

American Community Survey

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What is the American Community Survey?

The ACS is an ongoing survey replacing the Census Bureau's "long form."

It is the key component to meet the demand for more timely data.

How Many Addresses Get the Survey?



Prior to January 2005:

1 in 480

Since January 2005:

1 in 40 (2.5%)

How Does This Compare to Census 2000?

Census 2000, 1 in 6 received “long form.”

ACS, 1 in 8 receive form over 5 years.

How Often Will I Get the Survey?

One time in 5 years,
possibly longer.



How Many Addresses are in the Survey?

Three million per year beginning with 2005.

250,000 per month.

What About Data for MSA's?

Currently most MSA's of over 250,000 population.

Summer 2006 MSA's of over 65,000 population.

What About Group Quarters and Institutions?

Collection begins
2006.

Data will be available
in Summer 2007.



Timeline for Producing ACS Data

Populations of over 250,000, since 2000.

65,000+ begins in 2006, 1 year average.

20,000+ begins in 2008, 3 year average.

<20,000, Census Tracts and Block Groups begins in 2010, 5 year average.

Percent of Population Covered in Under 65,000 and Over 20,000 Thresholds

82.5% of population in counties, 65,000+.

95.5% of population in counties, 20,000+.



What is the Number of Questions?

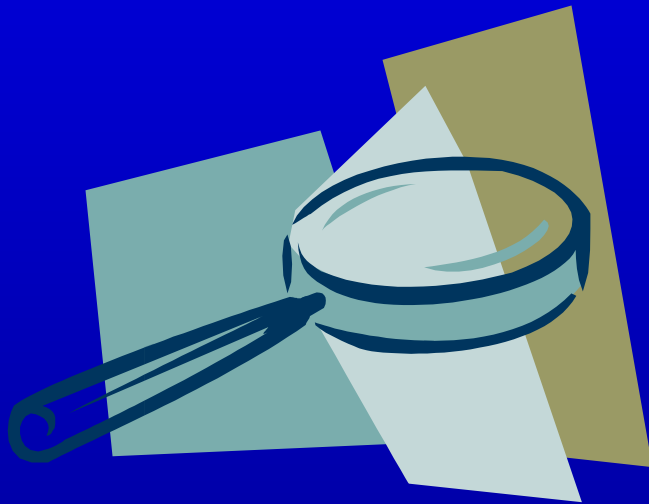
60 questions, essentially the same as
Census.

What is the Wording of the ACS Questions?

Most same or very similar as the Census.

PDF copy of questionnaire is online.

What is the Subject Definition of Each Question?



Definitions of
subjects are
online.

Why Do You Ask These Questions?

All questions are required by law for various programs.

The Census Bureau is primary source for data about the nations people and economy.

Background information for each is online.

How Long Does it Take to Complete the Survey?



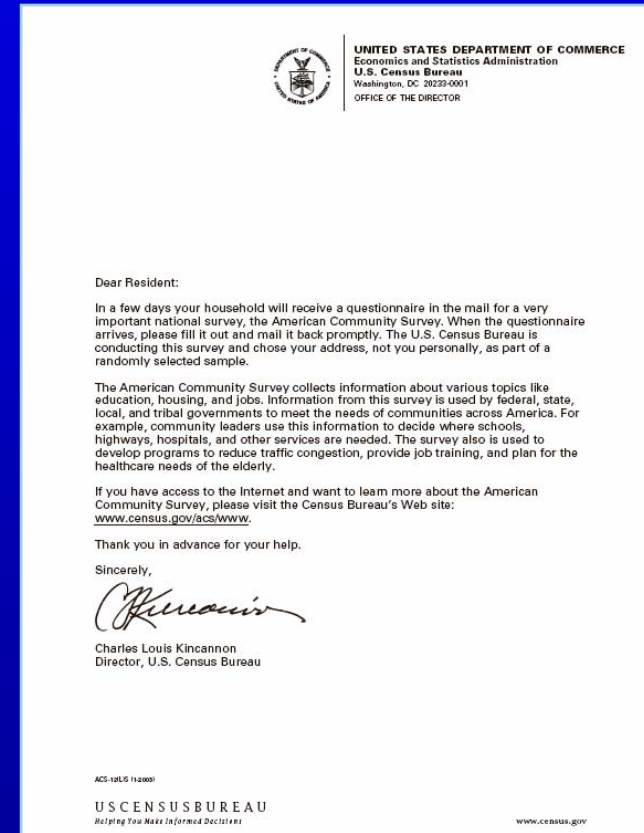
About 38 minutes

What About the Ten Year Census?

It will be the “short form” only for the constitutionally mandated population count .

How Do I Know This is a Legitimate Survey?

Any written request is clearly identified as coming from the U.S. Census Bureau and as Official Business of the United States.



How Do I Know This is a Legitimate Survey?

A Field Representative will have an official Census Bureau identification badge and tell you the name of the survey.

When Did the ACS Start?



A pilot program began in 1996.

Since 2000, in most areas over 250,000 population.

All 3,141 counties since 2005.

How is the Survey Conducted?

Initial contact is by USPS mail.

First follow-up attempts are CATI.

Final follow-up attempts are personal visit.

What are the Response Rates?

Response rates for the U.S. from ACS

– 2001 - 96.7%

– 2002 – 97.7%

– 2003 – 96.7%

How are Addresses Selected?

The addresses are randomly selected to ensure a statistically valid sample.

What is the Cost of Non-Response Follow-up?

It costs approximately 10 times as much as the initial mailing piece.



How Long Between Mail and First Follow-up?

Approximately 6 weeks.

Is Response Mandatory?

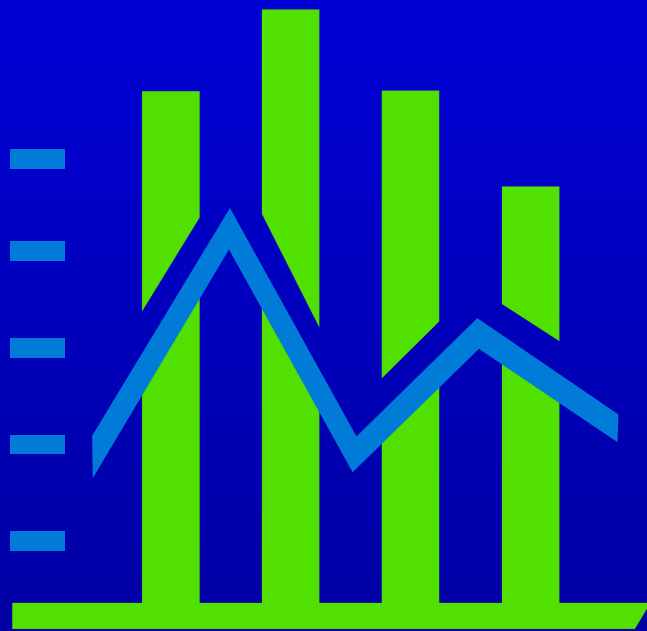
Yes, since the ACS is the substitute for the 10 year Census “long form.”

What is the Penalty for Non-Response?

The Census Bureau is not a prosecuting agency, our goal is to collect quality information.

At the discretion of the Justice Department a fine from \$100 to \$5,000 can be imposed.

How Does the Cost of ACS Compare to the Decennial Census?



It is cost neutral over the 10 year period.

How Much Does the ACS Cost?

In 2005, the first year with 3 million addresses, the appropriation was \$146 million.

When are ACS Results Released?

The summer following the survey's collection year.



What Does a 90% Confidence Interval Mean?

It is a statistical term that means there is a 90% certainty the true answer lies within the upper and lower ranges provided.

Why Should I Respond?

The ACS directly affects the amount of federal and state funding communities receive for neighborhood improvements, public health, transportation and much more.