# Finding *American Community Survey* Data

— *In* —

# 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*.

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

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## 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.

### 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**.
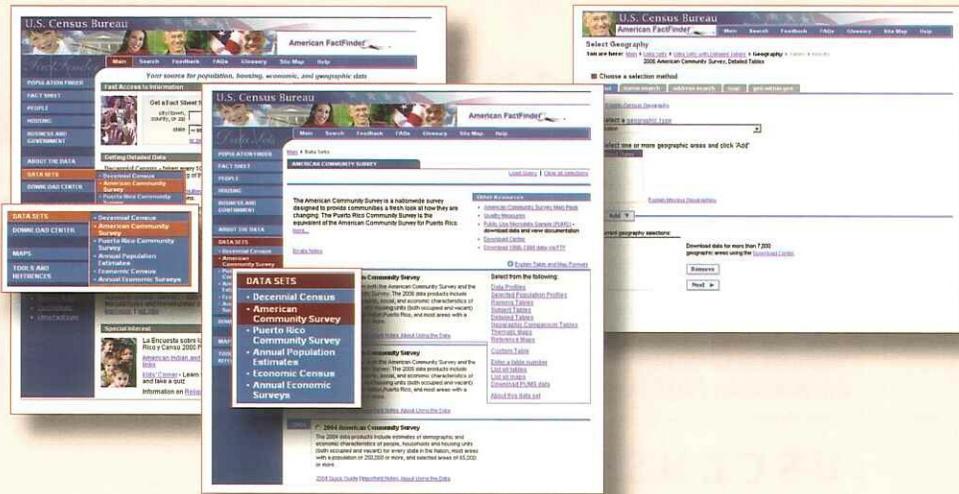
## 2 Select Geography
Pick one or more geographic areas, for example:
- Specify the **Geographic Type**; choose **County**.
- Select the specific **State**; choose **Virginia**.
- Select the specific **County**; choose **Fairfax County**.
- Click the **Add** button to move the area to the **Current Geography 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**.



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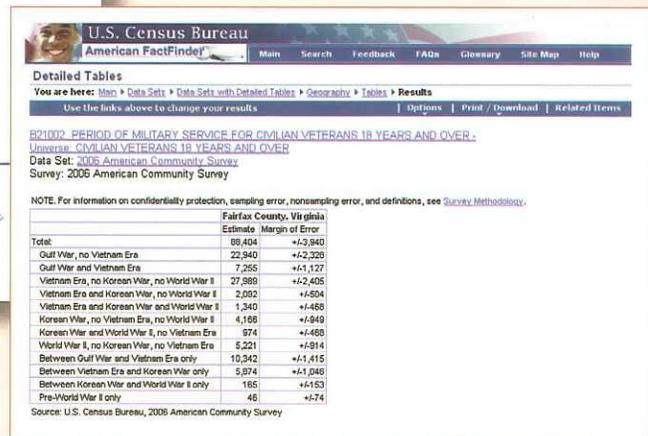
# ★★★ FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACS ★★★

# 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.