

# American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Pre-Release Webinar

March 10, 2022

## **Audio Conference Access Information**

*To ask a question, you must dial in:*

Toll free number: 1-888-606-9802

Passcode: 1803272

[census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html](https://census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html)


# The American Community Survey

## Questions by Chat

**Have a question?**

Send your questions through the **Q&A panel** located to the right of your screen.

You may need to activate the Q&A by clicking on the Q&A icon (lower right portion of your screen). Or click on 3 dots



The image shows a navigation bar with three items: a person icon labeled 'Participants', a question mark icon labeled 'QA', and three dots. The 'QA' icon is circled in red.

# The American Community Survey

## Speakers

Host

**Michael Cook Sr.**

Chief

Public Information Office

Presenters

**Donna M. Daily**

Chief

American Community Survey Office

**Gretchen Gooding**

Branch Chief

American Community Survey Office

**Tyson Weister**

Survey Statistician

Center for Enterprise Dissemination

# The American Community Survey

## Introductory Remarks

*Welcome from Donna M. Daily  
Chief, American Community Survey Office*

# The American Community Survey

## Overview

- **Upcoming ACS Data Releases**
- ACS Basics
- Changes for 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Release
- How to Access ACS Data
- ACS Website
- Q&A
- Accessing ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Data Using [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)
- Q&A

# The American Community Survey

## ACS Data Releases

### **MEDIA EMBARGO: Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

- Embargo at 10 a.m. (EDT), Includes 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates:
  - 5-Year data products
  - Press Kit: [census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html)

### **PUBLIC RELEASE: Thursday, March 17, 2022**

- Release at 12:01 a.m. (EDT), Includes 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates:
  - All 5-Year data products
  - Narrative Profiles
  - API, QuickFacts, My Tribal Area

# The American Community Survey

## Upcoming ACS Releases

### 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Release

#### Data Products

#### Release

5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

March 31, 2022

5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates

March 31, 2022

# The American Community Survey

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# The American Community Survey

## The Foundation

*The American Community Survey is on the leading edge of survey design, continuous improvement, and data quality*

- The nation's most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses and informs over **\$675 billion** of federal government spending each year
- Covers **40+ topics**, supports over **300** evidence-based Federal government uses, and produces **11 billion** estimates each year
- Typically provides three key annual data releases:
  - 1-year Estimates (for large populations, geographies of 65,000+ population)
  - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations, geographies of 20,000+ population)
  - 5-year Estimates (for very small populations, geographies down to Census Tracts and Block Groups)


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 **The American Community Survey**


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**Start Here**


You have two ways to respond:

 Respond online today at:  
<https://respond.census.gov/acs>

OR

 Complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.

**Your response is required by law.**  
The American Community Survey is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. This survey is one of only a few surveys for which all recipients are required by law to respond. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information.

 **If you need help or have questions about completing this form,** please call **1-800-354-7271**.

**Toll Telephone (TTY):**  
Call 1-800-562-8330.

**¿NECESITA AYUDA?** Llame sin cargo alguno al **1-877-833-5625**.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our website at: <https://www.census.gov/acs>

**Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form.** We will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

Last Name

First Name  MI

Area Code + Number  -


**How many people are living or staying at this address?**

- **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.

**Number of people**

**Fill out pages 2 - 7 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form.**

Form **ACS-1(2021)**  
OMB No. 0607-0010  
OMB No. 0607-0936



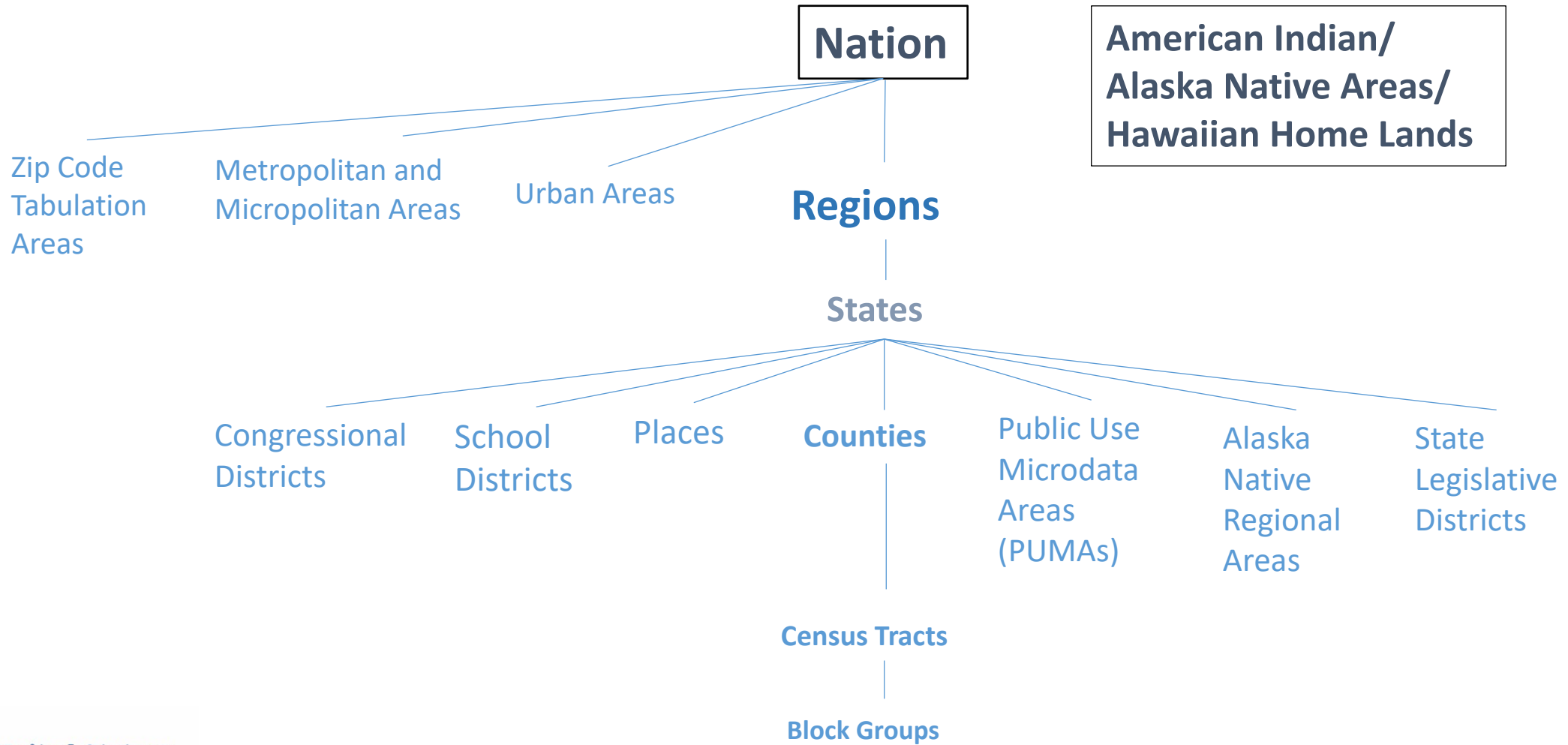
# The American Community Survey

## Content Overview

POPULATION		HOUSING
<b>SOCIAL</b> Ancestry Citizenship Citizen Voting Age Population Disability Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents Language Marital Status Migration School Enrollment Veterans	<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b> Age Hispanic Origin Race Relationship Sex  <b>ECONOMIC</b> Class of Worker Commuting Employment Status Food Stamps (SNAP) Health Insurance Hours/Week, Weeks/Year Income Industry & Occupation	Computer & Internet Use Costs (Mortgage, Rent, Taxes, Insurance) Heating Fuel Home Value Occupancy Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities Structure Tenure (Own/Rent) Utilities Vehicles Year Built/ Year Moved In

# The American Community Survey

## 5-Year Geography



# The American Community Survey

## 5-Year Estimates

- Describe the characteristics over a specific period of time, not a single point in time
- Data are pooled across 60 months, weighted to produce estimates, and controlled for age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin
  - 5-year estimates are NOT an average of 1-year estimates
- Estimates are based on geographic boundaries (“vintages”) as of the last year in the 5-year period
- Dollar-value estimates are inflation adjusted to the most recent year for the period

# The American Community Survey

## When to Use 5-Year Estimates?

- No 1-year estimate is available
- Margins of error for 1-year estimates are larger than desired
- Analyzing data for small population groups
- Comparing various geographies when one or more of them do not receive 1-year estimates

# The American Community Survey

## Comparing 5-Year Estimates

- Only compare non-overlapping time periods (e.g., 2016-2020 and 2011-2015)
- Only compare 1-year estimates to 1-year and 5-year estimates to 5-year
- Compare across geographies and subpopulations
- Compare percentages, means, medians and rates instead of totals whenever possible

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# The American Community Survey

## Impact of Data Collection Challenges on ACS Data Quality

- The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ACS data collection operations in 2020
- Given the limitations in our data collection for the 2020 ACS, we were unable to collect information from certain segments of the population
- As a result, significant nonresponse bias was present in the collected data
- While all surveys have nonresponse bias, our standard methods for mitigating the nonresponse bias were insufficient for the 2020 ACS
- A report, *An Assessment of the COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on the 2020 ACS 1-Year Data*, with more information on the 2020 ACS 1-year data and related quality metrics was released on October 27



# The American Community Survey

## Methodology Changes

- ACS 5-year housing unit weighting was modified to enhance our ability to mitigate the nonresponse bias present in the ACS data collected in 2020
- We incorporated entropy-balance weighting (EBW) into our standard production methodology
- The goal was to leverage the EBW to reduce the bias in the 2020 portion of the 5-year data but keep our standard methodology as intact as possible to support producing estimates for all our standard 5-year geographies
- We partially processed the data from 2016–2019 using our standard methodology before combining those data with the data processed using the EBW methodology
- Once the data from 2016–2020 were pooled together, we applied population and housing unit control totals

# The American Community Survey

## Geography and Population Controls

### Geography

- Most geographies reflect 2020 geographic boundaries
- The following geographies reflect 2010 geographic boundaries and will be updated later:
  - ZIP Code Tabulation Areas-2021 ACS release
  - Public Use Microdata Areas-2022 ACS release
  - Urban/Rural definitions-2022 ACS release

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/geography-boundaries-by-year.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/geography-boundaries-by-year.html)

### Population Controls

- The 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates will use the Vintage 2020 postcensal estimates

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-01.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-01.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Improvements to Hispanic Origin and Race Questions

- Improvements made to the question designs, processing, and coding yield a more accurate portrait of how people self-identify their Hispanic origin and race within the context of a two-question format
- The changes implemented in the 2020 ACS are the same as those implemented in the 2020 Census

# The American Community Survey

## Improvements to Hispanic Origin Question

- The instruction to “Print origin, for example” was revised to “Print, for example.”
- The example groups were revised from “Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.” to “Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.”

**5 Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

**No**, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano

Yes, Puerto Rican

Yes, Cuban


Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.* ↴


# The American Community Survey


## Improvements to Race Question

- Write-in response areas were added for the White and Black or African American racial categories
- Six examples were provided for each of the write-in fields allocated to the "White," "Black or African American," and "American Indian or Alaska Native" groups.
- The examples provided for the "Other Asian" and "Other Pacific Islander" groups were updated
- The checkbox category "Guamanian or Chamorro" was changed to "Chamorro"
- The write-in instructions for the "Some Other Race" category were updated to better solicit detailed reporting. Whereas the 2019 ACS form included the instruction to "Print race," the instruction used in the 2020 ACS was updated to "Print race or origin"

**6 What is Person 1's race?**  
Mark (X) one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. 


Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. 


American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfoot Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc. 


Chinese  Vietnamese  Native Hawaiian

Filipino  Korean  Samoan

Asian Indian  Japanese  Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. 

Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. 

Some other race – Print race or origin. 

# The American Community Survey

## Data User Guidance for the 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates

- Use caution when comparing the 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates with other ACS data or 2020 Census Data
- Due to data collection challenges in 2020 as a result of COVID, the ACS collected only two-thirds of the responses it usually collects
- This reduced number of interviews in the 2020 portion of the 2016-2020 5-year estimates caused an increase in the margins of error by approximately 15-20% in relative terms
- Take the margins of error into account, especially when making comparisons for smaller geographies or populations
- Use caution when using estimates with high margins of error

# The American Community Survey

## Data User Guidance for the 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates (Cont'd)

There are several challenges when making comparisons with the 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates, including:

- Changes to the weighting methodology implemented to address the nonresponse bias issues in the 2020 data
- Actual changes within the population and our ability to capture those changes
- Tendency of multiyear estimates to smooth out sudden changes
- The ACS population controls were not informed by the 2020 Census results

# The American Community Survey

## New Tables

### Industry

- **B24134:** Detailed Industry for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over
- **B24135:** Detailed Industry for the Civilian Employed Male Population 16 Years and Over
- **B24136:** Detailed Industry for the Civilian Employed Female Population 16 Years and Over

### Computer and Internet

- **B28012:** Age and Enrollment Status by Computer Ownership and Internet Subscription Status

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-shells.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-shells.html)



# The American Community Survey

## Modified Tables (Race and Hispanic Origin)

### Race and Hispanic Origin

Race and Hispanic Origin tables beginning with the following IDs:

- B02
- C02
- B03

### Other Tables Updated:

- Detailed Tables iterated by Race and Hispanic Origin
- Comparison Profile (CP) 05
- Data Profile (DP) 05

\*This is a partial list of modified tables. For the full list of modified tables, see the link below.

# The American Community Survey

## Modified Tables

Table ID	Title
<b>Employment Status</b>	
S2302	Employment Characteristics Of Families
<b>Foreign-Born Population</b>	
B05009	Age And Nativity Of Own Children Under 18 Years In Families And Subfamilies By Number And Nativity Of Parents
B05010	Ratio Of Income To Poverty Level In The Past 12 Months By Nativity Of Children Under 18 Years In Families And Subfamilies By Living Arrangements And Nativity Of Parents

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2020/5-year.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2020/5-year.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Modified Tables

Table ID	Title
<b>Journey to Work and Migration</b>	
CP02	Comparative Social Characteristics in the United States
CP02PR	Comparative Social Characteristics in Puerto Rico
DP02	Selected Social Characteristics in the United States
DP02PR	Selected Social Characteristics in Puerto Rico
<b>Mortgage Status</b>	
B25081	Mortgage Status
S2506	Financial Characteristics For Housing Units With A Mortgage

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2020/5-year.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2020/5-year.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Modified Tables

- Households and Families
- Foreign-Born Population (Place of Birth)
- Race
- Year Householder Moved Into Unit

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2020/5-year.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes/2020/5-year.html)

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# The American Community Survey

## 5-Year Data Products

- **Data Profiles (5)**

- Selected Social, Economic, Housing, Demographic
- Selected Social Characteristics - Puerto Rico

- **Comparison Profiles (5)**

- 2016-2020 and 2011-2015

- **Subject Tables (83)**

- **Detailed Tables (1,140)**

- **Narrative Profiles**

- **Data Tools**

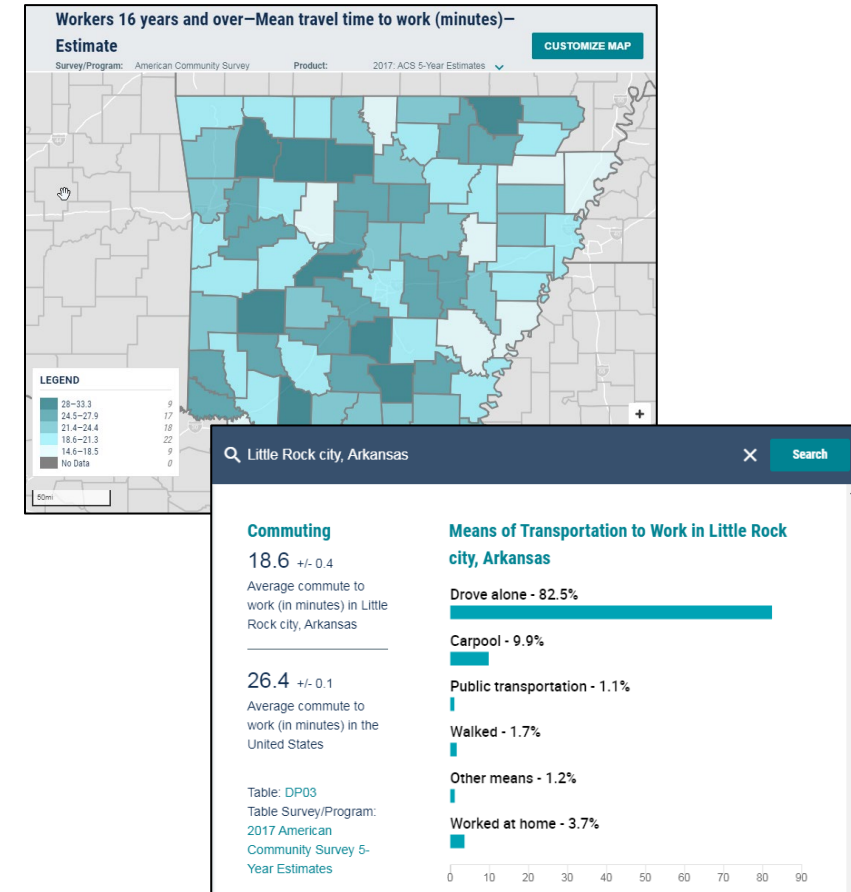
- API, QuickFacts, My Tribal Area, Census Business Builder



# The American Community Survey

[data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

The screenshot shows the United States Census Bureau website. At the top left is the logo. On the right, there are navigation links for "Tables", "Maps", and "Pages". The main heading is "Explore Census Data" with the subtext "The Census Bureau is the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy." Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Find Tables, Maps, and more ...". At the bottom of the search bar are links for "Advanced Search", "Help", and "Feedback".



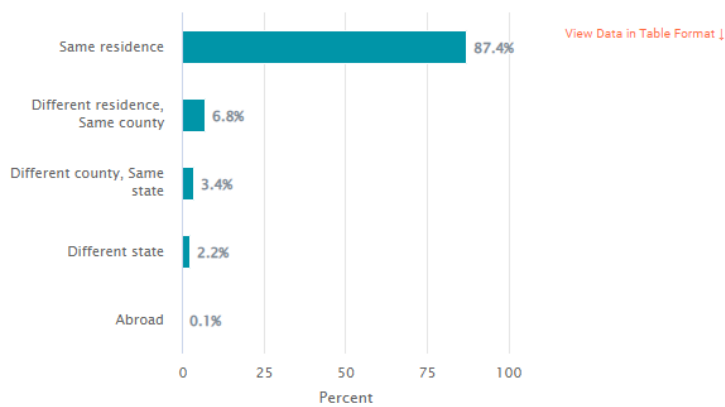
# The American Community Survey

## Narrative Profiles

### Geographic Mobility

In 2015-2019, 87.4 percent of the people at least one year old living in Gooding County, Idaho were living in the same residence one year earlier.

Geographic Mobility of Residents of Gooding County, Idaho in 2015-2019

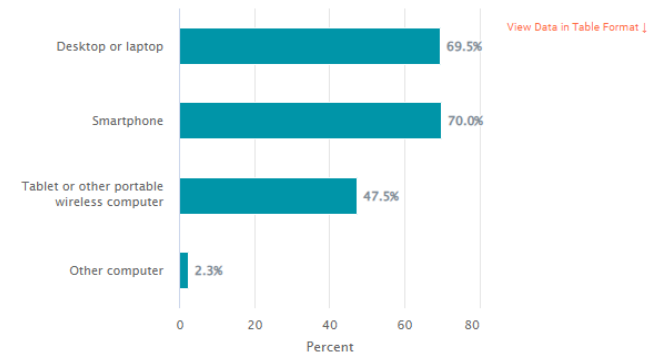


### Computer and Internet Use

In 2015-2019, 87.5 percent of households in Gooding County, Idaho had a computer, and 73.6 percent had a broadband internet subscription.

An estimated 69.5 percent of households had a desktop or laptop, 70.0 percent had a smartphone, 47.5 percent had a tablet or other portable wireless computer, and 2.3 percent had some other computer.

Types of Computers in Gooding County, Idaho in 2015-2019



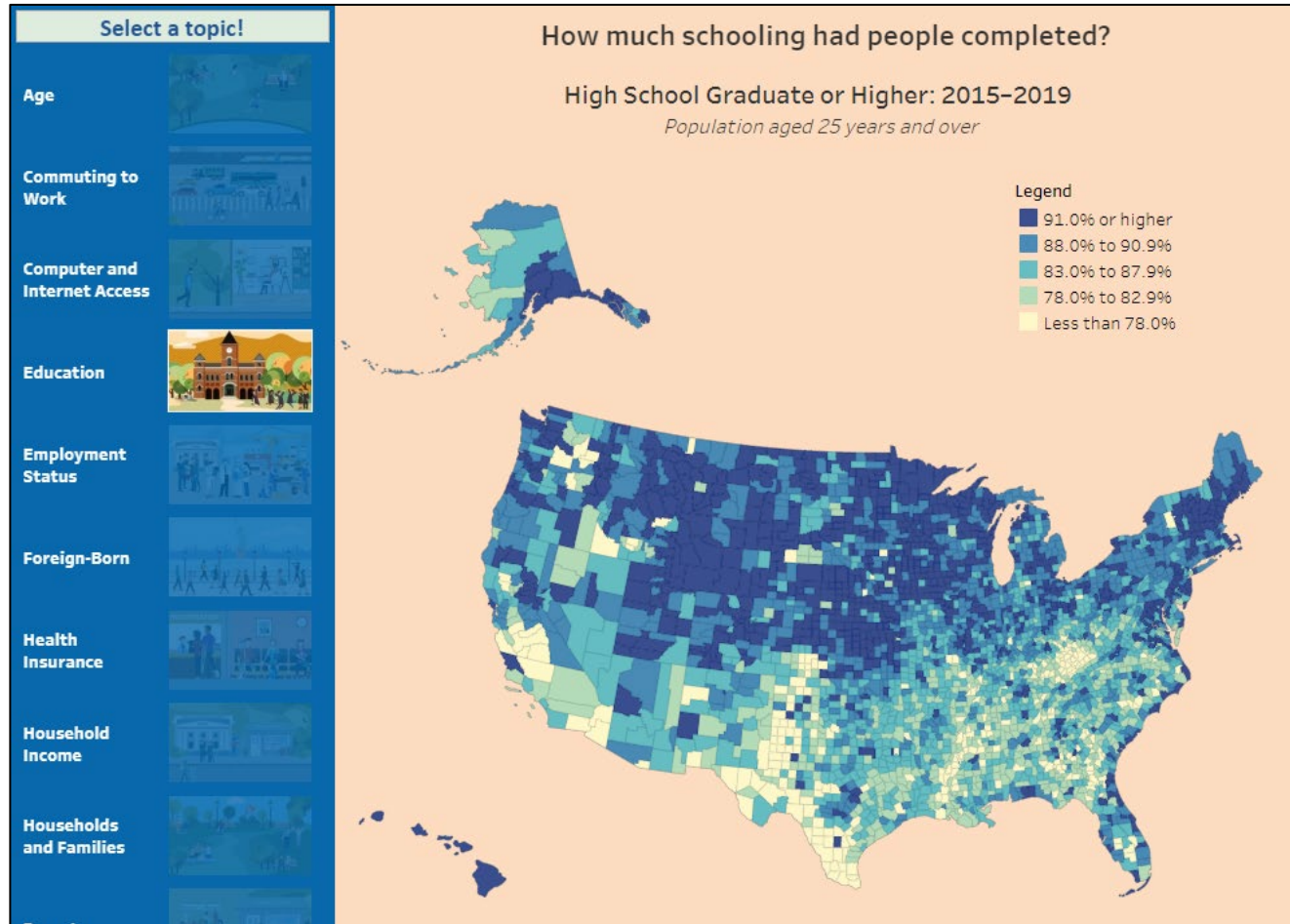


# The American Community Survey

## Summary File

- Set of comma-delimited text files that contain all of the Detailed Tables
- Current Summary File contains estimates, margin of error, and geography files
- Detailed Tables stored in series of files called sequences
- This is the last release of the current Summary File format
- Starting with 2021 ACS, new format by table ID will be used

# The American Community Survey Application Programming Interface (API)



# The American Community Survey Data Tool Updates

QuickFacts  
United States

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more.

Enter state, county, city, town, or zip code  Select a fact --

CLEAR TABLE MAP CHART DASHBOARD MORE

Dashboard - United States

Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)

All Topics United States

Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021) 331,893,746

PEOPLE

Population

- Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021) 331,893,746
- Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2021) 331,449,281
- Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2021, (V2021) 0.1%
- Population, Census, April 1, 2020 331,449,281
- Population, Census, April 1, 2010 308,745,538

Age and Sex

- Persons under 5 years, percent 6.0%
- Persons under 18 years, percent 22.3%
- Persons 65 years and over, percent 16.5%
- Female persons, percent 50.0%

Race and Hispanic Origin

- White alone, percent 78.3%
- Black or African American alone, percent (a) 13.4%
- American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a) 1.3%

United States Census Bureau

Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition - 4.1

Privacy Act Statement FAQs

## Determine the Best Location for Your Business

1. What type of business do you want to research?  
Select the type of business you want to research by either selecting it first from the "Most Popular" categories below (and the detailed list provided) or by using the Type of Business Search. (You must choose one type of business.)
2. What location do you want to research?  
Select the location you want to research either clicking on the My Location button or searching for it.
3. View Data  
Click "Go to Map" to browse the information about the potential location you are researching. (Note: You must choose a location.)  
Click "Create Report" to go straight to the report for your location. (Note: You must choose a Type of Business and Location.)

Find My Location

or

State, Metro, County, City/Town, or ZIP Code

Go To Map

Create Report

or Search for your type of business

Industry Title, Keyword, or NAICS Code

Powered by the U.S. Census Bureau and Esri. For help using this tool (including tutorial flyers and FAQs), see the [CBB Home Page](#).  
© 2017 U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. Learn more about other Census Bureau data by visiting the [Census Home Page](#).  
Release: 4.1 (Build: 7)

## My Tribal Area

Enter name of Tribal Area

OR

1 Select a State

2

People Jobs Housing Economy Education

The Census Bureau collects data for the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population and publishes specific counts, estimates, and statistics. My Tribal Area gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS provides detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing statistics every year for the nation's communities. My Tribal Area is powered by the Census Application Programming Interface (API).

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

POWERED BY  
The American Community Survey

U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Census Bureau  
census.gov

Glossary >

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# The American Community Survey

## ACS Website

// Census.gov / Our Surveys & Programs / American Community Survey (ACS)

**WITHIN OUR SURVEYS & PROGRAMS**

- About the ACS
- Data
- Geography & ACS
- Guidance for Data Users
- Information For...
- Library
- Methodology
- Microdata
- News & Updates
- Operations and Administration
- Respond to the ACS
- Technical Documentation
- Contact Us

## American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation.



**RESPOND NOW**

**Find ACS Data**

**SUBSCRIBE**

Complete the ACS

Find ACS Data

Subscribe

Data




# The American Community Survey

## Data Release Information

// [Census.gov](#) / [Our Surveys & Programs](#) / [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) / [News & Updates](#) / [American Community Survey Data Releases](#)

**WITHIN NEWS & UPDATES**

- Data Releases**
- Events
- News
- Updates

## Data Releases

Leading up to the annual release of new datasets, the Census Bureau publishes a schedule, notes about new estimates or new guidance, and technical information about geography and product changes. Users can also browse the notes from previous years using the tabs below.

**2020** 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 **MORE** ▾

## 2020

### Details About the 2020 Release

Experimental Data Product

#### American Community Survey Experimental Data

Explore resources to help you understand the 2020 American Community Survey 1-year Experimental Data Release.

#### 2020 Data Release Schedule

Review the dates and components of the 2020 ACS release.

#### 2020 Data Release New and Notable

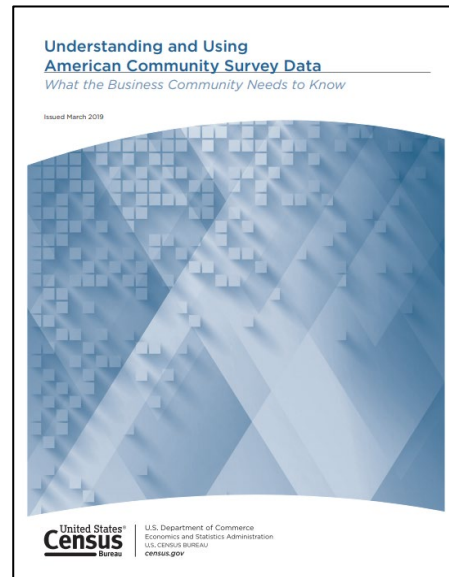
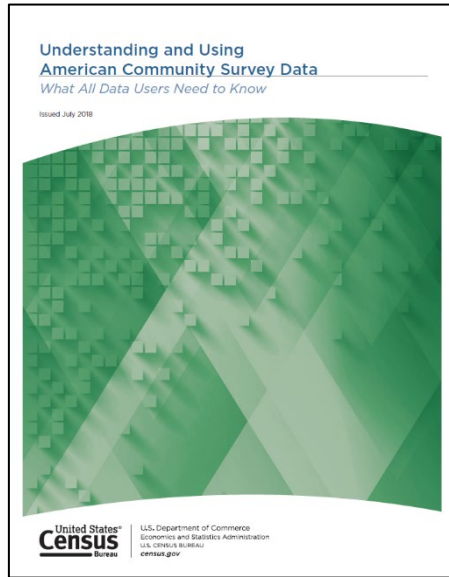
Learn more about items of interest related to the 2020 ACS release.

### Related Information

- [American Community Survey Data](#)
- [Which Data Table or Tool Should I Use?](#)

# The American Community Survey

## Data User Handbooks and Training Presentations



// [Census.gov](#) / [Our Surveys & Programs](#) / [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) / [Library](#) /  
[American Community Survey Training Presentations](#)

## Training Presentations

Want to learn more about American Community Survey (ACS) data and data products? Need to train others how to understand the data? These training presentations can help.

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Training | January 26, 2022  
**Geography Areas and Concepts for the American Community Survey**  
This webinar explains how the popular geographic types, such as block groups, census tracts, and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas are used to present ACS data.

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Training | November 30, 2021  
**2020 American Community Survey 1-Year Experimental Data Release**  
This webinar examines all 2020 American Community Survey 1-year experimental data products.

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Training | July 29, 2021  
**Impact of Pandemic on the American Community Survey**  
This webinar explains and answers questions related to the impact of the pandemic on the American Community Survey (ACS).

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Training | May 13, 2021  
**Data Summit: Census Bureau Data About Housing Characteristics**  
This webinar will teach data users about housing and household data available from various surveys and indicators.

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks.html)

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/training-presentations.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/training-presentations.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Technical Documentation

// [Census.gov](#) / [Our Surveys & Programs](#) / [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) / [Technical Documentation](#)

**WITHIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)**

- [Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy](#)
- [Data Suppression](#)
- [Errata Notes](#)
- [Table & Geography Changes](#)
- [Table Shells and Table List](#)
- [User Notes](#)

**Technical Documentation**

The American Community Survey provides various documentation to assist users with our data releases. Click on the links below to learn more about these resources.

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**Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy**  
View the detailed codes and definitions for variables, statistical testing, and an explanation of sample design, methodology, and accuracy for the ACS.

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**User Notes**  
Learn more about issues impacting the American Community Survey, including design, collection, production, and data release.

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**Errata Notes**  
Learn more about errors and/or corrections related to the American Community Survey.

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October 01, 2016

**Data Suppression**  
Learn more about why certain American Community Survey estimates are not available due to data suppression.

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**Related Information**

- [American Community Survey Data](#)
- [Share Your ACS Data Story](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [You May Be Interested In](#)

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# The American Community Survey

## Comparison Guidance

// [Census.gov](#) / [Our Surveys & Programs](#) / [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) / [Guidance for Data Users](#) / [Comparing ACS Data](#)

WITHIN GUIDANCE FOR DATA USERS

- Comparing ACS Data**
- Handbooks
- Statistical Testing Tool
- Subjects Included in the Survey
- Training Presentations
- Using ACS Data with Open-Source Software
- When to Use 1-year or 5-year Estimates
- Which Data Table or Tool Should I Use?

## Comparing ACS Data

The strength of the American Community Survey (ACS) is in estimating characteristic distributions. If you are looking for population totals, we recommend the [2020 Census](#) or [Population Estimates Program](#).

It is also important to keep in mind that **all ACS data are estimates**. We collect data from a sample of the population in the United States and Puerto Rico rather than from the whole population. To help you interpret the reliability of the estimates, the Census Bureau publishes a margin of error (MOE) for every ACS estimate.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau changed the 2020 ACS release. Instead of providing the standard 1-year data products, the Census Bureau released experimental estimates from the 1-year data. Data users should not compare 2020 ACS 1-year experimental estimates with any other data.

[EXPAND ALL](#) | [COLLAPSE ALL](#)

- Can I compare ACS estimates?
- Can I compare ACS estimates with 2010 Census or 2020 Census?
- Can I compare ACS estimates with Census 2000?

Comparison Guidance by Year

All **2020** 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 [MORE](#) ▾

### Related Information

- [Share Your ACS Data Story](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
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Respond to the ACS  
Learn how

# The American Community Survey

## Statistical Testing Tool

// [Census.gov](#) / [Our Surveys & Programs](#) / [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) / [Guidance for Data Users](#) / [Statistical Testing Tool](#)

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## Statistical Testing Tool

Comparing American Community Survey (ACS) estimates involves more than determining which statistic is higher or lower. Users should also conduct statistical testing to make sure differences are statistically significant and are unlikely to have occurred by chance. This testing takes into account the margin of error (MOE) associated with survey estimates, which are based on responses from only a sample of the full population.

Looking for an easy way to conduct statistical testing? Try the Census Bureau's new [Statistical Testing Tool](#). Simply copy or download ACS estimates and their MOEs into the spreadsheet to get instant results of statistical tests.



[Download Statistical Testing Tool \[XLSX - 3.5 MB\]](#)

**Tool Features:**

- Compares up to 3,230 pairs of estimates at once
- Compares multiple estimates simultaneously (up to 150 estimates)
- Displays statistical testing results (“Yes”, “No”) automatically
- Handles special formatting and characters, such as the ‘+/-’ in front of the MOE.

### Related Information

VIDEO  
[Population Reference Bureau: Assessing ACS Reliability](#)

RANDOM SAMPLINGS BLOG  
[Using Census Bureau Data Made Easier: New Statistical Testing Tool Answers the Question “Is This Comparison Statistically Significant?”](#)

You May Be Interested In

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Questions?

## Audio Conference Access Information

*You must call by phone to ask questions*

Toll-free number: 1-888-606-9802

Participant passcode: 1803272

Dial \*1 for the operator

- Recording of today's webinar will be available in **press kit** and posted on Census Academy at: [census.gov/data/academy/webinars.html](https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars.html)
- Press kit available at: [census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html)

*After Questions Stay for a Demo:*

Accessing 5-Year ZCTA Data in [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

# The American Community Survey

## Data Tells Stories. Tell Us Yours!

The screenshot shows the 'Share Your ACS Data Story' form on the American Community Survey website. The form is titled 'Share Your ACS Data Story' and includes the following text: 'We want to hear about how you use American Community Survey (ACS) data! Did you or your organization use the ACS to make an important decision, by your community, open/expand a business, etc? If so, we are eager to learn more about how you use ACS data in action. Share your story by completing the fields below to help us showcase the value of the ACS. Need help getting started? Check out featured examples from our current collection of ACS data stories.' There are three main sections: 'Your Story \*' with a text input field, 'Outcome \*' with a text input field, and a section for 'Your data details' which is partially obscured by a circular image of a tablet. A red asterisk indicates a required field. The top navigation bar includes 'GEOGRAPHY', 'LIBRARY', 'DATA', and 'SURVEYS/PROGRAMS'.



Your story



Your data details



Your outcome



- Purpose:
  - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
  - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users
- Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned
- Users group website and online community

# The American Community Survey

## Subject Matter Experts

Name	Title
Michael Cook Sr.	Chief, Public Information Office
Donna M. Daily	Chief, American Community Survey Office
David Waddington	Chief, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division
Mark Asiala	Assistant Division Chief, Decennial Statistical Studies Division
David Raglin	Special Assistant, American Community Survey Office
Nicole Scanniello	Assistant Division Chief, American Community Survey Office
Hyon B. Shin	Assistant Division Chief, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division
Nathan Walters	Assistant Division Chief, American Community Survey Office
Jonathan Rothbaum	Research Economist, Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division

# The American Community Survey

## Overview

- Upcoming ACS Data Releases
- ACS Basics
- Changes for 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Release
- How to Access ACS Data
- ACS Website
- Q&A
- **Accessing ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Data Using [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)**
- Q&A

data.census.gov

Demo

## **View and Download ZCTA Data Using data.census.gov**

- Example: Detailed household income for all ZIP Code Tabulation Areas in Michigan using ACS 5-Year Estimates



data.census.gov

## Major Improvements Since 2019 ACS 5-Year Release (Dec 2020)

- New and improved navigation
- Option to view large tables
- 40+ new check boxes to select collections of geographies in a single click (example: all census tracts in U.S.)
- Expanded Geography Profiles
- Enhanced Excel export
- Improved search

data.census.gov

Our Development Depends on Your Feedback

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of data.census.gov with links for Microdata, Help, FAQ, and Feedback. The Feedback link is highlighted with an orange box. Below the navigation bar is the United States Census Bureau logo. A white feedback form is overlaid on the right side of the page, also outlined in orange. The form is titled "Help us improve" and asks for an email address. The email address "census.data@census.gov" is entered in the text field, and a copy icon is visible to its right. The main content area features the heading "Explore Census Data" and a search bar with the placeholder text "Find Tables, Maps, and more ...". Below the search bar are links for "Advanced Search", "Help", and "Feedback".

Check out data.census.gov and provide comments at  
census.data@census.gov

# data.census.gov

## Stay in Touch

**data.census.gov Resources page:**  
[census.gov/data/what-is-data-census.gov.html](https://www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census.gov.html)

**Feedback:** Email comments to  
[census.data@census.gov](mailto:census.data@census.gov)

The image displays a collage of screenshots from the data.census.gov website. The main screenshot shows the 'What is data.census.gov?' page, which includes a navigation menu with options like 'BROWSE BY TOPIC', 'EXPLORE DATA', 'LIBRARY', 'SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS', 'INFORMATION FOR...', 'FIND A CODE', and 'ABOUT US'. The page content features a heading 'data.census.gov Resources' and a sub-heading 'The vision for data.census.gov is to improve one centralized place so that data users spend less time using it.' Below this, there is a list of resources: 'WHAT IS DATA.CENSUS.GOV?', 'About data.census.gov', 'Latest Releases', 'Upcoming Releases', 'Guidance for Data Users', 'Guidance for 2020 Redistricting Data Users', 'Developmental Update', 'Outreach', 'Newsletter', and 'Contact Us'. Overlaid on this are several smaller screenshots of other pages: 'Video Tutorials', 'Webinars', 'Release Notes', and 'News and Updates'. The 'News and Updates' page shows a list of recent releases, including '2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Selected Population Tables' and '2017 Economic Census US Basic Data (additional states/sectors)'. A 'data.census.gov' logo is also visible in the collage.



Questions?

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- Press kit available at: [census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Need Local Stats or Training?

## We Can Help!

- Regional Data Staff
  - 1-844-275-3282
  - [census.askdata@census.gov](mailto:census.askdata@census.gov)
  - [census.gov/data/academy/request.html](https://census.gov/data/academy/request.html)
- State Data Centers & Census Information Centers
  - [census.gov/sdc](https://census.gov/sdc)



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# The American Community Survey

## For Further Information

### **Media**

Public Information Office  
pio@census.gov  
301-763-3030

### **Non-Media**

Customer Service Center  
1-800-923-8282 or 301-763-INFO (4636)

### **Press Kit**

[census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2021/acs-5-year.html)

### **Email Alerts**

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/12426>

### **Website**

[census.gov/acs](https://www.census.gov/acs)

### **Source Us**

U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates