

American Community Survey Program Updates

Washington and Oregon SDC Meeting

October 24, 2023

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Outline

- Optimizing ACS Operations
- Ensuring Quality Content
- Engaging with Data Users
- Releasing Data

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Optimizing ACS Operations

Reducing Data Collection Costs

- Immediate need to focus on reducing rising field data collection costs
- ACS program is concentrating on short term implementation projects using administrative records and third-party data sources
 - To inform field data collection contact strategy
 - Operational decisions, such as when to decrease or stop field interview efforts

Current Projects

- Prioritizing Contacts by Geographic Area
- Predicting Vacancy Status
- Adapting Contact Efforts in the CAPI Workload

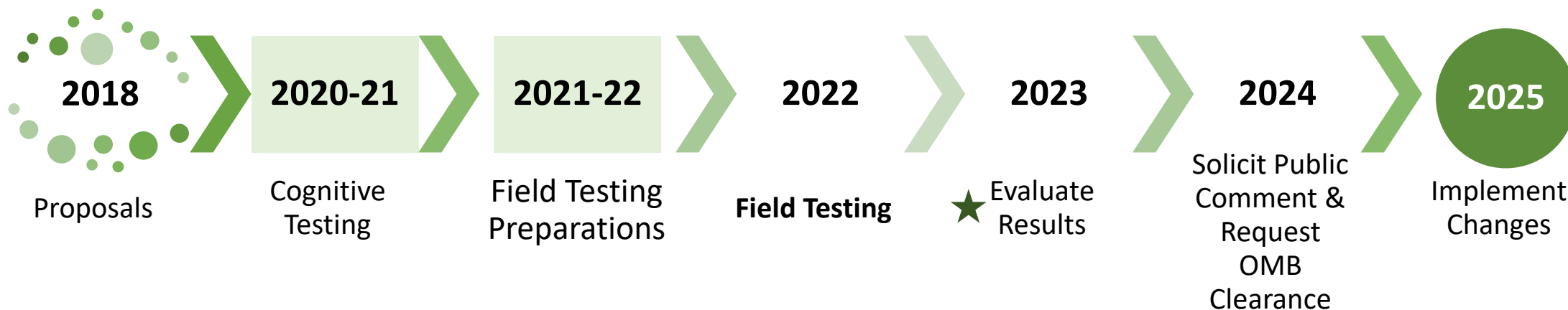
Future Projects

- Using administrative records to reduce respondent burden and improve the quality of ACS data
- Adding an internet self-response option to the group quarters data collection operation

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Ensuring Quality Content—2022 ACS Content Test

This test is conducted approximately every five years to improve quality of existing questions or test the addition of new questions.



Person Level Topics

- Household Roster
- Educational Attainment
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Disability
- Journey to Work*
- Income/Labor Force/SNAP

Housing Topics

- Sewer
 - Electric Vehicles
 - Solar Panels
 - Condo Fees*
 - Home Heating Fuel*
- } New Topics

*Not included in the field test

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Ensuring Quality Content — Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Research

The ACS received an FY23 appropriation of \$10 million to research adding questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) to the survey

The ACS SOGI test will have two components:

Cognitive Testing

- Focus on Spanish translation
- Will begin this fiscal year

Field Testing

- Focus on assessing (within household) proxy reporting
- Exploring testing placement, question wording
- Will test self-response; hoping to also test CAPI
- Field test will likely occur in 2024

Federal Register Notice: [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/09/19/2023-20256/agency-information-collection-activities-submission-to-the-office-of-management-and-budget-omb-for -](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/09/19/2023-20256/agency-information-collection-activities-submission-to-the-office-of-management-and-budget-omb-for-)

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Engaging with Data Users

Ways we communicate:

- ACS Data Users Group online community website and forum (4,500+ members)
- ACS Data Users Steering Committee (10-15 members selected every 3 years)
- ACS Data User Conferences (biennial)
- Public Webinars
- Presentations/exhibits at events across the country
- ACS website/data user resources
- Monthly e-mail updates to over 80,000 subscribers
- Social media marketing
- Ongoing support for respondents and data users via e-mail and phone calls
- Soliciting ACS data user stories and use cases



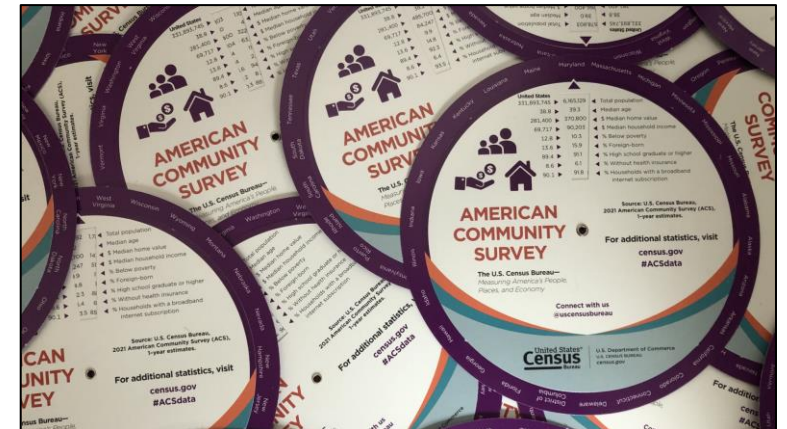
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Engaging with Data Users

The ACS program values your feedback and keeps data users in mind in all we do

2022 ACS Data Users Survey—Your feedback in action

- Promoting existing resources to a broader audience
- Developing an ACS GitHub
 - github.com/Census-ACS
- Exploring new events to reach new data users
- Feedback session between data users and data.census.gov staff



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Engaging with Data Users

New data user resources:

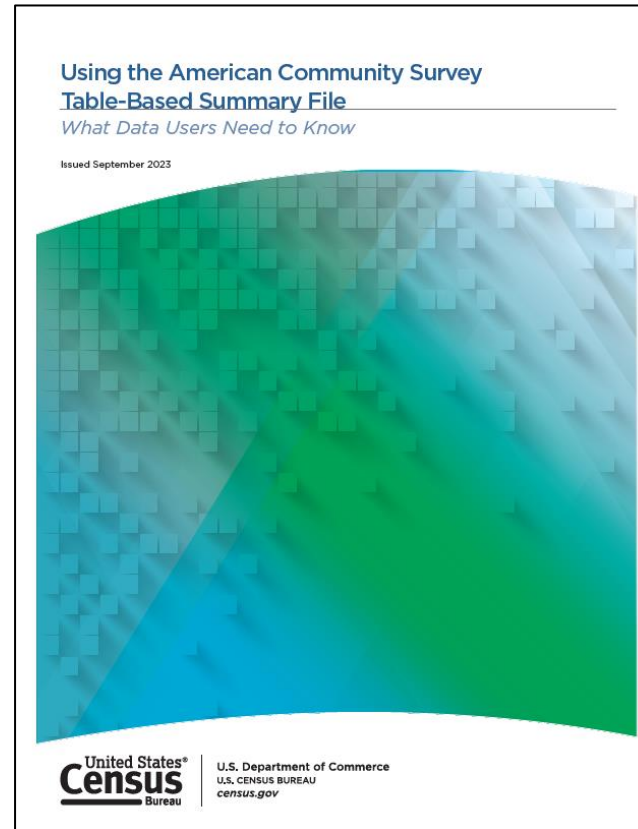
- **ACS course** – Discovering the American Community Survey
- **ACS videos** showcasing impactful uses of ACS data:
 - YMCA, Centre County Pennsylvania, National Grid
- **ACS webinars**
 - January 18 – Puerto Rico and the ACS
 - March 15 – Comparing the ACS to the AHS
 - April 19 – ACS and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Data
 - April 20 – Guiding Business Decisions
 - May 25 – Emergency Management
 - May 31 – American Indians and Alaska Natives and the ACS
 - June 29 – Housing and Real Estate
 - July 12 – Journalists and the ACS
 - July 27 – Race and Ethnicity
 - August 23 – Intro to the ACS
 - September 7 – 2022 ACS 1-Year Pre-Release



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Upcoming Products for Data Users

- New Table-Based Summary File handbook
- Overview flyer for novice data users
- New data wheels



American Community Survey (ACS)

The **American Community Survey (ACS)** is the premier source of detailed information about the nation's people and housing. It is an ongoing survey that provides vital information each year throughout the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Information from the survey generates data that help inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year.

The ACS is unique in its ability to produce estimates for a wide range of topics for multiple geographies including the nation, states, counties, American Indian Areas, Alaska Native Areas, Hawaiian Home Lands, and smaller areas such as census tracts and block groups.

What Topics Are Covered in the ACS?

The ACS covers a wide range of topics including social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics. Policymakers, business leaders, planners, and others nationwide rely on these data to make informed decisions.

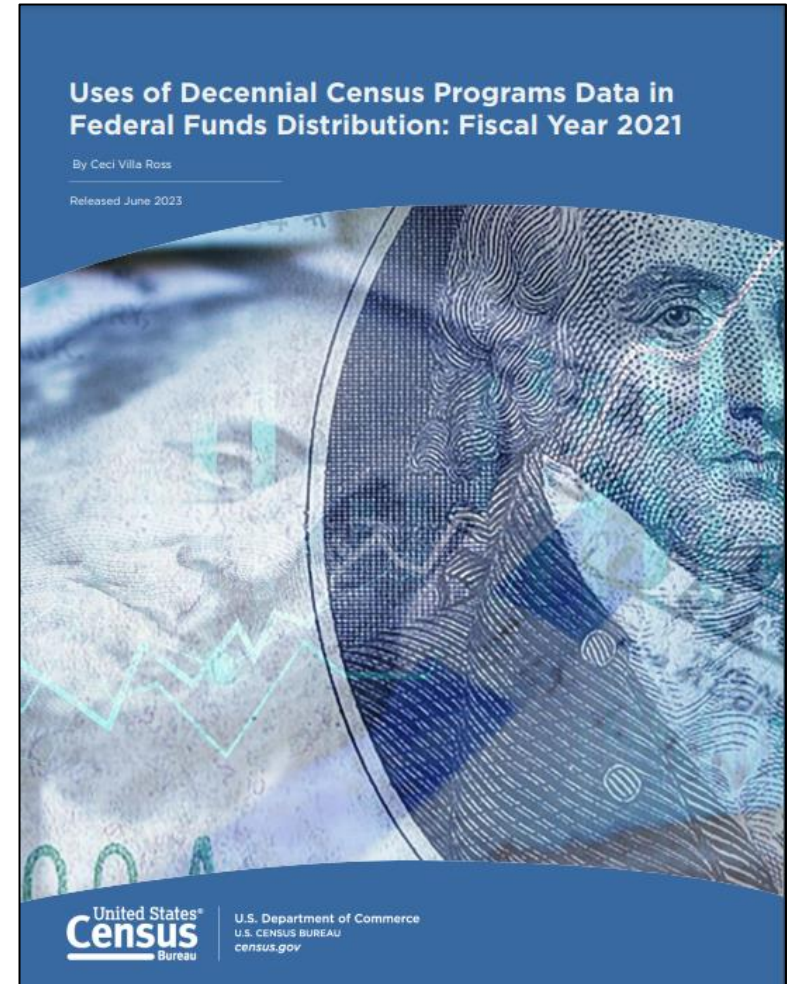
Social	Economic	Demographic	Housing
Ancestry Citizen Voting-Age Population Citizenship Status Disability Status Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents as Caregivers Language Spoken at Home Marital History Marital Status Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago Place of Birth School Enrollment Undergraduate Field of Degree Veteran Status; Period of Military Service Year of Entry	Class of Worker Commuting (Journey to Work) and Place of Work Employment Status Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Health Insurance Coverage Income and Earnings Industry and Occupation Poverty Status Work Status Last Year	Age Group Quarters Population Hispanic or Latino Origin Race Relationship to Householder Sex Total Population	Bedrooms Computer and Internet Use House Heating Fuel Kitchen Facilities Occupancy/Vacancy Status Occupants per Room Plumbing Facilities Rent Rooms Selected Monthly Owner Costs Telephone Service Available Tenure (Owner/Renter) Units in Structure Value of Home Vehicles Available Year Householder Moved Into Unit Year Structure Built

United States Census Bureau | U.S. Department of Commerce | U.S. CENSUS BUREAU | census.gov | connect with us on social media @uscensusbureau

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Federal Funds Distribution Report

- ACS data help inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year
- Your participation in the census, ACS, and other surveys can make a difference in the federal funding your community receives



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Recent Data Releases

2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates

- Press Kit: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2023/acs-1-year-estimates.html>
 - Pre-release webinar slides, recording and transcript
 - News Release (Sept. 14)
- New and Notable Page: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2022/release.html>

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Recent Data Releases

Selected Population Tables & the American Indian and Alaska Native Tables (SPT/AIANT)

- Released every five years and provides the greatest level of statistical detail for specific population groups
- Selected Population Tables
 - Available for selected race, Hispanic origin, tribal, and ancestry populations
- American Indian and Alaska Native Tables
 - Available for selected tribal populations
- The 2017-2021 ACS 5-year SPT/AIANT release provide estimates for 1,353 selected race, tribal, Hispanic origin, and ancestry groups -- including 1,058 individual tribal groups

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Planned Release Dates for the 2022 ACS Data Products

2022 ACS 1-Year Release

Data Products

Release

1-Year Pre-Release Webinar

September 7, 2023

1-Year Estimates Public Release

September 14, 2023

1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

October 19, 2023

1-Year Supplemental Estimates

October 19, 2023

2018-2022 ACS 5-Year Release

Data Products

Release

5-Year Estimates Public Release

December 7, 2023

5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

January 25, 2024

5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates

January 25, 2024

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ACS Geography Changes

- Boundary changes typically occur due to annexation, disincorporation, and geocoding updates
- Most ACS geographies reflect the 2020 Census boundary changes:
 - Census tract definitions and census designated places (updated in the 2016-2020 ACS 5-year)
 - Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) (updated in the 2017-2021 ACS 5-year)
 - Public Use Microdata Sample Areas (PUMAs) and Urban Areas (updated in the 2022 ACS 1-year)
- Other geography changes for the 2022 ACS data releases include:
 - 118th Congressional Districts
 - 2022 State Legislative District Boundaries
 - Connecticut counties replaced with 9 planning zones

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Geography Boundaries by Year

Legal Areas

Legally defined geographic areas used in the ACS are updated on an annual basis from a variety of programs, including: the [Boundary and Annexation Survey \(BAS\)](#), the [Redistricting Data Program](#) and the [School District Review Program](#).

Summary Level	Geographic Area	Vintage of Geographic Area for 2022 ACS Estimate Year
040	State and State Equivalent	January 1, 2022
050	County or equivalent (Alaska boroughs, Louisiana parishes, Puerto Rico municipios, independent cities)	January 1, 2022
County Subdivision		
067	Township, Minor Civil Division (MCD)/Barrio and Barrio-Pueblo	January 1, 2022
Place		
160	Incorporated Place	January 1, 2022

Statistical Areas

For **statistical areas**, boundary changes are mostly associated with updates from each decennial census. Statistical areas are designed to have stable boundaries over time.

Summary Level	Geographic Area	Vintage of Geographic Area for 2022 ACS Estimate Year
050	County Equivalent (Census Areas in Alaska)	January 1, 2022
County Subdivision		
060	Census County Division (CCD)	January 1, 2022
Place		
160	Census Designated Place (CDP)/Zona Urbana and Comunidad	January 1, 2022

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Comparison Guidance

Do	Do Not
Use ACS for population characteristics (i.e., percents, means, medians, rates)	Use ACS for population totals (instead use decennial census or the Population Estimates Program)
Compare similar period lengths (i.e., 1-year to 1-year and 5-year to 5-year)	Compare estimates from different period lengths (i.e., 1-year to 5-year)
Conduct statistical testing when making comparisons between estimates	Look at estimates alone to decide if they are higher or lower than one another
Compare across geographies and population subgroups using 2022 ACS	Expect ACS estimates to match decennial census counts or estimates from other surveys

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Find Answers, Get Support

Website

census.gov/acs

ACS Data User Support

acso.users.support@census.gov

Census Customer Service Center

800-923-8282

Census Academy

census.gov/academy

Social Media

@uscensusbureau

#ACSdata

Source Us

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