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, martial 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
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

http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1

- or -

Use the "Save Query" button to save the viewed product'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

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.

United States

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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