



The Importance of the American Community Survey and the Decennial Census

[<https://acsdatacommunity.prb.org/>]

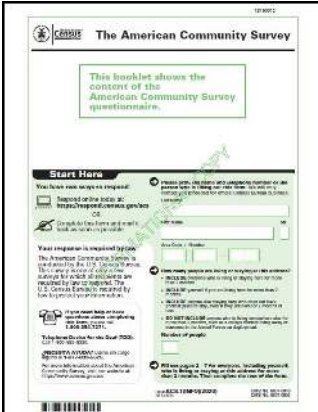
Since the Census Bureau conducts over a hundred surveys every year, you may receive one or more invitations to respond to different surveys. During 2020, every home in America received an invitation by mail or a visit by a census taker to participate in the 2020 Census [\[/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-main.html\]](#) . Some households also received the American Community Survey (ACS) in 2020, in addition to the once-a-decade census.

Your responses to the American Community Survey and decennial census are critically important to your local community and the country. Local communities depend on information from the American Community Survey, as well as the decennial census, to decide where schools, highways, hospitals, and other important services are needed. The data collected through the American Community Survey and the 2020 Census help inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year.

Related Information

Respond to the ACS
[\[/programs-surveys/acs/respond.html\]](#)

The American Community Survey



[[/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html\]](#)]

- Conducted every month, every year
- Sent to a sample of addresses (about 3.5 million) in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- Asks about topics not on the 2020 Census, such as education, employment, internet access, and transportation
- Provides current information to communities every year. It also provides local and national leaders with the information they need for

The Decennial Census



[[/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires.2020_Census.html\]](#)]

- Conducted every ten years
- Counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories
- Asked a shorter set of questions, such as age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and owner/renter status
- Provides an official count of the population, which determines congressional representation. Also provides critical data that lawmakers and many others use to provide daily services,

programs, economic development, emergency management, and understanding local issues and conditions.

products, and support for communities.

RESPOND NOW TO THE ACS [/PROGRAMS-SURVEYS/ACS/RESPOND/RESP...

Learn more about the American Community Survey and 2020 Census by checking out some commonly asked questions below.

EXPAND ALL | COLLAPSE ALL

+ Is the American Community Survey the same as the 2020 Census?

+ Am I required to fill out the American Community Survey?

+ Do I have to answer both the American Community Survey and the 2020 Census?

+ Can you use my 2020 Census answers for the American Community Survey?

+ Will my response be confidential?

+ How will the Census Bureau use the information I provide?

Commonly asked questions about the American Community Survey and the 2020 Census are also available to download and view in PDF format.

The ACS and the 2020 Census



The American Community Survey and the 2020 Census

1. What is the American Community Survey?

2. How is the American Community Survey different from the 2020 Census?


3. Can I use my 2020 Census answers for the American Community Survey?

4. Will my response be confidential?

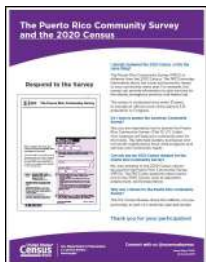
5. How will the Census Bureau use the information I provide?


La ACS y el Censo del 2020



 **La Encuesta sobre la Comunidad Estadounidense y el Censo del 2020** [content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/acs/about/ACS-54(HU)(Spanish)(3-2020).pdf]
 America
 Community
 Survey

The PRCS and the 2020 Census



 **The Puerto Rico Community Survey and the 2020 Census** [content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/acs/about/ACS-54(HU)(PR)(3-2020).pdf]
 American
 Community
 Survey

You May Be Interested In

Contact Us

Email Updates

American Community
Survey Information Guide

Learn how to contact the American Community Survey if you have questions about completing the survey, finding data, or using data.

Sign up to receive email updates about the American Community Survey and other topics from the Census Bureau.

You have questions. We have answers! — in the ACS Information Guide — a comprehensive guide to all things ACS. Download our PDF guide in English and Spanish.



[\[/programs-surveys/acs/contact.html\]](/programs-surveys/acs/contact.html)

[\[/programs-surveys/acs/news/email-updates.html\]](/programs-surveys/acs/news/email-updates.html)

[\[/programs-surveys/acs/about/information-guide.html\]](/programs-surveys/acs/about/information-guide.html)