

American Community Survey Program Updates

September 23, 2025

Presentation to the North Carolina Local/Federal Joint Meeting

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The American Community Survey

The Foundation

- The American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source of detailed information about the nation's people and housing
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses to produce annual social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for communities throughout the 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico
- Covers **40+ topics** — Collects detailed information previously collected by the decennial census each decade
- Helps inform how federal funds are distributed each year, supports over **300** evidence-based federal government uses
- Data released the year after collection as 1-year and 5-year estimates
- Officially started in 2005

The image displays two versions of the American Community Survey interface. The top screenshot is a digital web page from the United States Census Bureau. It features a header with the 'United States Census Bureau' logo and the title 'American Community Survey'. The main content area includes a 'Welcome! Start here to respond:' section with a link to 'Respond online now!' and a field for 'User ID'. To the right, there's a section for 'Can't find the User ID?' with instructions and an example of a User ID. Below this, there's a 'Login' button. The bottom section contains a 'U.S. Census Bureau Notice' and 'OMB Numbers: 0607-0810, 0607-0835'.

The bottom screenshot is a paper form titled 'American Community Survey'. It has a 'Start Here' section with two options: 'Respond online today at: respond.census.gov/acs' or 'Complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.' Below this, there's a section titled 'Your response is required by law.' followed by a brief explanation of the survey. To the right, there's a section for 'Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form.' with fields for 'Last Name', 'First Name', and 'MI'. Below this, there's a section for 'How many people, including yourself, live or stay at this address?' with a table for 'Area Code' and 'Number'. At the bottom, there's a section for 'Fill out pages 2-7 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address. Then complete the rest of the form.' and a footer with 'Form ACS-1(2025)' and 'OMB No. 0607-0810'.

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Introduction to the American Community Survey

Introduction to the American Community Survey (ACS)

August 20, 2025

Mary Ana McKay
American Community Survey Office

Slides are available at census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2025/introduction-to-acs.html

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



census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2025/introduction-to-acs.html



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

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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

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Sewer Question

- Requested by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration
- Data are critical for understanding the wastewater infrastructure in rural and smaller communities
- Data allow for monitoring of water quality (i.e., impacts to well water) as well as potential environmental impacts (seepage into surrounding soil)

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Is this house, apartment, or mobile home connected to a public sewer?

☐

Yes, connected to public sewer

☐

No, connected to septic tank

☐

No, use other type of system

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Electric Vehicles Question

- Requested by the Energy Information Administration (EIA)
- Housing-unit level data will help federal agencies:
 - Project future energy needs
 - Make technological and capital changes necessary within the energy infrastructure

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Do you or any member of this household own or lease an electric vehicle? *Include both all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Solar Panels Question

- Requested by the Energy Information Administration (EIA)
- Data will help EIA match energy consumption to energy production across the U.S.

16 Does this house, apartment, or mobile home use solar panels that generate electricity?

☐

Yes

☐

No

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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 solely 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

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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

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2024 Data Release Information

Within Our Surveys & Programs

- About the ACS
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- Geography & ACS
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2024

Details About the 2024 Release

2024 Data Release New and Notable

Learn more about items of interest related to the 2024 ACS release. >

2024 Data Release Schedule

Review the planned dates and components of the 2024 ACS release. >

2024 Table & Geography Changes

Learn more about changes to tables and geography for each ACS data release. >

Thank you!

ACS Data User Support
acso.users.support@census.gov

