

# Overview of the American Community Survey (ACS)

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# About the U.S. Census Bureau

- The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency.
- The U.S. Census Bureau conducts more than 130 surveys and programs each year, including
  - **The Decennial Census** – the once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states and U.S. territories
  - **The American Community Survey** – the ongoing, annual survey of the social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics of the nation's population
  - **The Economic Census** – the official five-year measure of American businesses
  - **The Census of Governments** – identifies the scope and nature of the nation's state and local government sector
- Our mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.



# The American Community Survey

## Outline

- **American Community Survey (ACS) basics**
- ACS data products
- Resources for learning more


# The American Community Survey

## The Foundation

*The American Community Survey is on the leading edge of survey design, continuous improvement, and data quality*

- The nation's most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses and helps inform the distribution of hundreds of billions in federal funds each year
- Covers **40+ topics**, supports over **300** evidence-based federal government uses
- Three key annual data releases:
  - 1-year Estimates (for large populations, geographies of 65,000+ population)
  - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations, geographies of 20,000+ population)
  - 5-year Estimates (for very small populations, geographies down to Census Tracts and Block Groups)


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 **United States<sup>®</sup> Census Bureau** **The American Community Survey**


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**Start Here**


**You have two ways to respond:**

 Respond online today at:  
**<https://respond.census.gov/acs>**

OR

 Complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.

**Your response is required by law.**  
The American Community Survey is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. This survey is one of only a few surveys for which all recipients are required by law to respond. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information.

 **If you need help or have questions about completing this form, please call 1-800-354-7271.**

**Text Telephone (TTY):**  
Call 1-800-582-8330.

**¿NECESITA AYUDA?** Llame sin cargo alguno al 1-877-833-5625.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our website at:  
<https://www.census.gov/acs>

**Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form.** We will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

Last Name

First Name  MI

Area Code + Number  
  -

**How many people are living or staying at this address?**


- **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.

**Number of people**

**Fill out pages 2 – 7 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form.**

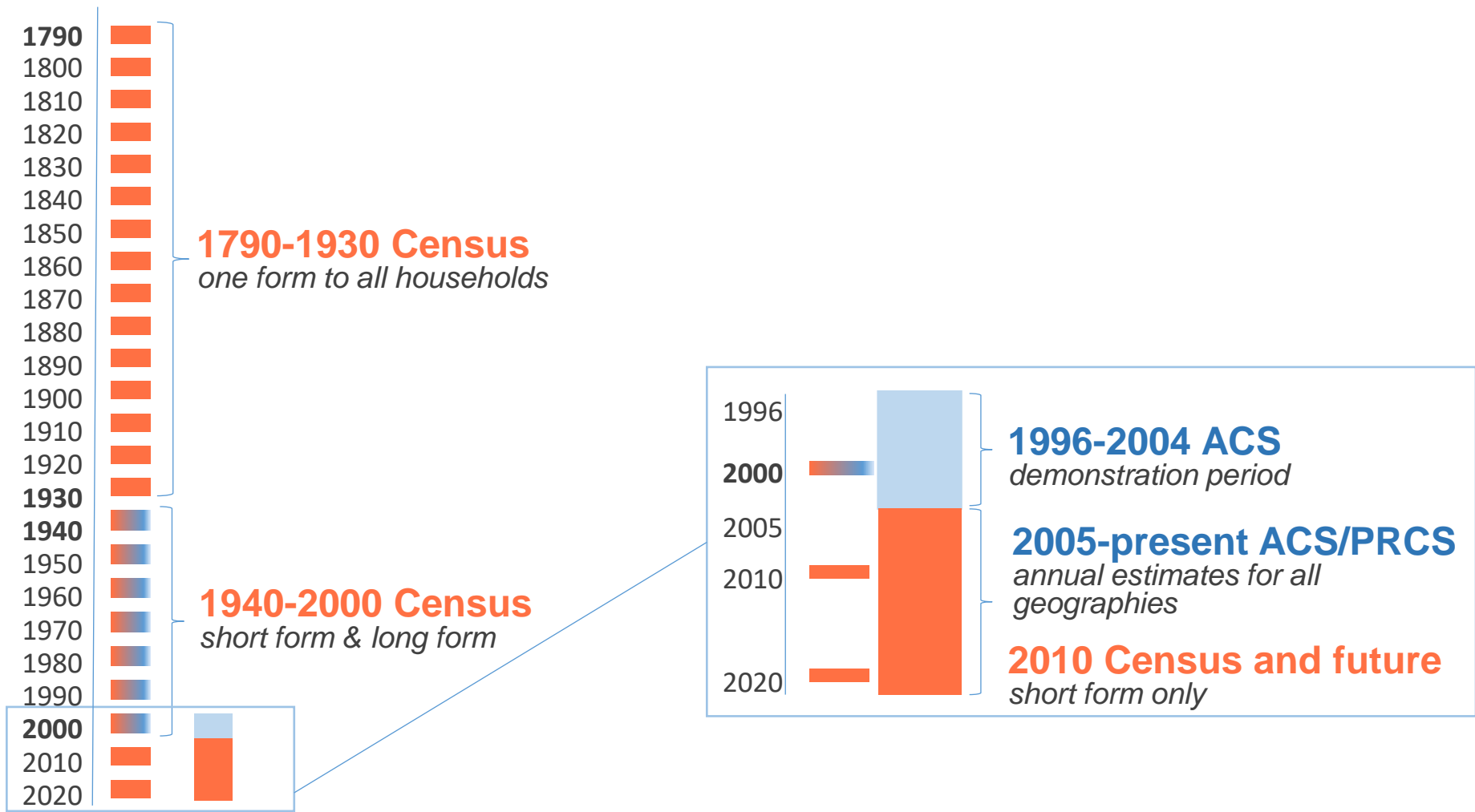
FORM **ACS-1(2021)**  
(5-18-2020)

OMB No. 0607-0810  
OMB No. 0607-0936



# The American Community Survey

## Census & ACS

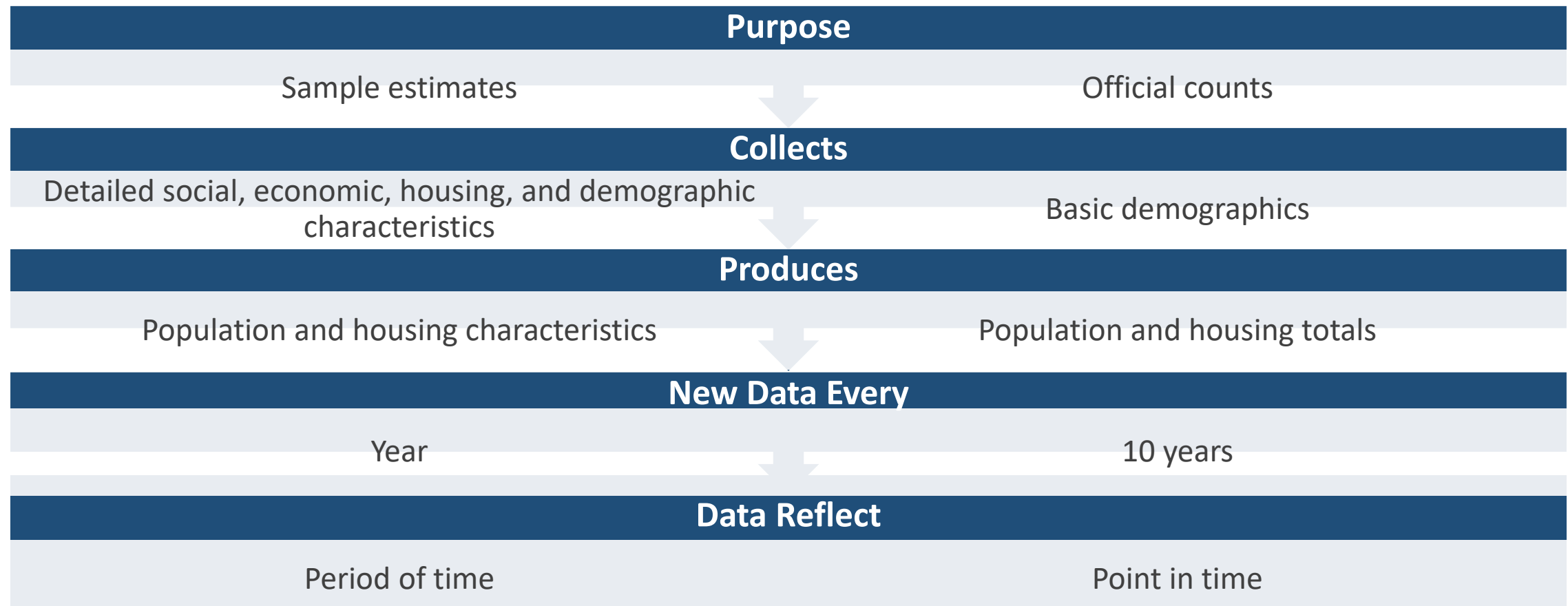


# The American Community Survey

## How is the American Community Survey Different From a Census?

ACS

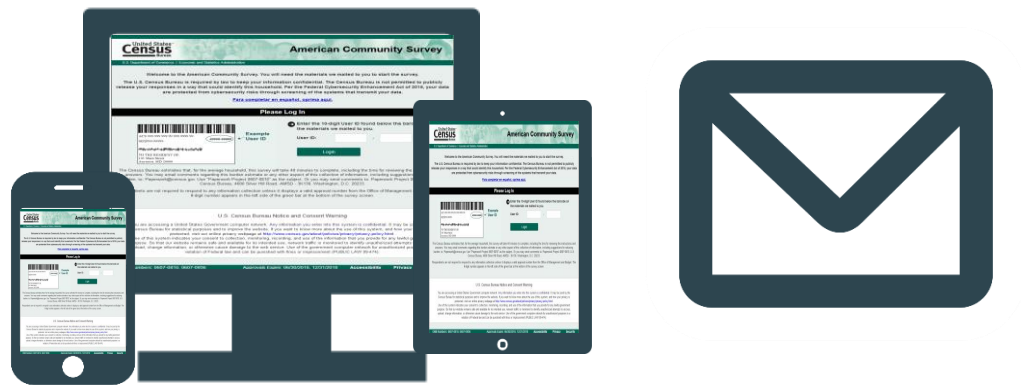
Census



# The American Community Survey

## Data Collection Process

### SELF-RESPONSE



### NONRESPONSE FOLLOWUP



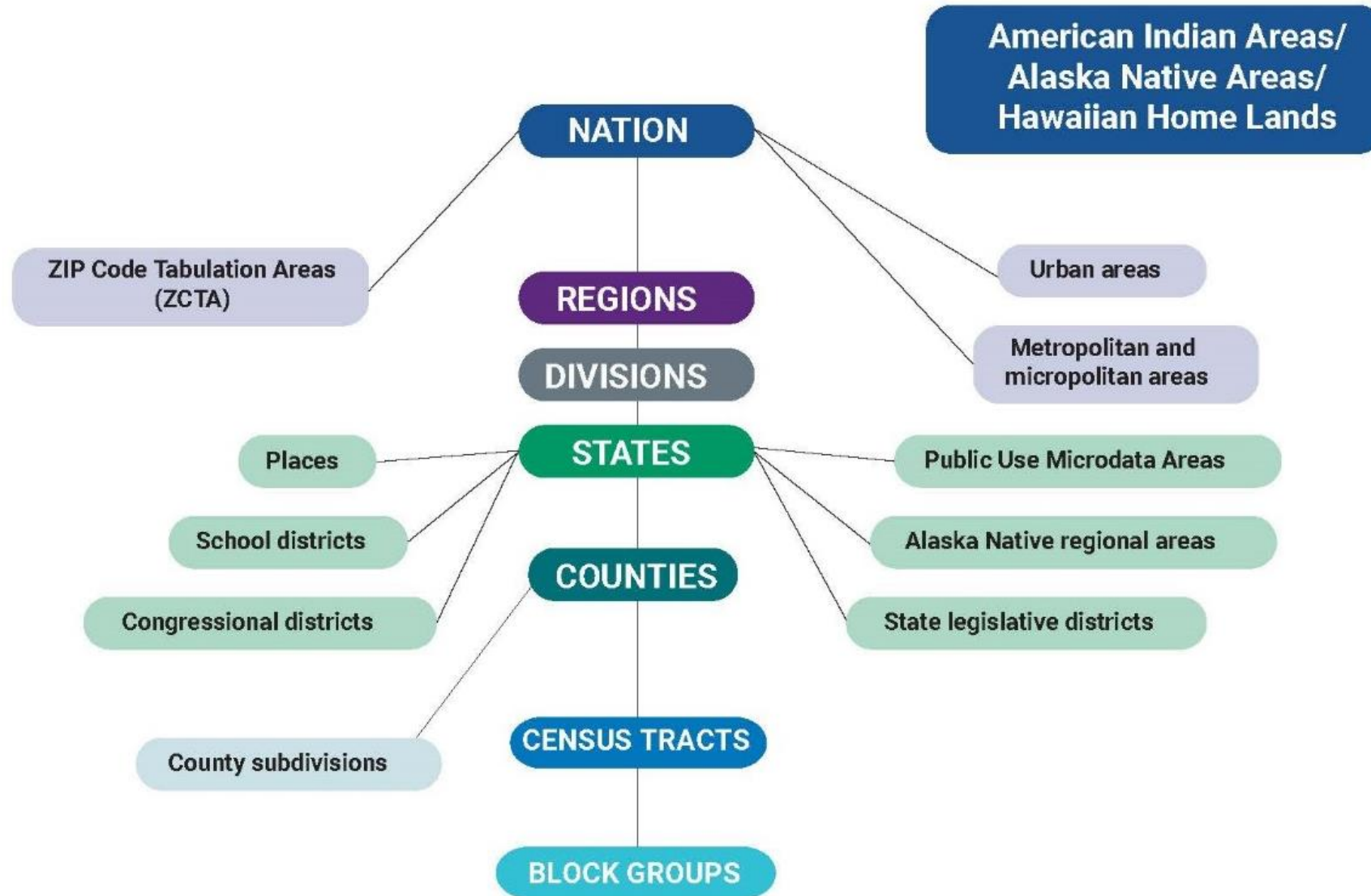
# The American Community Survey

## Content Overview

POPULATION		HOUSING
<b>SOCIAL</b> Ancestry Citizenship Citizen Voting Age Population Disability Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents Language Marital Status Migration School Enrollment Veterans	<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b> Age Hispanic Origin Race Relationship Sex	Computer & Internet Use Costs (Mortgage, Rent, Taxes, Insurance) Heating Fuel Home Value Occupancy Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities Structure Tenure (Own/Rent) Utilities Vehicles Year Built Year Moved In
	<b>ECONOMIC</b> Class of Worker Commuting Employment Status Food Stamps (SNAP) Health Insurance Income Industry & Occupation Weeks Worked	

# The American Community Survey

## Selected Census Geographic Concepts



# The American Community Survey

## Availability of Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	1-Year Supplemental Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Typical Release Month (Occurs in the calendar year after data collection)	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>December</b>

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- **ACS data products**
- Resources for learning more

# The American Community Survey

## Data Product Type: Profiles

### Description

- Offer a broad look at a community's social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics
- Generally include many different variables
- Geography or population group is at the center

### Types

- Data Profiles (DP)
- Comparison Profiles (CP)
- Selected Population Profiles (S0201)

# The American Community Survey

## Data Product Types: Tables

### Description

- A precise or detailed view of a subject
- Subject matter is at the center of the table

### Types

- Detailed Tables (B or C)
- Supplemental Table (K20)
- Subject Tables (S)
- Ranking Tables (R)
- Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)

# The American Community Survey

## Table/Profile Numbering

**B06004APR**

- B=Data Product Type (Base Table)
- 06=Subject (Place of Birth)
- 004=Sequential Number (2 or 3 digits)
- A=Race/Hispanic Origin (White Alone)
- PR=For Puerto Rico Geographies Only

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/data-tables/table-ids-explained.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/data-tables/table-ids-explained.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) Tables

- Created from ACS 5-year estimates starting with 2005-2009 ACS 5-year release
- Requested by Department of Justice (DOJ) for use in voting rights analysis
- Released annually
  - 2017-2021 ACS 5-year CVAP file released this week
- In CSV or SAS data set format

# The American Community Survey

## Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) Tables

### Data by Race/Hispanic Origin group for:

- Total population
- 18+ years old
- Citizens
- Citizens 18+ years old (CVAP)

### Geographic areas:

- Nation
- State
- Congressional District
- State Legislative District (Upper House & Lower House)
- County
- Place
- Minor Civil Division for 12 states
- Tract (citizens & CVAP)
- Block Groups (citizens & CVAP)

# The American Community Survey

## 2022 State Legislative Districts

- Four Data Profiles will be available for 2022 state legislative districts (SLDs) on March 16, 2023
- Provide snapshots of the social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics of SLDs
- Available through FTP site and web-based lookup tool
- Based on 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates
- 2022 ACS data release will use 2022 SLDs
- Similar tabulation for the new congressional districts was released last week


# The American Community Survey

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- ACS data products
- **Resources for learning more**

# The American Community Survey

## ACS Main Page



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# American Community Survey (ACS)

The [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation.

## Featured

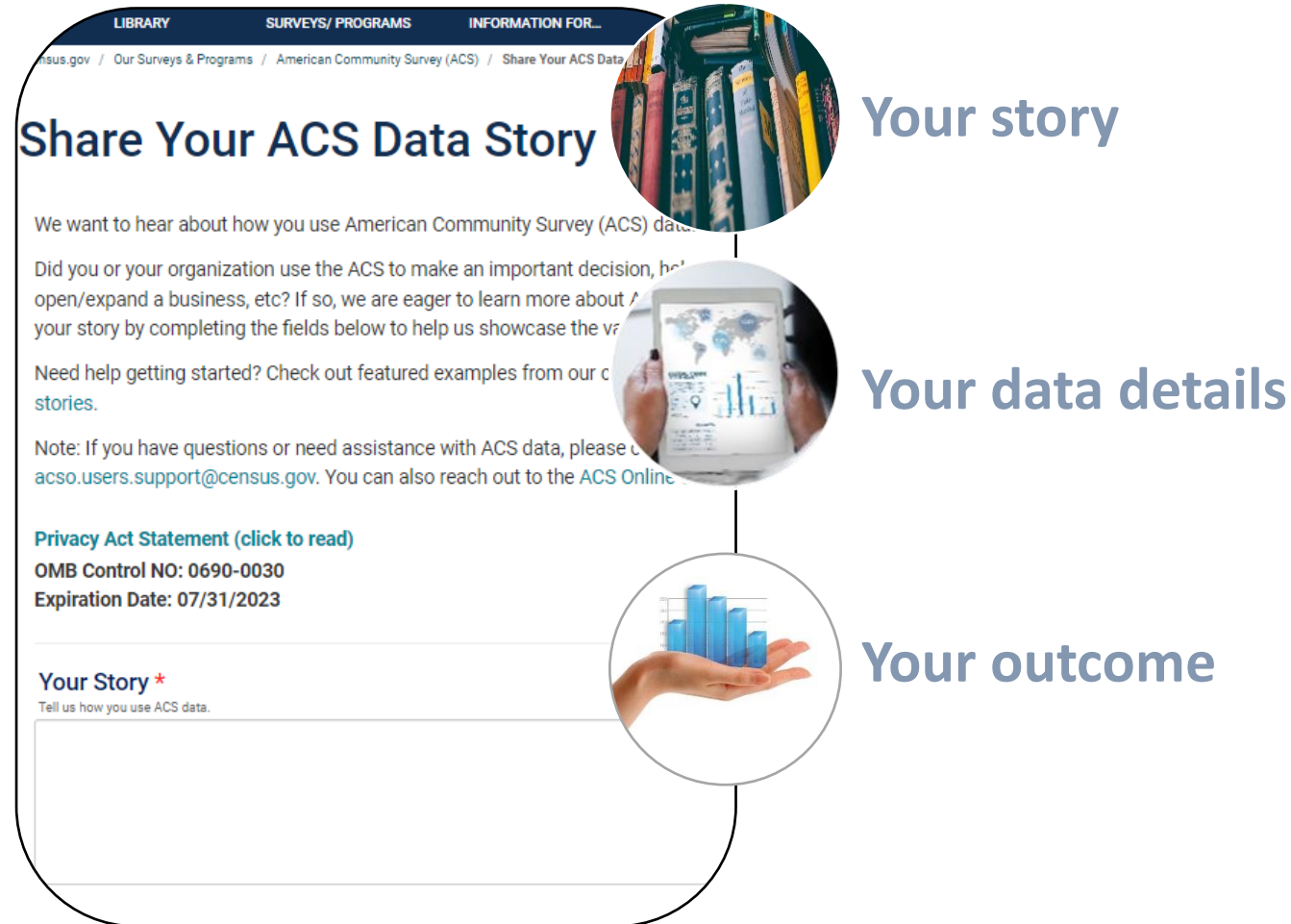
### Respond to the ACS

Learn the different ways to respond to the American Community Survey -- online, by phone, by email. Read our FAQs or call us for more help with the survey.



# The American Community Survey

## Data Tell Stories. Tell us Yours!



**Share Your ACS Data Story**

We want to hear about how you use American Community Survey (ACS) data.

Did you or your organization use the ACS to make an important decision, help open/expand a business, etc? If so, we are eager to learn more about it. Share your story by completing the fields below to help us showcase the variety of ways ACS data is used.

Need help getting started? Check out featured examples from our [data stories](#).

Note: If you have questions or need assistance with ACS data, please contact [acso.users.support@census.gov](mailto:acso.users.support@census.gov). You can also reach out to the ACS Online Helpdesk.

**Privacy Act Statement (click to read)**  
OMB Control NO: 0690-0030  
Expiration Date: 07/31/2023

**Your Story \***  
Tell us how you use ACS data.

**Your story**

**Your data details**

**Your outcome**



- Purpose:
  - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
  - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications.
- Includes users group website and online community
- ACS Data Users Conference
  - May 16-18, 2023
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users

[acsdatacommunity.prb.org](https://acsdatacommunity.prb.org)

# Data Dissemination and Training

- ✓ **Bring our data experts to you.**

Request a free data training for your organization.

- ✓ **Receive our Data Gems.**

These short “how-to” videos are an easy and quick way to increase your knowledge of Census data. Get them in your inbox!

- ✓ **Get access to our Courses.**

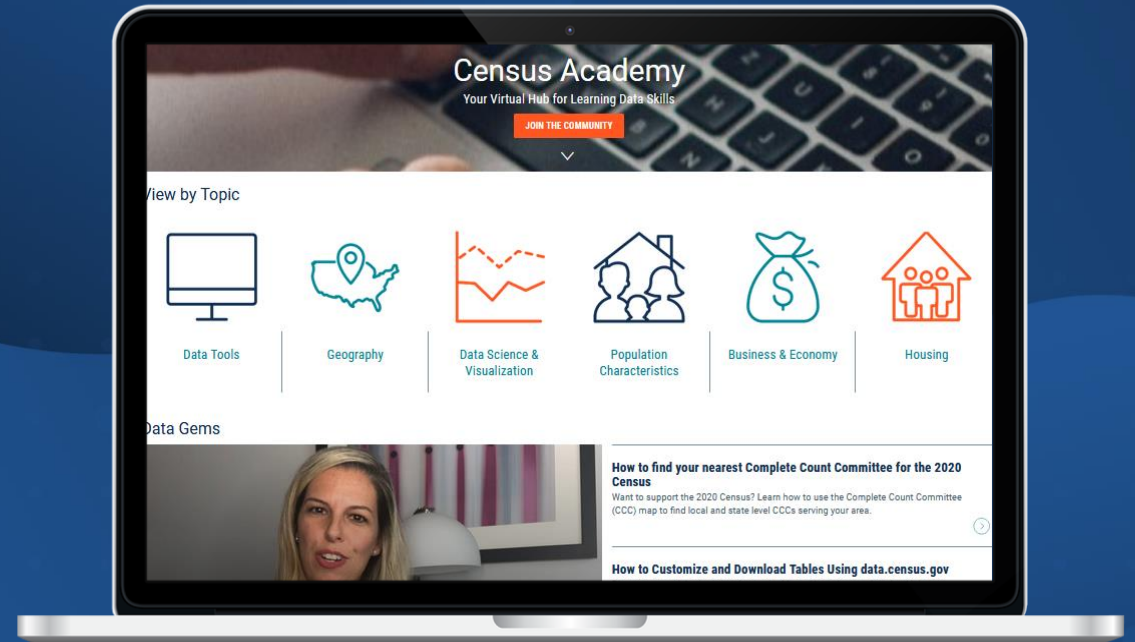
You will learn-at-your-own-pace with these video-tutorials designed for different skill levels.

- ✓ **Interact with our instructors via Webinars.**

Learn about our data releases and tools while attending these live virtual classes.



# Census.gov/Academy



**Contact us:**

[Census.askdata@census.gov](mailto:Census.askdata@census.gov)

1-844-ASK-DATA

*Share your ideas and feedback at  
[census.academy@census.gov](mailto:census.academy@census.gov)*

# The American Community Survey

## Continue the Conversation



### Website

census.gov/acs

### ACS User Support

acso.users.support@census.gov

### Census Customer Service Center

800-923-8282

### Email Alerts

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/12426>

### Social Media

@uscensusbureau  
#ACSdata

### Source Us

U.S. Census Bureau, [YYYY – YYYY] American  
Community Survey  
[1/5]-year [estimates/statistics/data release]