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



American Community Surve

Census



The American Community Survey 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



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



Three new questions:

- Sewer
- Electric Vehicles
- Solar Panels



Four modified questions:

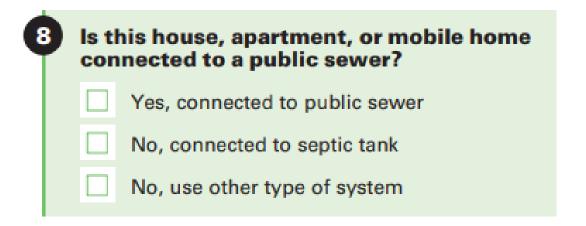
- Household Roster
- Educational Attainment
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Labor Force

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



The American Community Survey Sewer Question

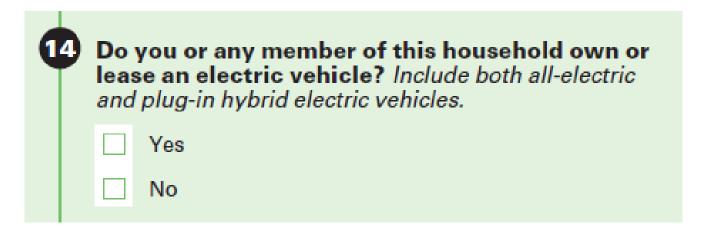
- Requested by the Environmental Protection
 Agency and the Food and Drug Administration
- Data are critical for understanding the wastewater infrastructure in rural and smaller communities
- Data allow for monitoring of water quality (i.e., impacts to well water) as well as potential environmental impacts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





The American Community Survey Electric Vehicles Question

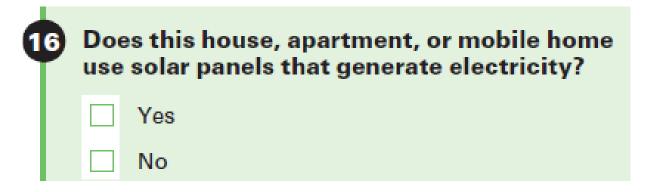
- Requested by the Energy Information Administration (EIA)
- Housing-unit level data will help federal agencies:
 - Project future energy needs
 - Make technological and capital changes necessary within the energy infrastructure





The American Community Survey Solar Panels Question

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





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 5year release



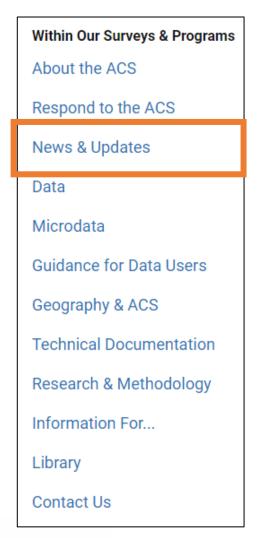
The American Community Survey Planned 2024 ACS Data Releases

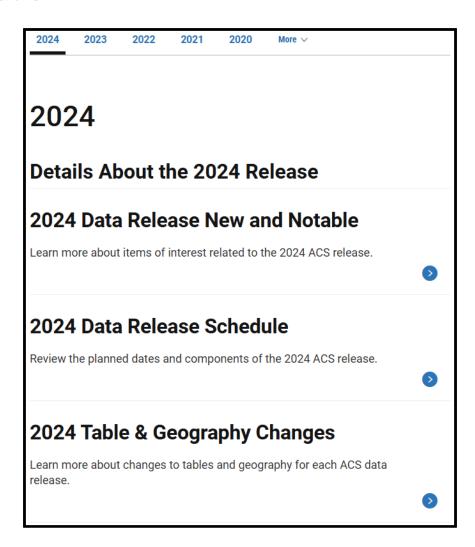
2024 ACS 1-Year Release	
Data Products	Release
1-Year Estimates	September 11, 2025
1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	October 16, 2025
1-Year Supplemental Estimates	October 16, 2025
2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Release	
2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Release	
2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Release Data Products	Release
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



The American Community Survey

2024 Data Release Information







Thank you!

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

