

# Finding American Community Survey Data

## American FactFinder

factfinder.census.gov

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a new nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing by collecting detailed information on the characteristics of population and housing on an ongoing basis. The ACS is part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program and is sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis. Since the ACS is conducted every year, rather than once every 10 years, it will provide more current data throughout the decade. The ACS is also conducted in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS).

The best way to access ACS data is through the U.S. Census Bureau's main online data dissemination tool, the American FactFinder (AFF) at [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov).

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

United States  
Census  
2010

### Inside American FactFinder®

factfinder.census.gov

#### For the New User

Simply type in your city/town or county to access a fact sheet with the newest data from ACS. Fact sheets have selected general, social, economic, and housing characteristics. The fact sheet defaults to the latest data available for the geographic area. There are 2006 data available for population areas over 65,000. Additional tables and maps are available in the people and housing sections.

	Estimate	Percent	Margin of Error	Rank
Average household size	2.61	00	+0.01	
Average family size	3.20	00	+0.01	
Population 25 years and over	195,932,824		+66,369	
High school graduate or higher	00	84.1	00	
Bachelor's degree or higher	00	27.0	00	
Civilian YOUTH (civilian population 18 years and over)	23,425,051	10.4	+61,909	
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	41,259,809	15.1	+89,726	
Foreign born	37,547,789	12.5	+125,642	
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	80,955,218	52.4	+140,048	
Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	59,211,138	48.4	+120,047	
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	54,859,424	19.7	+114,730	
Household population	291,332,841	00	00	
Group quarters population	00	00	00	

**2006 American Community Survey**  
Includes results from both the American Community Survey and the Puerto Rico Community Survey. The 2006 data products include estimates of demographic, social, and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units (both occupied and vacant) for every state in the Nation, Puerto Rico, and most areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

**2005 American Community Survey**  
Includes results from both the American Community Survey and the Puerto Rico Community Survey. The 2005 data products include estimates of demographic, social, and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units (both occupied and vacant) for every state in the Nation, Puerto Rico, and most areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

**2004 American Community Survey**  
The 2004 data products include estimates of demographic, social, and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units (both occupied and vacant) for every state in the Nation with a population of 250,000 or more, and selected areas with a population of 65,000 or more.

#### For the Experienced User

Experienced users will want to go straight to the detailed results of the ACS by accessing Data Sets then American Community Survey.

**Data Profiles** – Discover highlights of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics along with a narrative summary for all geographies.

**Selected Population Profiles** – View highlighted characteristics for race, ethnic, and ancestry groups that meet a population threshold at the national and state levels.

**Ranking Tables** – Compare key indicators across available states.

**Subject Tables** – See more detail on frequently requested information for a single geographic area.

**Detailed Tables** – Access hundreds of data tables indexed by topic and available geography.

**Geographic Comparison Tables** – Compare data across available geographies in the same table (i.e., all the available counties in a state by topic).

**Thematic Maps** – Develop customized maps that reveal geographic data patterns for dozens of themes.

**Reference Maps** – View boundaries and identifiers of a selected geographic area.

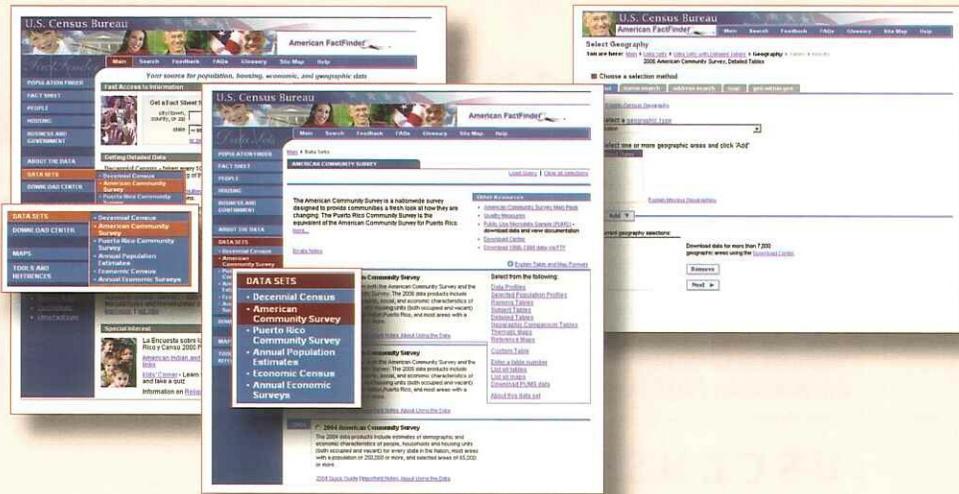
**Download Center** – Download up to 50 selected tables or whole data sets where available.

# 3 EASY STEPS TO YOUR DETAILED LOCAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA RESULTS

1

## Get Started—www.census.gov

- Select **American FactFinder**.
- Choose **Data Sets**, then **American Community Survey**.
- Click **Detailed Tables**.



2

## Select Geography

Pick one or more geographic areas, for example:

- Specify the **Geographic Type**; choose **County**.
- Select the specific **State**; choose **Virginia**.
- Select the specific **County**; choose **Fairfax County**.
- Click the **Add** button to move the area to the **Current Geography Selections**.

Click **Next** to move to **Step 3**.



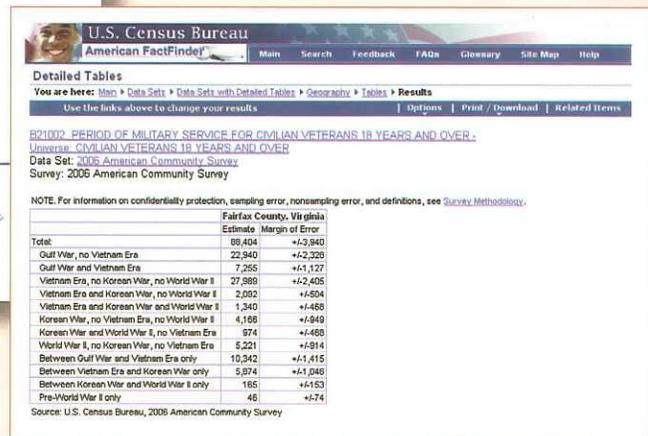
3

## Select a Table(s)

Pick one or more table **Selection Methods**, for example:

- Choose the **by Keyword** tab.
- Type **Veteran Status** from the list of topics; click **Search**.
- Select table **B21002: Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and over**.
- Click the **Add** button to move the table to **Current Table Selections**.

Click **Show Results** to see the table for **Fairfax County, Virginia**.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACS

[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)

### Key Dates—

View specific dates of past and future ACS data releases and other key factors affecting the ACS.

### Highlights—

Explore data products and updates to the current ACS. Learn how to prepare for the 2010 Census and how you and your community will be counted. Gain a better understanding of the ACS by accessing the technical products.

### Questionnaire—

See examples, in both English and Spanish, of the ACS forms that are sent to sample addresses.

### Language Brochures—

Access the ACS Questions and Answers brochure in six different languages.

U.S. Census Bureau

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## American Community Survey (ACS)

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### Key Dates

**August 28, 2007**  
Release of ACS income, earnings and poverty data

**September 12, 2007**  
Release of ACS social, economic and housing characteristics, demographic and housing estimates, and Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) data

**September 27, 2007**  
Release of ACS group quarters and selected population profiles/tables by race, Hispanic origin and ancestry

**August 28, 2007**  
Federal Register Notice for the 2007 Data Products.

**April 1, 2010**  
2010 Census Day

Alert 54 - released 9/27/2007

[Archives >](#)

### Contact Us

Contact the American Community Survey Office by small or by phone at **1-888-456-7215**, or visit [ask.census.gov](http://ask.census.gov) for further information on the American Community Survey.

### WHAT IS IT?

America is changing, and so is the census. The American Community Survey lets communities see how they are changing - filling in the gaps between each 10-year census. The ACS:

- is sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis;
- helps determine how more than \$300 billion per year is distributed;
- informs decisions on policies, programs, and services for communities;
- is also conducted in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### 2006 ACS Data Products

- American FactFinder - Data Available Starting August 28th
- FTP - Access our FTP site for table shells and data
- 2006 Guide to the Data Products - Detailed Tables with table shells
- Guidance on Comparing 2006 ACS Data to other Data Sources
- Questions and Answers about the 2006 ACS [PDF]

#### What's Different for 2006

- Many 2006 Data Products are now available for the Total Population
- Changes to the 2006 ACS Data Profiles and Ranking Tables
- Changes to the 2006 Data Products - Complete lists of New, Removed, and Modified Tables [xls]

#### Looking Ahead

- 2010 Census
- 2008 Questionnaire
- Multiyear estimate products

#### Technical Products

- Quality Measures - Information on steps taken to ensure that ACS survey data are accurate and reliable.
- Errata - Updates made to the data due to found errors.
- 2006 ACS Data User's Handbook - Information covering a broad set of topics relating directly to the ACS. [PDF 1.4Mb]
- 2006 PRCS Data User's Handbook (English version) - Information covering a broad set of topics relating directly to the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS). [PDF 0.99Mb]
- Subject Definitions - Definitions on population and housing variables to help you understand the results of the ACS.
- ACS Design and Methodology Paper [PDF 7.4Mb] - A comprehensive description of the methods and procedures currently used in the survey.

### News Releases

- **September 27th, 2007**  
Census Bureau Releases New Data on Residents of Adult Correctional Facilities, Nursing Homes and Other Group Quarters
- **September 27th, 2007**  
Spanish Version - Census Bureau Releases New Data on Residents of Adult Correctional Facilities, Nursing Homes and Other Group Quarters
- **September 24th, 2007**  
Media Advisory - An In-Depth Look at the Maricopa Region's Fast Growing and Changing Population

[more News Releases >](#)

News Media Tool Kit

### Questionnaire

The survey questionnaires are examples of the forms that we send to sample addresses.

### Language Brochures

Information about the American Community Survey is available in the following languages [PDF]:

- English (en)
- 中文 (zh)
- 한국어 (ko)
- ភាសាខ្មែរ (km)
- ភាសាស៊ីហ្គេត (si)
- ភាសាស្រីលង្កា (sl)
- ភាសាស្រីលង្កា (sl)
- ភាសាស្រីលង្កា (sl)

### Tool Kits

- News Media Tool Kit
- Congressional Tool Kit - [under revision](#)

[PDF] or [xls] denotes a file in Adobe's Portable Document Format. To view the file, you will need the Adobe® Acrobat® Reader [available free from Adobe]. This symbol [img alt="non-government website icon"] indicates a link to a non-government website. Our linking to these sites does not constitute an endorsement of any products, services or the information found on them. Once you link to another site you are subject to the policies of the new site.

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