

## Comparison: Census Bureau Demographic Programs

	Decennial Census	Population Estimates Program	American Community Survey
<b>Purpose / Uses</b>	Apportionment of seats in Congress Redistricting Allocation of Federal funding Planning at state and local levels	Survey controls Allocate Federal funding intercensal yrs Denominators for statistical rates Planning at state and local levels	Provide timely detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing data about the country's communities every year.
<b>Temporal frame</b>	Point-in-time	Point-in-time	Period estimate
<b>Reference date</b>	April 1 Year ending in zero	July 1 Intercensal years	None. Estimates describe entire period, which may be: 1-year (areas with 65,000 population plus) 3-year (areas with 20,000 population plus) 5-year period (all areas including ZCTAS, down to block group )
<b>Periodicity</b>	Every 10 years ("snapshot")	Annual	Ongoing survey Data collection every month ("video")
<b>Burden on respondent</b>	Mandatory	None	Mandatory
<b>Authority</b>	Article I, Section 2 Constitution U.S. Code Title 13, Sections 141 and 193	Title 13, Section 181	U.S. Code Title 13, Sections 141 and 193
<b>Methodology</b>	100% enumeration Every resident, every housing unit, and every group quarters	Vital records (from states) plus formulas for calculation of net migration	Random sample from Master Address File: 3.54 million HUs/year (295,000/month) Increase from 2.9 million--June 2011 mailout
<b>Modes of Personal contact</b>	Mail or drop off questionnaire; personal visit follow-up to non-responding addresses	No contact with residents. Census Bureau headquarters works with individual states	Mail Telephone Personal visit
<b>Management hub(s)</b>	Temporary Regional Census Centers	Census Headquarters	Census Regional Offices (6)
<b>Data</b>			
<b>Output</b>	Counts	Counts	Characteristics
<b>Topics</b>	Age Sex Race and ethnicity, Household relationships Tenure (own or rent home)	<b>U.S., state, county totals:</b> Age, sex race, ethnicity, housing  <b>Incorporated place totals:</b> Population only	See Quick Reference Guide :  "American Community Survey Data Release Timetable, Topics Covered by the ACS"
<b>Lowest level of release</b>	Block	Incorporated place	Block group