

A COMPARISON OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY AND THE PUERTO RICO COMMUNITY SURVEY

BACKGROUND

The Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) is part of the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), customized for Puerto Rico. The PRCS provides data every year – giving communities in Puerto Rico the current information they need to manage change and plan for the future. While the ACS and PRCS are very similar, there are some differences between the two surveys, which are outlined below.

ACS	PRCS
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Survey Color

Green	Purple
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Language

Initial mailings sent to U.S. addresses are printed in English, and residents can request Spanish-language materials.	Initial mailings sent to PR addresses are printed in Spanish, although residents can request English-language materials.
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Data Collection Methods

Data are collected by internet, mail, and in-person follow-up.	Data are only collected by mail or in-person. There is no internet data collection in Puerto Rico.
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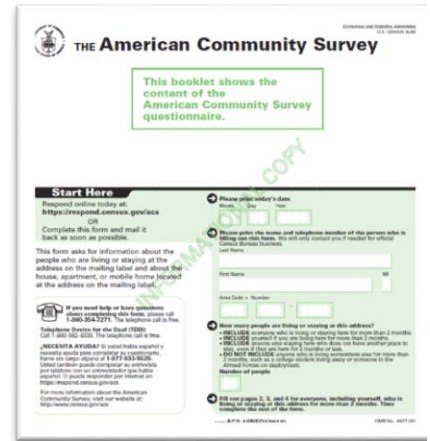
Annual Sample Size

~3.5 million addresses	~36,000 addresses
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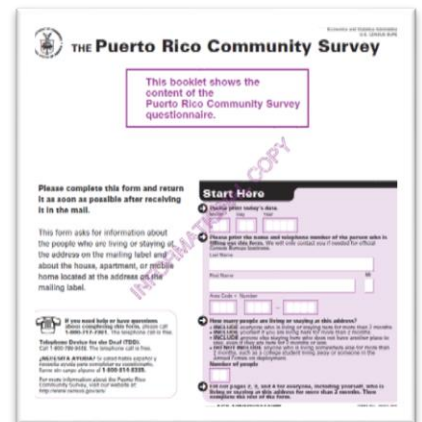
Population Controls

ACS estimates are controlled to the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program totals by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin.	PRCS estimates are controlled to population estimates by age and sex only.
ACS estimates are controlled to the population at the county and sub-county level.	PRCS estimates are controlled to the population at the county (municipio) level (not the sub-county level).
ACS housing unit totals are controlled to the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program.	No housing unit controls are available for Puerto Rico.

American Community Survey Sample Form



Puerto Rico Community Survey Sample Form



QUESTIONS ON THE FORM

The following question numbering pertain to the 2019 ACS/PRCS survey and may vary for other survey years.

ACS

PRCS

Property Size (*Housing Question #4*)

ACS uses acre as unit of measurement.

PRCS uses cuerda (or “Spanish acre,” equal to .971 acres).

Plumbing Facilities - Running Water (*Housing Question #7*)

ACS asks respondents if they have “hot and cold running water.”

PRCS asks respondents if they have “running water” and “a water heater,” which includes the unit that hooks up to the neck of the showerhead to heat shower water. It is less common to have hot water heaters in Puerto Rico.

Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (*Housing Question #15*)

ACS asks whether anyone in the household received benefits through the Food Stamp Program or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

PRCS asks whether anyone in the household received benefits from the “Nutritional Assistance Program” in place of SNAP. Eligibility requirements and benefit amounts are determined by Puerto Rico, rather than the federal government.

Geographic Areas Emphasized in the Survey (*Person 1 Questions #7, 8, 9, 15, 31, 42*) *Place of Birth, Citizenship, and Year of Entry; Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago; Place of Work; Class of Worker*

ACS “place of birth” and “citizenship” puts focus on US.

PRCS “place of birth” and “citizenship” puts focus on PR.

ACS “year of entry” question asks when a respondent came to live in the United States.

PRCS “year of entry” question asks when someone came to live in Puerto Rico.

ACS “residence 1 year ago” lists “U.S. county” first.

PRCS “residence 1 year ago” lists “municipio” first.

ACS “place of work” question asks for county and state of work location.

PRCS “place of work” question asks for municipio in Puerto Rico or the U.S. county.

ACS “class of worker” question includes “county” as example of a local government employee.

PRCS “class of worker” question includes both “county” and “municipio” employees.

Means of Transportation to Work (*Person 1 Question #32*)

ACS includes an option for “Streetcar or trolley car.”

PRCS includes “Carro público,” or “public car” in the list of options.