

American Community Survey Program Updates

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Presentation to the MWCOC Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee

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The American Community Survey

The Foundation

- The American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source of detailed information about the nation's people and housing
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses to produce annual social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for communities throughout the 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico
- Covers **40+ topics** — Collects detailed information previously collected by the decennial census each decade
- Helps inform how federal funds are distributed each year, supports over **300** evidence-based federal government uses
- Data released the year after collection as 1-year and 5-year estimates
- Officially started in 2005

The image displays two versions of the American Community Survey interface. The top screenshot is a web browser view of the 'United States Census Bureau American Community Survey' login page. It features a 'Welcome! Start here to respond:' section with a link to 'Respond online now' and a field for 'User ID'. A 'Can't find the User ID?' section explains that the 10-digit code appears above the address and provides an example: '10000-00000' for '10 MAIN STREET, ANYTOWN, MD 99997'. Below this is a 'Login' button and a 'U.S. Census Bureau Notice' regarding statistical purposes and privacy. The bottom screenshot is a paper form titled 'American Community Survey' with a 'Start Here' section. It offers two ways to respond: online at 'respond.census.gov/acs' or by mail. It includes a 'Your response is required by law' section, a 'Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form' section, and a 'How many people, including yourself, live or stay at this address?' section with checkboxes for inclusion and exclusion criteria. The form also includes a 'Number of people' field and a 'Fill out pages 2-7 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address. Then complete the rest of the form.' instruction. At the bottom, it provides contact information for help and the form number 'Form ACS-1(2025)'.

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Recent Changes — New Content for the 2025 ACS



Three new questions:

- Sewer
- Electric Vehicles
- Solar Panels



Four modified questions:

- Household Roster
- Educational Attainment
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Labor Force

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/forms-and-instructions.html

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Sewer Question

- Requested by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration
- Data are critical for understanding the wastewater infrastructure in rural and smaller communities
- Data allow for monitoring of water quality (i.e., impacts to well water) as well as potential environmental impacts (seepage into surrounding soil)

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Is this house, apartment, or mobile home connected to a public sewer?

☐

Yes, connected to public sewer

☐

No, connected to septic tank

☐

No, use other type of system

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Electric Vehicles Question

- Requested by the Energy Information Administration (EIA)
- Housing-unit level data will help federal agencies:
 - Project future energy needs
 - Make technological and capital changes necessary within the energy infrastructure

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Do you or any member of this household own or lease an electric vehicle? *Include both all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Solar Panels Question

- Requested by the Energy Information Administration (EIA)
- Data will help EIA match energy consumption to energy production across the U.S.

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Does this house, apartment, or mobile home use solar panels that generate electricity?

☐

Yes

☐

No

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Future Changes — Race Standards

Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15)

- On March 28, 2024, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued updated standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting race/ethnicity data across federal agencies

ACS Plans to Implement in 2027

- On November 5, 2024, the Census Bureau announced that we plan to implement the finalized 2024 SPD 15 in the 2027 ACS data collection cycle

Data with New Standard will be available starting in 2028

- 1-year estimates with the new standard will be the 2027 ACS 1-year data
- 5-year estimates produced solely using the updated standards will be the 2027-2031 ACS 5-year data
- Until the ACS has 5 years of data collected using the updated standards, the Census Bureau will produce ACS 5-year estimates using a bridging technique, starting with the 2023-2027 ACS 5-year release

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Planned 2024 ACS Data Releases

2024 ACS 1-Year Release

Data Products

Release

1-Year Estimates	September 11, 2025
1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	October 16, 2025
1-Year Supplemental Estimates	October 16, 2025

2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Release

Data Products

Release

5-Year Estimates	December 11, 2025
5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	January 22, 2026
5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates	January 22, 2026

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New Tables

Table ID	Title
Race	
B02022	White Alone by Selected Groups
C02022	White Alone by Selected Groups
B02024	White Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups
B02023	Black or African American Alone by Selected Groups
C02023	Black or African American Alone by Selected Groups
B02025	Black or African American Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups
Homeowners Association and/or Condominium Fee	
B25142	Monthly Homeowners Association and/or Condominium Fee
B25143	Median Monthly Homeowners Association and/or Condominium Fee (Dollars) by Mortgage Status

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Modified Tables

Table ID	Title
Journey to Work and Migration	
B08101	Means of Transportation to Work by Age
C08528	Means of Transportation to Work by Class of Worker for Workplace Geography
DP03	Selected Economic Characteristics (Commuting to Work section)
S0801	Commuting Characteristics by Sex
Year Householder Moved In	
B25026	Total Population in Occupied Housing Units by Tenure by Year Householder Moved Into Unit
B25109	Median Value by Year Householder Moved Into Unit
CP04	Comparative Housing Characteristics
S2502	Demographic Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units

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Modified Tables

Table ID	Title
Race	
B02015	Asian Alone by Selected Groups
B02018	Asian Alone or in Any Combination by Selected Groups
CP05	Comparative Demographic Estimates
DP05	ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates
Quality Measures	
B98021	Housing Unit Response and Nonresponse Rates With Reasons for Noninterviews
Health Insurance	
S2703	Private Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics

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Deleted Table

Table ID	Title
Health Insurance	
S2713	Private Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics

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Response Rates

- ACS housing unit response rates decreased in 2020 due to the pandemic and have rebounded somewhat since but not back to pre-pandemic levels
- Sources for information:
 - Sample Size and Data Quality page
 - Tables B98021 (HU) and B98022 (GQ) on data.census.gov

All States 2023

Response Rates and Reasons for Noninterviews (in percent) — Housing Units

	Housing Unit	Reasons for Noninterviews							
State	Response Rate	Refusal	Unable to Locate	No One Home	Temporarily Absent	Language Problem	Insufficient Data	Contact Attempts Halted	Other
United States	84.7	8.9	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.3	0.7	2.1	1.2
Alabama	83.8	9.1	0.1	1.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.7	2.5
Alaska	81.9	8.9	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.7	2.6	4.4
Arizona	80.0	14.4	0.2	1.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.6	1.2
Arkansas	86.7	7.8	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.5	1.1
California	87.9	6.4	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.9	2.2	1.3
Colorado	83.8	10.7	0.2	1.7	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.5	1.0
Connecticut	85.6	9.4	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.8	2.4	0.7
Delaware	87.4	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.7	2.1	0.3
District of Columbia	72.3	23.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.1	1.8	0.4
Florida	84.0	7.1	0.1	3.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	2.5	1.5
Georgia	81.6	7.5		2.0	0.1	0.1	0.9	2.0	2.0

Thank you!

ACS Data User Support
acso.users.support@census.gov

