

Census Bureau: American Community Survey

Briefing for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)
Negotiated Rulemaking Meeting

James Treat, ACSO Division Chief
April 23, 2014



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Outline

- American Community Survey Basics
- Data Collection and Sample Design
- Data Availability
- Data Products
- Future
- Additional ACS Resources
- Contract Information
- Q & A



American Community Survey Basics



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

The American Community Survey is ...

- A large national survey that uses *continuous measurement methods* to produce detailed population and housing estimates each year
- Designed to produce *critical information on small areas* previously coming from the decennial census

The image shows the front cover of the American Community Survey questionnaire booklet. At the top left is the U.S. Census Bureau logo. The title "THE American Community Survey" is prominently displayed. A green-bordered box contains the text: "This booklet shows the content of the American Community Survey questionnaires." Below this, there are instructions: "Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible after receiving it in the mail." and "This form asks for information about the people who are living or staying at the address on the mailing label and about the house, apartment, or mobile home located at the address of the mailing label." A large, semi-transparent watermark "PHOTOCOPY" is overlaid diagonally across the center. On the right side, there is a "Start Here" section with a list of instructions: 1. "Check the mailing label's name, address, and telephone number of the person who is living at the house, apartment, or mobile home." 2. "Check the name, address, and telephone number of the person who is living at the house, apartment, or mobile home." 3. "Check the name, address, and telephone number of the person who is living at the house, apartment, or mobile home." 4. "Check the name, address, and telephone number of the person who is living at the house, apartment, or mobile home." At the bottom, there is a barcode and the text "U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 2008-1-288-000-0000".



Census / ACS History

- **1790-1930**
[Census](#): same form to all households
- **1940-2000**
[Census](#): short form and long form
- **2000**
[ACS](#): large-scale demonstration
- **2005**
[ACS / PRCS](#): full implementation
- **2010**
[Census](#): short form only



Census / ACS Comparison

Census

- Official counts
- Population totals
- Every 10 years
- Point in time

ACS

- Sample estimates
- Population characteristics
- Yearly
- Period of time



American Community Survey

Content



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

ACS Characteristics

Social Characteristics

- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Language Spoken at Home
- Ancestry / Tribal Affiliation

Demographic Characteristics

- Sex
- Race
- Hispanic Origin
- Age



ACS Characteristics

Economic Characteristics

- Income
- Benefits
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work
- Place of Work
- Labor force status

Housing Characteristics

- Housing Tenure
- Occupancy & Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/Monthly Rent
- Plumbing facilities



Who Else Relies on ACS Statistics?

- **American Indians and Alaska Natives:** ACS estimates are used by tribal planners and administrators, as well as national organizations serving American Indians and Alaska Natives to plan for future economic development, housing needs, and access to health and educational services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- **Local governments** – State and local leaders use ACS data to determine the needs of their communities, such as where to build new roads, schools, hospitals, offices, and community centers, or what schools need to plan for bilingual education.
- **Emergency planners** – Emergency planners use ACS data for natural disaster planning and response. The number of households and relative economic vulnerability located in small areas inform the plans for moving large numbers of people and for providing efficient and appropriate responses.
- **Businesses** – Companies use ACS data to make investment decisions in assessing such factors as the local labor force, new markets, and the needs of prospective customers.



Data Collection and Sample Design



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Data Collection Operations

Online



Mail



Telephone



Personal
Visit



Self-Response Modes



Non-Response Modes



Conducting Interviews on Tribal Lands

- When Census Bureau staff make personal visits to tribal lands to conduct interviewing, they are instructed to follow appropriate protocol, including:
 - Working with an established contact person identified by the tribal government, and following the protocol established by that contact person.
 - Respecting the customs, beliefs and cultural norms of that tribe.
 - Working with the tribal contact person to identify a paid interpreter as needed.



Response Rates in American Indian and Alaska Native Areas

- Response rates for 2006-2010 ACS 5-year
 - National rate – 97%
 - Weighted response rate of 97% across all American Indian and Alaska Native areas equals the national rate
 - 90% of all American Indian areas have a response rate of 90% or greater





ACS Sample Design

- Housing units: ex. house, apartment, mobile home, a group rooms, a single room
- Group quarters unit: ex. college dorms, prisons, military barracks, homeless shelters
- Initial sample size:
 - 295,000 housing unit addresses each month
 - 3.54 million housing unit addresses each year
 - 18,000 group quarters facilities each year



ACS Sample Design

- ACS samples housing units in less populous areas at higher rates (as high as 15% annually)
- Special provisions exist to increase the sampling rates for American Indian and Alaska Native Areas
- Sample design changes in 2011:
 - Reallocate the sample with the goal to produce more even quality across areas
 - Higher overall sample size
 - Full CAPI follow-up in most American Indian and Alaska Native Areas



Effect of Sample Design Changes for American Indian and Alaska Native Areas

- Compare 2010 ACS 1-year initially selected sample size and interview counts to 2012
- Initially selected housing unit addresses
 - Increase from ~80,000 to ~101,000
 - Relative terms, a 26% increase
- Final housing unit interviews
 - Increased from ~47,000 to ~84,000 housing units
 - Relative terms, an 80% increase



Indicators of ACS Quality in American Indian and Alaska Native Areas

- Coverage rates for AIAN Alone or in Combination for 2010 ACS 1-year compared to 2010 Census
 - National rate on coverage - 95%
 - National rate on coverage on American Indian and Alaska Native areas - 93%
 - National rate on coverage for American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination - 92%



Data Availability



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Selected ACS Geographic Areas

Legal/Administrative Areas

- Nation
- Federal American Indian Reservation (federal AIR)
- States
- State American Indian Reservation (state AIR)
- Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs)
- Hawaiian Home Land (HHL)
- Counties
- Incorporated Places
- Minor Civil Divisions
- American Indian Tribal Subdivision, federal AIR
- Congressional Districts
- State Legislative Districts
- School Districts

Statistical Areas

- Regions
- Divisions
- Tribal Designated Statistical Area (TDSA)
- State Designated Tribal Statistical Area (SDTSA)
- Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area (OTSA)
- Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (ANVSA)
- American Indian Joint-Use Area (AIJUA)
- Census Designated Places
- Census County Divisions
- American Indian Tribal Subdivision, OTSA
- Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA)
- Census Tracts
- Block Groups
- Tribal Tracts
- Tribal Block Groups



Availability of ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area

65,000 or more

20,000 to 64,999

Less than 20,000

Type of ACS Estimates Released

1-year, 3-year, 5-year

3-year, 5-year

5-year



Data Products



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

ACS Data for American Indian and Alaska Native Groups

- ACS Standard Data Products
 - ACS produces over 900 tables for a wide variety of geographic areas on every topic in the survey
 - Includes 693 American Indian, Alaska Native, Hawaiian Home Land areas
 - 40 of those tables produce data specifically for the American Indian and Alaska Native population



ACS Data for American Indian and Alaska Native Groups

- ACS American Indian and Alaska Native Tables
 - Done every five years - 2006-2010 ACS 5-year is the current version
 - Data for 950 AIAN tribal groupings
 - Includes nation, states, counties, places, and AIAN areas, among others
 - Up to 300 tables provided for each group on a full range of ACS topics



ACS Data for American Indian and Alaska Native Groups

- ACS Special Population Tables (SPT)
 - Done every five years - 2006-2010 ACS 5-year is the current version
 - Data for over 100 AIAN tribal groupings
 - Includes geographic areas down to the Census tract level
 - Up to 300 tables provided for each group an a full range of ACS topics



HUD Use of Census Data

- HUD has used standard tables produced by the Census and the ACS
- Census has also provided HUD customized products for a long time
 - Decennial Census tabulations from the 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses
 - ACS tabulations since the full implementation of the ACS in 2005



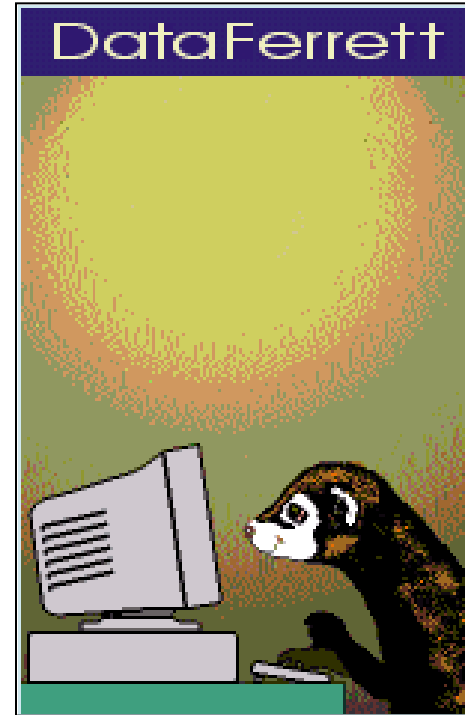
Future

Census Bureau will continue to work with Tribes, Tribal representatives and organizations to improve our efforts in counting American Indian and Alaska Native populations and defining their areas.



Additional ACS Resources

- **QuickFacts**
quickfacts.census.gov
- **DataFerrett**
dataferret.census.gov
- **Summary Files**
www2.census.gov
- **Easy Stats**
census.gov/easystats
- **FAQs**
askacs.census.gov



Contact Information

James Treat

Division Chief

American Community Survey Office

james.b.treat@census.gov

(301) 763-3609



Questions and Comments

