

Data Products Demonstrations: Five Tips for Using the ACS Website

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The American Community Survey

The Introduction to the ACS Webinar and Discovering the ACS Course


**Introduction to the
American Community Survey (ACS)**

August 28, 2024

Charles Gamble
American Community Survey Office

Slides are available at census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2024/intro-to-the-accs.html

This webinar is being recorded. The recording will be available after the webinar.



 Module 1: Introduction to the American Community Survey
**Introduction to the
American Community Survey (ACS)**

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Mary Leisenring,
U.S. Census Bureau

Vicki Mack,
U.S. Census Bureau

Watch on  YouTube

census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2024/intro-to-the-accs.html

census.gov/data/academy/courses/discovering-the-american-community-survey.html

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Outline

- **Top 5 things**
 1. **Distinction between Pre-Tabulated Data and Microdata**
 2. **Data Products ONLY available from census.gov/acs**
 3. **Code Lists & Subject Definitions**
 4. **Table Lists**
 5. **Comparing ACS Data**
- **Presentations on data.census.gov, MDAT, and API**

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Top 5 Things: #1 – Distinction between Pre-Tabulated Data and Microdata

Profiles

- Profiles contain the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data

Profiles Include:

- Data Profiles (DP)
- Comparison Profiles (CP)
- Selected Population Profiles (S0201), and
- Narrative Profiles

Tables

- Tables offer a precise or detailed view of a subject

Tables Include:

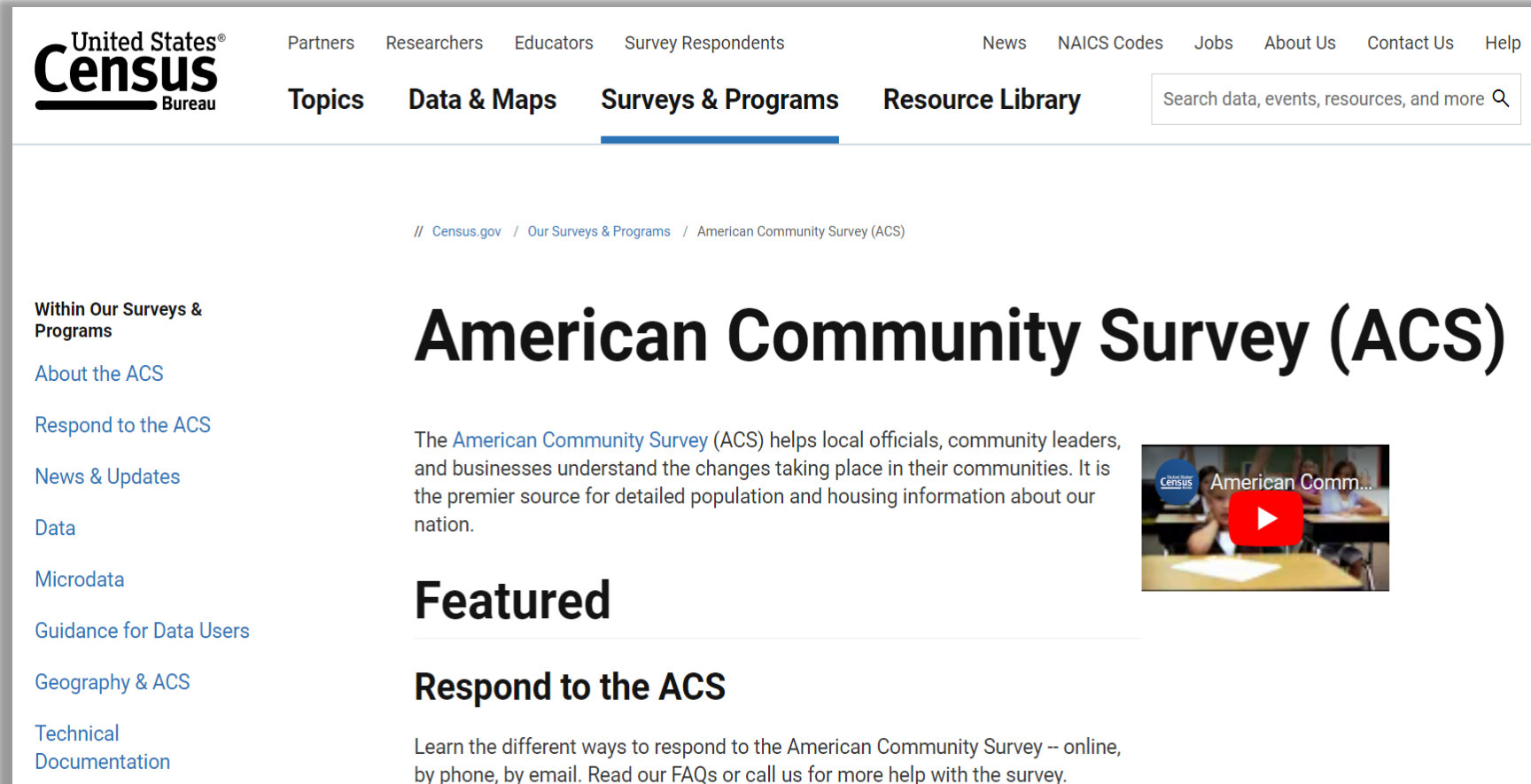
- Detailed Tables (B or C)
- Subject Tables (S)
- Ranking Tables (R)
- Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

- Allows users to create custom tables that are not available through pre-tabulated data products

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Top 5 Things: #2 – Data Products ONLY available from census.gov/acs



The screenshot shows the United States Census Bureau website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Partners, Researchers, Educators, Survey Respondents, News, NAICS Codes, Jobs, About Us, Contact Us, and Help. Below the header are tabs for Topics, Data & Maps, Surveys & Programs (which is selected), and Resource Library. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features the title "American Community Survey (ACS)" and a description: "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." To the right of the text is a video thumbnail with a red play button. Below the main text is a section titled "Featured" with the heading "Respond to the ACS" and a description: "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." On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar with links: "Within Our Surveys & Programs", "About the ACS", "Respond to the ACS", "News & Updates", "Data", "Microdata", "Guidance for Data Users", "Geography & ACS", "Technical Documentation", and "Data Tables".

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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.

Within Our Surveys & Programs

- [About the ACS](#)
- [Respond to the ACS](#)
- [News & Updates](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Microdata](#)
- [Guidance for Data Users](#)
- [Geography & ACS](#)
- [Technical Documentation](#)

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Top 5 Things: #3 – Technical Documentation

Duration of Responsibility – The answer refers to the grandchild for whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time. Duration categories ranged from less than 6 months to 5 or more years.

Question/Concept History – This set of questions was added to the ACS in 1999 to comply with legislation passed in the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census program obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren.

The response categories for length of time caring for grandchildren were modified slightly between the 1999 and 2000 ACS questionnaires to match the 2000 decennial census questionnaire. The question has remained unchanged since then.

Limitation of the Data – Before 2006, ACS grandparents data had a universe of people in households (which was the same as that in Census 2000). Beginning in 2006, the population in group quarters (GQ) was included in the ACS. Some types of GQ populations may have grandparents as caregivers distributions that are different from the household population. The inclusion of the GQ population could therefore have a noticeable impact on the grandparents as caregivers distribution. This is particularly true for areas with a substantial GQ population.

Comparability – The data on grandparents as caregivers can be compared to previous ACS years and Census 2000 (with the potential limitation noted above about areas with a substantial GQ population). For more information, go to <http://www.census.gov> and enter “Comparing ACS Data” in the search box.

Group Quarters (GQ)

See “Group Quarters” in the [Living Quarters](#) section.

Health Insurance Coverage

Data on health insurance coverage were derived from answers to Question 16 in the American Community Survey (ACS), which was asked of all respondents. Respondents were instructed to report their current coverage and to mark “yes” or “no” for each of the eight types listed (labeled as parts 16(a) to 16(h)).

- Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
- Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)
- Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities

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	A	B	C	D	E
1	Industry Code List				
2	INDUSTRY 2022 DESCRIPTION	2022 CENSUS CODE	2022 NAICS CODE		
3	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	0170-0490	11-21		
4	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0170-0290	11		
5	Crop production	0170	111		
6	Animal production and aquaculture	0180	112		
7	Forestry except logging	0190	1131, 1132		
8	Logging	0270	1133		
9	Fishing, hunting and trapping	0280	114		
10	Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0290	115		
11	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0370-0490	21		
12	Oil and gas extraction	0370	211		
13	Coal mining	0380	2121		
14	Metal ore mining	0390	2122		
15	Nonmetallic mineral mining and quarrying	0470	2123		
16	Not specified type of mining	0480	Part of 21		
17	Support activities for mining	0490	213		
18	Construction	0770	23		
19	Construction (the cleaning of buildings and dwellings is incidental during construction and immediately after construction)	0770	23		
20	Manufacturing	1070-3990	31-33		
21	Animal food, grain and oilseed milling	1070	3111, 3112		
22	Sugar and confectionery products	1080	3113		
23	Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing	1090	3114		
24	Dairy product manufacturing	1170	3115		
25	Animal slaughtering and processing	1180	3116		
26	Retail bakeries	1190	311811		

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Top 5 Things: #4 – Table List

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Table ID	Table Title	Table Universe	Data Product Type	Year	1-Year Geography Restrictions	5-Year Geography Restrictions
1							
2	801001	Sex by Age	Total population	Detailed Table	1,5		
3	801001A	Sex by Age (White Alone)	People who are White	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
4	801001B	Sex by Age (Black or African American)	People who are Black or African American	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
5	801001C	Sex by Age (American Indian and Alaska Native)	People who are American Indian and Alaska Native	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
6	801001D	Sex by Age (Asian Alone)	People who are Asian	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
7	801001E	Sex by Age (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander)	People who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
8	801001F	Sex by Age (Some Other Race)	People who are Some Other Race	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
9	801001G	Sex by Age (Two or More Races)	People who are Two or More Races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
10	801001H	Sex by Age (White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino)	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
11	801001I	Sex by Age (Hispanic or Latino)	People who are Hispanic or Latino	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
12	801002	Median Age by Sex	Total population	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
13	801002A	Median Age by Sex (White Alone)	People who are White	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
14	801002B	Median Age by Sex (Black or African American)	People who are Black or African American	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
15	801002C	Median Age by Sex (American Indian and Alaska Native)	People who are American Indian and Alaska Native	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
16	801002D	Median Age by Sex (Asian Alone)	People who are Asian	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
17	801002E	Median Age by Sex (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander)	People who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
18	801002F	Median Age by Sex (Some Other Race)	People who are Some Other Race	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
19	801002G	Median Age by Sex (Two or More Races)	People who are Two or More Races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
20	801002H	Median Age by Sex (White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino)	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
21	801002I	Median Age by Sex (Hispanic or Latino)	People who are Hispanic or Latino	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
22	801003	Total Population	Total population	Detailed Table	1,5		
23	802001	Race	Total population	Detailed Table	1,5		
24	802003	Detailed Race	Total population	Detailed Table	1	United States (010)	
25	802008	White Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	White alone or in combination with one or more other races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
26	802009	Black or African American Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	Black or African American alone or in combination with one or more other races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
27	802010	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	American Indian or Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
28	802011	Asian Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
29	802012	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
30	802013	Some Other Race Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	Some other race alone or in combination with one or more other races	Detailed Table	1,5		Excludes Place/Remainder
31	802015	Asian Alone by Selected Geographic Area	Total Asian alone population	Detailed Table	1,5	United States (010), State	Excludes Place/Remainder
32	802016	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone by Selected Geographic Area	Total Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone population	Detailed Table	1,5	United States (010), State	Excludes Place/Remainder

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Top 5 Things: #5 – Comparing ACS Data

// [Census.gov](#) / [Our Surveys & Programs](#) / [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) / [Guidance for Data Users](#) / [Comparing ACS Data](#)

Comparing ACS Data

The strength of the American Community Survey (ACS) is in estimating characteristic distributions. If you are looking for population totals, we recommend the [2020 Census](#) or [Population Estimates Program](#).

It is also important to keep in mind that **all ACS data are estimates**. We collect data from a sample of the population in the United States and Puerto Rico rather than from the whole population. To help you interpret the reliability of the estimates, the Census Bureau publishes a margin of error (MOE) for every ACS estimate.

[EXPAND ALL](#) | [COLLAPSE ALL](#)

- ⊕ Can I compare ACS 5-year estimates with other ACS 5-year estimates?
- ⊕ Can I compare ACS 1-year estimates with ACS 5-year estimates?
- ⊕ Can I compare ACS 1-year estimates with other ACS 1-year estimates?
- ⊕ Can I compare ACS estimates with 2010 Census or 2020 Census?
- ⊕ Can I compare ACS estimates with Census 2000?

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Related Information

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- ⊕ **Class of Worker, Industry, and Occupation (24)**
- ⊕ **Housing Characteristics (25)**
- ⊕ **Group Quarters (26)**
- ⊖ **Health Insurance Coverage (27)**

2023 ACS 1-Year with 2022 ACS 1-Year

Compare

2023 ACS with 2020 Census

The question was not asked in the 2020 Census.

2023 ACS with 2010 Census

The question was not asked in the 2010 Census.

[Top of Section](#)

- ⊕ **Computer and Internet Use (28)**
- ⊕ **Citizen, Voting-Age Population (29)**

* Each subject area is listed with its 2-digit code identifier. This code corresponds to the second and third characters of the ACS table number. For example, Table B08303 - Travel Time to Work has the second and third digits of "08" which corresponds to the subject Journey to Work; Workers; and Commuting.

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