

### 1 Sample Description

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a part of the Decennial Census Program, and is designed to produce critical information about the characteristics of local communities. Implementation of the ACS has replaced the long-form in the U.S. Decennial Census, allowing for yearly measures of the American population once only available every ten years. The ACS publishes social, housing, and economic characteristics for demographic groups covering a broad spectrum of geographic areas in the United States and Puerto Rico. Measures available from these data include: demographic variables (e.g. sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin); social characteristics variables (e.g. marital status, fertility, grandparents caring for children); economic characteristics variables (e.g. employment status, income and benefits, and poverty status); and housing characteristics variables (e.g. housing tenure, utility costs, mortgage status). (Summary provided--in part--by the ACS via ICPSR).

### 2 Project Website

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

### 3 Years Covered

1996, 1997, & 1998:

*Limited states*

2000 & 2001:

*Limited to areas with a population size of 65,000+ in 31 designated comparison sites*

2002, 2003, & 2004:

*Every state, most areas with a population size of 250,000+, and selected areas of 65,000+*

2005 & 2006:

*Every state, most areas with a population of 65,000+*

2007, 2008, 2009, & 2010 1-year Estimates:

*Every state, areas with populations of 65,000+*

2005-2007, 2006-2008, 2007-2009, & 2008-2010 3-year Estimates:

*Every state, areas with populations of 20,000+*

2005-2009 & 2006-2010 5-year Estimates:

*Every state, including small geographic areas*

### 4 Longitudinal- No

### 5 Publicly Available

Yes, public data are available in a variety of formats from a variety of sources.

#### [American FactFinder:](#)

The Census Bureau publishes data in many forms (e.g. Data Profiles, Geographic Comparison Tables)

#### [Summary Files:](#)

Comma-delimited files containing all Detailed Tables produced from the ACS.

#### [Public Use Microdata Sample \(PUMS\)](#)

Population Records and Housing Records data are available from the U.S. Census in CSV and SAS formats.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/public\\_use\\_microdata\\_sample/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/public_use_microdata_sample/)

• [PUMS Files are also available via ICPSR. \\*Users must belong to a ICPSR member institution.](#)

• [PUMS Files are also available via the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series \(IPUMS\) USA](#)

#### [File Transfer Protocol \(FTP\) server](#)

The Census Bureau makes the Summary and PUMS data files available on their public access FTP server along with Data Tables and Table Shells.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/data\\_via\\_ftp/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_via_ftp/)

## 5 cont. [Custom Tabulations](#)

If you have specific questions that cannot be answered by using American FactFinder or the PUMS files, you can purchase custom tabulations of ACS data.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/custom\\_tabulations/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/custom_tabulations/)

## 6 Restricted Access Data Available

Yes. Currently ACS data for 1996-2009 are available via the Research Data Center (RDC).

<http://www.census.gov/ces/rdcresearch/index.html>

## 7 Web-Accessible Analysis

Yes, there is more than one option for on-line analysis of ACS data:

- [Data Ferrett](#)
- [Survey Documentation Analysis \(SDA\) software via ICPSR](#)  
(single year data files for 2004-2007, \*Users must belong to a ICPSR member institution to access ACS data.)
- [IPUMS Online Data Analysis System](#)  
(single year data file for 2001-2010; 3-year estimates data for 2005-2007, 2006-2008, and 2007-2009; 5-year estimates data for 2005-2009)

## 8 FAQ Page

<https://askacs.census.gov/>

## 9 Data Specific Bibliography

There is a Library site where users can view ACS papers, reports, and presentations by series, year and keyword.

[Collections- By Series](#)

[Collections- By Year](#)

[Collections- By Keyword](#)

There is also a searchable bibliography of data-related literature available via ICPSR at:

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/citations/index.jsp>

## 10 Data Citation (ICPSR)

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. American Community Survey (ACS): Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2008 [Computer file]. ICPSR29263-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2011-11-08. doi:10.3886/ICPSR29263.v1

## 11 List Serv/User Group/Help Line

There are numerous handbooks, tutorials, and training presentations available to ACS users at:

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance\\_for\\_data\\_users/guidance\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/guidance_main/)

You can also submit a question to the ACS support team at:

<https://askacs.census.gov/app/ask>

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### Suggested Citation:

National Center for Family & Marriage Research. (2012). Measures Snapshot: American Community Survey. Data Notes.

Retrieved from

<http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/pdf/measuresnapshot/Incarceration/ACS/file105548.pdf>

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