

The American Community Survey: An Overview

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Purpose of the ACS

- Collect Detailed Decennial Census Sample Data Every Month Instead of Only Once Each Decade
- Release Tabulations of These Data on a Yearly Basis

Purpose of the ACS

- Restructure and Simplify the 2010 Census
 - Improve the accuracy of Census coverage
 - Improve the relevance and timeliness of detailed data
 - Reduce operational risk
 - Contain cost

Why is the ACS important?

- Many federal agencies set policy at the national and state levels using census data
- The ACS allows federal agencies to respond to trends in a timely manner by providing up to date data for use in allocation formulas

ACS Facts

- Response is required by Title 13
- Respondents must answer all questions
- Estimates are “ok”
- Questionnaire assistance hotline
- Administered by the Regional Offices
- Multiple methods of data collection for non-responders

ACS Operations

- Three month data collection period
- Three modes of data collection
 - Mail
 - Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)
 - Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)
- Data is confidential

Information collected in the ACS

- Age and relationship
- Grandparents responsible for grandchildren
- Disability
- Language spoken at home and English fluency
- Income
- Housing costs

ACS Data Products Release Schedule

Data Product	Population Threshold	Year of Data Release							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
		Year(s) of Data Collection							
1-year Estimates	65,000+	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3-year Estimates	20,000+			2005-2007	2006-2008	2007-2009	2008-2010	2009-2011	2010-2012
5-year Estimates	All Areas					2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012

Data products are released in the year following the single-year or multi-year period in which data are collected.

ACS Release Schedule

- Aug. 28, 2007: ACS income, earnings and poverty data
- Sept. 12, 2007: ACS social, economic and housing characteristics, demographic and housing estimates, and Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) data
- Sept. 27, 2007: ACS group quarters and selected population profiles/tables

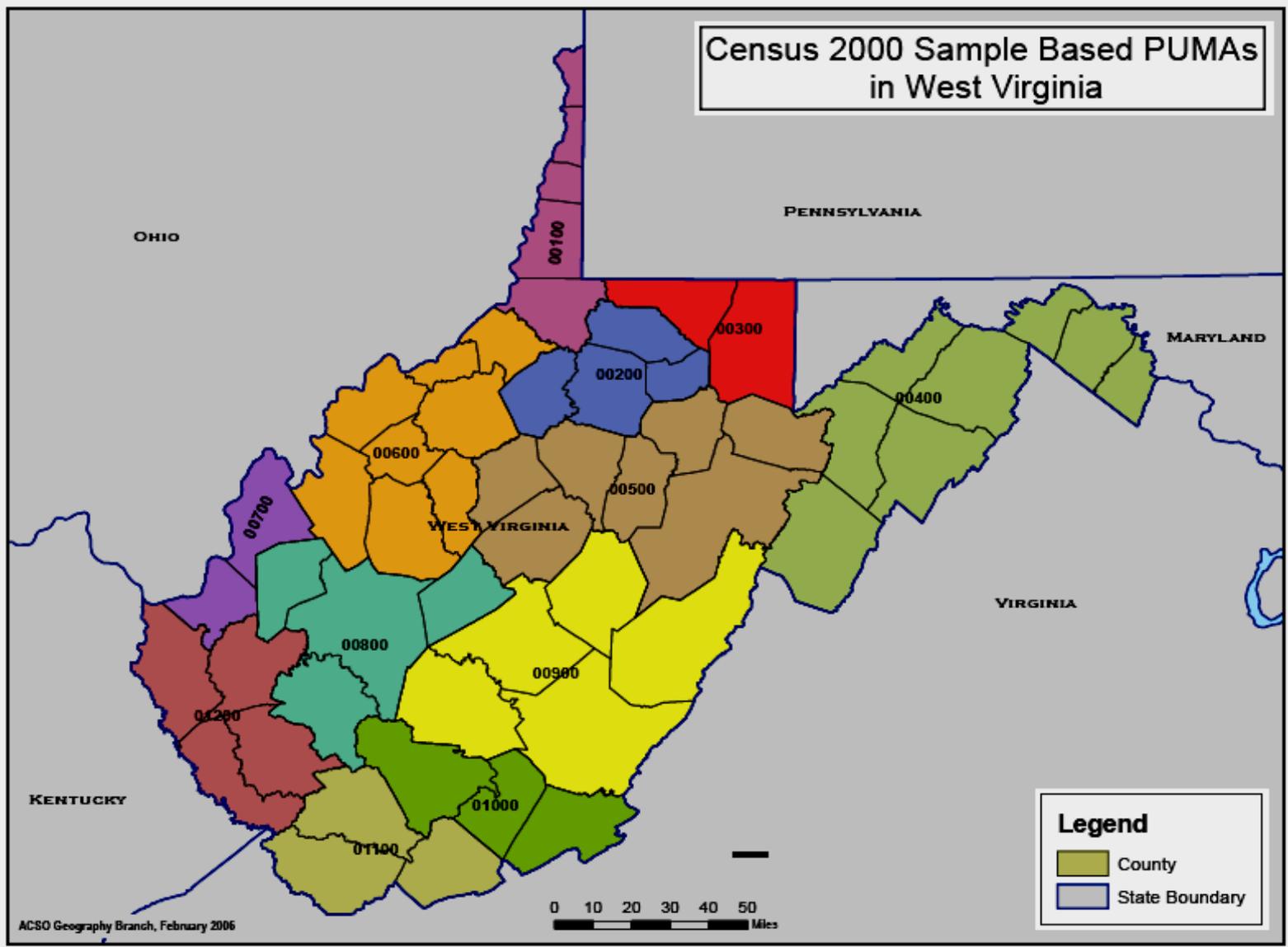
2006 Geographic Areas

Type of Legal, Administrative, or Statistical Area	Number included in 2006 ACS for the United States	Number included in 2006 PRCS for Puerto Rico	Percent of All Such Areas Covered in 2006
Nation	1	--	100%
States (including DC and Puerto Rico)	51	1	100%
Census Regions and Census Divisions	13	--	100%
Congressional Districts	436	1	100%
Urban/Rural State Components (excluding DC)	50	1	100%
Public Use Micro Data Sample Areas	2,068*	30	100%

2006 Geographic Areas

Type of Legal, Administrative, or Statistical Area	Number included in 2006 ACS for the United States	Percent of All Such Areas	Number included in 2006 PRCS for Puerto Rico	Percent of All Such Areas Covered in 2006
Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Combined Statistical Areas	630	59%	11	69%
Counties and <i>Municipios</i>	783	25%	12	15%
School Districts	922	8%	1	100%
Places	504	2%	7	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native Areas	17	3%	--	--
Minor Civil Divisions	187	1%	--	--
Other Geographic Areas	2,240	3%	23	53%

Census 2000 Sample Based PUMAs in West Virginia



ACS Data Products

- Detailed Tables
- Comparison Profile
- Single Year and Narrative Profiles
- Ranking Tables
- Public Use Microdata Sample Files (PUMS)
- Thematic Maps
- Subject Tables
- Selected Population Profiles
- Geographic Comparison Tables

Sampling Error

- Sampling error occurs when estimates are derived from a sample rather than a census of the population.
- Standard error is an estimate of the precision of the estimates.
- The margin of error describes the precision of the estimate for a given confidence level and standard error.
- Tools used to prevent incorrect conclusions

Detailed Tables (a.k.a. "Base Tables")

[Show Geographic Identifiers](#)
[Geo Components](#)
[Current Selections](#)

[Use the links above to change your results](#) |
 Options |
 [Print / Download](#) |
 [Related Items](#)

[C07204. RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO--STATE, COUNTY AND PLACE LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES](#)
[- Universe: POPULATION 1 YEAR AND OVER IN THE UNITED STATES](#)

View the [noncollapsed version of this table.](#)

	California		California Urban		California Rural	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	34,737,860	+/-11,738	32,397,858	+/-37,365	2,340,002	+/-33,841
Same house 1 year ago	29,082,579	+/-78,608				
Different house in United States 1 year ago:	5,353,304	+/-74,419				
Same city or town	2,121,726	+/-46,621				
Elsewhere:	3,231,578	+/-57,736				
Same county	1,751,106	+/-44,737				
Different county:	1,480,472	+/-38,362				
Same state	1,031,754	+/-36,723				
Different state:	448,718	+/-18,711				
Northeast	70,347	+/-8,341				
Midwest	74,443	+/-7,037				
South	143,536	+/-12,628				
West	160,392	+/-11,685				
Abroad 1 year ago:	301,977	+/-18,251				
Puerto Rico	494	+/-380				
Elsewhere	301,483	+/-18,254				

Geographic Components

Select a geographic type

State

Select one or more geographic components and click 'Add'.

Not a geographic component
 Urban
 Rural
 In metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area
 Not in metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area
 In metropolitan statistical area

Data Profiles

United States

General Demographic Characteristics: 2005 ?

Demographic - Sex and Age, Race, Relationship, Household by Type

[Social](#) - Education, Marital Status, Fertility, Grandparents...

[Economic](#) - Income, Employment, Occupation, Commuting to Work...

[Housing](#) - Occupancy and Structure, Housing Value and Costs, Utilities...

[Narrative](#) - Text profile with graphs for easy analysis...

General Demographic Characteristics: 2005	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total population	288,378,137	*****
SEX AND AGE		
Male	141,274,964	+/-20,305
Female	147,103,173	+/-20,305

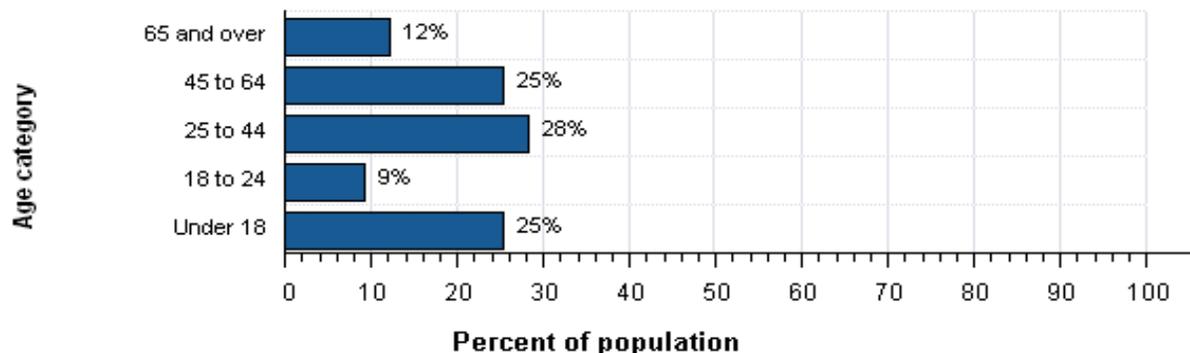
Under 5 years
5 to 9 years
10 to 14 years
15 to 19 years
20 to 24 years
25 to 34 years
35 to 44 years
45 to 54 years
55 to 59 years
60 to 64 years
65 to 74 years
75 to 84 years
85 years and over

United States

Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2005

POPULATION OF United States: In 2005, United States had a household population of 288.4 million - 147.1 million (51 percent) females and 141.3 million (49 percent) males. The median age was 36.4 years. Twenty-five percent of the population were under 18 years and 12 percent were 65 years and older.

The Age Distribution of People in United States in 2005



Ranking Tables

United States and States

R0103. Percent of the Total Population Who Are 65 Years and Over: 2005

Universe: Total population

The presence of a ■ indicates geographies whose estimates are **not** statistically significantly different from the estimate for the selected geography.

■ indicates the selected geography.

Rank	State	Percent	Margin of Error
1	Florida	16.6	+/-0.1
2	West Virginia	15.0	+/-0.1
3	Pennsylvania	14.6	+/-0.1
4	■ North Dakota	14.2	+/-0.1
5	■ Maine	14.1	+/-0.1
6	Iowa	14.0	+/-0.1
7	Hawaii	13.6	+/-0.1
7	Rhode Island	13.6	+/-0.1
7	South Dakota	13.6	+/-0.1
10	Arkansas	13.5	+/-0.1
11	Montana	13.3	+/-0.1
12	Connecticut	13.0	+/-0.1
12	Delaware	13.0	+/-0.1

Geographic Comparison Tables

| [Print / Download](#) | [Related Items](#)

United States -- Congressional District by State; and for Puerto Rico (109th Congress)
GCT0801. Mean Travel Time to Work of Workers 16 Years and Over Who Did Not Work at Home (Minutes): 2005
Universe: Workers 16 Years and Over Who Did Not Work at Home

Geographic area	Average	Margin of Error
United States	25.1	+/-0.1
Alabama	23.4	+/-0.3
District 1	23.7	+/-1.0
District 2	21.0	+/-0.6
District 3	22.0	+/-0.8
District 4	25.3	+/-0.8
District 5		
District 6		
District 7		
Alaska		
One District (At Large)		
Arizona		
District 1		
District 2		
District 3		
District 4		
District 5	21.8	+/-0.6
District 6	28.5	+/-0.6
District 7	23.0	+/-0.7
District 8	22.4	+/-0.6

Related Items [Explain my choices](#)

Show me

- Ranking Tables
- Subject Tables
- Selected Population Profile
- Thematic Maps
- Population and Housing Detailed Tables

about

- Commuting (Journey to Work)

Subject Tables

California

S1501. Educational Attainment

Subject	Total	Margin of Error	Male	Margin of Error	Female	Margin of Error
Population 18 to 24 years	3,324,585	+/-5,290	1,691,886	+/-3,680	1,632,699	+/-2,990
Less than high school graduate	20.4%	+/-0.5	23.1%	+/-0.7	17.6%	+/-0.6
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	33.4%	+/-0.7	35.2%	+/-0.8	31.5%	+/-0.8
Some college or associate's degree	38.2%	+/-0.6	35.3%	+/-0.8	41.3%	+/-0.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.0%	+/-0.3	6.5%	+/-0.4	9.7%	+/-0.4
Population 25 years and over	22,299,041	+/-5,730	10,862,709	+/-4,994	11,436,332	+/-3,514
No schooling completed	1.9%	+/-0.1	1.7%	+/-0.1	2.0%	+/-0.1
Nursery to 4th grade	1.9%	+/-0.1	2.0%	+/-0.1	1.9%	+/-0.1
5th and 6th grade	4.2%	+/-0.1	4.3%	+/-0.1	4.1%	+/-0.1
7th and 8th grade	2.5%	+/-0.1	2.4%	+/-0.1	2.5%	+/-0.1
9th grade	2.2%	+/-0.1	2.3%	+/-0.1	2.2%	+/-0.1
10th grade	1.9%	+/-0.1	1.9%	+/-0.1	1.9%	+/-0.1
11th grade	2.3%	+/-0.1	2.3%	+/-0.1	2.2%	+/-0.1
12th grade, no diploma	3.0%	+/-0.1	3.1%	+/-0.1	2.9%	+/-0.1
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	21.8%	+/-0.2	21.4%	+/-0.2	22.3%	+/-0.3
Some college credit, less than 1 year	6.4%	+/-0.1	5.8%	+/-0.1	7.1%	+/-0.1
Some college, 1 or more years, no degree	14.6%	+/-0.1	14.5%	+/-0.2	14.7%	+/-0.2
Associate's degree	7.7%	+/-0.1	7.2%	+/-0.1	8.1%	+/-0.1
Bachelor's degree	18.9%	+/-0.1	19.2%	+/-0.2	18.6%	+/-0.2
Master's degree	7.0%	+/-0.1	7.3%	+/-0.1	6.8%	+/-0.1
Professional degree	2.3%	+/-0.1	2.8%	+/-0.1	1.8%	+/-0.1
Doctorate degree	1.3%	+/-0.1	1.8%	+/-0.1	0.9%	+/-0.1

Selected Population Profiles

United States

S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States

Population Group: **Hispanic or Latino (of any race)**

Subject	Total population	Margin of Error	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Margin of Error
Total population	288,378,137	*****	41,870,703	+/-10,385
SEX AND AGE				
Male	49.0%	+/-0.1	51.2%	+/-0.1
Female	51.0%	+/-0.1	48.8%	+/-0.1

United States

S0103. Population 65 Years and Over in the United States

Subject	Total	Margin of Error	65 years and over	Margin of Error
Total population	288,378,137	*****	34,760,527	+/-15,554
SEX AND AGE				
Male	49.0%	+/-0.1	42.7%	+/-0.1
Female	51.0%	+/-0.1	57.3%	+/-0.1
Median age (years)	36.4	+/-0.2	74.4	+/-0.2
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN				
One race	98.1%	+/-0.1	99.3%	+/-0.1
White	74.7%	+/-0.1	85.3%	+/-0.1
Black or African American	12.1%	+/-0.1	8.3%	+/-0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8%	+/-0.1	0.5%	+/-0.1
Asian	4.3%	+/-0.1	3.2%	+/-0.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	+/-0.1	0.1%	+/-0.1
Some other race	6.0%	+/-0.1	1.9%	+/-0.1
Two or more races	1.9%	+/-0.1	0.7%	+/-0.1
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	14.5%	+/-0.1	6.4%	+/-0.1

Download 2005 PUMS Data

■ Select a data type, data format, and state. Click 'GO'.

Data Type

- Population Records
- Housing Records

Data Format

- CSV (comma separated values)
- PC SAS Data Set
- UNIX SAS Data Set

State

United States



GO

Documentation

- [Subjects available in PUMS files](#)
- [2005 PUMS top coded values](#)
- [2005 PUMS Code Lists](#)

[Ancestry](#)

CMSA (Note: CMSAs are not available on the ACS PUMS)

[Hispanic Origin](#)

[Industry](#)

[Language](#)

[Migration](#)

[Occupation](#)

[Place of Birth](#)

[Place of Work](#)

[Race 1 \(9 categories\)](#)

[Race 2 \(67 categories\)](#)

[Race 3 \(72 categories\)](#)

[State](#)

- [2005 PUMS Accuracy \(PDF - 411 KB\)](#)
- [2005 Data Dictionary \(PDF - 114 KB\)](#)

2005 User's Guide

DATA TABLES RANKING TABLES PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SURVEY BASICS USING THE DATA ADVANCED METHODOLOGY

Census > ACS Home > Using The Data > 2005 User's Guide

2005 User's Guide

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN 2005

Select a state

Go

[ACS 2005 Reference Maps](#)

Base Table Shells - by topic

[Age of Householder](#)
[Ancestry](#)
[Bedrooms](#)
[Citizenship Status](#)
[Class of Worker](#)
[Disability](#)
[Earnings](#)
[Educational Attainment](#)
[Employment Status](#)
[Fertility](#)
[Food Stamps](#)
[Foreign-Born Place of Birth](#)
[Grandparents](#)
[Heating Fuel](#)
[Hispanic Origin](#)
[Households and Families](#)
[Household Type and Household Size](#)
[Imputation](#)
[Income](#)

SELECTED PRODUCTS:

- [86 Ranking Tables](#)
- [Subject Tables](#)
- [Selected Population Profiles](#)
- [ACS Data User Training Guide](#)

FINDING BASIC DATA

Two easy steps to ACS data:

1. Go to the ACS page on the American FactFinder web site:
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program
2. Click on any of the data products on the lower right of the Webpage.

Data Products User's Guide from Previous Years:

[2004 User's Guide](#)

Document download

-- Download these documents and guides:

- [ACS 2005 Base Table Shells for August 15th Data Release](#) (xls)
- [ACS 2005 Base Table Shells for August 29th Data Release](#) (xls)
- [ACS 2005 Base Table Shells for October 3rd Data Release](#) (xls)
- [All ACS 2005 Base Table Shells](#) (xls) (Note: very large Spreadsheet file)
- [ACS 2005 Data Product Geographic Restriction](#) (xls)
- [ACS 2005 Geographical Areas](#) (xls)
- [ACS 2005 Overview](#) (pdf)
- [ACS at a Glance](#) (ppt)
- [ACS 2005 Release Schedule](#) (pdf)
- [ACS 2005 Table IDs](#) (xls)
- [ACS in American FactFinder Quick Guide](#) (pdf)
- [Instructions for Applying Statistical Testing to ACS Data](#) (doc)
- [SF3 detailed tables with comparable ACS tables](#) (xls)
- [Draft ACS Summary File Specification Comments due by October 31, 2006](#) (doc)

DATA TABLES RANKING TABLES PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SURVEY BASICS USING THE DATA ADVANCED METHODOLOGY

Census > ACS Home > Using the Data Main

Using the Data

Available in this Section

- Using the Data Main**
- [Understanding Change Profiles](#)
- [Subject Definitions](#)
- [Accuracy of the Data](#)
- [Quality Measures](#)
- [ACS Group Quarters](#)
- [Errata](#)
- [Geography Explanation](#)
- [Past Notices ACS](#)
- [Past Notices Suppl. Surveys](#)
- new!* [Guide to the ACS Data Products](#)
- new!* [Using Data from the 2005 ACS](#)
- new!* [ACS Data User Training Guide](#)

Section Overview

Each year we add new documentation to reflect changes in the survey or update the existing documents to help you understand the data better.

Subject Definitions

We have identified and defined 53 population variables, and 42 housing variables to help you understand the results of the American Community Survey. These [definitions](#) include information on how the data were collected and how they are presented in data products.

Accuracy of the Data

These documents provide data users with a basic understanding of the sample design, confidentiality, sampling error, nonsampling error, estimation methodology, and [accuracy of the data](#).

Errata

This section will keep you informed of any updates made to the data due to found [errors](#).

new! Guide to the ACS Data Products

This [online tool](#) allows users to obtain additional information about the 2005 data products. Users can obtain information about the set of published geographic areas within each state, lists of base tables by topic and lists of specific ranking tables, subject tables, and Selected Population Profiles. A variety of other links is available from this site with information about ACS data products.

Quality measures

2004 data now available!
The content in [quality measures](#) provides discussion and data tables at the state and national level on 4 key indicators of survey data quality -- response rates, coverage rates, sample size and allocation rates.

ACS Group Quarters

Definitions and Type Codes are now available!
The content in [ACS Group Quarters](#) provides the definitions and type codes that help users understand the scope of American Survey Group Quarters data collection.

Geography Notes

Looking for a definition of PMSA? The [geography notes](#) gives a brief explanation of the Census Bureau's geographic hierarchy and common terms as well as details on specific geographic areas presented in the American Community Survey data products.

new! Using Data from the 2005 ACS

This [handbook for users](#) covers a broad set of topics relating directly to the 2005 ACS. It covers the type of information produced from the ACS, including measures of quality that are critical for users to consider. Each of the specific data products is detailed in this guide, along with tips on how to access and interpret these data. A Spanish-language version of this guide is under development for the 2005 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

new! Using Data from the 2005 Puerto Rico Community Survey

This [handbook for users](#) that covers a broad set of topics relating directly to the 2005 Puerto Rico Community Survey. It is available in PDF format and can be downloaded for use as a reference document.

new! ACS Data User Training Guide

These materials [overview of the ACS](#), including background on the survey and detailed information about the specific data products. We have organized these training materials into PowerPoint presentations that include exercises.

Plans for 2007 Release of 2006 ACS GQ Data

- Total population in tables when appropriate
- GQ profiles for selected characteristics for the nation and some states
- GQ profiles by 7 major GQ types nationally

Proposed 2008 ACS Content Changes

- Short form items will be consistent with 2010 Census changes
- Other item changes will be based on the results of the 2006 ACS Content Test
- Three new questions may be added
- Seasonal Residence topic and Veteran Years of Service question will be deleted

Health Insurance Coverage

15

Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? Mark "Yes" or "No" for EACH type of coverage in items a-h.

- | | Yes | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. TRICARE or other military health care | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Indian Health Service | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan – Specify ↴ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Marital History

20 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get –

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Married? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Widowed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Divorced? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Separated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

21 How many times has this person been married?

- Once
- Two times
- Three or more times

22 In what year did this person last get married?

Year

Veteran's Service-connected Disability

27

a. Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?

- Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ... , 100%)
- No → *SKIP* to question 28

b. What is this person's service-connected disability rating?

- 0 percent
- 10 to 20 percent
- 30 to 40 percent
- 50 to 60 percent
- 70 percent or higher

For More Information

ACS Alert

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Special/Alerts.htm>

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