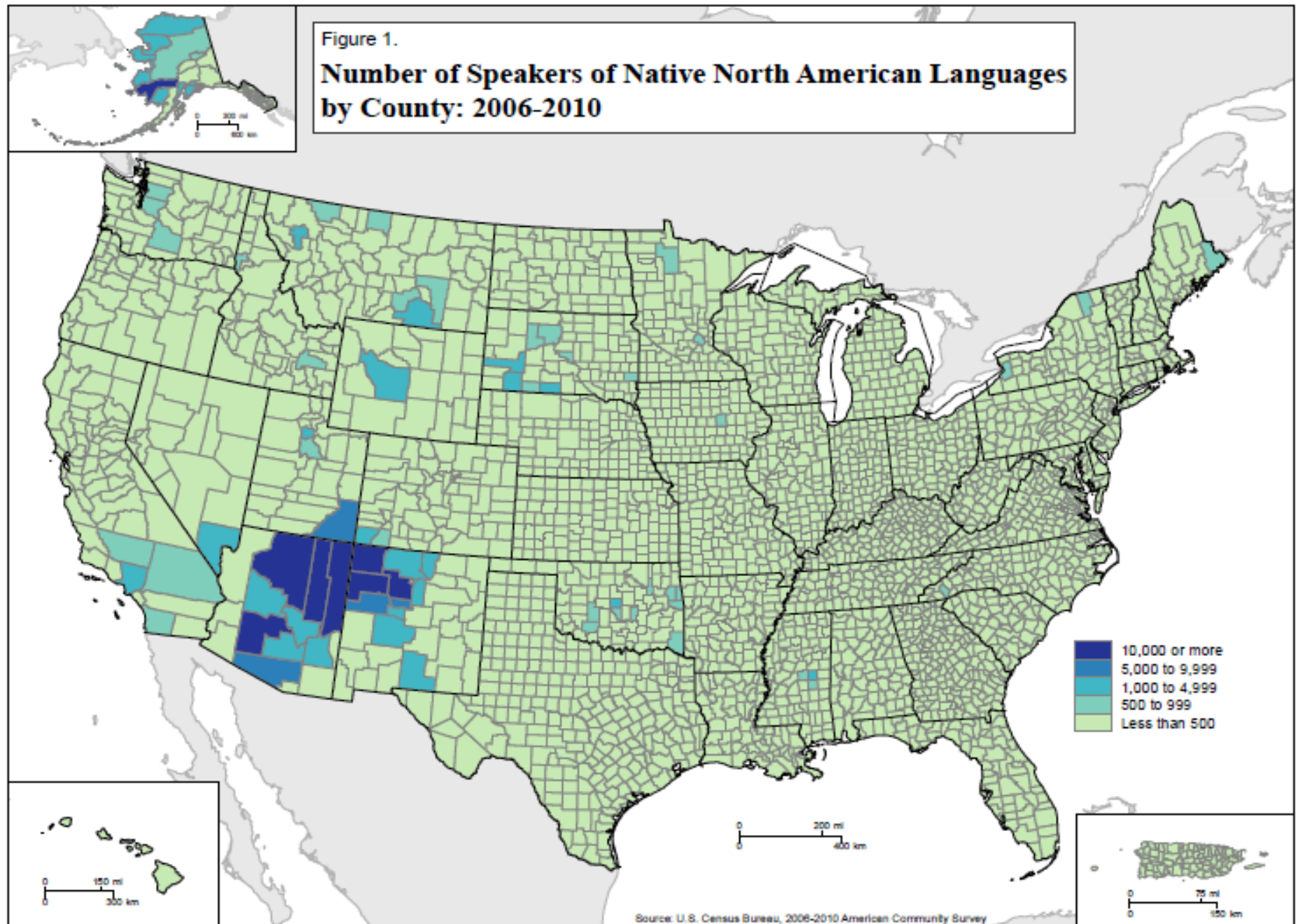
Releasing January 2012

- Household Income Inequality within US Counties: 2010

Highlights from the ACS 5-Year Briefs

Native North American Languages Spoken at Home in the United States

- 372,000 people speak a Native North American language
- 64% live in an American Indian or Alaska Native Area (AIANA)
- Navajo is the most common Native North American language with 169,000 speakers followed by Yupik and Dakota with approximately 19,000 speakers each
- 5.4% of people in AIANAs spoke a Native North American language



Areas with Concentrated Poverty

- 13.8% of the population are in poverty (2006-2010 ACS)
- 50% of the poor live in Census tracts with poverty rates of 20% or more
- Proportion of the population living in Census tracts with poverty rates of 20% or more ranged from 5% in New Hampshire to 46% in Mississippi
- 55% of children live in tracts with poverty rates of 20% or more

Areas with Concentrated Poverty (cont.)

- Of those living in tracts with poverty rates of less than 13.8%
 - 81% White
 - 7% Black
 - 6% Asian
- Of those living in tracts with poverty rates of 40% or more
 - 43% White
 - 38% Black
 - 3% Asian

Areas with Concentrated Poverty (cont.)

| Characteristic | Tracts with poverty rates less than 13.8% | Tracts with poverty rates of 40% or more |
|--|---|--|
| Percent with less than a high school diploma | 10% | 34% |
| Received Food Stamp/SNAP benefits | 5% | 31% |
| Female-householder families | 14% | 46% |
| Worked year-round, full-time | 65% | 47% |

Questions?

Following the webinar, please contact the
Public Information Office with any questions
301-763-3030

Upcoming Releases

- 2010 Census Summary File 2

December 13: Embargo of first set of states, Webinar

December 15: Public Release, first set of states

What it is:

- Detailed demographic information for up to 331 detailed race and ethnic groups
- Available down to the census tract level
- Available for states on a flow basis

- State Population Estimates: July 1, 2011

December 20 (Tentative): Public Release (news release)

What it is:

- First set of annual estimates that use the 2010 Census as its benchmark

References

ACS Information

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

2010 ACS Release Information

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2010_release/

Data User Guidance

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/

American FactFinder

<http://factfinder2.census.gov>