5. ACCESSING ACS DATA

Data.census.gov is the U.S. Census Bureau's primary tool for accessing population, housing, and economic data from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Puerto Rico Community Survey, the decennial census, and many other Census Bureau data sets.[33] Data.census.gov provides access to ACS data for a wide range of geographic areas, including states, cities, counties, census tracts, and block groups.

The Census Bureau has produced a specialized tool, My Tribal Area, for data users who want to quickly access selected social, economic, housing, and demographic data for American Indian and Alaska Native areas.[34]

For those interested in more detailed tables for tribes and tribal groups, the Census Bureau provides a series of Selected Population Tables and American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.[35] These tables, based on ACS 5-year estimates, provide detailed estimates of characteristics for selected race, Hispanic origin, tribal, and ancestry populations.

Other specialized tools, such as My Congressional District and Census Business Builder, provide users with quick and easy access to statistics for particular geographic areas and topics.[36] More advanced users also have several options to access more detailed ACS data through downloadable Summary Files, the Public Use Microdata Sample Files, or the Census Bureau's Application Programming Interface (API).[37]

With all of these tools, disclosure rules and confidentiality thresholds can sometimes limit the availability of data for small groups and for areas with small populations. For example, for a Selected Population Profile, if fewer than 50 unweighted

sample cases are available for an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe in a given geographic area, then data are not presented for that tribe.

People who need help in accessing ACS data can visit Census Academy to learn about workshops, Webinars, and other no-cost training opportunities that may be available.[38] Training may be general or tailored to meet your specific data needs.

Accessing ACS Data Through the My Tribal Area Tool

My Tribal Area is a specialized tool that allows data users to easily access and view population and housing estimates on American Indian and Alaska Native areas from the ACS.[39] The tool displays tables of the latest ACS 5-year estimates for selected characteristics, including:

- People: Demographic measures including sex and age, race, Hispanic or Latino origin, place of birth, ancestry, veteran status, disability status, residence 1 year ago.

- Jobs: Employment status, commuting to work, occupation, industry, class of worker.

- Housing: Housing occupancy, homeownership, year householder moved into unit, value of home, mortgage status, selected monthly owner costs, gross rent.

- Economy: Income and benefits, health insurance, poverty status.

- Education: School enrollment, educational attainment.

To access estimates from My Tribal Area, select a tribal area, or browse tribal areas by state, using the dropdown menus (see Figure 5.1).

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[33]U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov/>.
[34] U.S. Census Bureau, My Tribal Area, <www.census.gov/tribal/index.html>.
[35] U.S. Census Bureau, Race/Ethnicity and AIAN Release Documentation, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/race-ethnicity-aian.html>.
[36] U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <www.census.gov/mycd/>; and Census Business Builder (CBB), <www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>.
[37] U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), Summary File Data, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/summary-file.html>; American Community Survey (ACS), Accessing PUMS Data <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata.html>; and Developers, <www.census.gov/developers/>.

[38] U.S. Census Bureau, Census Academy, <www.census.gov/data/academy.html>.
[39] U.S. Census Bureau, My Tribal Area, <www.census.gov/tribal/index.html>.

What Users of Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives Need to Know
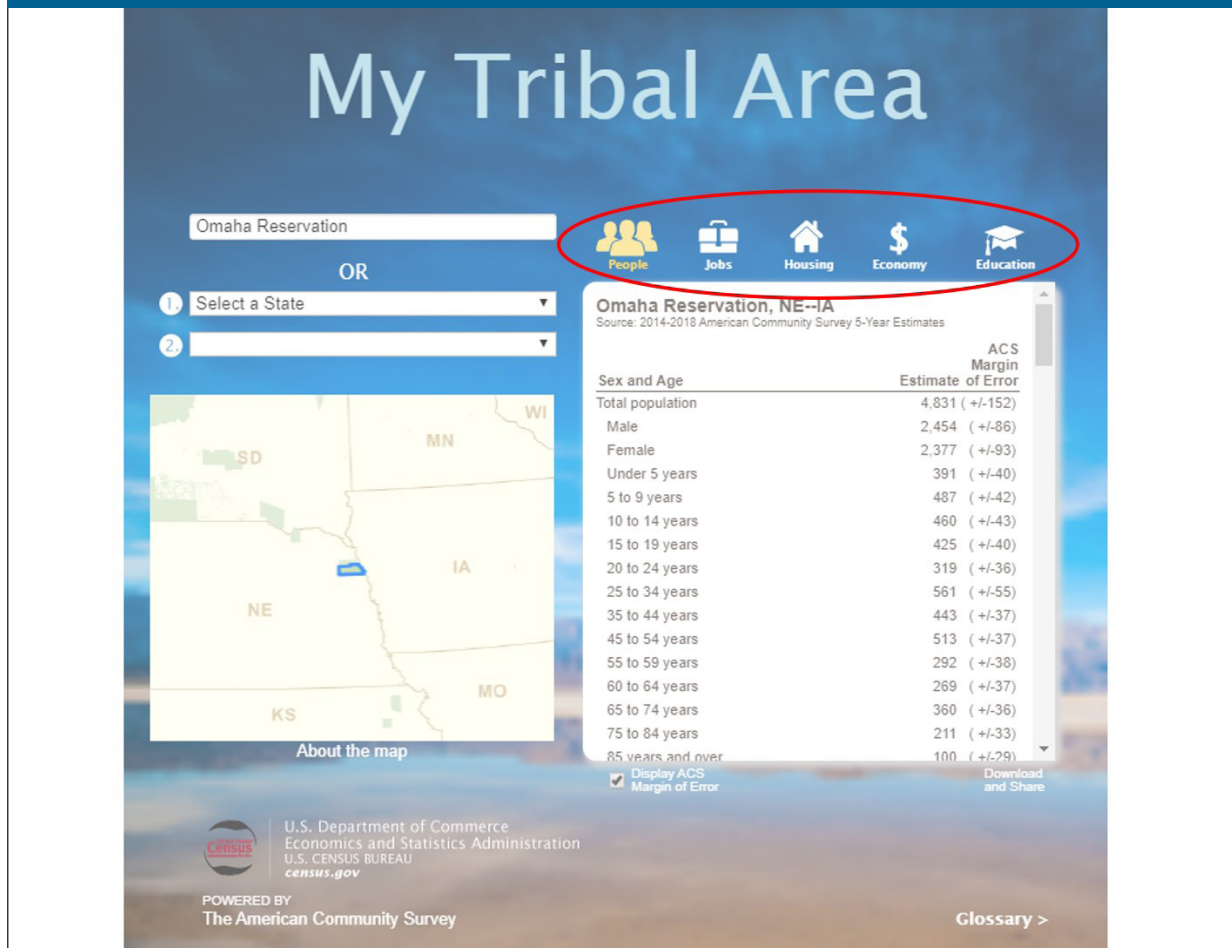
Figure 5.1. **My Tribal Area Home Page**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, My Tribal Area, <www.census.gov/tribal/>.

After selecting a tribal area of interest, select one of the five topical areas to browse the data on that topic (see Figure 5.2). A box at the bottom of the table gives you the option of displaying the data with or without accompanying margins of error.

Figure 5.2. **Select a Topical Area**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, My Tribal Area, <www.census.gov/tribal/>.

Why this tool may be right for you	Why you may want to consider another tool
Data are displayed for a large number of American Indian and Alaska Native areas.	Data provide characteristics for the entire population living in the AIAN area (regardless of their race or whether people identify as American Indian or Alaska Native).
The tables contain data on popular social, economic, housing, and demographic topics.	It contains only a subset of all ACS topics.
The data are timely and easy to access.	Data are only displayed for the most recent 5-year period.