American Community Survey Program Updates

May 29, 2025

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The American Community Survey
Outline

- Recent Changes

- Future Changes

- Planned Testing

- Data Releases

- Data User Resources

The American Community Survey
Recent Changes — Data Collection Changes for the 2024 ACS

Internet data collection instrument available for select non-institutional group quarters
- For example, college/university student housing, group homes, military barracks, etc.

Using administrative records for the acreage question
- Question is skipped in Internet and nonresponse follow-up data collection instruments if we have an administrative record
- Question still appears on the paper questionnaire

The American Community Survey
Recent Changes — New Content for the 2025 ACS

Three new questions:

- Sewer
- Electric Vehicles
- Solar Panels

Four modified questions:

- Household Roster
- Educational Attainment
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Labor Force

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/forms-and-instructions.html

United States® **Census** Bureau

The American Community Survey
Future Changes — Transformation Efforts

Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE)

- Delivers a suite of systems that can more efficiently manage survey collection and gather existing data from external sources

- Streamlines instrument development for the ACS

- ACS transitions to DICE starting in January 2027
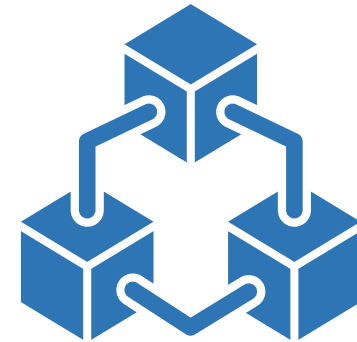
The American Community Survey
Future Changes — Race Standards

Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15)

- On March 28, 2024, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued updated standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting race/ethnicity data across federal agencies

ACS Plans to Implement in 2027

- On November 5, 2024, the Census Bureau announced that we plan to implement the finalized 2024 SPD 15 in the 2027 ACS data collection cycle

Data with New Standard will be available starting in 2028

- 1-year estimates with the new standard will be the 2027 ACS 1-year data
- 5-year estimates produced <u>solely</u> using the updated standards will be the 2027-2031 ACS 5-year data
- Until the ACS has 5 years of data collected using the updated standards, the Census Bureau will produce ACS 5-year estimates using a bridging technique, starting with the 2023-2027 ACS 5-year release

The American Community Survey
Planned Testing

Internet Instrument Response Option and Error Messaging Design Test

- Planned for summer 2025
- Test whether changing the design of response options and error messages in the internet instrument can increase data quality and improve the respondent experience
- Will help inform the development of web design standards for data collection instruments throughout the Census Bureau

Questionnaire Timing Test

- Planned for fall 2025
- Test whether changing the timing of when the paper questionnaire is sent can increase self-response and/or reduce data collection costs
- Evaluate the impact of including a Quick Response (QR) code directing respondents to the internet to complete the survey

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The American Community Survey
Recent Data Releases

119th Congressional District Profiles

- Special profiles produced for the 119th Congress
- Created using the 2023 ACS 1-year data
- Five states with boundary changes: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina

2018-2022 ACS 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) Update File

- The PUMS file originally contained a mix of 2010-based and 2020-based PUMAs
- The updated codes on these files cross-walked the 2010 PUMA codes to the 2020 PUMA values with updated weights
- Information is available on the ACS PUMS page
- Data are available on the ACS FTP site

The American Community Survey
Planned 2024 ACS Data Releases

2024 ACS 1-Year Release	
Data Products	**Release**
1-Year Estimates	September 11, 2025
1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	October 16, 2025
1-Year Supplemental Estimates	October 16, 2025
2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Release	
Data Products	**Release**
5-Year Estimates	December 11, 2025
5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	January 22, 2026
5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates	January 22, 2026

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2024/release-schedule.html

The American Community Survey
New Data User Resources

ACS course – Discovering the American Community Survey

- Module 1 – Introduction to the ACS

- Module 2 – Geography and the ACS

- Module 3 – Mastering the Variety of ACS Data Products; Navigating Releases, Tables, and Profiles

- Module 4 – Guidance for ACS Data Users

- Module 5 – Unlocking the Potential of the ACS Summary File and Public Use Microdata Sample Files

- Module 6 – ACS Course - Pulling It All Together

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/events.html

The American Community Survey
ACS Data Release Rules
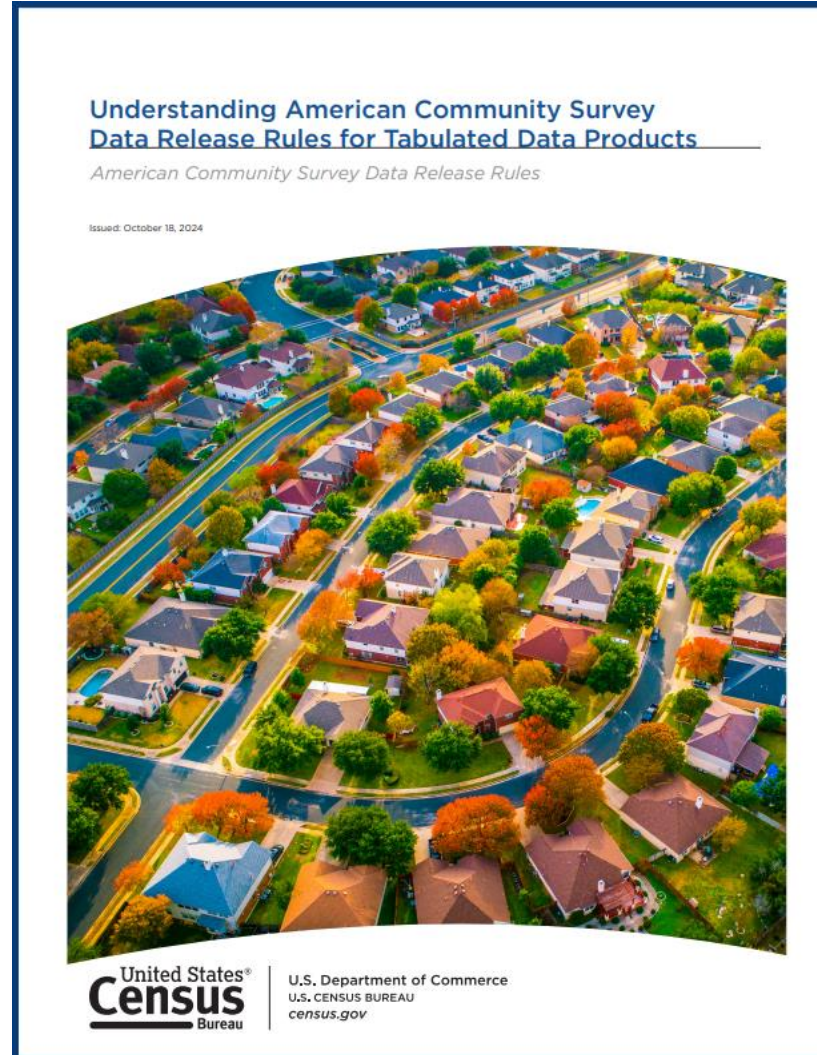
The American Community Survey
Design and Methodology Report

American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey Design and Methodology

Version 4.0

Issued December 2024

United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/design-and-methodology.html

census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2025/survey-sample-and-developing-estimates.html
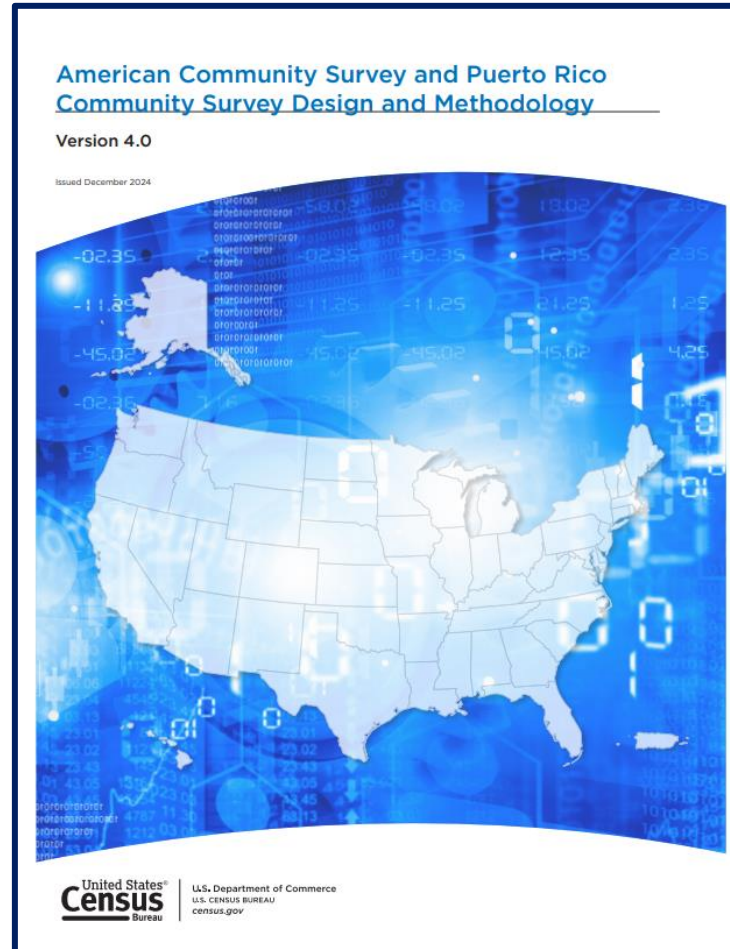
The American Community Survey
Upcoming Stats in Action Webinars

Name	Date
Comparing Income and Poverty Data from the ACS and CPS ASEC Supplement	June 25, 2025
Using Labor Statistics to Make Informed Decisions	June 26, 2025
Geography Areas and Concepts for the ACS	July 9, 2025
Using the Census API with the ACS	July 15, 2025
Using ACS Data for Grant Writing	July 23, 2025
Introduction to the ACS	August 20, 2025
Introduction to the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files	October 2025

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census.gov/data/academy/webinars/upcoming.html

The American Community Survey
Stay Connected

Share Your ACS Data Story

census.gov/acs-data-stories

Join the ACS Data Users Group

acsdatacommunity.prb.org

Sign Up for Email Updates

public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/12426

Get Data User Support

acso.users.support@census.gov

Thank you!

What's New with Accessing the ACS on data.census.gov and the API?

ACS Data Users Conference

May 29, 2025

Kanin Reese
Center for Enterprise Dissemination
Dissemination Outreach Branch
U.S. Census Bureau

Outline

- Latest Updates

- Future Enhancements

- Resources

U.S. Census Bureau

Data User Feedback Cycle

STEP 1 - COLLECT
Receive and collect feedback.

STEP 2 - PRIORITIZE
Distribute issues to prioritize and incorporate.

STEP 3 - DEVELOP
Issues are addressed by developers.

STEP 4 - TEST
Internal testing is conducted.

STEP 5 - RELEASE
Release to the public.

STEP 1 - COLLECT

STEP 2 - PRIORITZE

STEP 5 - RELEASE

STEP 4 - TEST

STEP 3 - DEVELOP

3

data.census.gov Developmental Updates (since May 2024)
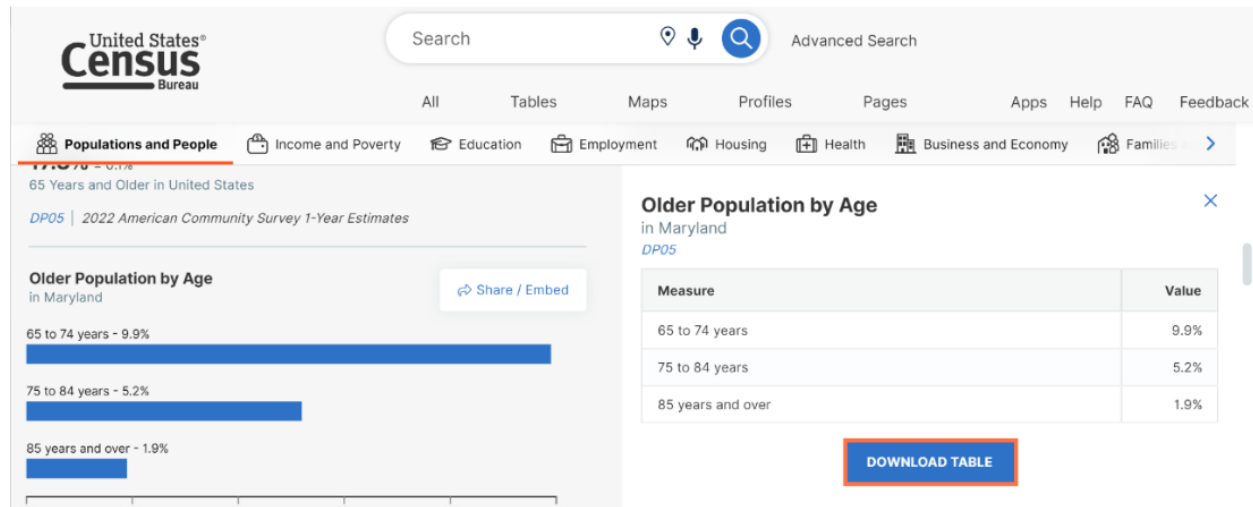
Highlights:

- Address Search
- Charts
- Improved Maps
- Messaging for ACS 1-Year
- Improved ACS Default Product
- Refreshed MDAT
- New API Functionality

census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov/developmental-update.html

Address Search

- New address search provides a clickable list of Census Bureau geographies an address falls within

Search by Address Example

- Click the **Geography Pin**

- Type the street address **4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233**

- Click **Search**

View Address Search Results and Select Geography

- View a list of different types of geographic areas the address falls within

- Click a geography to select it, such as **Census Tract 8024.05**

United States Census Bureau

Search | Advanced Search

All | Tables | Maps | Charts | Profiles | Pages | Apps | Help | FAQ | Feedback

Filters

4600 SILVER HILL RD, WASHINGTON, DC, 20233

State: Maryland
County: Prince George's County
County Subdivision: District 6, Spauldings
Block: Block 2004
Census Tract: Census Tract 8024.05
Block Group: Block Group 2
Place: Suitland CDP
Combined Statistical Area: Washington-Baltimore-Arlington, DC-MD-VA-WV-PA CSA
Urban Area: Washington--Arlington, DC--VA--MD Urban Area
Congressional District: Congressional District 4
State Legislative District (Upper Chamber): State Senate District 24
State Legislative District (Lower Chamber): State Legislative District 24
ZIP Code Tabulation Area: ZCTA5 20746
School District (Unified): Prince George's County Public Schools

U.S. Census Bureau

View Results for Census Tract 8024.05

- Click **Tables**

- Browse data tables for the selected geography or add additional filters to narrow the results

Charts

- New chart functionality

- Bar and column charts available for all ACS tables

- Line charts available for ACS Comparison Profiles
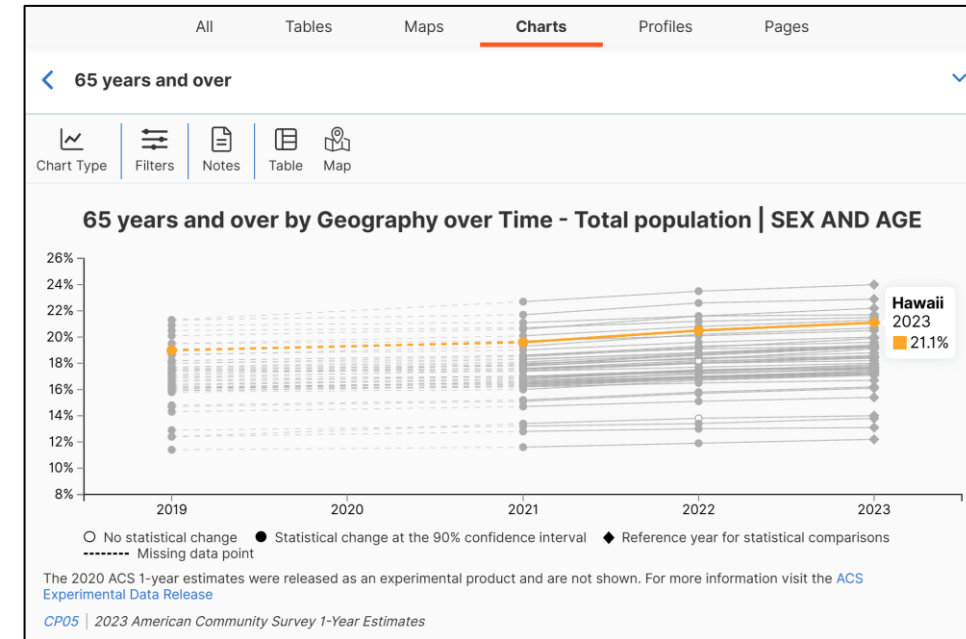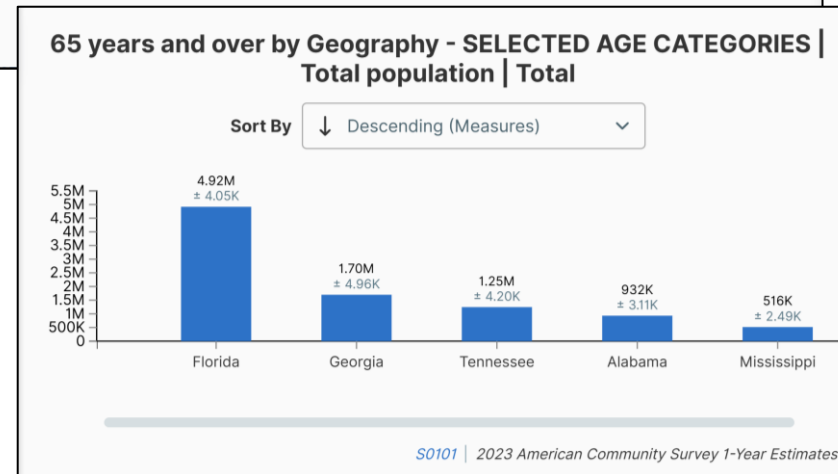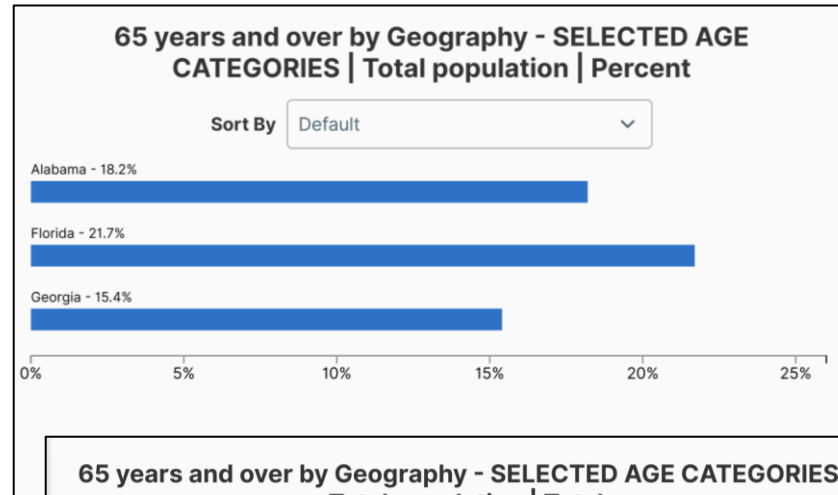
Navigate to Chart

- Click Charts tab

- Click the table that contains the data you want to chart
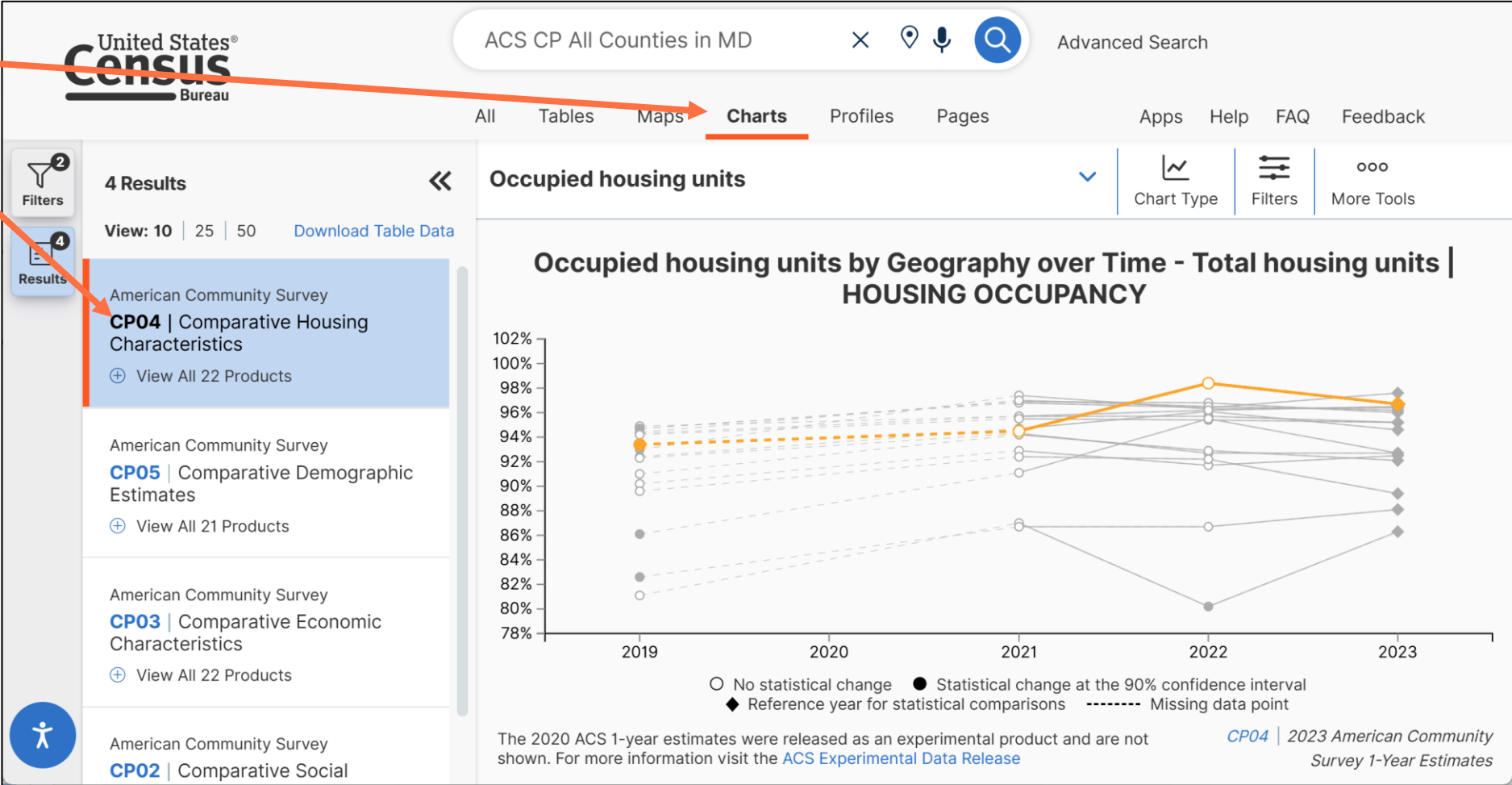
Select Measure

- Click the measures drop-down menu

- Select measure (Owner-occupied)

View Line Chart

- View chart showing the homeownership rate over time for each county in MD
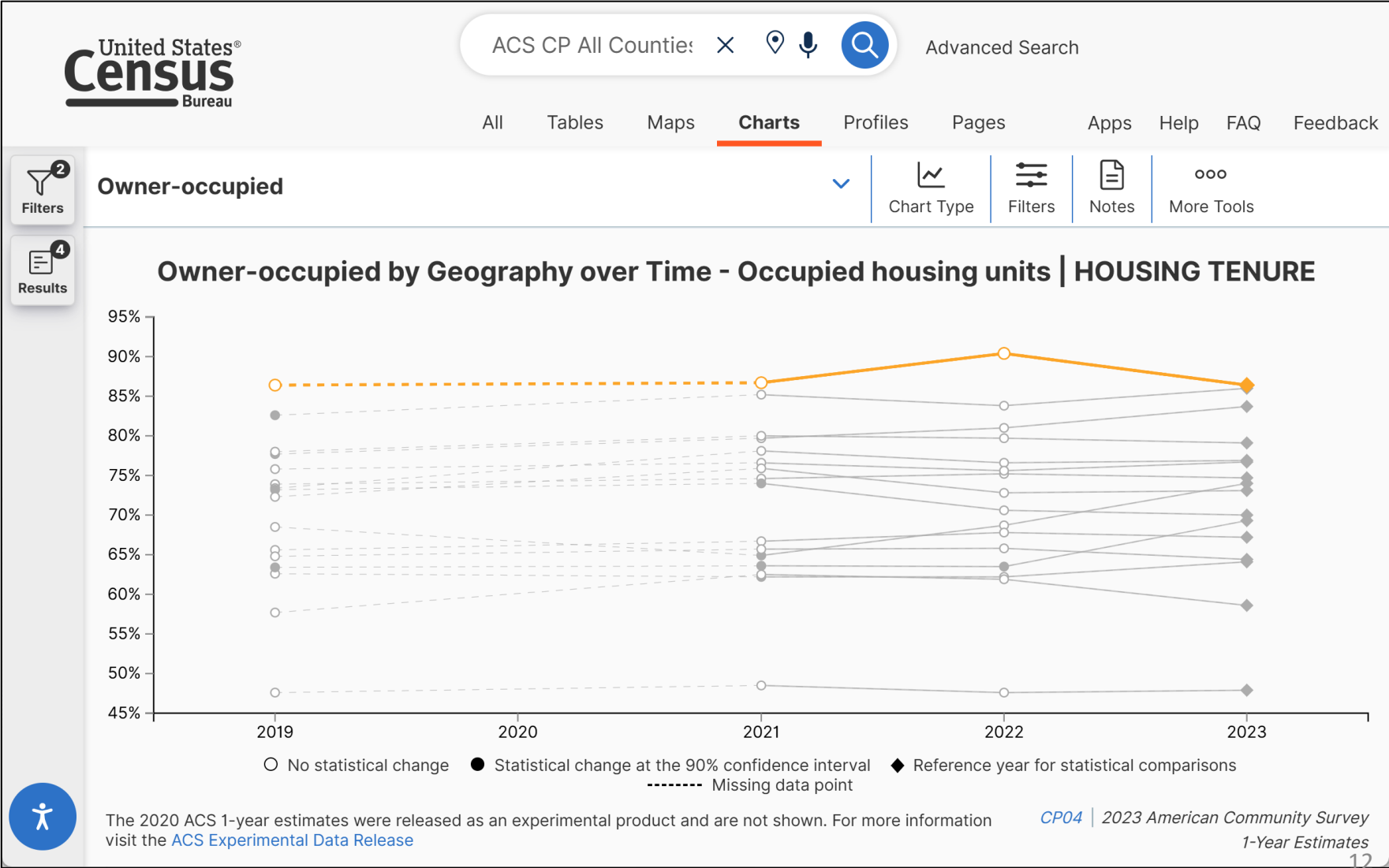
View Statistical Significance

Hover over a point to see the value and its statistical significance compared to the reference year

Statistical significance legend
- Diamond = Reference year
- Closed circle = Statistically different
- Open circle = Not statistically different
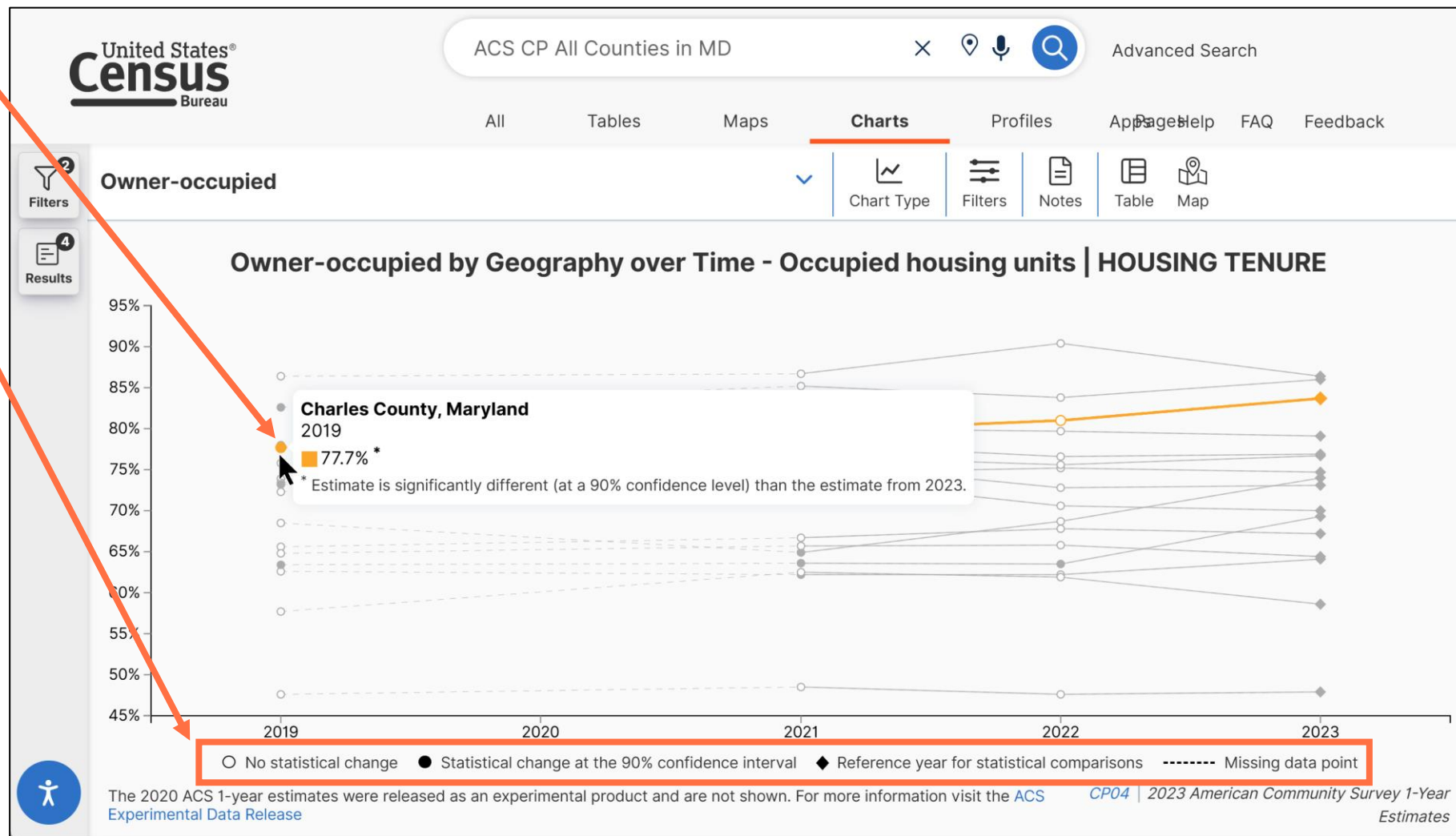
Bar and Column Charts

- Chart type: Switch to bar or column charts

- View homeownership rate for a single year (2023)
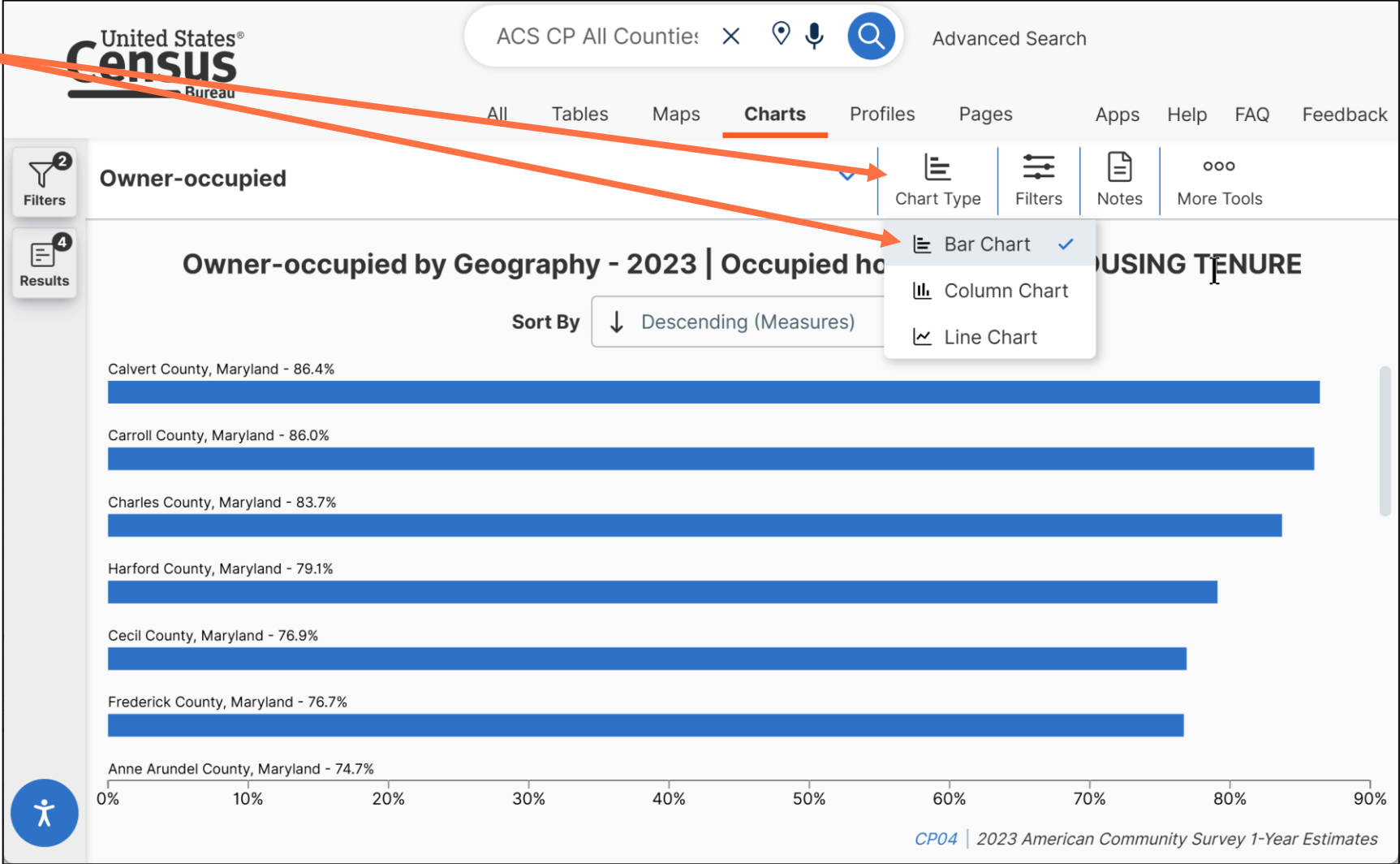
Improved Maps: New Print and GeoJSON Buttons

- **Print:** Provides PDF download of the map

- **GeoJSON:** Provides map boundaries in GeoJSON format
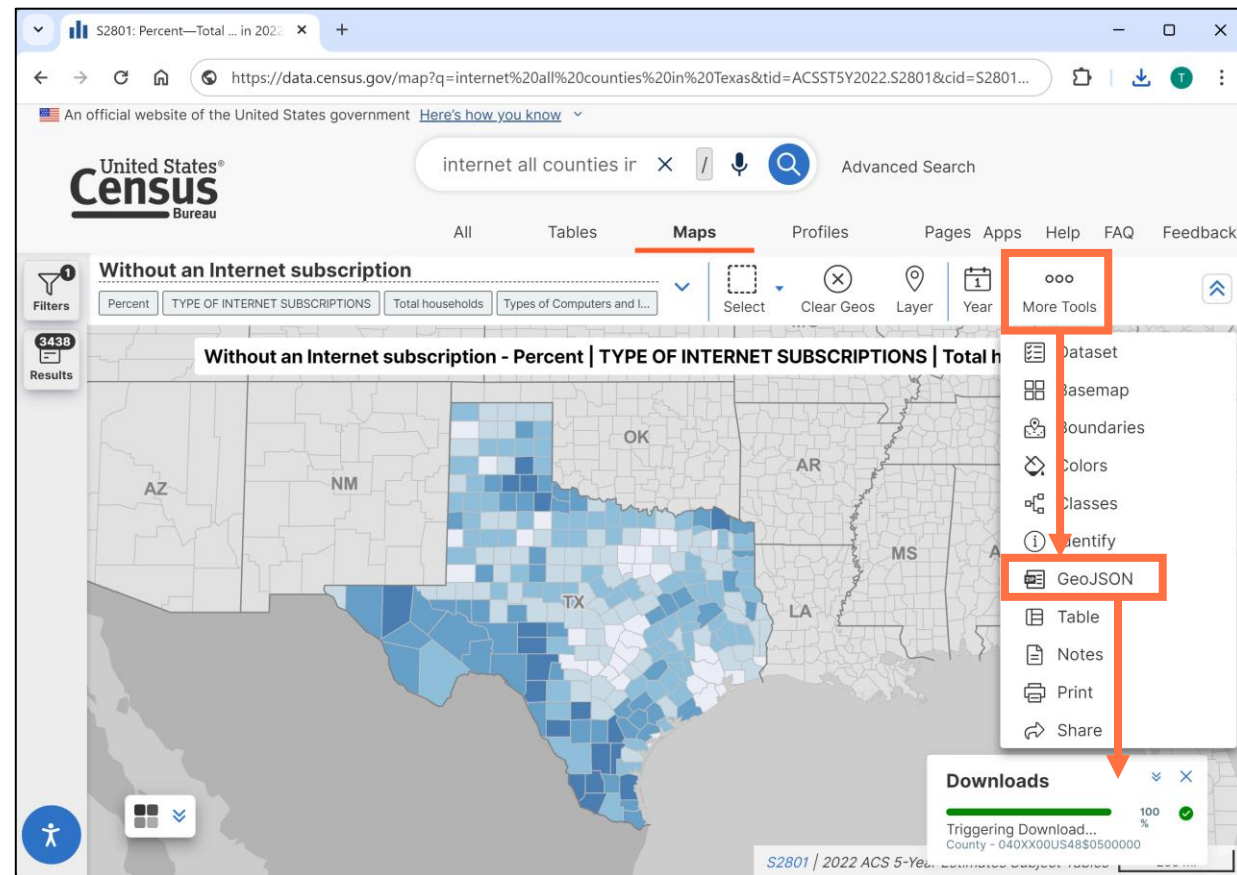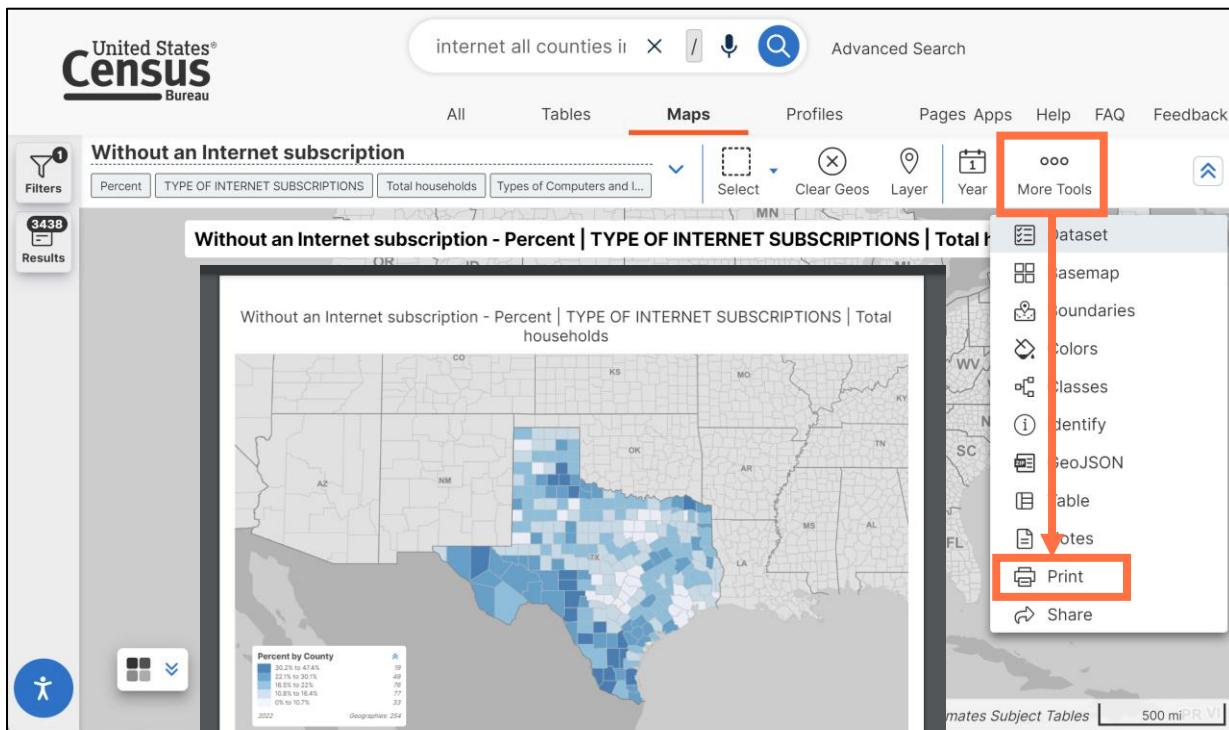
Download Added to Table Views for Maps and Profiles

To access the download in the map view:
Click the "Table" button at the top of the map and then scroll down to see the "Download Table" button.
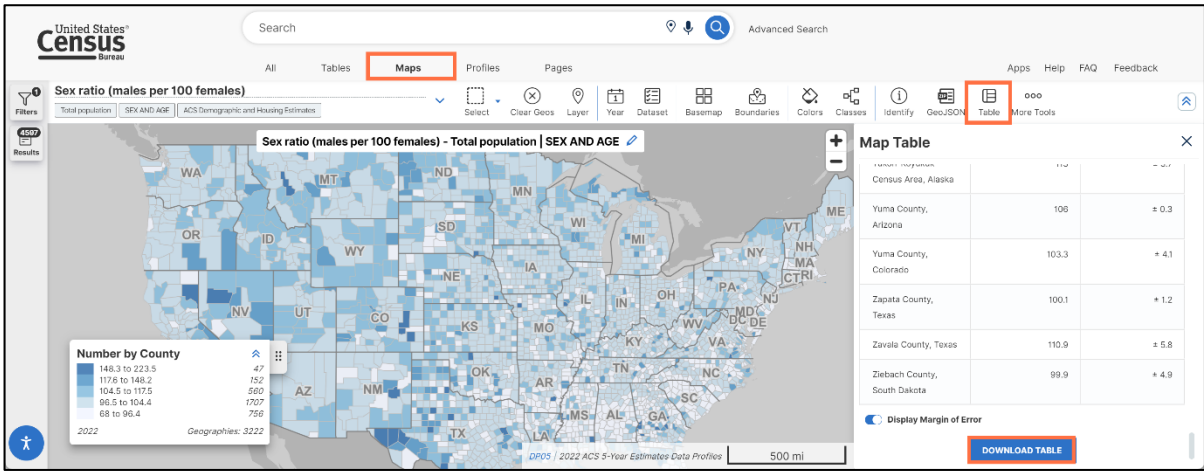
To access the download in the profile view:
Click "Show Table" and then "Download Table."
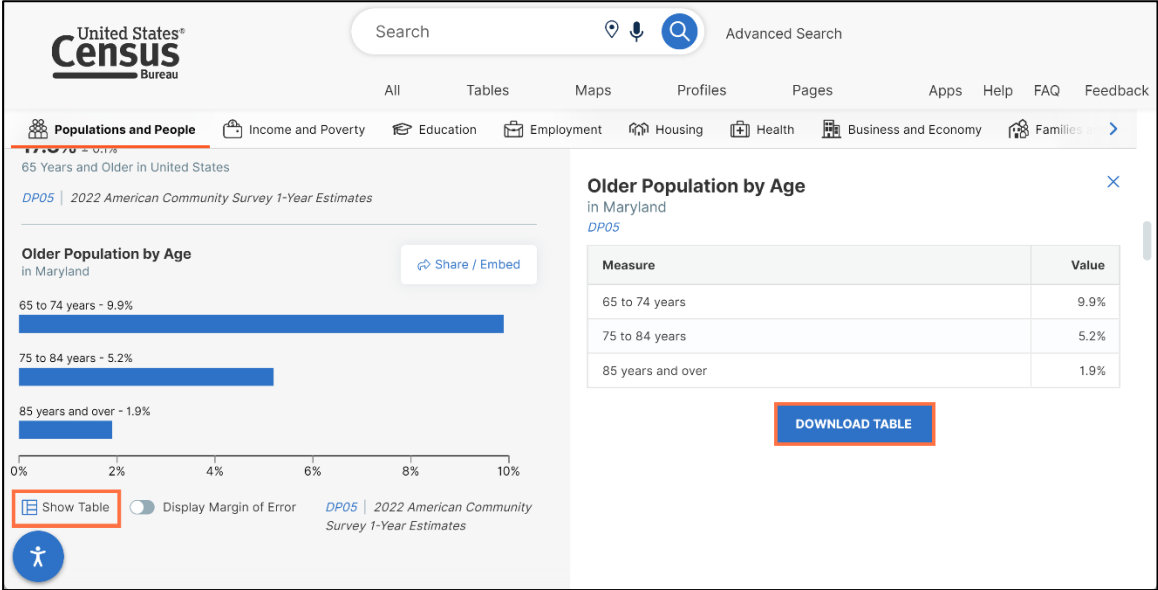
Message for Tables from ACS 1-Year Estimates

- New messaging in ACS 1-year tables suggests using ACS 5-year estimates to see data for all geographies

Improved Default to ACS 5-Year Estimates

- The site automatically shows data from the ACS 5-year estimates when selecting collections of geographies, such as "All places in Maryland"

☑ All Places within Maryland

MDAT Design Updates

- MDAT design updates to provide consistent look and feel with the rest of data.census.gov

Improved Geography Selection in MDAT

New Select All Button
Select all geographies in a single click

New Search within Geo Option
Search panels allow you to search within lists of geographies

New Geography Grouping (Aggregation) in MDAT

- New geography Group tab allows you to get data for geographies already added together for you (e.g. Data for the combined area consisting of Baltimore city's 5 PUMAs)

New API Functionality

&descriptive=true adds variable labels to the output
&outputFormat=csv downloads the output in CSV format
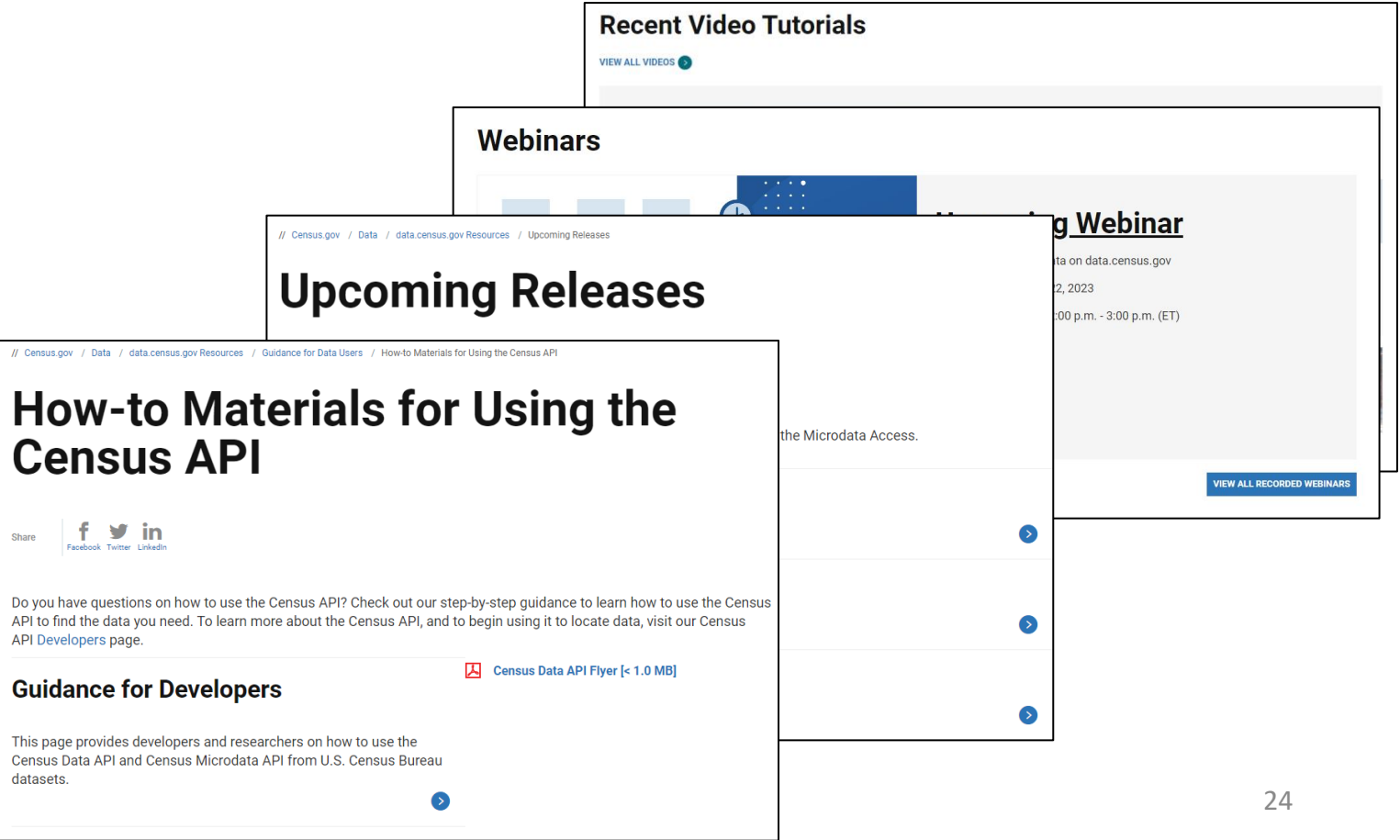
Upcoming

Transition to the Cloud:
- Limited, bundled releases
- ACS will continue to be supported
- Limited enhancements

Stay Connected

data.census.gov Resources Page:
census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html

Feedback: Email comments to
census.data@census.gov

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
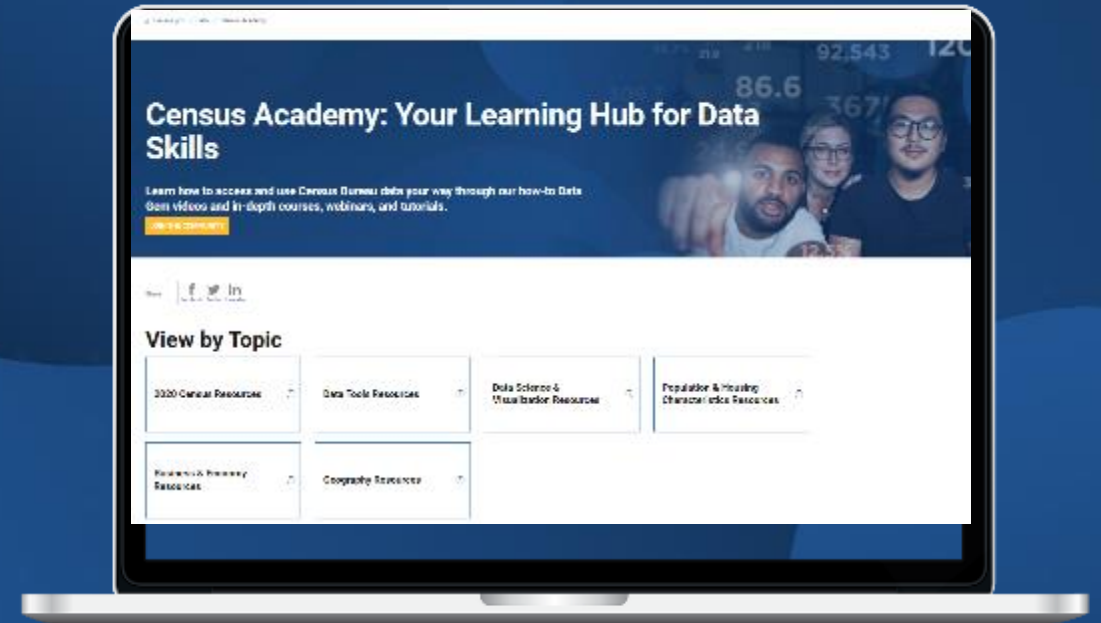
Contact us:
Census.askdata@census.gov
1-844-ASK-DATA