# Spec files as tools to maintain and extend ACS API queries

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Please ask about the PowerPoint version of this presentation so that the animations can assist you in understanding these tools fac23d@fsu.edu





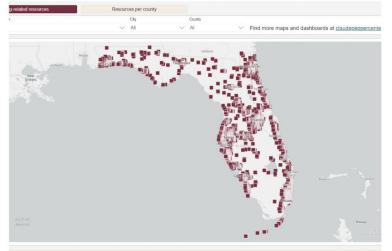
### Translational Data Platform





American Community Survey

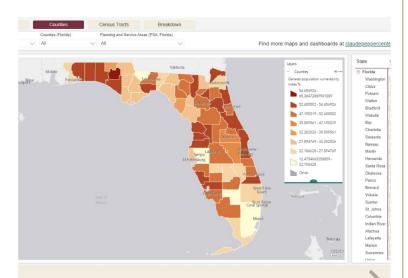
Explore select variables from 2018-2022 ACS related to age, education,



Aging and health resources in Florida

**Discover institutions and private** companies related to aging and

healthcare in Florida for year 2023



# General Population Vulnerability Index

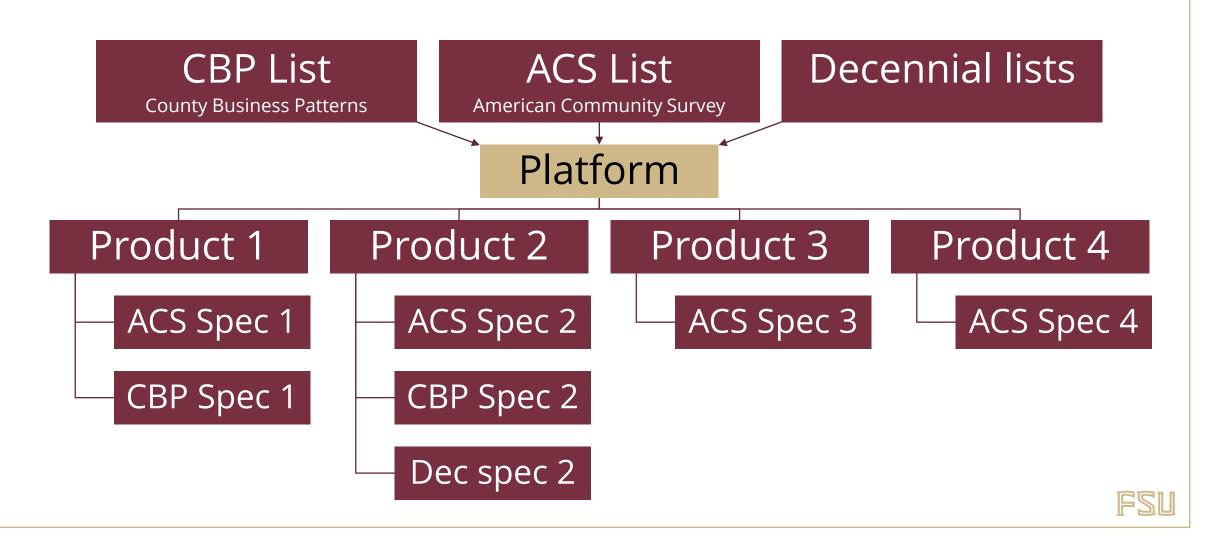
Estimate the needs of people of all ages based on poverty, minority, living

alone, and lacking services





### **Translational Data Platform**



## Objectives of this presentation











# Efficient team communication

- Surveys
- Variables
- Universe

# Accurate labels, grouping

- Age groups,
- Race
- Income

# Accurate upgrades

- Add variables
- Relabel
- Remove

#### Versioning

- New ACS releases
- New product releases
- Corrections
- Errata

#### **Automation**

- Reuse
- Low maintenance



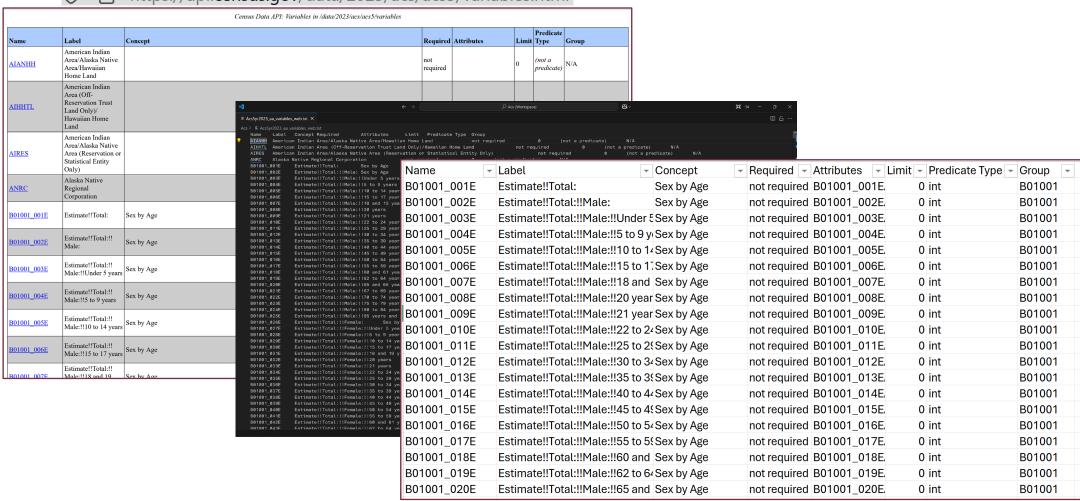
# Tools

ACS List

ACS Spec



https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5/variables.html









#### 2023 ACS Table List

Name	Label	Concept		Requi	ired Attributes L			
	American Indian						Table ID	Table Universe
<sup>4</sup> C		D	E	F	G	Н		
ept	-	Required -	Attributes -	Limit - Pr	edicate Type -	Group	B05002	Total population
y Age			B01001_001E		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	B01001	B05003	Total population
			_				B05003A	People who are White alone
y Age		not required	B01001_002E	0 int	t	B01001	B05003B	People who are Black or African American alone
y Age		not required	B01001_003E	0 int	t	B01001	B05003C	People who are American Indian and Alaska Native alone
y Age		not required	B01001_004E	0 int	t	B01001	B05003D	People who are Asian alone
y Age		not required	B01001_005E	0 int	t	B01001	B05003E	People who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
							B05003F	People who are Some Other Race alone
							B05003G	People who are Two or More Races

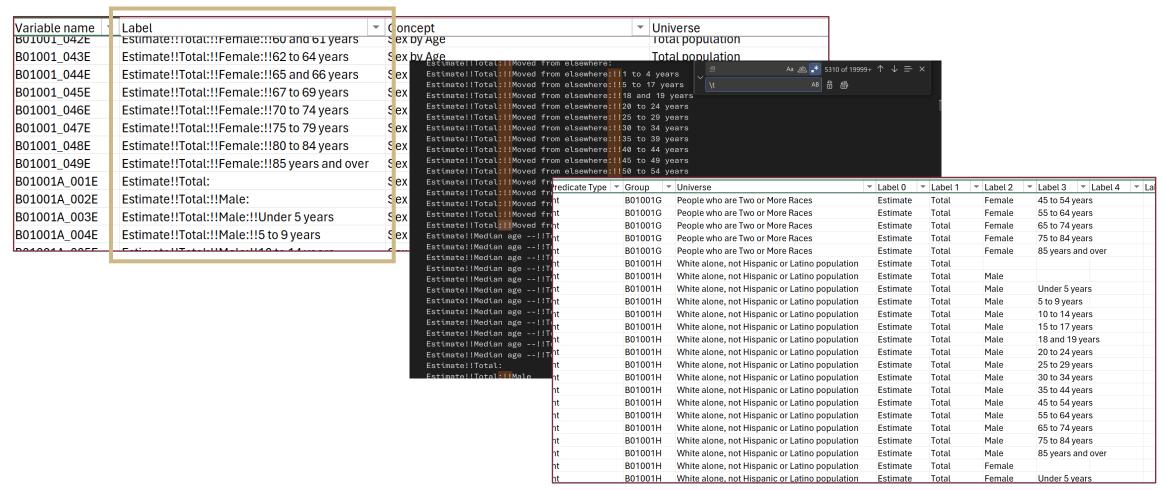
Census Data API: Variables in /data/2023/acs/acs5/variables

#### Join: VLOOKUP()

Variable name	Label	•	Concept	OHIVEISE
R01001_045F	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!60 and 61 years		Sex by Age	rotal population
B01001_043E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!62 to 64 years		Sex by Age	Total population
B01001_044E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!65 and 66 years		Sex by Age	Total population
B01001_045E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!67 to 69 years		Sex by Age	Total population
B01001_046E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!70 to 74 years		Sex by Age	Total population
B01001_047E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!75 to 79 years		Sex by Age	Total population
B01001_048E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!80 to 84 years		Sex by Age	Total population
B01001_049E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!85 years and over	ſ	Sex by Age	Total population
B01001A_001E	Estimate!!Total:		Sex by Age (White Alone)	People who are White alone
B01001A_002E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:		Sex by Age (White Alone)	People who are White alone
B01001A_003E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!Under 5 years		Sex by Age (White Alone)	People who are White alone
B01001A_004E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!5 to 9 years		Sex by Age (White Alone)	People who are White alone









### **Summary: ACS List**

- List of variables in the ACS, each variable listed with:
  - Table from which the variable comes from,
  - Universe for the variable,
  - Labels ready to use
- List is ready to use in all products

redicate Type	▼ Group	Universe	▼ Label 0	▼ Label 1	▼ Label 2	▼ Label 3 ▼ Label 4 ▼
nt	B01001G	People who are Two or More Races	Estimate	Total	Female	45 to 54 years
nt	B01001G	People who are Two or More Races	Estimate	Total	Female	55 to 64 years
nt	B01001G	People who are Two or More Races	Estimate	Total	Female	65 to 74 years
it	B01001G	People who are Two or More Races	Estimate	Total	Female	75 to 84 years
nt	B01001G	People who are Two or More Races	Estimate	Total	Female	85 years and over
nt	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total		
nt	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	
nt	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	Under 5 years
nt	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	5 to 9 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	10 to 14 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	15 to 17 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	18 and 19 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	20 to 24 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	25 to 29 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	30 to 34 years
t	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	35 to 44 years
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	45 to 54 years
t	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	55 to 64 years
t	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	65 to 74 years
t	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	75 to 84 years
t	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Male	85 years and over
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Female	
it	B01001H	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino population	Estimate	Total	Female	Under 5 years



# Tools

**ACS List** 

ACS Spec



# **ACS Spec**

Variable name   = 'Label	Required   Attributes   Limit   P		and 0 - Subra 1 - 4 money Total street fold 1 money Total 1						
B01001_005E	Age group	Variable name 🔻	Label	Universe ▼	Label 0 🔻	Label 1 🔻	Label 2 ▼	Label 3	Lat
B01001_009E	All Ages	B01001_001E	Estimate!!Total:	Total population	Estimate	Total			
B01001_014E   Estimatef  Total:     Main:	60 years and over	B01001_018E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!60 and 61 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	60 and 61 years	
B01001_018E	60 years and over	B01001_019E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!62 to 64 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	62 to 64 years	
B01001_023E   Estimate!  Total:  Mate:! 175 to 79 years   Sex by Age	60 years and over	B01001_020E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!65 and 66 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	65 and 66 years	
B01001_027E	60 years and over	B01001_021E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!67 to 69 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	67 to 69 years	
B01001_031E   Estimatedl'Total:Hirenatedl'116 and 19 years   Sex by Age	60 years and over	B01001_022E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!70 to 74 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	70 to 74 years	
B01001_036E	60 years and over	B01001_023E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!75 to 79 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	75 to 79 years	
Bolloti_040E EstimatellTotal:HTernatellSto to 54 years Sex by Age Bolloti_042E EstimatellTotal:HTernatellSto 59 years Sex by Age Bolloti_042E EstimatellTotal:HTernatellSto and 61 years Sex by Age Bolloti_043E EstimatellTotal:HTernatellSto 64 years Sex by Age Bolloti_043E EstimatellTotal:HTernatellSto 64 years Sex by Age	60 years and over	B01001_024E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!80 to 84 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	80 to 84 years	
B01001_045E	60 years and over	B01001_025E	Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!85 years and over	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	85 years and ove	er 💮
B01001_049E	60 years and over	B01001_042E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!60 and 61 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	60 and 61 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_043E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!62 to 64 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	62 to 64 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_044E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!65 and 66 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	65 and 66 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_045E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!67 to 69 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	67 to 69 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_046E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!70 to 74 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	70 to 74 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_047E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!75 to 79 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	75 to 79 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_048E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!80 to 84 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	80 to 84 years	
	60 years and over	B01001_049E	Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!85 years and over	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	85 years and ove	r

ACS Spec is the selection of rows from the ACS List that go into a product





### **Spec-based Automation**

#### Instead of

https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=B01001\_001E,B01001\_017E,B01001\_018E,B01001\_019E,.....

- Build query URL: Text.Combine(Table.Column(Spec, "Variable name"))
- Apply labels to the downloaded data: Table.Join(Dataset.Long, Spec, "Variable name")
- Group data: Table.Group(Labeled.Data, "Age group")

Age group -	Variable name 👻	Universe
All Ages	B01001_001E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_018E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_019E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_020E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_021E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_022E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_023E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_024E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_025E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_042E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_043E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_044E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_045E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_046E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_047E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_048E	Total population
60 years and over	B01001_049E	Total population



# Add, regroup, relabel, remove variables

#### **ACS List**

	Concept Sex by Age	* Required	* Attributes	T Limit Predica	te Type - Group		verse it poputation							
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	not required	B01001_014EA, B01001_014M, B01001_014 B01001_015EA, B01001_015M, B01001_015		B0100		l population							
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	not required	B01001_015EA, B01001_015H, B01001_018 B01001_016EA, B01001_016M, B01001_018	5MA 0 int	B0100		il population							
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	not required not required	B01001_017EA, B01001_017M, B01001_017 B01001_018EA, B01001_018M, B01001_018		B0100		l population							
B01001_019E Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!62 to 64 years	Sex by Age	not required	B01001_019EA, B01001_019M, B01001_019	9MA 0 int	B0100	001 Total	l population							
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	not required not required	B01001_020EA, B01001_020M, B01001_020 B01001_021EA, B01001_021M, B01001_021		B0100		l population						$\Lambda \Gamma$	School
B01001_022E Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!70 to 74 years	Sex by Age	not required	B01001_022EA, B01001_022M, B01001_022	2MA 0 int	B0100	001 Total	l population						$\mathbf{A}$	SSpec
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	not required not required	B01001_023EA, B01001_023M, B01001_023 B01001_024EA, B01001_024M, B01001_024		B0100		l population Il population						, , , ,	
B01001_025E Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!85 years and over	Sex by Age	not required	B01001_025EA, B01001_025M, B01001_025	5MA 0 int	B0100	001 Total	l population							-
B01001_027E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!Under 5 years \$	Sex by Age Sex by Age	not required	B01001_026EA, B01001_026M, B01001_026		B0100	JUI Iota	l population							
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	Age group		Variable nam	ie L	₋abel				Universe	Label 0	Label 1	Label 2	Label 3 Lal
B01001_030E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!15 to 17 years	Sex by Age			D01001 001		:	-+-IIT-+	_1.		Tatal manulatian	Cation at a	Takal		
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	All Ages		B01001_001		-sum	ate!!Tot	aı:		Total population	Estimate	Total		
B01001_033E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!21 years	Sex by Age Sex by Age	55 to 59 ye	are	B01001_017	F F	etim	ateUTot	al·IIMale·	!!55 to 59 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	55 to 59 years
B01001_035E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!25 to 29 years	Sex by Age								•					
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_018	E E	Estim	ate!!Tot	al:!!Male:	!!60 and 61 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	60 and 61 years
B01001_038E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!40 to 44 years \$	Sex by Age								•					-
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_019	t t	stim	iate!!Tot	al:!!Male:	!!62 to 64 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	62 to 64 years
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_020		etim	atellTot	al·IIMala·	!!65 and 66 years	Total population	Ectimate	Total	Male	65 and 66 years
B01001_043E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!62 to 64 years S	Sex by Age	oo years ar	id over			_511111	iate::Tot	atnate.	::05 and 00 years	Total population	Latimate	Totat	Mate	oo and oo years
	Sex by Age Sex by Age	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_021	E E	stim	ate!!Tot	al:!!Male:	!!67 to 69 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	67 to 69 years
B01001_046E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!70 to 74 years	Sex by Age								•					•
B01001_048E Estimate!!Total:!!Female:!!80 to 84 years	Sex by Age Sex by Age	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_022	E E	-stim	iate!!Tot	al:!!Male:	!!70 to 74 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	70 to 74 years
	Sex by Age Sex by Age (White Alone)	60 years at	ad over	D01001 022		Ectim	atallTat	al·IIMala·	!!75 to 79 years	Total population	Ectimata	Total	Male	75 to 79 years
B01001A_002E Estimate!!Total:!!Male:	Sex by Age (White Alone)	60 years ar	iu ovei	B01001_023		2511111	iate::Tot	al.::Male.	1175 to 79 years	Total population	Estimate	TOtal	Male	75 to 79 years
	Sex by Age (White Alone) Sex by Age (White Alone)	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_024	F F	stim	ateUTot	al:!!Male:	!!80 to 84 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	80 to 84 years
	Sex by Age (White Alone) Sex by Age (White Alone)								•					
B01001A_007E Estimate!!Total:!!Male:!!18 and 19 years	Sex by Age (White Alone)	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_025	E E	∃stim	iate!!Tot	al:!!Male:	!!85 years and over	Total population	Estimate	Total	Male	85 years and over
	Sex by Age (White Alone) Sex by Age (White Alone)	EE to EO vo	oro	B01001_041	F 5	otim	otallTat	al:IIEama	le:!!55 to 59 years	Total population	Fatimata	Total	Famala	EE to EO voore
	Sex by Age (White Alone) Sex by Age (White Alone)	55 to 59 ye	ais	D01001_041		2511111	iate::Tot	al.!!rema	te.!!55 to 59 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	55 to 59 years
BUTUUTA_UTTE Estimate::Tutat.::Mate:::35 to 44 years	Sex by Age (Writte Atorie)	60 years ar	nd over	B01001_042	F F	stim	ateUTot	al:!!Fema	le:!!60 and 61 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	60 and 61 years
		-							•					-
		60 years ar	nd over	B01001_043	E E	Estim	iate!!Tot	al:!!Fema	le:!!62 to 64 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	62 to 64 years
		60 voore or	ad over	D01001 044		otim	otallTat	al·IIEama	lo:IICE and CC years	Total population	Estimata	Total	Fomolo	GE and GG vacro
		60 years ar	iu ovei	B01001_044		2511111	iate::Tot	al.::rema	le:!!65 and 66 years	Total population	Estimate	TOTAL	Female	65 and 66 years
		60 years ar	nd over	B01001_045	F F	stim	ateUTot	al·IIFema	le:!!67 to 69 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	67 to 69 years
									•					•
		60 years ar	nd over	B01001_046	E E	Estim	iate!!Tot	al:!!Fema	le:!!70 to 74 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	70 to 74 years
									-			Total	Comple	•
		60 years ar	iu over	B01001_047		sum	iate!!10t	at.!!rema	le:!!75 to 79 years	Total population	Esumate	Total	Female	75 to 79 years
		60 years ar	nd over	B01001_048	F F	stim	ateUTot	al·IIFema	le:!!80 to 84 years	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	80 to 84 years
		-							-					-
		60 years ar	nd over	B01001_049	E E	Estim	iate!!Tot	al:!!Fema	le:!!85 years and over	Total population	Estimate	Total	Female	85 years and over
									•					
I control of the cont						_								



### **Automation**

Instead of https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=B01001\_001E,B01001\_001E,.....

- Debug the code: Inspect the query URL
- Combine with other datasets into the product
- Reuse the code in future versions of the product



### Advantages

- No guesswork in choosing, labeling, or reviewing variables
- Automated labeling, grouping, consolidation of datasets after any change is introduced
- Code can be replicated from product to product
- Same code for states, counties, places, tracts, ucgid
- Your API work can be audited, shared, interpreted by your team

### Disadvantages

- Code that consolidates datasets needs to be custom-built and maintained
- Errors in grouping or labeling can become too obscure
- Manual intervention is still required to address differences between ACS versions.



#### **Thank You**

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# Example download joined with ACS spec

× ✓ fx	= Fun_join_careful(Acs_county	_state_api_raw, Acs_variable_spec_prune, Cst_variable	e_name, "Join spec verifica	tion")			✓ PROPERTIES
1.2 COUNTYID	A <sup>B</sup> C Variable name	▼ 1 <sup>2</sup> 3 People in this group	ıp → A <sup>B</sup> C Output table	▼ A <sup>B</sup> C Concept	→ A <sup>B</sup> C Group	→ A <sup>B</sup> C Universe	Name
	12001 B01001_001E	281751 All Ages	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_county_state_byagegroup
	12003 B01001_001E	28186 All Ages	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	All Properties
	12005 B01001_001E	181368 All Ages	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	▲ APPLIED STEPS
	12001 B01001_017E	5900	null BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs variable spec prune
	12003 B01001_017E	674	null BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	➤ Acs_county_state_join
	12001 B01001_018E	3218 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_county_state_select_ro
	12003 B01001_018E	393 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_county_state_group_c
	12001 B01001_019E	4329 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_county_state_group
	12003 B01001_019E	601 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_byagegroup_add_cou
	12001 B01001_020E	2279 65 to 69 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_byagegroup_add_acs_
	12003 B01001_020E	239 65 to 69 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	Acs_byagegroup_prune
	12001 B01001_021E	4029 65 to 69 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	AcsAgid_byagegroup_con
	12003 B01001_021E	547 65 to 69 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	AcsAgid_byagegroup_out
	12001 B01001_022E	5267 70 to 74 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12003 B01001_022E	483 70 to 74 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12001 B01001_023E	3172 75 to 79 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12003 B01001_023E	301 75 to 79 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12001 B01001_024E	2136 80 to 84 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12003 B01001_024E	304 80 to 84 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12001 B01001_025E	1820 85 years and over	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12003 B01001_025E	62 85 years and over	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	_
	12001 B01001_041E	7244	null BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	<b>-</b> ■
	12003 B01001_041E	1026	null BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12001 B01001_042E	3171 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12003 B01001_042E	222 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12001 B01001_043E	4817 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12003 B01001_043E	364 60 to 64 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
	12001 B01001_044E	3111 65 to 69 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	
9	12003 B01001_044E	232 65 to 69 years	BYAGEGROUP MINORITY	Sex by Age	B01001	Total population	

#### **Thank You**

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