

# The American Community Survey: How Can I Access the Data?

GPO Interagency Depository Seminar

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U.S. Census Bureau

# What is the American Community Survey?

A large, continuous demographic survey

- Produces annual and multi-year estimates of the characteristics of the population and housing
- Produces *characteristics, not a population count*
- Produces information for small areas including tracts, block groups and population subgroups - updated every year
- Key component of reengineered 2010 census

# Effects of the American Community Survey on the 2010 Census

- Eliminate long-form
- Better knowledge of local areas
- Ongoing contacts with local governments
- Cost savings

# American Community Survey Program Schedule

- **ACS testing and development: 1996-2004**
- **ACS full implementation begins 2005**
- **First ACS data products, 2006; annually updated data products each year thereafter**

## Full Implementation

- Implement a national sample of about 3 million addresses in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native area, and Hawaiian Home Land in the United States, and in Puerto Rico
- Provide profiles every year for communities of 65,000 or more
- Provide 3- to 5-year cumulations for communities of less than 65,000 population

| Type of Data     | Population Size of Area       | Data for the Previous Year Released in the Summer of: |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|                  |                               | 2003  | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010+ |
| Annual estimates | ≥250,000                      | →   |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| Annual estimates | ≥65,000                       |   |      |      | →    |      |      |      |       |
| 3-year averages  | ≥20,000                       |   |      |      |      |      | →    |      |       |
| 5-year averages  | Census Tract and Block Group* |   |      |      |      |      |      |      | →     |

 Data reflect American Community Survey testing through 2004

\* Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county averaging about 4,000 inhabitants. Census block groups generally contain between 600 and 3,000 people. The smallest geographic level for which data will be produced is the block group; the Census Bureau will not publish estimates for small numbers of people or areas if there is a probability that an individual can be identified.

# American Community Survey Funding Update

- The President's budget request included \$165 million for full implementation of the ACS in FY '05.
- The Omnibus Appropriations Bill included \$146 million for ACS in FY '05.
- The President's budget request for FY '06 included \$169.9 million for ACS.

Your source for population, housing, economic, and geographic data

FACT SHEET

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BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

ABOUT THE DATA

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MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY

REFERENCE SHELF

TOOLS

Address Search...

Enter a [street address](#) to find Census 2000 data

- [Browser Notes](#)
- [Confidentiality](#)

Fast Access to Information



Get a **Fact Sheet** for your community...

city/town, county, or zip

state

[or select a state using a map >](#)

Getting Detailed Data

To learn about Data Sets, check out [About the Data](#).  
Expert user? Go directly to [Data Sets](#).

What's New

- Facts for Features: Presidential Election 2004. [more >](#)
- Federal domestic spending tops \$2 trillion in 2003. [more >](#)
- State and county population estimates released by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. [more >](#)
- Facts for Features: Halloween 2004 - October 31. [more >](#)  
[past items >](#)

Data in American FactFinder

The [Decennial Census](#) is taken every 10 years to collect information about the people and housing of the United States.

The [American Community Survey](#) - an ongoing survey that provides data about your community every year.

The [Economic Census](#) profiles the U.S. economy every 5 years.

The [Population Estimates Program](#) publishes population numbers between censuses.



U.S. Population Clock

1:54 pm EST Dec 14, 2004



294,973,501

real-time [population clocks](#)

In the Spotlight



**Quarterly Services Survey Economic Indicator** - The U.S. Department of Commerce releases the first results of the Quarterly Services Survey. [more >](#)

**2003 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance data** from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and data from the 2003 American Community Survey (ACS). [more >](#)

**2002 Economic Census data now available in American FactFinder** - 2002 Economic Census data are being released on a flow basis, as [Quick Reports](#) and [Detailed Statistics Data Sets](#).  
[past items >](#)

Special Interest

[Kids' Corner](#) - Learn fun facts about your state and take a quiz.

[Censo 2000 Puerto Rico](#) en español.

[American Indian and](#)



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FACT SHEET



[United States](#) | District of Columbia

District of Columbia



2000 2003

city/town, county, or zip  
  
 state  
 District of Columbia   
[search by address >](#)

2003 American Community Survey  
 Data Profile Highlights:

[Narrative Profile](#) | [Reference Map](#)

**Note:** The 2003 American Community Survey universe is limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.

[show upper and lower bounds >](#)



General Characteristics - [show more >>](#)

|  | Estimate | Percent | U.S.   |
|--|----------|---------|--------|
| Total population                           | 528,759  | 100.0   | 100.0% |
| Male                                       | 247,908  | 46.9    | 48.9%  |
| Female                                     | 280,851  | 53.1    | 51.1%  |
| <a href="#">Median age</a> (years)         | 35.7     | (X)     | 36.0   |
| Under 5 years                              | 33,362   | 6.3     | 7.0%   |
| 18 years and over                          | 421,268  | 79.7    | 74.3%  |
| 65 years and over                          | 63,347   | 12.0    | 12.0%  |
| One <a href="#">race</a> - Total           | 520,674  | 98.5    | 98.1%  |
| White                                      | 161,226  | 30.5    | 76.1%  |
| Black or African American                  | 311,611  | 58.9    | 12.1%  |
| American Indian and Alaska Native          | 2,469    | 0.5     | 0.8%   |
| Asian                                      | 16,847   | 3.2     | 4.1%   |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 484      | 0.1     | 0.1%   |

- FACT SHEET
- PEOPLE**
- HOUSING
- BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT
- ABOUT THE DATA
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- MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY
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- TOOLS

**Legend**

-  data profiles (view a single geography)
-  ranking tables (compare many geographies)
-  detailed tables

Main ► People

**PEOPLE**



## United States

city/town, county, or zip

state

[search by address >](#)

2000 2003

**2003 American Community Survey data:**

**Note:** Data are limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Basic Counts / Population</b> | <p><b>Total Population:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a>    <a href="#">2003 and prior years</a></p> <p><b>Sex and Age:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a>    <a href="#">2003 and prior years</a></p>   |
| <b>Aging</b>                     | <p><b>Age Groups:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a>    <a href="#">2003 and prior years</a></p> <p><b>Households with People Age 65 and Over:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a>    <a href="#">2003 and prior years</a></p> <p><b>Grandparents as Caregivers:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a>    <a href="#">2003 and prior years</a></p> |
| <b>Disability</b>                | <p><b>Disability Status:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a></p>   |
| <b>Education</b>                 | <p><b>Educational Attainment:</b><br/>  <a href="#">2003</a>    <a href="#">2003 and prior years</a></p>   |

## TOOLS

### Legend

-  data profiles  
(view a single geography)
-  ranking tables  
(compare many geographies)
-  detailed tables

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Basic Counts / Population</b> | <b>Total Population:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a><br><b>Sex and Age:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a>   |
| <b>Aging</b>                     | <b>Age Groups:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a><br><b>Households with People Age 65 and Over:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a><br><b>Grandparents as Caregivers:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a>  |
| <b>Disability</b>                | <b>Disability Status:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a>   |
| <b>Education</b>                 | <b>Educational Attainment:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a> <br><b>School Enrollment:</b><br> <a href="#">2003</a><br><b>Ranking of Percent of People with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher:</b><br> <a href="#">States</a>    <a href="#">Counties</a>    <a href="#">Places</a><br><b>Ranking of Percent of People who are High School Graduates or Higher:</b><br> <a href="#">States</a>    <a href="#">Counties</a>    <a href="#">Places</a> |

| <b>Selected Social Characteristics: 2003</b> | <b>Estimate</b> | <b>Lower Bound</b> | <b>Upper Bound</b> |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>                |                 |                    |                    |
| <b>Population 25 years and over</b>          | <b>612,594</b>  | <b>609,920</b>     | <b>615,268</b>     |
| Less than 9th grade                          | 23,709          | 17,935             | 29,483             |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma                | 25,700          | 21,072             | 30,328             |
| High school graduate (including equivalency) | 87,548          | 77,544             | 97,552             |
| Some college, no degree                      | 85,696          | 76,019             | 95,373             |
| Associate degree                             | 38,187          | 31,282             | 45,092             |
| Bachelor's degree                            | 166,296         | 157,423            | 175,169            |
| Graduate or professional degree              | 185,458         | 174,277            | 196,639            |
| Percent high school graduate or higher       | 91.9            | 90.7               | 93.2               |
| Percent bachelor's degree or higher          | 57.4            | 55.2               | 59.7               |
| <b>MARITAL STATUS</b>                        |                 |                    |                    |
| <b>Males 15 years and over</b>               | <b>339,766</b>  | <b>338,547</b>     | <b>340,985</b>     |
| Never married                                | 101,721         | 95,086             | 108,356            |
| Now married, except separated                | 209,637         | 202,034            | 217,240            |
| Separated                                    | 5,695           | 3,496              | 7,894              |
| Widowed                                      | 5,476           | 4,013              | 6,939              |
| Divorced                                     | 17,237          | 13,825             | 20,649             |
| <b>Females 15 years and over</b>             | <b>377,006</b>  | <b>375,788</b>     | <b>378,224</b>     |
| Never married                                | 98,184          | 91,837             | 104,531            |
| Now married, except separated                | 204,990         | 196,994            | 212,986            |
| Separated                                    | 9,174           | 6,334              | 12,014             |
| Widowed                                      | 28,559          | 24,918             | 32,200             |
| Divorced                                     | 36,099          | 30,632             | 41,566             |

TOOLS

Legend

- data profiles (view a single geography)
- ranking tables (compare many geographies)
- detailed tables

Basic Counts / Population

Total Population:

 [2003](#)

Sex and Age:

 [2003](#)

Aging

Age Groups:

 [2003](#)

Households with People Age 65 and Over:

 [2003](#)

Grandparents as Caregivers:

 [2003](#)

Disability

Disability Status:

 [2003](#)

Education

Educational Attainment:

 [2003](#)

School Enrollment:

 [2003](#)



Ranking of Percent of People with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher:

 [States](#) |  [Counties](#) |  [Places](#)

Ranking of Percent of People who are High School Graduates or Higher:

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## American Community Survey - Ranking Tables

You are here: [Main](#) ▶ [All Data Sets](#) ▶ [Ranking Tables](#) ▶ [Results](#)

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

### View this table...

for [states](#)

▶ for **counties**

for [places](#)

▶ from **2003**

from [2002](#)

[with statistical significance](#)

### View...

as a [chart](#)  
the [statistical significance](#) of this data (Excel format)

### Other tables...

[Select another ranking table](#)

- [Quality Measures](#)



### Counties within United States

Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree: 2003

Universe: Population 25 years and over  
2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables

NOTE: Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

| Rank ↓ | County ↓                 | Percent | Lower Bound | Upper Bound |
|--------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| 1      | Montgomery County, MD    | 57.4    | 55.2        | 59.7        |
| 2      | Fairfax County, VA       | 56.3    | 54.5        | 58.0        |
| 3      | Boulder County, CO       | 56.0    | 51.9        | 60.0        |
| 4      | Howard County, MD        | 54.6    | 50.3        | 58.8        |
| 5      | New York County, NY      | 52.3    | 50.9        | 53.8        |
| 6      | Washtenaw County, MI     | 50.5    | 47.2        | 53.9        |
| 7      | Johnson County, KS       | 50.4    | 47.5        | 53.2        |
| 8      | Collin County, TX        | 48.8    | 46.0        | 51.5        |
| 9      | San Francisco County, CA | 48.6    | 47.5        | 49.7        |
| 10     | Somerset County, NJ      | 48.2    | 44.8        | 51.6        |
| 11     | Middlesex County, MA     | 47.0    | 45.4        | 48.6        |
| 12     | Morris County, NJ        | 46.7    | 44.2        | 49.3        |
| 13     | Norfolk County, MA       | 46.6    | 44.1        | 49.2        |
| 14     | Wake County, NC          | 45.6    | 43.4        | 47.8        |
| 15     | DuPage County, IL        | 45.0    | 43.0        | 46.9        |
| 16     | Dane County, WI          | 44.6    | 42.2        | 47.0        |
| 17     | District of Columbia, DC | 44.2    | 43.0        | 45.3        |
| 18     | Santa Clara County, CA   | 44.1    | 42.5        | 45.7        |
| 19     | Westchester County, NY   | 43.9    | 41.9        | 46.0        |

## American Community Survey - Ranking Tables

You are here: [Main](#) | [All Data Sets](#) | [Ranking Tables](#) | [Results](#)

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### View this table...

for [states](#)

▶ for [counties](#)

for [places](#)

▶ from **2003**

from [2002](#)

[with statistical significance](#)

### View...

▶ as a **chart**

the [statistical significance](#) of this data (Excel format)

### Other tables...

[Select another ranking table](#)

### Legend

 upper bound estimate  
 lower bound



## Counties within United States

Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree: 2003

Universe: Population 25 years and over

2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables

NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

| County                   | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Montgomery County, MD    |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Fairfax County, VA       |    |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |
| Boulder County, CO       |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Howard County, MD        |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| New York County, NY      |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Washtenaw County, MI     |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Johnson County, KS       |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Collin County, TX        |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| San Francisco County, CA |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Somerset County, NJ      |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Middlesex County, MA     |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Morris County, NJ        |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Norfolk County, MA       |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Wake County, NC          |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| DuPage County, IL        |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Dane County, WI          |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| District of Columbia, DC |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |
| Santa Clara County, CA   |    |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |

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**Legend**

-  data profiles (view a single geography)
-  ranking tables (compare many geographies)
-  detailed tables



[United States](#) | [California](#) | Los Angeles County

## Los Angeles County, California

Los Angeles County

state

California

GO

[search by address >](#)

2000

2003

### 2003 American Community Survey data:

**Note:** Data are limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

#### Basic Counts / Population

##### Total Population:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

##### Sex and Age:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

#### Aging

##### Age Groups:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

##### Households with People Age 65 and Over:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

##### Grandparents as Caregivers:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

#### Disability

##### Disability Status:

 [2003](#)

#### Education

##### Educational Attainment:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

##### School Enrollment:

 [2003](#) |  [2003 and prior years](#)

##### Ranking of Percent of People with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher:

 [States](#) |  [Counties](#) |  [Places](#)

##### Ranking of Percent of People who are High School Graduates or Higher:

 [States](#) |  [Counties](#) |  [Places](#)



| Selected Social Characteristics   | 2003<br>Percent<br>Distribution | 2002<br>Percent<br>Distribution | 2001<br>Percent<br>Distribution | 2000<br>Percent<br>Distribution |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>   |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| <b>Population 25 years and over</b>   | <b>6,080,378</b>                | <b>5,997,256</b> *              | <b>5,783,724</b> *              | <b>5,754,558</b> *              |
| Less than 9th grade   | 14.68%                          | 14.66%                          | 13.95% *                        | 14.56%                          |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma   | 11.46%                          | 11.55%                          | 14.36% *                        | 14.36% *                        |
| High school graduate (including equivalency)                                    | 20.96%                          | 20.23%                          | 19.21% *                        | 19.60% *                        |
| Some college, no degree   | 19.06%                          | 20.34% *                        | 19.88% *                        | 19.34%                          |
| Associate degree  | 5.96%                           | 6.28%                           | 6.09%                           | 6.76% *                         |
| Bachelor's degree   | 18.27%                          | 18.02%                          | 17.40% *                        | 16.65% *                        |
| Graduate or professional degree   | 9.61%                           | 8.93% *                         | 9.11%                           | 8.73% *                         |
| Percent high school graduate or higher  | 73.9                            | 73.8                            | 71.7 *                          | 71.1 *                          |
| Percent bachelor's degree or higher   | 27.9                            | 27.0 *                          | 26.5 *                          | 25.4 *                          |
| <b>MARITAL STATUS</b>   |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| <b>Males 15 years and over</b>  | <b>3,625,667</b>                | <b>3,589,920</b> *              | <b>3,467,484</b> *              | <b>3,454,372</b> *              |
| Never married   | 38.15%                          | 38.55%                          | 37.89%                          | 37.85%                          |
| Now married, except separated   | 50.86%                          | 50.52%                          | 50.93%                          | 50.89%                          |
| Separated   | 1.97%                           | 2.00%                           | 1.95%                           | 2.40% *                         |
| Widowed   | 2.01%                           | 2.25%                           | 2.05%                           | 1.99%                           |
| Divorced  | 7.02%                           | 6.67%                           | 7.17%                           | 6.87%                           |
| <b>Females 15 years and over</b>  | <b>3,798,121</b>                | <b>3,758,194</b> *              | <b>3,641,946</b> *              | <b>3,633,988</b> *              |
| Never married   | 31.89%                          | 31.60%                          | 30.98%                          | 31.02%                          |
| Now married, except separated   | 46.15%                          | 45.82%                          | 47.20%                          | 46.73%                          |
| Separated   | 3.79%                           | 3.77%                           | 3.63%                           | 3.61%                           |
| Widowed   | 8.05%                           | 8.41%                           | 8.31%                           | 8.67% *                         |
| Divorced  | 10.13%                          | 10.40%                          | 9.89%                           | 9.97%                           |
| <b>FERTILITY</b>  |                                 |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| <b>Number of women 15 to 50 years old who had a birth in the past 12 months</b> | <b>125,270</b>                  | <b>151,784</b> *                | <b>144,526</b> *                | <b>173,282</b> *                |
| Unmarried women (widowed, divorced, and never married)                          | 35.75%                          | 26.71% *                        | 27.65% *                        | 35.05%                          |
| Per 1,000 unmarried women   | 33                              | 30                              | 32                              | 48 *                            |



### Data Sets

You are here: [Main](#) ▶ [All Data Sets](#)

[Load Query](#) | [Clear all selections](#)

■ Select a program

Decennial Census

American Community Survey

Economic Census and Surveys

Population Estimates



The American Community Survey is a way to provide the data communities need every year instead of once in ten years. It is an on-going survey that the Census Bureau plans will replace the long form in the 2010 Census. [more...](#)

#### Other Resources

- [American Community Survey Main Page](#)
- [Quality Measures](#)
- [Public Use Microdata Sample \(PUMS\)](#) - download data and view documentation

[i Explain Table and Map Formats](#)

#### 2003 2003 American Community Survey

The 2003 Summary Tables include estimates of demographic and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units for every state in the Nation, most areas with a population of 250,000 or more, and selected areas of 65,000 or more. The tables include housing units, both occupied and vacant.

#### 2002 2002 American Community Survey

The 2002 Summary Tables include estimates of demographic and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units for every state in the Nation, most areas with a population of 250,000 or more, and selected areas of 65,000 or more. The tables include housing units, both occupied and vacant.

[User Notice of Dropped Tables](#)

■ Select from the following options:

- [Data Profiles](#)
- [Multi-Year Profiles](#)
- [Ranking Tables](#)

- [Detailed Tables](#)
- [Reference Maps](#)

- [Enter a table number](#)
- [List all tables](#)

- [Download PUMS data](#)
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## Using the Data: Quality Measures

### Available in this Section

[Using the Data Main](#)

[Understanding Change Profiles](#)

[Subject Definitions](#)

[Accuracy of the Data](#)

#### Quality Measures

Sample Size:

[Data](#)  
[Definitions](#)

Coverage Rates:

[Data](#)  
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Response Rates:

[Data](#)  
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Item Allocation Rates:

[Data](#)  
[Definitions](#)

[Errata](#)

[Geography Explanation](#)

[Past Notices ACS](#)

[Past Notices Suppl. Surveys](#)

The quality measures provided in this section illustrate the steps the Census Bureau takes to ensure that ACS survey data are accurate and reliable.

1. **How large was the sample used to produce the ACS estimates?**

Sample Size:

[Sample Size Definitions](#)

2. **How well does the ACS cover the population?**

Coverage Rates:

[Coverage Rates Definitions](#)

3. **What was the response to the survey?**

Response Rates:

[Response Rates Definitions](#)

4. **How complete were the data used to produce a specific estimate?**

Item Allocation Rates:

[Item Allocation Rates Definitions](#)

The ACS produces survey data each year to measure key social, economic, and housing characteristics about the U.S. population. The four questions above identify four important aspects of survey quality. These quality measures are produced annually to accompany each ACS data release and describe the quality of those data. The quality measures are available at national and state levels. Clicking on "definitions" will provide additional information on each of these measures, including why the measure is important and how it was calculated.

# For More Information

**American Community Survey Web site**  
*([www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www))*

**Call us at: 1-888-346-9682**

**E-mail us at:**  
*[cmo.acs@census.gov](mailto:cmo.acs@census.gov)*

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