Questions Planned for the 2020 Census and American Community Survey
Federal Legislative and Program Uses

Issued March 2018
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Introduction

BACKGROUND

Since 1790, a national census of the U.S. population has been conducted every 10 years, as required by the U.S. Constitution. Additional information beyond the population count has been collected with each census in response to the challenges facing the nation and a national desire to understand ourselves.

For much of the 20th century, most addresses received a “short” form, while a portion of addresses received a more detailed “long” form. The Census 2000 short form was designed to collect basic demographic and housing information (i.e., age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, relationship, and tenure) to be used for congressional apportionment and to provide data to states for intrastate redistricting. The long form, sent to approximately 1 in 6 households, collected social, housing, and economic information (e.g., educational attainment, disability status, employment status, income, and housing costs) that was used to plan and determine funding for a wide array of federal, state, local, and tribal programs.

Since 2005, in order to provide communities, businesses, and the public with the detailed long-form information more frequently, these data have been collected monthly (and released annually) through the American Community Survey (ACS). This innovation enabled the 2010 Census to be a “short-form-only” census. Decoupling the collection of short- and long-form data allowed the U.S. Census Bureau to focus decennial census efforts on the constitutional requirements to produce a count of the resident population, while employing technology in both collections to improve efficiencies, improve accuracy, and reduce costs. The result has been the dissemination of more current and detailed information than has ever been available.

The 2020 Decennial Census Program, comprised of the 2020 Census and the ACS, will provide an official count through a “short-form-only” census (i.e., age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, relationship, tenure, and citizenship), as well as a portrait of communities counted across the nation through data collected by the ACS. This program is the only data-gathering effort that collects information from enough people to produce comparable data for every geographic area recognized by the Census Bureau.

SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS PLANNED FOR THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS PROGRAM

The Census Act requires that the questions to be included in the next census be submitted to Congress no later than 2 years before the census date. The contents of this handbook describe the questions that will be asked on the 2020 Census and the ACS.

ABOUT THE QUESTIONS PLANNED FOR THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS PROGRAM

Throughout each decade, regular content reviews are conducted to ensure that the information collected through the decennial census program is required by federal programs.2

To prepare for the 2020 Census, the Office of Management and Budget and the Census Bureau embarked on a comprehensive review including chartering the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) Subcommittee on the ACS and conducting the 2014 ACS Content Review. This effort was designed to examine and confirm the value of each question on the ACS, and to confirm and update the statutory and regulatory authority for the questions with federal agencies. In 2016, the Census Bureau asked federal agencies to provide any updates to this documentation.

The resulting information about federal uses is presented throughout the descriptions of the questions on the following pages. These descriptions are designed to give the reader a clear understanding of 1) the relationship between questions asked of respondents and the summarized data that are released in published tables, 2) how federal agencies use the resulting data, and 3) the benefits of the data at the community level.

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1 The ACS also collects short-form data on its questionnaire. However, the ACS asks for basic demographic and housing information from a sample of households, while the decennial census asks for basic demographic and housing information from all households.

Protecting the Information Collected by These Questions

The Census Bureau has an obligation to produce accurate, relevant statistics about the nation’s economy and people, but we recognize that the information collected by these questions is often private. We depend on cooperation and trust, and promise to protect the confidentiality of this information.

Federal law protects this information; Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all collected information. Violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. Please visit <www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/data_protection/federal_law.html> for details.

OUR PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

We recognize the value of respondent trust, and we believe that when a person answers the 2020 Census or the ACS we must serve as caretakers of the information. The Census Bureau’s Privacy Principles remind us of this promise and help ensure the protection of respondent information throughout all of our activities.

The Privacy Principles are our guidelines. They help us as we determine content to consider respondents’ rights and concerns. Every principle embodies a promise to the respondent.

Necessity: Do we need to collect information on this question?

Every time we prepare to ask a question, we determine whether the information is truly necessary. All of the information we collect is used for federal programs.

- We promise to collect only information necessary for each survey and census.

- We promise that we will use the information only to produce timely, relevant statistics about the population and the economy of the United States.

Openness: Do respondents know why we are collecting this information?

We collect information only for statistical purposes, and it is never used to identify individuals. Before participating, respondents have the right to know why we are conducting the survey or census, why we are asking specific questions, and the purposes for which the information will be used.

- We promise to inform respondents about the purpose and uses for every survey or census we conduct before respondents provide answers.

Respectful treatment of respondents: Are our efforts reasonable and do we treat people with respect?

- We promise to minimize the effort and time it takes for respondents to participate in the data collection by efficient designs.

- We promise to use only legal, ethical, and professionally accepted practices in collecting data.

- We promise to ensure any collection of sensitive information from children and other sensitive populations does not violate federal protections for research participants and is done only when it benefits the public good.

Confidentiality: How do we protect this information?

In addition to removing personally identifiable information (i.e., names, telephone numbers, and addresses) from our data files, we use various approaches to protect personal information—including computer technologies, statistical methodologies, and security procedures.

Our security measures ensure that only a restricted number of authorized people have access to private information and that access is only granted to conduct our work and for no other purposes. Every person who works with census confidential information collected by the Census Bureau is sworn for life to uphold the law.

Violating the confidentiality of a respondent is a federal crime with serious penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to 5 years, a fine of up to $250,000, or both.

- We promise that every person with access to respondent information is sworn for life to protect respondent confidentiality.

- We promise that we will use every technology, statistical methodology, and physical security procedure at our disposal to protect respondent information.
Questions Planned for the 2020 Census
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Age asked since 1790.

What is this person’s age and what is this person’s date of birth? For babies less than 1 year old, do not write the age in months. Write 0 as the age.

Print numbers in boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age on April 1, 2020</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Year of birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Age data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

AGE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance to Older Americans
Knowing how many people in a community are aged 60 and older helps local officials provide programs and services that enable older adults to remain living safely in their homes and communities (Older Americans Act). Age data are also used in programs that provide services and assistance to seniors, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

Provide Assistance to Children and Families
Knowing the numbers and ages of children in families can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, age data are used in targeted efforts to enroll eligible people in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Educate Children and Adults
Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions.

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Knowing the age distribution of a community’s population helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on age.
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A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON’S CITIZENSHIP IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT CITIZEN AND NONCITIZEN POPULATIONS.

These statistics are essential for enforcing the Voting Rights Act and its protections against voting discrimination.

CITIZENSHIP DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Enforce Voting Rights Law

Knowing how many people reside in the community and how many of those people are citizens, in combination with other information, provides the statistical information that helps the government enforce Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and its protections against discrimination in voting.

Understand Changes

Knowing how many citizens and noncitizens live in the United States, in combination with other information, is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers.

1 Citizenship asked 1820, 1830, 1870, and 1890 to present.
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Native American or Alaska Native data help communities:

These data are required for federal and state programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Native American or Alaska Native data are collected at the national, state, and tribal levels. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of the Native American and Alaska Native population and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. These data are also used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS OF HISPANIC, LATINO, OR SPANISH ORIGIN IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT THIS ETHNIC GROUP.

Though many respondents expect to see a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish category on the race question, this question is asked separately because people of Hispanic origin may be of any race(s) in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity.

HISPANIC ORIGIN DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

We ask about the Hispanic or Latino origin of community members to help governments and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, data on the Hispanic population are used to:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.
- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.

Understand Changes

Researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers are interested in knowing if the distribution of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic population changes by age, sex, relationship, and housing tenure.
A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON'S RACE IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT RACE AND TO PRESENT OTHER STATISTICS BY RACE GROUPS.

These data are required for federal, state, and tribal programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Race data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial groups and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity. The categories on race are based on self-identification and generally reflect a social definition of race. The categories are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.
RACE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the races of community members helps government and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, race data are used in the following ways:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.
- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.

Understand Changes

Researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers are interested in knowing if the distribution of the different racial groups changes by age, sex, relationship, and housing tenure.

Administer Programs for Specific Groups

Knowing how many people are eligible to participate in certain programs helps communities, including tribal governments, ensure that programs are operating as intended. For example, the Indian Housing Block Grant program, Indian Community Development Block Grant program, and Indian Health Service all depend on accurate statistics of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population come from the question about a person’s race.
Relationship data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF EACH PERSON IN A HOUSEHOLD TO ONE CENTRAL PERSON IS USED TO CREATE ESTIMATES ABOUT FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS, AND OTHER GROUPS, AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA AT A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL.

How is this person related to Person 1? Mark [x] ONE box.

- Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse
- Opposite-sex unmarried partner
- Same-sex husband/wife/spouse
- Same-sex unmarried partner
- Biological son or daughter
- Adopted son or daughter
- Stepson or stepdaughter
- Brother or sister
- Father or mother
- Grandchild
- Parent-in-law
- Son-in-law or daughter-in-law
- Other relative
- Roommate or housemate
- Foster child
- Other nonrelative

RELATIONSHIP DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing about the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, relationship data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Provide Assistance to Families

Knowing more about families, such as the ages of children, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as Head Start and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. Relationship data are also used to ensure that programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are making a difference for families.
Understand Changing Households

Information about living arrangements and how they are changing, including whether older residents are staying in their homes as they age, whether young people are living with parents or moving in with roommates, and which kinds of households include young children, can help communities plan future programs and services for residents. For example, the Social Security Administration estimates future program needs based on the current relationships of working people.
A QUESTION ABOUT THE SEX OF EACH PERSON IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT MALES AND FEMALES AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA BY SEX.

Data disaggregated by sex are used in planning and funding government programs and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

DATA DISAGREGATED BY SEX HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Resources for Education
Data disaggregated by sex are used to allocate funds to institutions of higher learning that increase participation, particularly of minority women, in scientific and engineering programs under the Higher Education Act.

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Data disaggregated by sex are used to evaluate employment practices under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, using sex-disaggregated data, establishes and evaluates guidelines dealing with equal employment opportunity. Data disaggregated by sex are used to evaluate housing policies and practices under the Civil Rights Act.

Understand Changes
State and local planners analyze social and economic characteristics of males and females to predict future needs for housing, education, childcare, health care, transportation, and employment.
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Tenure is the most basic characteristic to assess housing inventory. Tenure data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is available to residents. Tenure data are also used to provide and fund housing assistance programs. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in private-market housing, government programs, and in society.

**TENURE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Provide Adequate Housing**

Knowing the rates of home rental and ownership helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents.

When housing is not sufficient, data about owners and renters can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them.

**Plan Community Development**

Knowing how the balance of rented homes, mortgaged homes, and homes owned free and clear changes over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets; identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies; and reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties.

**Ensure Equal Opportunity**

Knowing the characteristics of people who rent and people who own homes in the community, such as age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, helps government and communities enforce laws, such as the 1968 Fair Housing Act, designed to eliminate discrimination in housing.

**Understand Changing Households**

Knowing whether older residents are staying in homes as they age or moving into rented homes, and whether young people are staying with parents, renting with roommates, or buying homes, can help governments and communities distribute funds appropriately between homeownership and rental housing programs and services for residents.
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Some operational questions will appear on the 2020 Census that will not result in published counts. These questions are asked to better administer the data collection process and to ensure greater accuracy of the data collected. Contact information is not part of published estimates and is carefully protected, as mandated by federal law, to respect the personal information of respondents.
Questions Planned for the American Community Survey
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### Questions Planned for the 2020 Census and American Community Survey

**Acreage** asked since 1960.

**Agricultural Sales** asked since 1960.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 How many acres is this house or mobile home on?</strong></td>
<td>□ Less than 1 acre ➔ SKIP to question 6a  &lt;br&gt; □ 1 to 9.9 acres  &lt;br&gt; □ 10 or more acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?</strong></td>
<td>□ None  &lt;br&gt; □ $1 to $999  &lt;br&gt; □ $1,000 to $2,499  &lt;br&gt; □ $2,500 to $4,999  &lt;br&gt; □ $5,000 to $9,999  &lt;br&gt; □ $10,000 or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACREAGE ASSOCIATED WITH HOUSES, MOBILE HOMES, AND AGRICULTURAL SALES ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOME VALUE STATISTICS.**

These data are used in planning government programs designed to benefit the farm population and identifying or excluding agricultural areas for many other programs.

**ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Provide Equitable Housing Assistance**

Knowing which homes might qualify for farm subsidies and which homes qualify for housing subsidies is important to ensure that funds are fairly allocated. For example, the historical definition of Fair Market Rents, used to allocate housing assistance, has always excluded units on acreage of more than 10 acres to eliminate those units that might benefit from farm subsidies and therefore have lower-than-market rents. Understanding which kinds of properties are eligible for certain programs helps communities inform eligible residents and determine whether the community is eligible for funds based on its farm population.

**Support Agricultural Programs**

Knowing which areas of a community are agricultural helps communities ensure eligible institutions receive funding for cooperative agricultural extension work and agricultural research. This funding is distributed to eligible institutions based on a legislatively determined formula that uses these data.

**Plan Community Development**

Knowing the size and agricultural nature of areas of each community can help communities understand changes in local housing markets; identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies; and reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties.
Age data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

**AGE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Provide Assistance to Older Americans**
Knowing how many people in a community are aged 60 and older helps local officials provide programs and services that enable older adults to remain living safely in their homes and communities (Older Americans Act). Age data are also used in programs that provide services and assistance to seniors, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

**Provide Assistance to Children and Families**
Knowing the numbers and ages of children in families in combination with other information, such as household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, age data are used in targeted efforts to enroll eligible people in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

**Educate Children and Adults**
Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions. Age in combination with other information, such as disability status, language spoken at home, and poverty status, assists schools in understanding the needs of their students and qualifying for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

**Ensure Equal Opportunity**
Knowing the ages of people in the community in combination with information about housing, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on age. For example, age information is used to analyze the employment status of workers by age (Age Discrimination in Employment Act).
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Ancestry asked since 1980.

A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON'S ANCESTRY OR ETHNIC ORIGIN IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT VARIOUS ANCESTRY GROUPS.

Ancestry data are used in planning and evaluating government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

ANCESTRY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the ethnic groups in a community in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on national origin. For example, ancestry data are used to enforce nondiscrimination in education (including monitoring desegregation); to enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations; and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in federal financial assistance (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people from different backgrounds have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, homeownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, ancestry data are used with age and language data to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.
Commuting (Journey to Work) asked since 1960.

**31 At what location did this person work LAST WEEK?** If this person worked at more than one location, print where he or she worked most last week.

- **a. Address (Number and street name)**

  If the exact address is not known, give a description of the location such as the building name or the nearest street or intersection.

- **b. Name of city, town, or post office**

- **c. Is the work location inside the limits of that city or town?**
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No, outside the city/town limits

- **d. Name of county**

- **e. Name of U.S. state or foreign country**

- **f. ZIP Code**

**32 How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK?** Mark ONE box for the method of transportation used for most of the distance.

- [ ] Car, truck, or van
- [ ] Bus
- [ ] Subway or elevated rail
- [ ] Long-distance train or commuter rail
- [ ] Light rail, streetcar, or trolley
- [ ] Ferryboat
- [ ] Taxicab
- [ ] Motorcycle
- [ ] Bicycle
- [ ] Walked
- [ ] Worked from home ➔ SKIP to question 40a
- [ ] Other method

**33 How many people, including this person, usually rode to work in the car, truck, or van LAST WEEK?**

Person(s)

**34 LAST WEEK, what time did this person’s trip to work usually begin?**

- [ ] Hour: [ ] Minute: [ ] a.m.
- [ ] b.m.

**35 How many minutes did it usually take this person to get from home to work LAST WEEK?**

Minutes

Journey to work data are used in planning and funding for improvements to road and highway infrastructure, developing transportation plans and services, and understanding where people are traveling in the course of a normal day. These data are also used to evaluate transportation plans to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups.
COMMUTING DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Improve Transportation Planning

Knowing where people commute to and from, and what time of day they are commuting, helps transportation planners create mass transportation and metropolitan transportation plans that are compliant with various transportation, environmental, and antidiscrimination regulations.

Local agencies and organizations use these statistics to plan transportation programs and services that meet the diverse needs of local populations, including the disabled population, bicycle commuters, carpools, and ride-sharers. Commuting data are also used to forecast future use of new or updated transportation systems.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing where people could reasonably commute from in order to work in a certain area is used by communities and businesses for employment planning, and by communities and governments to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against employment discrimination.

Understand Changes in Commutes

As commuting patterns change, information about where people could reasonably commute from in order to work in a certain area is used to understand commercial markets and labor force participation, and to plan local emergency response programs.
These statistics were first released to the public in September 2014. The questions were added as a requirement of the Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2008. They help federal agencies measure the nationwide development of broadband access and decrease barriers to broadband access.

**COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Ensure Residents Can Communicate**

State and local agencies can use these statistics to evaluate access to broadband in their communities. Schools, libraries, rural health care providers, and other public service providers also use this information. Communities ensure their residents are connected to assistance programs, emergency services, and important information. These statistics may also be useful to understand whether to use Internet or more expensive outreach methods for distributing important public health or safety information.

Federal agencies use these data to evaluate the extent of access to, and adoption of broadband, with a focus on underserved areas. State and local agencies might choose to use these statistics to evaluate access to broadband in their communities.
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Disability data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for populations with disabilities. In addition, these data are used in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure that they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

**DISABILITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Provide Adequate Housing**

Knowing the different types of disabled households in a community helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, disability data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.
Provide Health Care to Children and Families
Knowing the disability status of people in families in combination with other information, such as household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, disability data are used to target efforts to enroll eligible people in Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Disability data are also used to ensure that Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs are adequately serving these families.

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Knowing the disability status of people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, employment, and education, helps governments and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on disability status. For example, disability data are used to evaluate whether there are health care or public health program disparities based on disability status (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000).

Provide Assistance to People With Disabilities
Knowing how many people in a community over a certain age have a disability helps local officials provide programs and services to older adults that enable them to remain living safely in their homes and communities (Older Americans Act). Disability status data are also used in programs that provide services and assistance to people with a disability, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

Understand Changes
Knowing whether people with disabilities have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, homeownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. Communities also need to understand changes in the needs and geographic concentrations of people with disabilities to ensure that they can meet the community’s needs during weather events, disasters, and public health emergencies.
In the PAST 12 MONTHS, has this person given birth to any children?

- Yes
- No

Fertility data are used in planning government programs and adjusting other important data, such as the size of the population eligible for different services, as new people are born. These statistics can also be used to project the future size of the population and to understand more about growing families.

**FERTILITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

Provide Health Care to Children and Families

Knowing the number of women with a recent birth in combination with other information, such as marital status, labor force status, household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities understand changes in the demand for health care. For example, knowing how many American Indian babies are born can help communities, tribes, and the federal government estimate the demand for health care through the Indian Health Service.

Understand Changing Households

Knowing the characteristics of women who are giving birth, including where in the country they live, is important to understand the relationships among different development patterns, including housing and travel information, public health, and pollution.

Though local vital statistics offices typically have a count of births per year, fertility data are able to provide federal program planners, policymakers, and researchers with additional statistics about the age, education, and employment of parents in households welcoming children, and other important information about the homes (age, size, etc.) and households (income, language spoken, etc.) for a more complete picture of families.

State and local agencies can use these statistics in combination with other information about new mothers, such as education and income, to understand future needs for the local education system and health services.
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Grandparent Caregivers  asked since 2000.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER FOR HIS/HER GRANDCHILDREN AND HOW LONG HE/SHE HAS CARED FOR HIS/HER GRANDCHILDREN ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT GRANDPARENT CAREGIVERS.

26 a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?
   - Yes
   - No \(\rightarrow\) SKIP to question 27

b. Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchildren under the age of 18 who live in this house or apartment?
   - Yes
   - No \(\rightarrow\) SKIP to question 27

c. How long has this grandparent been responsible for these grandchildren?
   - Less than 6 months
   - 6 to 11 months
   - 1 or 2 years
   - 3 or 4 years
   - 5 or more years

GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance to Families
Knowing more about families, particularly those where grandparents care for grandchildren, along with data about the ages of children, household income, disability, and poverty status can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. These data are also used to evaluate programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Provide Assistance to Older Americans
Knowing how many people in a community are over a certain age, including whether older Americans are caring for grandchildren, helps local officials fund programs and services targeted to reach older adults with the greatest economic and social needs (Older Americans Act).

Understand Changing Households
Knowing more about how often grandparents are responsible for the basic care for grandchildren and how long they have been responsible in combination with information about age, presence of children, income, etc., can help communities understand if available housing and services are meeting residents’ needs.

Grandparent caregiver data help federal agencies understand the special provisions needed for federal programs designed to assist families, as older Americans are often in different financial, housing, and health circumstances than those of other ages. These data are also used to measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs.
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Health Insurance Coverage asked since 2008.
Health Insurance Premiums and Subsidies starting in 2019.

### 16 Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? Mark “Yes” or “No” for EACH type of coverage in items a – h.

| a. Insurance through a current or former employer or union (by this person or another family member) | Yes | No |
| b. Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member) | | |
| c. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities | | |
| d. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability | | |
| e. TRICARE or other military health care | | |
| f. VA (including those who have enrolled for VA health care) | | |
| g. Indian Health Service | | |
| h. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan – Specify | | |

### 17 a. Is there a premium for this plan? A premium is a fixed amount of money paid on a regular basis for health coverage. It does not include copays, deductibles, or other expenses such as prescription costs.

- Yes
- No → SKIP to question 18a

### 17 b. Does this person or another family member receive a tax credit or subsidy based on family income to help pay the premium?

- Yes
- No

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOURCES OF A PERSON’S HEALTH INSURANCE ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE SOURCES OF HEALTH INSURANCE.**

Health insurance data are used in planning government programs, determining eligibility criteria, and encouraging eligible people to participate in health insurance programs.

**HEALTH INSURANCE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Provide Assistance to Children and Families**

Knowing the health insurance coverage status in combination with other information, such as number and age of children in families, household income, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, health insurance coverage status and age data are used to target efforts to enroll eligible people in Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Health Insurance data are also used to ensure that Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs are improving health outcomes for families.
Provide Health Care for Veterans

Knowing the number and characteristics of veterans eligible to use Department of Veterans Affairs health care, compared to those currently using services, can help communities and the federal government estimate the future demand for health care services and facilities for veterans.

Provide Health Care for American Indians

Knowing the health insurance coverage status of American Indians can help communities, tribes, and the federal government estimate the demand for health care through the Indian Health Service.

Understand Changes

Knowing the health insurance coverage status of people in a community helps planners identify gaps in community services, plan programs that address those gaps, and qualify for funding for those programs.

Knowing more about changes in health insurance coverage rates and the characteristics of people who have or do not have health insurance is also of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities use health insurance coverage data in their comprehensive reviews and analyses of the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities.
Hispanic Origin  asked since 1970.

5 Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- [ ] No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- [ ] Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- [ ] Yes, Puerto Rican
- [ ] Yes, Cuban
- [ ] Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS OF HISPANIC, LATINO, OR SPANISH ORIGIN IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT THIS ETHNIC GROUP.

These data are required for federal and state programs and are factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Hispanic origin data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of the Hispanic population. They are also used to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies.

Though many respondents expect to see a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish category on the race question, this question is asked separately because people of Hispanic origin may be of any race(s) in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity.

HISPANIC ORIGIN DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing about the Hispanic or Latino origin of community members in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, to help governments and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, data on the Hispanic population are used to:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.
- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act and enforce bilingual election requirements.
- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.
- Allocate funds to school districts for bilingual services under the Bilingual Education Act.
Understand Changes

Researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers are interested in knowing if people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, and homeownership. The National Science Foundation uses these data to provide information on the Hispanic population in the science and engineering workforce. Several federal agencies use these data to investigate whether housing or transportation improvements have unintended consequences for the Hispanic population. Data on the Hispanic population are used with age and language data to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.
These data are used in government programs that analyze community air quality and energy needs. Federal agencies use these statistics to forecast future energy demand, analyze the fuels available to community residents, and plan and fund programs that help low-income residents afford to heat their homes.

HOME HEATING FUEL DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance With Utilities
Knowing which fuel is used to heat homes in combination with the cost of those fuels and the characteristics of the low-income households that need assistance with their utilities, helps communities enroll eligible households in assistance programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and qualify for grants to fund assistance. These data are also used to evaluate whether these programs benefit eligible households.

Estimate Future Energy Demand
Knowing the current users of certain heating systems and the kinds of systems used in new homes helps communities predict future demand for fuels and the future costs of systems in use in a community. For example, the Department of Energy uses these data to project demand over the next 30 years, assessing the energy needs of the U.S. economy in a domestic and international context.

Measure Environmental Impacts
Communities with older heating systems may have lower air quality at times when they are in high use. Home heating fuel data are used to develop an inventory of the national aggregate emissions of each greenhouse gas and to research and report on the relationships among different development patterns (including housing and travel information) and public health and pollution (Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act).
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HOME VALUE AND RENT DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. Housing costs in combination with relationship and combined income of all people in a household helps communities understand whether housing is affordable.

When rental housing is not affordable, rent data are used to identify rental distribution of housing units (the standard cost of different types of housing in different areas of the country) and to determine Fair Market Rents, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development uses to determine the amount of tenant subsidies in housing assistance programs.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, housing cost data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the balance of rented homes, mortgaged homes, and owned homes changes over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets and identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing more about people who rent and people who own homes in the community in combination with age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and other data, helps government and communities enforce laws, such as the 1968 Fair Housing Act designed to eliminate discrimination in housing.
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43 INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Mark (X) the “Yes” box for each type of income this person received, and give your best estimate of the TOTAL AMOUNT during the PAST 12 MONTHS. (NOTE: The “past 12 months” is the period from today’s date one year ago up through today.)

Mark (X) the “No” box to show types of income NOT received.

If net income was a loss, mark the “Loss” box to the right of the dollar amount.

For income received jointly, report the appropriate share for each person – or, if that’s not possible, report the whole amount for only one person and mark the “No” box for the other person.

a. Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs. Report amount before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

b. Self-employment income from own nonfarm businesses or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships. Report NET income after business expenses.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

Loss

c. Interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts. Report even small amounts credited to an account.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

Loss

d. Social Security or Railroad Retirement.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

e. Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

f. Any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

g. Retirement income, pensions, survivor or disability income. Include income from a previous employer or union, or any regular withdrawals or distributions from IRA, Roth IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other accounts specifically designed for retirement. Do not include Social Security.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

h. Any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans’ (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support or alimony. Do NOT include lump sum payments such as money from an inheritance or the sale of a home.

□ Yes → $... .00
□ No

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

44 What was this person’s total income during the PAST 12 MONTHS? Add entries in questions 43a to 43h; subtract any losses. If net income was a loss, enter the amount and mark (X) the “Loss” box next to the dollar amount.

□ OR $... .00
□ None

TOTAL AMOUNT for past 12 months

Loss
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUNDS A PERSON RECEIVES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT INCOME, ASSISTANCE, EARNINGS, AND POVERTY STATUS.

Income data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide economic assistance for populations in need and measure the economic well-being of the nation. Income and poverty estimates are often part of allocation formulas that determine how food, health care, job training, housing, and other assistance are distributed.

INCOME DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing
Knowing the combined income of all people in a household in combination with housing costs helps communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents. When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, income data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Provide Assistance to Older Americans
Knowing how many older people in a community are living in poverty in combination with other information, such as age and disability status of other family members, can help communities ensure these residents receive appropriate assistance, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

Provide Assistance to Children and Families
Knowing household income in combination with other information, such as the number and age of children in families, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, income data are used to identify eligibility and provide funding in programs like Medicaid, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Head Start.

Educate Children and Adults
Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions. Household income and family composition determine poverty status, which is used along with school enrollment, information on disability status, and language spoken at home, to help schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for students with needs for additional services or assistance, including free/reduced price school lunches (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Plan Community Development
Knowing more about the financial situation of residents, including income, employment, and housing costs, can help communities qualify for loan and grant programs designed to stimulate economic recovery, improve housing, run job-training programs, and define areas as empowerment or enterprise zones.
Industry asked since 1820.¹
Occupation asked since 1850.
Class of Worker asked since 1910.

42 DESCRIPTION OF EMPLOYMENT

The next series of questions is about the type of employment this person had last week.

If this person had more than one job, describe the one at which the most hours were worked. If this person did not work last week, describe the most recent employment in the past five years.

a. Which one of the following best describes this person’s employment last week or the most recent employment in the past 5 years?
Mark (X) ONE box.

PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEE
- For-profit company or organization
- Non-profit organization (including tax-exempt and charitable organizations)

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
- Local government (for example: city or county school district)
- State government (including state colleges/universities)
- Active duty U.S. Armed Forces or Commissioned Corps
- Federal government civilian employee

SELF-EMPLOYED OR OTHER
- Owner of non-incorporated business, professional practice, or farm
- Owner of incorporated business, professional practice, or farm
- Worked without pay in a for-profit family business or farm for 15 hours or more per week

b. What was the name of this person’s employer, business, agency, or branch of the Armed Forces?


c. What kind of business or industry was this?
Include the main activity, product, or service provided at the location where employed. (For example: elementary school, residential construction)


d. Was this mainly – Mark (X) ONE box.
- manufacturing?
- wholesale trade?
- retail trade?
- other (agriculture, construction, service, government, etc.)?

e. What was this person’s main occupation?
(For example: 4th grade teacher, entry-level plumber)


f. Describe this person’s most important activities or duties. (For example: instruct and evaluate students and create lesson plans, assemble and install pipe sections and review building plans for work details)


QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON’S EMPLOYER, THE KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY OF THAT EMPLOYER, THE KIND OF WORK A PERSON DOES, AND THAT PERSON’S MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES ARE USED TO PRODUCE INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, AND CLASS OF WORKER STATISTICS.

These data are used to provide information about the labor force to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups, and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

¹ Industry asked in 1820, 1840, and 1910 to present.
Industry asked since 1820—Con.
Occupation asked since 1850—Con.
Class of Worker asked since 1910—Con.

INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, AND CLASS OF WORKER DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Employment Opportunities
Knowing whether programs designed to employ specific groups, such as people with disabilities or veterans, are succeeding is important to employers, federal agencies, and federal government contractors (Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Industry, occupation, and class of worker data provide additional detail about the jobs and careers pursued by people participating in these programs.

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify labor surplus areas (areas with people available for hiring and training), plan workforce development programs including job fairs and training programs, and promote business opportunities.

Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity
Knowing more about people who are employed or looking for work in combination with educational attainment, age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, disability status, veteran status, and other data, helps governments and communities enforce civil rights laws against employment discrimination. For example, these data are used to enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes
Knowing the characteristics of growing or declining industries and occupations is an important part of estimating changes in the economy. Labor force estimates are used in funding decisions; to ensure surveys are accurate, including surveys that provide official labor market estimates; and to understand change in other data (Wagner-Peyser Act and Workforce Investment Act).

Class of worker data, in particular, are used by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to understand changes in farm workers and agriculture.
Labor Force Status asked since 1890.

30. LAST WEEK, did this person work for pay at a job (or business)?
   - Yes → SKIP to question 31
   - No – Did not work (or retired)

31. LAST WEEK, did this person do ANY work for pay, even for as little as one hour?
   - Yes
   - No → SKIP to question 36a

36. LAST WEEK, was this person on layoff from a job?
   - Yes → SKIP to question 36c
   - No

36c. Has this person been informed that he or she will be recalled to work within the next 6 months OR been given a date to return to work?
   - Yes → SKIP to question 38
   - No

37. During the LAST 4 WEEKS, has this person been ACTIVELY looking for work?
   - Yes
   - No → SKIP to question 39

38. LAST WEEK, could this person have started a job if offered one, or returned to work if recalled?
   - Yes, could have gone to work
   - No, because of own temporary illness
   - No, because of all other reasons (in school, etc.)

Labor force data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide unemployment assistance and services. These data are also used to evaluate other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups, and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.
Labor Force Status asked since 1890—Con.

LABOR FORCE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Employment Opportunities
Knowing whether programs designed to employ specific groups, such as people with disabilities or veterans, are succeeding is important to employers, federal agencies, and federal government contractors (Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify labor surplus areas (areas with people available for hiring and training), plan workforce development programs, including job fairs and training programs, and to promote business opportunities.

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Knowing more about people who are employed or looking for work in combination with age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, disability status, veteran status, and other data, helps governments and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in employment. For example, labor force data are used to enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes
Knowing the characteristics of people who are working or looking for work is an important part of estimating changes in the economy. Labor force estimates are used in funding decisions; to ensure surveys are accurate, including surveys that provide official labor market estimates; and to understand change in other data (Wagner-Peyser Act and Workforce Investment Act).
Language Spoken at Home asked since 1890.¹

**14. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No ➔ SKIP to question 15

**b. What is this language?**

- [ ] For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

**c. How well does this person speak English?**

- [ ] Very well
- [ ] Well
- [ ] Not well
- [ ] Not at all

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**LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Educate Children**

Knowing how many children and youth with limited English-speaking abilities depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term staffing and funding decisions.

Language spoken at home in combination with other information, such as disability status, school enrollment, and poverty status, helps schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

**Ensure Equal Opportunity**

Knowing the languages spoken by people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, employment, and education, helps the government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on national origin. For example, language data are used to support the enforcement responsibilities under the Voting Rights Act to investigate differences in voter participation rates and to enforce laws and policies related to bilingual requirements.

Knowing languages spoken in a community also helps federal agencies identify needs for services for people with limited English proficiency under Executive Order 13166.

**Understand Changes**

Knowing whether people who speak languages other than English have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, homeownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, language data are used with age and ancestry data to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.

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¹ Language spoken at home was not asked in 1950.
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Marital Status asked since 1880. Marital History asked since 1850.

21 What is this person’s marital status?
- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married → SKIP to J

22 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get –
   a. Married? Yes No
   b. Widowed? Yes No
   c. Divorced? Yes No

23 How many times has this person been married?
   - Once
   - Two times
   - Three or more times

24 In what year did this person last get married?
   Year

Marital status and marital history data help federal agencies understand marriage trends, forecast future needs of programs that have spousal benefits, and measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs.

MARITAL STATUS AND MARITAL HISTORY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Benefits to Spouses and Survivors
Knowing more about how many spouses and ex-spouses may qualify for programs with spousal benefits, including veteran and social security programs, can help federal agencies ensure adequate funding and facilities for these programs and can help communities determine where gaps in benefits and services might exist.

Provide Assistance to Families
Knowing more about families, particularly blended and single-parent families, along with data about the presence of children, labor force status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. These data are also used to evaluate programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Understand Changing Households
Knowing more about community marriage trends (whether people are marrying later in life, not getting married, or marrying again) in combination with information about age, presence of children, income, etc., can help communities understand if the available housing, job training, rental assistance, and administrative services and programs are meeting residents’ needs during their major life changes. These data also help the federal government plan for the future. For example, the Social Security Administration estimates future program needs based on the current relationships of working people.
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Migration (Previous Residence)/Residence 1 Year Ago asked since 1930.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON MOVED IN THE LAST YEAR AND WHERE HE OR SHE LIVED 1 YEAR AGO ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE ARE MOVING (TO/FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND WITHIN THE UNITED STATES).

Migration (residence 1 year ago) data are used in planning government programs. The characteristics of people who have moved are also an important part of estimating population changes. These population estimates are used in funding decisions, to ensure surveys are accurate, to understand change in other data, and to produce official international migration estimates.

MIGRATION/RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Understand Changes

Knowing the characteristics of people who have moved and the patterns of migration (where people move to and from) is an important part of estimating population changes. Population estimates are used in funding decisions, to ensure surveys are accurate, to understand change in other data, and to produce international migration estimates. These data also help agencies assess residential stability and the effects of migration on urban and rural areas.

Knowing where certain populations move to and from helps federal agencies assess the needs of counties with large refugee populations and the effects of immigration on local areas.

Knowing the characteristics of people who live or have lived in certain areas is important to understand the relationships among different development patterns, including housing and travel information, public health, and pollution. These data may also assist state and local agencies in developing programs that attract new residents or employers.
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PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, AND YEAR OF ENTRY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

**Ensure Equal Opportunity**
Knowing how many people in the community are born in other countries in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps the government and communities to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on national origin. For example, these data are used to support the enforcement responsibilities under the Voting Rights Act to investigate differences in voter participation rates and to enforce other laws and policies regarding bilingual requirements.

**Educate Children**
Knowing how many foreign-born children depend on services through schools helps school districts make staffing and funding decisions. Place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry statistics in combination with other information, such as language spoken at home, help schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

**Understand Changes**
Knowing whether people of different races or countries of birth have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, homeownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. These data may also help communities with large refugee populations that qualify for financial assistance (Immigration Nationality Act).

### Questions Planned for the 2020 Census and American Community Survey

#### Place of Birth
asked since 1850.

#### Citizenship
asked since 1820.¹

#### Year of Entry
asked since 1890.²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Where was this person born?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the United States – Print name of state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outside the United States – Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Is this person a citizen of the United States?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, born in the United States ➔ SKIP to question 10a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization – Print year of naturalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No, not a U.S. citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>When did this person come to live in the United States? If this person came to live in the United States more than once, print latest year. Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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¹ Citizenship asked 1820, 1830, 1870, and 1890 to present.
² Year of entry asked 1890–1930 and 1970 to present.
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Questions Planned for the 2020 Census and American Community Survey

PLUMBING FACILITIES, KITCHEN FACILITIES, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing more about the quality of housing in a community helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, data on household facilities can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the quality of different types of homes in combination with whether they are occupied or vacant, can help communities identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies and to reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties. These data may also be useful in identifying types of homes in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.

Ensure Residents Can Communicate

Measuring the extent of telephone service helps communities ensure their residents have universal access to assistance programs, emergency services, and important information.

Measure Environmental Impacts

Substandard plumbing systems may impact the local water supply. Understanding where these systems are concentrated helps communities research their wastewater infrastructure needs and work to improve their systems.

These data are used in planning and funding government programs that identify areas eligible for housing assistance, rehabilitation loans, and other programs that help people access and afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. Public health officials may also use this information to locate areas in danger of groundwater contamination and waterborne diseases.
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### Race asked since 1790.

**What is Person 1’s race?** Mark (X) one or more boxes AND print origins.

- **White** – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.
- **Black or African American** – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.
- **American Indian or Alaska Native** – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.
- **Chinese**
- **Filipino**
- **Asian Indian**
- **Other Asian** – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.
- **Vietnamese**
- **Korean**
- **Japanese**
- **Native Hawaiian**
- **Samoa**
- **Chamorro**
- **Other Pacific Islander** – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.
- **Some other race** – Print race or origin.

---

**A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON’S RACE IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT RACE AND TO PRESENT OTHER ESTIMATES BY RACE GROUPS.**

These data are required for federal, state, and tribal programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Race data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial groups and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity. The categories on race are based on self-identification and generally reflect a social definition of race. The categories are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.

**RACE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Ensure Equal Opportunity**

Knowing the races of community members in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education,
Race asked since 1790—Con.

helps government and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, race data are used in the following ways:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.

- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act and enforce bilingual election requirements.

- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.

- Allocate funds to school districts for bilingual services under the Bilingual Education Act.

Understand Changes

Knowing if people of different races have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, homeownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. The National Science Foundation uses data on race to provide information on people of different racial backgrounds in the science and engineering workforce. Several federal agencies use race data to investigate whether housing or transportation improvements have unintended consequences for specific race groups. Data on race are used with age and language data to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.

Administer Programs for Specific Groups

Knowing how many people are eligible to participate in certain programs helps communities, including tribal governments, ensure that programs are operating as intended. For example, the Indian Housing Block Grant program, Indian Community Development Block Grant program, and Indian Health Service all depend on accurate estimates of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population come from the question about a person’s race.
Relationship asked since 1880.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF EACH PERSON IN A HOUSEHOLD TO ONE CENTRAL PERSON IS USED TO CREATE ESTIMATES ABOUT FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS, AND OTHER GROUPS, AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA AT A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL.

Relationship data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

RELATIONSHIP DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing about the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. Information about the relationships among people in a household, in combination with housing costs and the combined income of all people in a household, helps communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, relationship data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Provide Assistance to Families

Knowing more about families, such as the ages of children, household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as Head Start and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. Relationship data are also used to ensure that programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are making a difference for families.

Understand Changing Households

Information about living arrangements and how they are changing, including whether older residents are staying in their homes as they age, whether young people are living with parents or moving in with roommates, and which kinds of households include young children, can help communities plan future programs and services for residents. For example, the Social Security Administration estimates future program needs based on the current relationships of working people.
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School Enrollment asked since 1850.
Educational Attainment asked since 1940.
Undergraduate Field of Degree asked since 2009.

10. At any time in the last 3 months, has this person attended school or college?
   Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, home school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.
   - No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
   - Yes, public school, public college
   - Yes, private school, private college, home school

11. What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box.
   If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.
   - NO SCHOOLING COMPLETED
   - Nursery school
   - Kindergarten
   - Grade 1 through 11 → Specify grade 1 – 11
   - 12th grade – NO DIPLOMA
   - Regular high school diploma
   - GED or alternative credential
   - SOME COLLEGE
     - Some college credit, but less than 1 year of college credit
     - 1 or more years of college credit, no degree
     - Associate’s degree (for example: AA, AS)
     - Bachelor’s degree (for example: BA, BS)
   - AFTER BACHELOR’S DEGREE
     - Master’s degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
     - Professional degree beyond a bachelor’s degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
     - Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

12. This question focuses on this person’s BACHELOR’S DEGREE. Please print below the specific major(s) of any BACHELOR’S DEGREES this person has received. (For example: chemical engineering, elementary teacher education, organizational psychology)
QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS ATTENDING SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED, AND THE FIELD OF ANY COMPLETED UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE DEGREES ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT EDUCATION.

These statistics are used to analyze the characteristics and needs of school-aged children and to understand the continuing education needs of adults.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AND UNDERGRADUATE FIELD OF DEGREE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Educate Children and Adults
Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions. School enrollment in combination with other information, such as disability status, language spoken at home, and poverty status, helps schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Understanding more about the characteristics of people enrolled or not enrolled in school helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in education (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Knowing the educational attainment of workers compared to those seeking employment in combination with age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and other data, helps enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).
1 Cost of utilities asked since 1940, condominium and mobile home fees asked since 1990, taxes asked in 1940 and since 1980, insurance cost asked since 1980, and mortgages cost asked in 1940 and since 1980.
Selected Monthly Owner Costs (Cost of Utilities, Condominium and Mobile Home Fees, Taxes, Insurance, and Mortgages)—Con.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE AND COST OF COMMON UTILITIES, ANY APPLICABLE CONDOMINIUM AND MOBILE HOME FEES, TAXES, MORTGAGES, AND HOME LOANS ARE USED TO PRODUCE STATISTICS ABOUT SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS.

These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is affordable for residents and to provide and fund housing assistance programs. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing
Comparing housing costs to household income (the combined income of everyone in the household) helps communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents.

Plan Community Development
Knowing how housing costs change over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets and to identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies.

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Knowing more about the housing costs of people who own homes in the community in combination with age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and other data about the household residents, helps government and communities enforce laws designed to eliminate discrimination in housing (Fair Housing Act of 1968).

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, housing cost data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.
Sex asked since 1790.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE SEX OF EACH PERSON IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT MALES AND FEMALES AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA, SUCH AS OCCUPATION, BY SEX.

Data disaggregated by sex are used in planning and funding government programs and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

DATA DISAGGREGATED BY SEX HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the distribution of men and women in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination on the basis of sex. For example, sex-disaggregated data are used to enforce laws against discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972).

Understand Changes

Knowing whether men and women have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, homeownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, the National Science Foundation uses data disaggregated by sex to provide information on women in the science and engineering workforce, and several agencies use sex-disaggregated data to investigate whether women, including women who are military veterans, have similar employment opportunities as men.
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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamps asked since 2005.

SNAP data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide food assistance and in evaluating other government programs.

SNAP DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Food Assistance to School Children
Knowing more about food assistance program participation in combination with school enrollment, income, and poverty status, can help communities streamline administration of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program by replacing administrative paperwork with American Community Survey estimates of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Evaluate SNAP
Knowing more about food assistance program participation helps the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate SNAP and award bonuses to communities that administer SNAP funds well.

Understand Changes
State and local agencies use these statistics to assess state food assistance needs and participation rates for eligible families and individuals and to determine gaps in services and programs. Faith-based and other nonprofit organizations use information about food assistance needs to determine where food banks, food kitchens, and other programs could be beneficial and how the needs of their communities can be met with additional resources and services.

1 In 2008, the food stamp program was renamed SNAP, but the question uses both program names to minimize confusion.
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Tenure (Owner/Renter) asked since 1890.

Is this house, apartment, or mobile home – Mark (X) ONE box.

- Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? Include home equity loans.
- Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- Rented?
- Occupied without payment of rent? → SKIP to C on the next page

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A HOME IS OWNED OR RENTED IS USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT TENURE, RENTERS, AND HOMEOWNERSHIP.

Tenure is the most basic characteristic to assess housing inventory. Tenure data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is affordable for residents. Tenure data are also used to provide and fund housing assistance programs. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in private-market housing, government programs, and in society.

TENURE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) and rates of home rental and ownership helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. Data about owners and renters, in combination with housing costs and the combined income of all people in a household, help communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, data about owners and renters can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the balance of rented homes, mortgaged homes, and homes owned free and clear changes over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets; identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies; and reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties. Tenure is also used in formulas that communities use to determine housing assistance funding (Fair Market Rents).

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the characteristics of people who rent and people who own homes in the community, such as age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and disability, helps government and communities enforce laws designed to eliminate discrimination in housing (Fair Housing Act of 1968).

Understand Changing Households

Knowing whether older residents are staying in homes as they age or moving into rented homes, and whether young people are staying with parents, renting with roommates, or buying homes, can help governments and communities distribute funds appropriately between homeownership and rental housing programs and services for residents.
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Which best describes this building?  
*Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant.*  
- A mobile home  
- A one-family house detached from any other house  
- A one-family house attached to one or more houses  
- A building with 2 apartments  
- A building with 3 or 4 apartments  
- A building with 5 to 9 apartments  
- A building with 10 to 19 apartments  
- A building with 20 to 49 apartments  
- A building with 50 or more apartments  
- Boat, RV, van, etc.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TYPE OF BUILDING, UNITS IN THE STRUCTURE, NUMBER OF ROOMS, AND NUMBER OF BEDROOMS ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT HOUSING TYPES AND HOUSING DENSITY.

These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is available and affordable for residents, and provide and fund housing assistance programs. The number of rooms in combination with the number of people living in a unit provides a ratio of people to rooms, which can be used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our nation’s households. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination in government programs and in society.

**UNITS IN STRUCTURE, ROOMS, AND BEDROOMS DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:**

**Provide Adequate Housing**

Knowing the different types of housing, and how many people occupy that housing, helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. For example, these data are used to measure overcrowding in communities and are used as integral components to set Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country.
When housing is not sufficient, data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them (such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

These data provide benchmark statistics that measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of goals for a national housing policy—a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.

**Plan Community Development**

These data are used to identify adequate housing and may be useful in identifying types of structures in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.
Vehicles Available  asked since 1960.

How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 or more

A QUESTION ABOUT THE VEHICLES AVAILABLE TO EACH HOUSEHOLD IS USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT VEHICLE ACCESS.

Vehicle data are used in planning and funding for improvements to road and highway infrastructure, developing transportation plans and services, and understanding how people are traveling in the course of a normal day. These data are also used to evaluate pollution and access to transportation in emergencies.

VEHICLE AVAILABILITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Improve Transportation

Knowing how many households have access to vehicles, in combination with where people commute to and from, and whether they commute with a personal vehicle helps transportation planners create mass transportation and metropolitan plans that are compliant with various regulations.

Local agencies and organizations use these data to plan programs and services for the disabled population, bicycle commuters, carpools and ride-sharers, and many other groups; and to predict future use of new or updated transportation systems based on their understanding of the current users of various transportation options.

Understand Changes in Vehicle Use

Understanding vehicle availability and use helps communities understand exposure to air pollution and plan programs to help people without vehicles move about the community. Knowing whether people could evacuate using their personal vehicles in an emergency also helps communities plan emergency response.
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QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON’S MILITARY SERVICE AND SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING ARE USED TO CREATE ESTIMATES OF VETERANS AND THEIR NEEDS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.

Data about veterans are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for veterans and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of veterans. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination in society. Though the VA maintains veterans’ records, these statistics do not provide federal program planners, policymakers, and researchers with additional statistics about all veterans, regardless of whether they use VA services.

VETERAN STATUS, PERIOD OF SERVICE, AND VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Administer Programs for Veterans

Knowing the numbers and characteristics of veterans eligible for federal programs benefiting veterans, such as the VA Home Loan Guarantee program, the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and job training and hiring preference programs can help communities and the federal government estimate the future demand for these programs and services. These data are also used to evaluate these programs to determine whether they are benefiting veterans as intended.

Provide Health Care for Veterans

Knowing the number of veterans eligible to use VA health care in combination with age, disability, and service-connected disability ratings, can help communities and the federal government estimate
the future demand for health care services and facilities. Communities in need of major VA medical facilities throughout the country make a case for new construction projects using these data to estimate the expected usage of new facilities.

**Plan End-of-Life Options for Veterans**

Knowing where veterans are living toward the end of their lives is important, as the VA estimates the number of nursing home and domiciliary beds needed based on the concentrations of eligible veterans over age 65. These data are also important for the VA National Cemetery Administration, whose goal is to have a VA burial option within 75 miles of a veteran’s residence. These data are used to plan construction of new cemeteries near the communities where veterans choose to live.

**Ensure Equal Opportunity**

Knowing the veteran and service-connected disability rating status of people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce against discrimination based on veteran or disability status.

**Understand New Challenges for Veterans**

Knowing more about the characteristics of veterans returning to civilian life is also important to combat specific problems they may face. For example, these data are used in research to understand why veteran status is a predictor of homelessness. Such data have been combined with administrative data produced by shelters in an attempt to understand and document which interventions reduce homelessness among veterans.
Data on work status last year are used in planning and funding government programs that provide unemployment assistance and services, and to understand trends and difference in wages, benefits, work hours, and seasonal work. These data are also used to evaluate other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups, and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

WORK STATUS LAST YEAR DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Employment Opportunities
Knowing whether programs designed to employ specific groups, such as people with disabilities or veterans, are succeeding is important to employers, federal agencies, and federal government contractors (Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify labor surplus areas (areas with people available for hiring and training), plan workforce development programs including job fairs and training programs, and promote business opportunities.

Ensure Equal Opportunity
Knowing more about people who are employed or looking for work, in combination with age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, disability status, veteran status, and other data, helps governments and communities enforce laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination in employment. For example, data on work status last year are used to enforce laws against discrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes
Knowing the characteristics of people who are working or looking for work is an important part of estimating changes in the economy. Estimates of work status last year are used in funding decisions; to ensure surveys are accurate, including surveys that provide official labor market estimates; and to understand change in other data (Wagner-Peyser Act and Workforce Investment Act).
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These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is available and affordable for residents, provide and fund housing assistance programs, and measure neighborhood stability.

YEAR BUILT AND YEAR MOVED IN DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the ages of housing in a community helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents.

When housing is not sufficient or older than a certain age, housing data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them (such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the balance of different ages of homes in combination with whether they are occupied or vacant, can help communities identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies and to reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties. These data may also be useful in identifying older structures in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.

Knowing more about the age of the housing stock in combination with the financial situation of residents, including income, employment, and housing costs, can help communities qualify for loan and grant programs designed to stimulate economic recovery, improve housing, run job-training programs, and define areas as empowerment or enterprise zones.
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MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Some operational questions will appear on the 2020 ACS that will not result in published estimates. These questions are asked to better administer the data collection process, ensure response accuracy and completeness, and for contacting respondents with incomplete or missing information. Contact information is not part of published estimates and is carefully protected, as mandated by federal law, to protect the personal information of respondents.
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Appendix A:
Year the Planned Questions Were First Asked in the Decennial Census Program
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<th>Questions Planned for 2020 Census and/or ACS</th>
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<th>Years Not Asked</th>
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<td>1920</td>
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<td>Years Not Asked</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran Status</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Status Last Year</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Built</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Moved In</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year of Entry</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1940–1960</td>
</tr>
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