

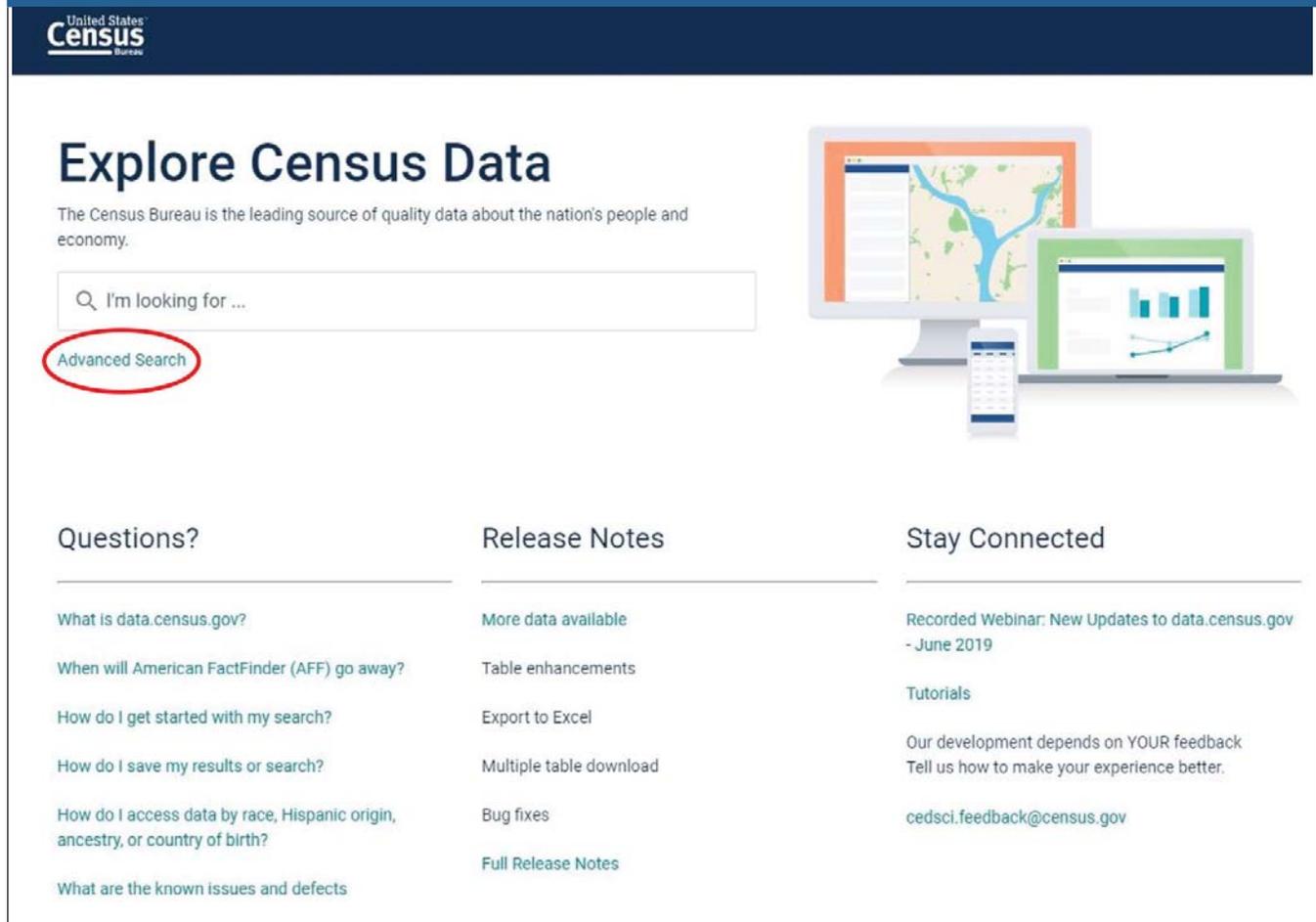
4. ACCESSING PRCS DATA

Data.census.gov is the U.S. Census Bureau's primary tool for accessing population, housing, and economic data from the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS), the American Community Survey (ACS), the decennial census, and many other Census Bureau data sets.¹⁸ Data.census.gov provides comprehensive access to pretabulated PRCS data for a wide range of geographic areas, including Puerto Rico, municipios, census designated places, census tracts, and block groups.

Suppose, for example, we are interested in finding poverty estimates for Puerto Rico.

- Go to data.census.gov at <<https://data.census.gov>> and click on “Advanced Search” under the search bar (see Figure 4.1). This will bring you to the Advanced Search page.

Figure 4.1. Selecting Advanced Search in Data.census.gov



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <<https://data.census.gov>>.

TIP: Data users who want to access PRCS estimates through data.census.gov will not see “PRCS” or “Puerto Rico Community Survey” among the listed surveys. Rather, they can access PRCS estimates by using the geography filter to select data for Puerto Rico. However, there are certain tables produced only for Puerto Rico, with names ending in “PR” such as “DPO2PR.” For a complete list of ACS and PRCS tables, visit the Census Bureau’s Table Shells and Table List Web page at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-shells.html>.

¹⁸ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <<https://data.census.gov>>.

- Begin with the Geography filter. Select “Geography” in the navigation pane on the left side of the screen to display a list of available geographies.
- Select “State” and then select “Puerto Rico” from the “State” filter (see Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2. Geography Filter Selection in Data.census.gov

The screenshot shows the Data.census.gov Advanced Search interface. At the top, there is a search bar and the United States Census Bureau logo. Below the search bar, the page title "Advanced Search" is displayed. A search input field contains the text "e.g. age, sex, population...". Below this, there is a section titled "Narrow search with filters" with a sub-section "FIND A FILTER" and a search input field containing "e.g. 336111 - Automobile Manufacturing".

The main content area is divided into three columns:

- BROWSE FILTERS:** A list of filter categories including Topics, Geography (highlighted with a red circle), Years, Surveys, and Codes.
- GEOGRAPHY:** A list of geographic levels including Nation, Region, Division, State (highlighted with a red circle), County, Tract, Block Group, Block, Zip Code Tabulation Area (Five-Digit), Elementary School District, and Secondary School District. A toggle switch for "Show Summary Levels" is visible.
- STATE:** A list of states with checkboxes, including Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico (checked and highlighted with a red circle), Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and United States Virgin Islands. A toggle switch for "Show geographic components" is visible.

At the bottom of the interface, there is a "Selected Filters:" section showing "Puerto Rico" with a close button. To the right are buttons for "CLEAR FILTERS", "SEARCH", and "MORE".

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <<https://data.census.gov>>.

- Next, choose the “Surveys” filter and select “ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables” (see Figure 4.3)

Figure 4.3. **Selecting a Survey in Data.census.gov**

The screenshot shows the Data.census.gov Advanced Search page. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the page title "Advanced Search" is displayed. A search input field contains the text "e.g. age, sex, population...". Below this, there is a section titled "Narrow search with filters" with a sub-section "FIND A FILTER" and an input field containing "e.g. 336111 - Automobile Manufacturing".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "BROWSE FILTERS" and lists several categories: Topics, Geography, Years, Surveys, and Codes. The "Surveys" category is highlighted with a red oval. The right column is titled "SURVEYS" and lists several survey options, each with a checkbox. The "ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables" option is checked and highlighted with a red oval.

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Selected Filters" section showing "Puerto Rico" and "ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables" with close buttons. To the right of this section are buttons for "CLEAR FILTERS", "SEARCH", and "MORE".

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <<https://data.census.gov>>.

- For our example, choose the “Topics” filter and select “Income and Poverty,” “Poverty,” and “Poverty” again.
- The three filters should appear in the “Selected Filters” at the bottom of the page.
- Next, click on “Search” in the lower right corner of the page (see Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4. Searching for Topics in Data.census.gov

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface on Data.census.gov. At the top, there is a search bar and the United States Census Bureau logo. Below the search bar, the page title 'Advanced Search' is displayed. A search input field contains the text 'e.g. age, sex, population...'. Underneath, there is a section for 'Narrow search with filters' with a search input field containing 'e.g. 336111 - Automobile Manufacturing'. The main content area is divided into four columns of filters:

- BROWSE FILTERS:** Includes 'Topics' (circled in red), 'Geography', 'Years', 'Surveys', and 'Codes'.
- TOPICS:** Lists various categories such as 'Business and Economy', 'Education', 'Employment', 'Families and Living Arrangements', 'Government', 'Health', 'Housing', 'Income and Poverty' (circled in red), 'Populations and People', and 'Race and Ethnicity'.
- INCOME AND POVERTY:** Includes checkboxes for 'Income and Poverty', 'Income and Earnings', 'Poverty' (circled in red), and 'Wealth and Assets'.
- POVERTY:** Includes a checked checkbox for 'Poverty' (circled in red), and unchecked checkboxes for 'Official Poverty Measure', 'Supplemental Poverty Measure', and 'Well-Being'.

At the bottom of the page, the 'Selected Filters' section shows 'Puerto Rico', 'ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables', and 'Poverty'. To the right, there are buttons for 'CLEAR FILTERS', 'SEARCH' (circled in red), and 'MORE'.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <<https://data.census.gov>>.

- Click on Table S1701 “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months” (see Figure 4.5).

Figure 4.5. **Choosing a Subject Table in Data.census.gov**

The screenshot shows the Data.census.gov interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation tabs for ALL, TABLES, MAPS, and PAGES. Below the navigation, it indicates 'About 38,404 results | Filter'. A featured result box displays '43.1% +/- 0.7% Poverty, All people in Puerto Rico' with source information and a link to the ACS website. Below this, the 'Tables' section is visible, with the table 'POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS' circled in red. This table is for Puerto Rico, showing data for 'Total' and 'Below poverty level' across various demographic groups. Below it, another table 'POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OF FAMILIES' is partially visible.

POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
 Survey/Program: American Community Survey
 Years: 2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010 Table: S1701

	Puerto Rico			
	Total		Below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population for whom po...	3,165,711	+/-1,397	1,363,666	+/-23,647
AGE				
Under 18 years	588,499	+/-1,391	335,044	+/-9,728
Under 5 years	124,657	+/-808	80,321	+/-3,422
5 to 17 years	463,842	+/-1,489	254,723	+/-8,136

POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OF FAMILIES
 Survey/Program: American Community Survey
 Years: 2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010 Table: S1702

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov>.

- An online table showing poverty status for the population in Puerto Rico is displayed on the next screen.
- From this page, users can click on “Customize Table” if they want to modify the geography, survey, year, or topic (see Figure 4.6).

Figure 4.6. Customizing a Table in Data.census.gov

The screenshot shows the Data.census.gov interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation tabs for ALL, TABLES, MAPS, and PAGES. The main content area displays a table titled "POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS" for Puerto Rico. The table is structured with columns for "Total" and "Puerto Rico", and sub-columns for "Estimate" and "Margin of Error" under each. The "CUSTOMIZE TABLE" button is highlighted with a red circle.

	Puerto Rico			
	Total		Below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population for whom po...	3,165,711	+/-1,397	1,363,666	+/-23,647
AGE				
Under 18 years	588,499	+/-1,391	335,044	+/-9,728
Under 5 years	124,657	+/-808	80,321	+/-3,422
5 to 17 years	463,842	+/-1,489	254,723	+/-8,136
Related children o...	586,931	+/-1,567	333,537	+/-9,689
18 to 64 years	1,923,885	+/-956	779,041	+/-14,862
18 to 34 years	686,159	+/-2,413	312,901	+/-8,863
35 to 64 years	1,237,726	+/-2,281	466,140	+/-9,887
60 years and over	863,601	+/-5,589	332,660	+/-8,572
65 years and over	653,327	+/-952	249,581	+/-7,425
SEX				
Male	1,501,118	+/-3,580	616,743	+/-12,804
Female	1,664,593	+/-3,652	746,923	+/-14,780
RACE AND HISPANIC ...				
White alone	2,058,934	+/-22,339	841,615	+/-22,891
Black or African Am...	397,448	+/-17,171	177,787	+/-10,099
American Indian an...	N	N	N	N
Asian alone	N	N	N	N

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov>.

Other Options for Accessing PRCS Data

Data users with programming skills can use the ACS Summary File for Puerto Rico to download and analyze ACS data.¹⁹ The Summary File is useful for skilled programmers who want to access multiple ACS tables for large numbers of geographic areas. Similar to data.census.gov, data users who want to access PRCS estimates through the ACS Summary File will not see “PRCS” or “Puerto Rico Community Survey.” They can access PRCS estimates by selecting Puerto Rico as their geography.

There are certain tables produced only for Puerto Rico with names ending in “PR” such as “B05001PR.” For a complete list of ACS and PRCS tables, visit the Census Bureau’s Table Shells and Table List Web page at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-shells.html>.

TIP: The ACS Summary File is geared toward more advanced data users, so the Census Bureau recommends that users check to see if their tables of interest are easily available for download through data.census.gov before using this data product.

The ACS Summary File can be downloaded as zipped files from the Census Bureau’s file transfer protocol (FTP) server.²⁰

Developers can also access PRCS data through the Census Bureau’s application programming interface (API).²¹ The Census Data API provides an efficient way to get ACS, PRCS, and other data directly from the Census Bureau, without storing the data on a computer or a local server. If you know how to read the documentation and create a request, you can easily download variables and geographic areas of interest. Data are continuously available and regularly updated, so you have immediate access to new data as they are released.

Data users interested in creating custom ACS estimates for Puerto Rico can access microdata records from the Census Bureau’s Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files. Accessible through the Census Bureau’s Web site, the ACS PUMS files allow users to create their own estimates with variables of their choosing.²² Estimates created using the PUMS files may differ from published estimates available through data.census.gov because the PUMS files are a subset of the cases contained in the full ACS data.

TIP: Data users need to use statistical software, such as SPSS, SAS, R, or Stata, to process PUMS data, and the responsibility for producing estimates from PUMS and judging their statistical significance is up to the data user.

Data users interested in learning more about accessing data from the PRCS are encouraged to refer to the section on “Accessing ACS Data” in the Census Bureau’s handbook on *Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know*.²³

¹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), Summary File Data, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/summary-file.html>.

²⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), Data via FTP, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/data-via-ftp.html>.

²¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Developers, Available APIs, <www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets.html>.

²² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), PUMS Data, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums.html>.

²³ U.S. Census Bureau, *Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know*, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html>.