

American Community Survey Review and Tips for American Fact Finder

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American Community Survey

- An ongoing annual survey that produces characteristics of the population and housing
- Estimates available for small areas and areas with small populations
- Updates every year!

Census 2000

- During the 2000 Census and previous census years two forms were used:
 1. Short form
 - Basic demographics – age, sex, race, household size
 2. Long form
 - Characteristics of population – income, education, marital status, language spoken
- All persons receive the short form
- Sample of population receive long form

Census 2010

- Only used the short form
 - Basic demographics : age, sex, race, household size, housing units-owned, rented, vacant
- Focus on counting the population
- Used for apportionment and redistricting
- Characteristics of the population no longer collected with the decennial Census

ACS

- Began collecting data in all areas in 2005
- Published first estimates for all areas in 2010
- Updates every year
- Smaller sample size

Census 2010 and ACS

- 2010 Census **counts** the population
- ACS produces **estimates** on characteristics of population and housing
- The purpose of the ACS is not to count the population but to provide data showing how people live and the needs of the community

Characteristics of the Population

- Social
 - Ancestry
 - Citizenship Status
 - Disability
 - Educational Attainment
 - Fertility
 - Grandparents
 - Language
 - Marital status and history
 - Migration
 - School enrollment
 - Veteran Status
- Economic
 - Employment and work status
 - Health insurance
 - Income and earnings
 - Industry and occupation
 - Commuting
 - Poverty
 - SNAP
- Demographic
 - Age and sex
 - Race and Hispanic origin

Characteristics of Housing

- Financial
 - Housing costs
 - Utilities
 - Insurance
 - Condo fee
 - Taxes
 - Mortgage
 - Rent
 - Tenure
 - Property value
- Physical
 - Heating fuel
 - Kitchen facilities
 - Plumbing facilities
 - Telephone available
 - Rooms and bedrooms
 - Units in structure
 - Vehicles available
 - Year moved in
 - Year structure built

A Dynamic Survey

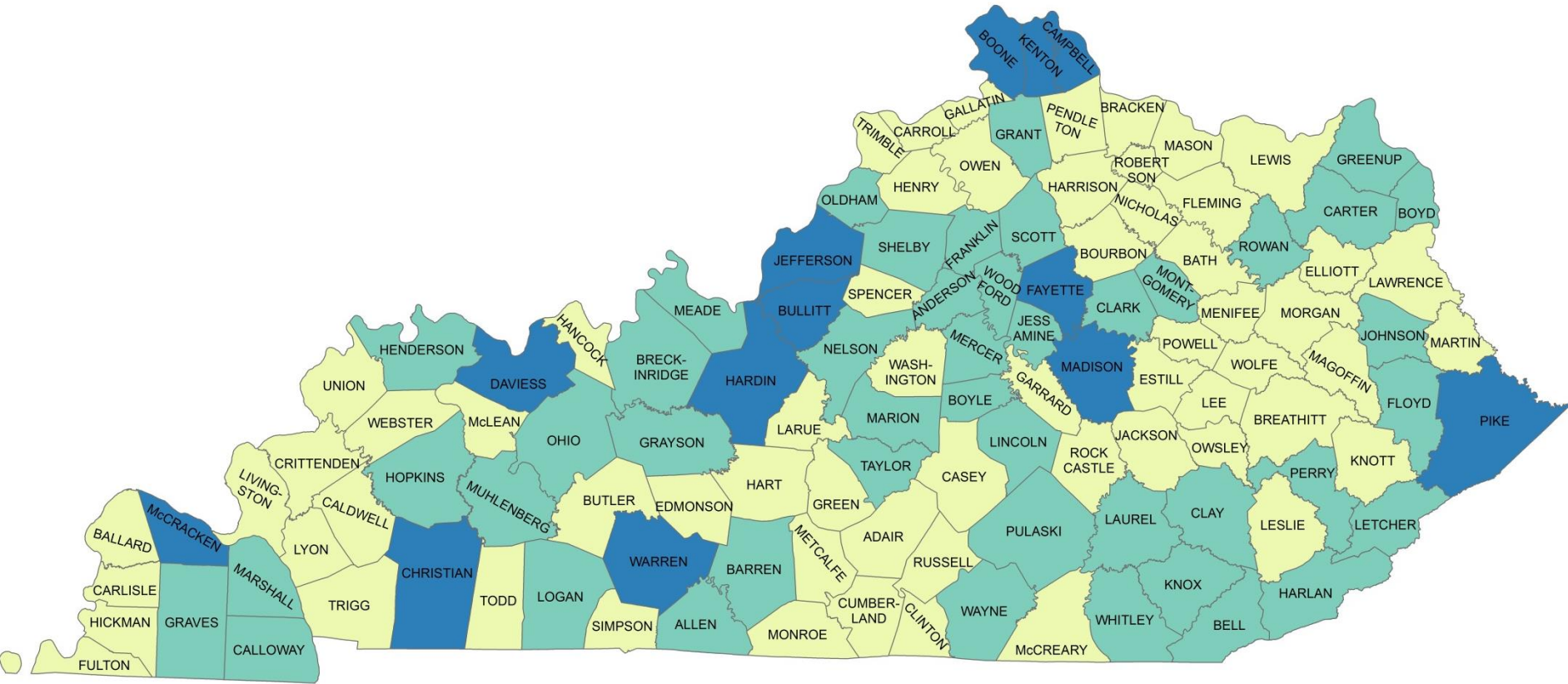
- 2008
 - Marital history
 - Health insurance coverage
 - VA service-connected disability status and rating
 - Disability
- 2009
 - Bachelor's degree field of study
- 2013
 - Computer ownership (including smart phones)
 - Internet access

A Continuous Survey

- ACS collects survey data throughout the year
- Estimates produced are period estimates
- Reflects a period of time, not a point in time
- Different from the decennial Census which asks respondents to answer questions as of April 1

Period Estimates

- 1-year estimates
 - Produced for areas with at least 65,000 people
- 3-year estimates
 - Produced for areas with at least 20,000 people
- 5-year estimates
 - Produced for all areas



1-year, 3-year, 5-year

3-year, 5-year

5-year

Which Period Estimates?

- Availability
- Comparisons
- Currency vs. Precision

2013 ACS

- Release schedule
 - 1-year estimates : September 18
 - 3-year estimates : October 23
 - 5-year estimates : December 4
- New for 2013
 - 1-year: Computer ownership and internet access
 - 5-year: Bachelor's degree field of study
 - 2013 CBSA definitions

American Fact Finder

<http://factfinder2.census.gov>



▼ Community Facts

Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.

Enter a state, county, city, town, or zip code:

e.g., Atlanta, GA

GO

▶ Guided Search

▶ Advanced Search

▶ Download Options

American Fact Finder

- Select Geographies first
- Defaults to available datasets
- Most current datasets at the top of the list
- From [Advanced Search](#)

American Fact Finder

- Geographies window Name tab
- Geographies within other geographies
 - Tracts
 - ZCTAs
 - Places
- Geographic components
 - Urban / rural
- From [Advanced Search](#)


American Fact Finder

- Save query
 - Saves everything shown in Your Selections
- From Table View
- Bookmark
- .aff extension
- Load Query from Main page
- From [Advanced Search](#)

American Fact Finder

From Table View

Bookmark

Click "Create Bookmark" or copy the url below and paste into email or browser. 

CREATE BOOKMARK

- or -

Use the "Save Query" button to save the viewed products's geography and table selections to a file on your local drive. This option does not save the data but only the selections for the currently viewed result.


To retrieve a saved query, use the "Load Query" button from the Main Page.

SAVE QUERY


CLOSE

AFF Home page

News and Notes

 **GET EMAIL UPDATES**

June 26, 2014
Population Estimates by Demographic Characteristic: July 1, 2013--...




◀ ▶

[view all news, release schedules, and more »](#)

Address Search

Find Census data by entering a [street address](#).



Reference Maps

Reference Maps show selected geographic boundaries for an area along with orienting features, such as roads.

GO

Load Query

Use [Load Query](#) to restore a previously saved query.

American Fact Finder

- Topics window
- Cross tabulations
- Choose as many selections as needed to refine search
- Race and ethnicity moved from Topics window to its own window

American Fact Finder

- Table View
- Modify Table
- Download options

American Fact Finder

- Industry Codes
 - Economic Census
 - Business Patterns
 - Nonemployer Statistics
 - Not ACS
- EEO Occupation Codes
 - Special tabulations
 - HR departments

ACS Review and Tips for AFF

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