

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

We Measure Your Community Annually

American Community Survey (ACS)

United States Census Bureau

Objectives of This Webinar

- To help you understand the ACS data that may enable you to do your job . . .
 - Faster
 - More conveniently
 - Less expensively
- To guide you through some exercises using the current data access tool for the ACS, Legacy American FactFinder

United States Census Bureau

Overview of the ACS

United States Census Bureau

This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

What is the ACS?

- A large, continuous survey that:
 - Has an initial sample of over 3 million addresses per year
 - Produces characteristics of population and housing
 - Produces estimates for small areas and small population groups



Developing the ACS

- The ACS was developed to:
 1. Focus the decennial census on improving the population count
 2. Provide characteristics data more than once every 10 years
 3. Allow use of more current data to measure change and detect trends



Target Population

- Resident population of the United States and Puerto Rico
- Living in housing units and group quarters
- Current residents at the selected address



This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

Group Quarters

- Place where people live or stay that is normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing or services for the residents
- Two categories of group quarters
 - Institutional
 - Non-institutional



How We Protect Your Information

- Federal law
 - Title 13 protects confidentiality of your responses
 - Workers take a lifetime oath not to disclose
 - Consequences of disclosure are severe
- Privacy principles
- Statistical safeguards



ACS Content

- Four types of characteristics
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Housing
 - Demographic
- Characteristics, not population counts



This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

Demographic Characteristics



- Sex
- Age
- Race
- Hispanic Origin
- Relationship



Social Characteristics



- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparents
- Veterans
- Disability
- Language
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Ancestry
- Tribal Affiliation



Economic Characteristics

- Income
- Benefits
- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work
- Place of Work



This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

Housing Characteristics




- Tenure
- Occupancy & Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/Monthly Rent




13

Data Products



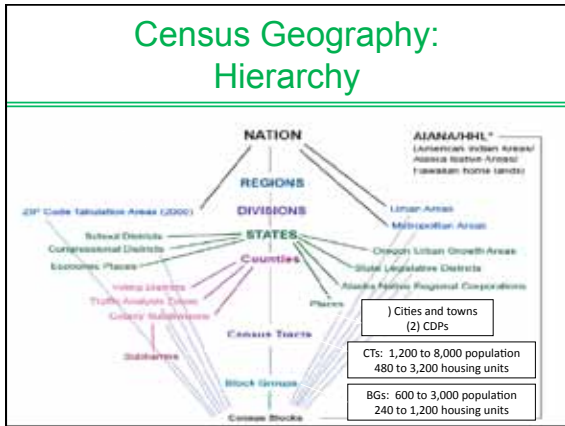
Product Types

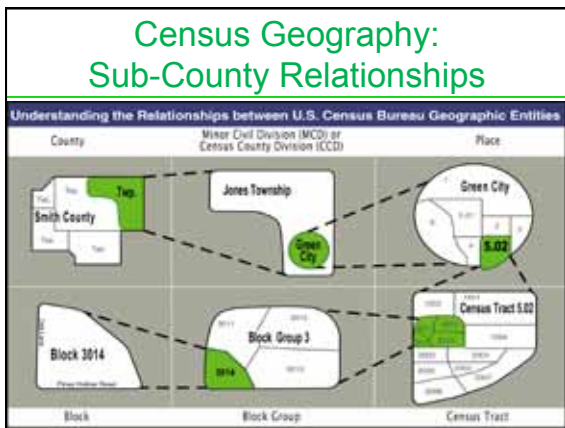
- Profiles
 - Data Profiles
 - Narrative Profiles
 - Comparison Profiles (1-year only)
 - Selected Population Profiles (1-year & 3-year only)
- Tables
 - Ranking Tables (1-year only)
 - Detailed Tables
 - Subject Tables
 - Geographic Comparison Tables
- Thematic Maps
- Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files
- Summary File



This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually





Types of ACS Estimates

	1-year estimates	3-year estimates	5-year estimates
65,000 + population	X	X	X
20,000 + population		X	X
Under 20,000 population *			X

* Census tracts, block groups, and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas are included in the 5-year estimates only.

This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

Temporal Frames

- *Period estimates*
 - Describe average characteristics over a specific time period
 - ACS releases 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year products
- *Contrast point-in-time estimates*
 - Describe characteristics as of a specific date
 - Decennial Census: April 1 of years ending in zero
 - Population Estimates: July 1 in intercensal years



Caveats

- Goal: ACS estimates similar to 2000 long form
- Smaller sample size = reduced reliability
 - Census 2000 long form – 1 in 6 households (16.7%)

2010 Census: 131,704,730 housing units in U.S.
--
 - ACS ~ 2.9 million households per year (or ~ 250,000 per month)
 - 1-year ACS covers 2.1%
 - 3-year ACS covers 6.3%
 - 5-year ACS covers 10.5%
- Every address in any 5-year period is unique



ACS: New Data Every Year

- All geographies will now get new ACS data every year, rather than once a decade
- Unlike Census 2000, which released data on a rolling basis, ACS is releasing data for all geographies at once
- Data are being released much quicker than Census 2000 data, within a year of the completion of data collection



This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

Strength of the ACS

- Produces reliable characteristic estimates for geographies and subpopulations
- The ACS generally does a better job estimating percents, rates, means, and medians than it does totals



Sampling Error

- The **uncertainty** associated with an estimate that is based on data gathered from a **sample** of the population rather than the **full** population
- Margin of error (MOE) measures the precision of an estimate at a given level of confidence
- MOEs at the 90% confidence level for all published ACS estimates



Example of Aggregating Estimates

Geography	Estimate	Margin of Error
Tract 1	5,264	1,624
Tract 2	6,508	1,395
Tract 3	4,364	1,026
Tract 4	6,865	1,909

Apply the formula:

$$MOE_{agg} = \pm \sqrt{\sum_c MOE_c^2}$$

New Estimate = 23,001 Equal to the sum of estimates

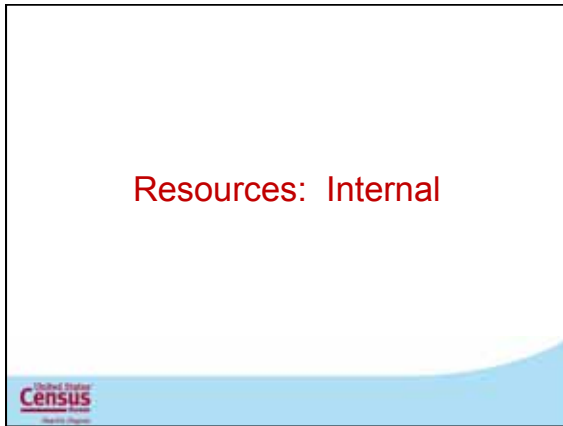
New MOE = 3,046 Less than the sum of MOEs

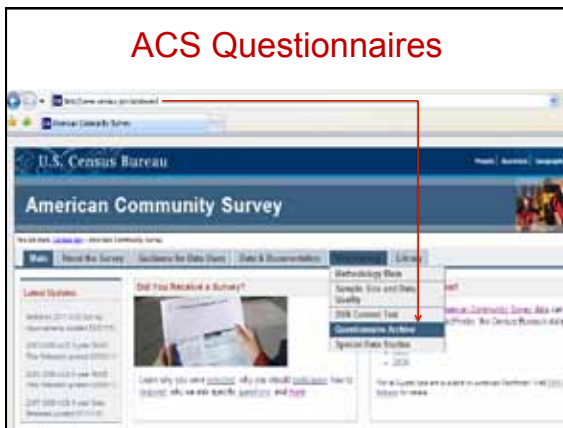
The estimates in this example are fictitious.

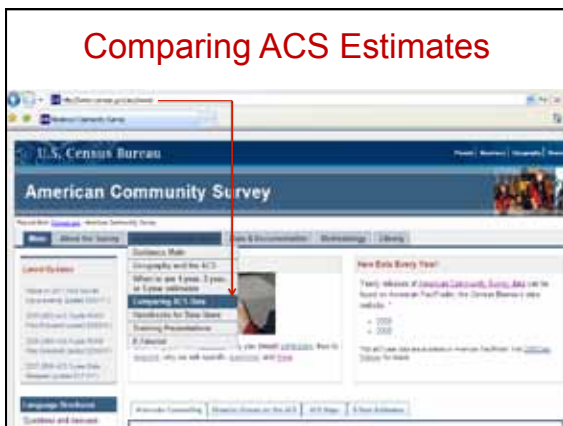


This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually



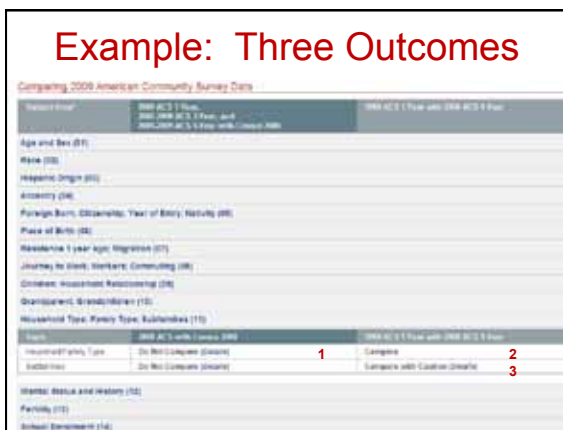


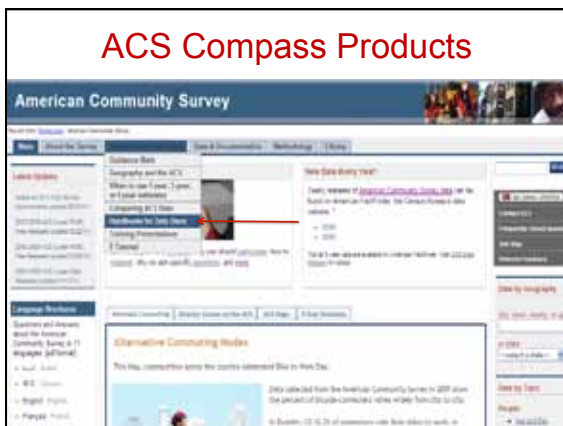


This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

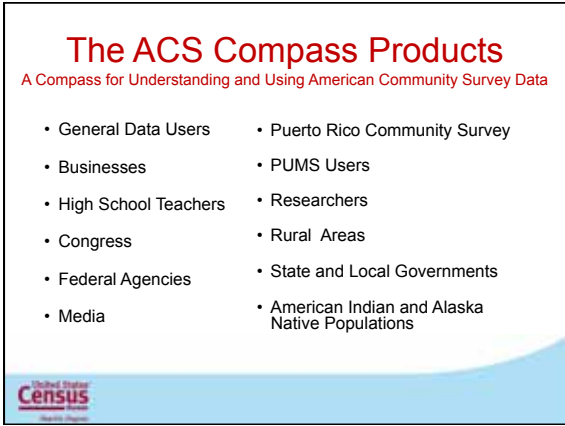






This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

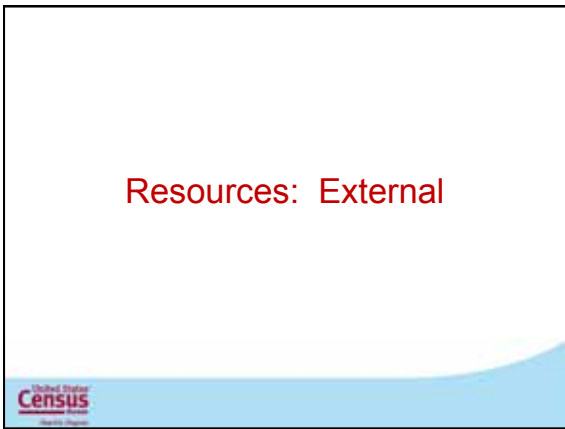
The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually



The ACS Compass Products
A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data

- General Data Users
- Businesses
- High School Teachers
- Congress
- Federal Agencies
- Media
- Puerto Rico Community Survey
- PUMS Users
- Researchers
- Rural Areas
- State and Local Governments
- American Indian and Alaska Native Populations

United States Census Bureau



Resources: External

United States Census Bureau



**State Data Center: CA Lead Agency
California Department of Finance
Demographic Research Unit**

www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/

WELCOME TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Demographic Research

FEATURED LINKS

- State of California
- California
- California
- California
- California

FEATURED RESOURCES

- California
- California
- California

ABOUT US

United States Census Bureau

This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.

The Census: American Community Survey – We Measure Your Community Annually

U.S. Census Bureau
State Data Centers Program www.census.gov/sdc/

Home | About Us | Contact Us | State Data Centers Program | State Data Center Locations | State Data Center Services | State Data Center Contacts

<p>State Census Data Center, Department of Finance 915 L Street, 8th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814-3700 Mr. Joke Hoang or California State Data Center (916) 323-4088 FAX (916) 327-3222</p> <p>Sacramento Area COG 1415 L Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814 Ms. Tina Coker (916) 321-9000 FAX (916) 321-9251</p> <p>Association of Bay Area Governments Joseph P. Burt Metro Center 101 10th Street P.O. Box 2050 Oakland, CA 94604-2050 Mr. Hing Wang (510) 464-7937 FAX (510) 433-5567</p>	<p>Southern California Association of Governments 616 West 7th Street, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017 Mr. Javier Morales (213) 236-1853 FAX (213) 236-1902</p> <p>San Diego Association of Governments Wells Fargo Plaza 4075 B Street, Suite 600 San Diego, CA 92101 Ms. Kristen Bohanca (619) 699-8918 FAX (619) 699-1905</p> <p>University of California - Berkeley UC Data Archive and Technical Assistance 2420 Bowditch Street 45570 Berkeley, CA 94720-5100 Mr. Jon Silms (510) 642-5571 FAX (510) 643-8292</p>
--	--

ACS Calculator
Oklahoma Department of Commerce

OKLAHOMA
 Department of Commerce

American Community Survey Calculators

Use updated December 8, 2010

For further information please contact:
 Oklahoma Department of Commerce
 Jesse Deane
 E-Mail: JesseDeane@okcommerce.gov
 Phone: (405) 515-5122 or 1 (800) 475-8252
www.okcommerce.gov

www.okcommerce.gov/Data-And-Research/Demographic-And-Population-Data

United States
Census
 American Community Survey

Thank you!

Seattle Regional Census Center
 Partnership & Data Services
 19820 North Creek Parkway
 Bothell, WA 98011

Linda Clark
 Information Services Specialist
linda.clark@census.gov
 425-908-3060

United States
Census
 American Community Survey

This material has been created for the Infopeople Project [infopeople.org], and has been supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.