

# American Community Survey

## Administrative Questions *for use in the ACS*

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

→ **Please print today's date.**  
Month Day Year

→ **Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form.** We may contact you if there is a question.  
Last Name  
  
First Name  MI   
Area Code + Number  
 -

→ **How many people are living or staying at this address?**  
• **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.  
• **INCLUDE** yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months.  
• **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.  
• **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.  
**Number of people**

→ **Fill out pages 2, 3, and 4 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form.**

1 **What is Person 1's name?**  
Last Name *(Please print)*  First Name  MI

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The Census Bureau uses this information to ensure response accuracy and completeness, and for contacting respondents with incomplete or missing information.

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Relationship

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**2** How is this person related to Person 1? Mark (X) ONE box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife	<input type="checkbox"/> Son-in-law or daughter-in-law
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological son or daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted son or daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Roomer or boarder
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepson or stepdaughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Housemate or roommate
<input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister	<input type="checkbox"/> Unmarried partner
<input type="checkbox"/> Father or mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster child
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other nonrelative
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent-in-law	

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The census subject about relationship is essential for classifying the population into families and other groups. Information about changes in the composition of the American family, from the number of people living alone to the number of children living with only one parent, is essential for planning and carrying out a number of federal programs. In federally funded nutrition and education programs, how the money is spent hinges, at least partially, on decennial census program data about relationship.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Government

Federal agencies use data about relationship for a variety of programmatic purposes.

### Housing

Data about families in poverty are used to distribute funds for housing to local governments.

### Education

Data about relationship are used to allocate funds to states and counties to improve the education of children in low-income families.

### Social Services

Local health agencies plan and administer programs promoting the well-being of families and children using information on relationship.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Sex

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**3** What is Person 1's sex? Mark (X) ONE box.

Male  Female

Source: ACS-1 (2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Census data about sex are critical because so many federal programs must differentiate between males and females. The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services are required by statute to use these data to fund, implement, and evaluate various social and welfare programs, such as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Laws to promote equal employment opportunity for women also require census data on sex. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs must use census data to develop its state projections of veterans' facilities and benefits.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Planning

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.

### Employment

Data about sex are used to evaluate employment practices under the Civil Rights Act.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, using data about sex, establishes and evaluates guidelines dealing with equal employment opportunity.

### Education

Data about 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.

### Social Services

At the state and county levels, data about sex are used to allocate funds for food, health care services, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

### Housing

Data about sex are used to evaluate housing policies and practices under the Civil Rights Act.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Age

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**4** **What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth?**  
*Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old.*  
*Print numbers in boxes.*

Age (in years)	Month	Day	Year of birth
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Age is central for any number of federal programs that target funds or services to children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. The U.S. Department of Education uses census age data in its formula for allotment to states. Under the Voting Rights Act, these data on population of voting age are required for legislative redistricting. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs uses age to develop its mandated state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, domiciliary services, and other benefits for veterans.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Education

Counties and school districts are allotted funds based on age data. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children and children with disabilities.

Locations where new schools are needed, as well as the required grade levels (elementary, middle, or high school) are identified using data about age.

### Government

Data presenting the voting-age population are used by states to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

Planners at all levels of government forecast the need for highways, hospitals,

health services, and retirement homes by using age data.

### Employment

Data about age are used to target veterans for job training programs.

Equal employment opportunities are enforced using data about age.

### Social Services

Age data are used to forecast the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Under the Older Americans Act, age data are part of the formula used to allocate funds for services to seniors with low incomes.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Hispanic Origin

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**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 origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↴

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Hispanic origin is used in numerous programs and is vital in making policy decisions. These data are needed to determine compliance with provisions of antidiscrimination in employment and minority recruitment legislation. Under the Voting Rights Act, data about Hispanic origin are essential to ensure enforcement of bilingual election rules. Hispanic origin classifications used by the Census Bureau and other federal agencies meet the requirements of standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity). These standards set forth guidance for statistical collection and reporting on race and ethnicity used by all federal agencies.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Social Services

Under the Public Health Service Act, Hispanic origin is one of the factors used in identifying segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services.

### Government

The Voting Rights Act ensures equality in voting. Compliance of local jurisdictions is monitored using counts of the voting-age population by national origin.

### Employment

Data about Hispanic origin are used to monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Race

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**6** What is Person 1's race? Mark (X) one or more boxes.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↴

Asian Indian       Japanese       Native Hawaiian

Chinese             Korean             Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino             Vietnamese       Samoan

Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. ↴

Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on. ↴

Some other race — Print race. ↴

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Race is key to implementing any number of federal laws and is a critical factor in the basic research behind numerous policies. Race data are required by federal programs promoting equal employment opportunity and are needed to assess racial disparities in health and access to care, among other uses. Racial classifications used by the Census Bureau and other federal agencies meet the requirements of standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity). These standards set forth guidance for statistical collection and reporting on race and ethnicity used by all federal agencies.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Education

Under Title 20, race is used as part of the formula to fund programs that foster equal opportunity through postsecondary education for African Americans. This is achieved by funding programs at historically Black colleges and universities in professional and academic areas where African Americans are underrepresented in society.

### Employment

Race, under the Civil Rights Act, is used to assess fairness of employment practices.

### Social Services

For the Public Health Service Act, race is a key factor in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

### Government

States require data about the racial makeup of the voting-age population to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

Data about race are needed to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act by local jurisdictions.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Place of Birth

### Question on Citizenship

### Question on Year of Entry

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**7** **Where was this person born?**

In the United States – *Print name of state.*

Outside the United States – *Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.*

**8** **Is this person a citizen of the United States?**

Yes, born in the United States → *SKIP to 10a*

Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents

Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization – *Print year of naturalization* ↗

No, not a U.S. citizen

**9** **When did this person come to live in the United States?** *Print numbers in boxes.*

Year

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

These questions provide essential data for setting and evaluating immigration policies and laws. Knowing the characteristics of immigrants helps legislators and others understand how different immigrant groups are assimilated. Federal agencies require these data to develop programs for refugees and other foreign-born individuals. Vital information on lifetime migration among states also comes from the place of birth question.

# American Community Survey

Population: Question on Place of Birth

Question on Citizenship

Question on Year of Entry

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Education

Data are used to allocate funds to public and private nonprofit organizations to provide employment resources aimed at making the foreign-born economically self-sufficient.

### Social Services

These data are used, in conjunction with the Public Health Service Act, to assist states and local agencies with developing health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the foreign-born.

### Government

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security uses citizenship data to project staffing and other resource needs to complete the naturalization process for noncitizens.

Under the Voting Rights Act, these data are required to evaluate voting practices of governmental subdivisions (e.g., states, counties, and school districts).

### Employment

Data about place of birth and citizenship are used to evaluate the effectiveness of equal employment opportunity policies and programs under the Civil Rights Act.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Educational Attainment

### Question on School Enrollment

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**10 a. 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

**b. What grade or level was this person attending?** *Mark (X) ONE box.*

Nursery school, preschool

Kindergarten

Grade 1 through 12 – *Specify grade 1 – 12*

College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)

Graduate or professional school beyond a bachelor's degree (*for example: MA or PhD program, or medical or law school*)

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

**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**

No schooling completed

**NURSERY OR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12**

Nursery school

Kindergarten

Grade 1 through 11 – *Specify grade 1 – 11*

12th grade – **NO DIPLOMA**

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**

Regular high school diploma

GED or alternative credential

**COLLEGE OR 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*)

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Educational attainment and school enrollment data are needed for use in assessing the socioeconomic condition of school-age children. Government agencies also require these data for funding allocations and program planning and implementation. These data are needed to determine the extent of illiteracy rates of citizens in language minorities in order to meet statutory requirements under the Voting Rights Act.

# American Community Survey

Population: Question on Educational Attainment

Question on School Enrollment

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Education

Based on data about educational attainment, school districts are allocated funds to provide classes in basic skills to adults who have not completed high school.

The U.S. Department of Education uses school enrollment data to develop adult education and literacy programs based on the number of individuals with limited English proficiency.

### Government

The U.S. Department of Justice uses school enrollment data in the enforcement work against discrimination in education.

### Employment

Employers use information about the educational attainment levels of the labor force to locate new jobs and stimulate economic growth.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Field of Degree

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**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)


Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Field of Degree (FOD) data are needed for use in assessing the qualifications of the U.S. college-educated workforce. Government agencies will use these data to examine the supply of highly-skilled workers in a variety of fields, the need to encourage greater participation in certain fields, and the representation of different demographic groups in various fields of study.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Education

College administrators, educators, students, parents and professional societies use these data to assess how graduates in various fields are faring in the job market as well as informing them about the kinds of training graduates should be receiving to be prepared for the jobs that are likely to be available. It provides timely information for prospective students and their parents about employment possibilities for those majoring in a particular field in college.

### Government

The National Science Foundation (NSF) uses these data to draw a sample for a large workforce survey, the National Survey of College Graduates, which gathers important information about the education, employment and characteristics of scientists and engineers. NSF and other agencies use the data to analyze the types of jobs that graduates in a particular field hold, their earnings and how these outcomes vary within and across fields by race/ethnicity, gender, and citizenship.

### Employment

Employers use information about the field of degree of college graduates to assess the supply of potential employees, nationally and in specific areas.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Ancestry

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**13** What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

*(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)*

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Ancestry identifies the ethnic origins of the population. Federal agencies regard this information as essential for fulfilling many important needs. Ancestry is required to enforce provisions under the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, and national origin. More generally, these data are needed to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Social Services

Data about ancestry assist states and local agencies to develop health care and other services tailored to meet the language and cultural diversity of the elderly in these groups.

Under the Public Health Service Act, ancestry is one of the factors used in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

### Employment

Data about ancestry are used to evaluate the effectiveness of equal employment opportunity policies and programs for different ethnic groups under the Civil Rights Act.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Language Spoken at Home

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

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

Yes

No → SKIP to question 15a

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

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Government agencies use information on language spoken at home for their programs that serve the needs of the foreign-born and specifically those who have difficulty with English. Under the Voting Rights Act, language is needed to meet statutory requirements for making voting materials available in minority languages. Specifically, the Census Bureau is directed, using data about language spoken at home and the ability to speak English, to identify minority groups that speak a language other than English and to assess their English-speaking ability. The U.S. Department of Education uses these data to prepare a report to Congress on the social and economic status of children served by different local school districts.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Education

Data on language are used to allocate grants to school districts for children with limited English language proficiency.

State and local educational agencies receive grants for programs to improve educational skills, complete secondary schooling, and provide job training and placement for adults based on data about language.

### Social Services

State and local agencies concerned with aging develop health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the elderly under the Older Americans Act.

### Government

Under the Voting Rights Act, these data are needed to assess the fairness of voting practices in governmental subdivisions.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Residence 1 Year Ago

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**15 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?**

Person is under 1 year old → *SKIP to question 16*

Yes, this house → *SKIP to question 16*

No, outside the United States and Puerto Rico – *Print name of foreign country, or U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to question 16*

No, different house in the United States or Puerto Rico

**b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?**

**Address (Number and street name)**

**Name of city, town, or post office**

**Name of U.S. county or municipio in Puerto Rico**

**Name of U.S. state or Puerto Rico**      **ZIP Code**

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Residence 1 year ago is used to assess the residential stability and the effects of migration in both urban and rural areas. This item provides information on the mobility of our population. Knowing the number and characteristics of movers is essential for federal programs dealing with employment, housing, education, and the elderly. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs develops its mandated projections of the need for hospitals and other veteran benefits for each state with migration data about veterans. The Census Bureau develops state age and sex estimates and small-area population projections based on data about residence 1 year ago.

# American Community Survey

Population: Question on Residence 1 Year Ago

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### **Social Services**

State and local agencies concerned with aging develop health care and other services for the elderly using information on where people lived 1 year ago. These data indicate changes in the location of seniors that may affect the need for future services in specific areas.

Local governments use data about migration to forecast the demand for new public facilities such as schools, hospitals, libraries, and fire and police stations.

### **Government**

Planners and policy makers use data about the number of persons moving into, or out of, an area to estimate state and county population growth.

Research, based on data about migration, shows changes in the socioeconomic profiles of areas. These data are used by many government agencies for program planning, especially for rural parts of the country.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Health Insurance Coverage

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**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.

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

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

This question was added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies to more accurately distribute resources and better understand state and local health insurance needs.

Planning and implementing many federal health programs requires accurate state and local information on health insurance status. Obtaining data on the uninsured rate among Americans is of great importance to policy makers at federal, state, and local levels.

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Health Insurance Coverage

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### **Social Services**

One of the nation's important sources of insurance data, the Current Population Survey, has annual sample sizes that are too small for many states. Adding a health insurance question to the ACS offers an improved data source to smaller states and communities.

State and localities will use the statistically reliable county-level data on the uninsured to more efficiently target outreach and enrollment efforts to those who are eligible

for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, but are not enrolled, thereby facilitating increased insurance coverage.

#### **Public Health**

Measuring health insurance status helps agencies target public health grant resources to locations where need is great.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Disability

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**17** a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?

Yes  
 No

b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

Yes  
 No

**19** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

Yes  
 No

**18** a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Yes  
 No

b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

Yes  
 No

c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

Yes  
 No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Information on disability is used by a number of federal agencies to distribute funds and develop programs for people with disabilities. For example, data about the size, distribution, and needs of the disabled population are essential for developing disability employment policy. For the Americans with Disabilities Act, data about functional limitations are important to ensure that comparable public transportation services are available for all segments of the population. Federal grants are awarded, under the Older Americans Act, based on the number of elderly people with physical and mental disabilities.

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Disability

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### **Transportation**

Disability data are used to allocate funds for mass transit systems to provide handicapped facilities.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, local transit authorities use these data on the number of individuals with functional limitations in order to ensure public transportation services are comparable to those for individuals without disabilities.

#### **Employment**

Data about people with disabilities are used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans.

#### **Social Services**

Under the Older Americans Act, these data assist state and local agencies concerned with aging to develop health care and other services tailored to the disabilities of the elderly.

Disability data are used by state and county agencies to plan for eligible recipients under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Marital Status

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**20** What is this person's marital status?

Now married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

Never married → SKIP to **I**

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Planning and implementing many government programs calls for accurate information on marital status, such as the number of married women in the labor force, elderly widowed individuals, or young single people who soon may establish homes of their own. For the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, data about marital status help define qualifying census tracts for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and the Mortgage Revenue Bonds Programs.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Social Services

Data about marital status are used for budget and resource planning to identify the number of children needing special services (e.g., children in single-parent households).

Communities use census data about marital status to pinpoint areas with large numbers of single-parent families and identify needs for childcare, medical care, and other social services.

### Housing

Local governments use data about marital status in assessing needs for housing and other community development services.

### Employment

Community organizations use data about marital status to identify needs for job training and housing for displaced homemakers.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Marital History

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**21** In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get -

	Yes	No
a. Married?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Widowed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Divorced?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**22** How many times has this person been married?

Once

Two times

Three or more times

**23** In what year did this person last get married?

Year

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Marital history data enables multiple agencies to more accurately measure the effects of federal and state policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families. Adding measures of marital transitions to the American Community Survey will provide estimates of marriage and divorce rates and duration, as well as flows into and out of marriage. This information is critical for more refined analyses of eligibility for program services and benefits, and of changes resulting from federal policies and programs.

Marriage and divorce data will be used at the national, state, and sub-state level to plan for and assess state and community activities designed to influence marital and divorce behavior. Equally important are tax and entitlement forecasting functions in a variety of federal programs including Medicare and Medicaid.

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Marital History

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### **Social Services**

Data will be used for formulation and assessment of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies and programs at both the federal and state level.

Data will be used to plan for and assess the success of grantees funded under the new Healthy Marriage grant program.

Rates of marriage and divorce data are used to track and forecast changes in areas with large numbers of single-parent families, and thus identify needs for childcare, child support, and other social services.

#### **Government**

Marital history will permit analyses and projections of tax policies that can create or mitigate “marriage penalties”—increased taxes for a married couple compared with what the same couple would pay if filing as unmarried individuals.

Local governments use data about marital history in assessing needs for housing and other community development services under the Community Development Block Grant Evaluation.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Fertility

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**24** Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?

- Yes  
 No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The number of children born in the past 12 months is a measure of fertility that is used to project the future size of the population, a basic planning tool for agencies of the government. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to carry out various programs required by statute, including determining the need for family planning services within the Indian Health Service, investigating matters on child welfare in the Children's Bureau, and conducting research for voluntary family planning programs.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Social Services

Data about fertility are used to predict the number of children who will need adoptive homes under the Child Welfare Act.

The Indian Health Service uses data about the number of babies born to determine the need for family planning services for its service-eligible population.

Information about children born in the past 12 months is used in research on the family size of female adolescents and their actual birth rates in later life.

The National Center for Health Statistics computes vital statistics for subnational areas using data about children born in the past 12 months.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Grandparents as Caregivers

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**25** a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?

Yes

No → SKIP to question 26

b. Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchild(ren) under the age of 18 who live(s) in this house or apartment?

Yes

No → SKIP to question 26

c. How long has this grandparent been responsible for the(se) grandchild(ren)?  
*If the grandparent is financially responsible for more than one grandchild, answer the question for the grandchild for whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time.*

Less than 6 months

6 to 11 months

1 or 2 years

3 or 4 years

5 or more years

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

This question was added to the American Community Survey in 1999 to comply with legislation passed in the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census program obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to distinguish households in which a grandparent has primary responsibility for a child or children and also uses these data for the High Performance Bonus Awards Program under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Business

Daycare centers and other businesses use these data to develop new products and services for their communities.

### Government

State and local governments, faith-based and other nonprofit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Veteran Status and Period of Military Service

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**26** Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard? *Active duty does not include training for the Reserves or National Guard, but DOES include activation, for example, for the Persian Gulf War.*

- Yes, now on active duty
- Yes, on active duty during the last 12 months, but not now
- Yes, on active duty in the past, but not during the last 12 months
- No, training for Reserves or National Guard only → *SKIP to question 28a*
- No, never served in the military → *SKIP to question 29a*

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

**27** When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? *Mark (X) a box for EACH period in which this person served, even if just for part of the period.*

- September 2001 or later
- August 1990 to August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War)
- September 1980 to July 1990
- May 1975 to August 1980
- Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- March 1961 to July 1964
- February 1955 to February 1961
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- January 1947 to June 1950
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- November 1941 or earlier

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Veteran status, including period of military service, is used primarily by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veterans' programs dealing with education, employment, and health care. These data are needed to conduct policy analysis, program planning, and budgeting for federal veterans' programs and for reports to Congress on state projections of veterans' facilities and services.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Social Services

At state and county levels, veteran status is used for budgeting and program planning for medical services and nursing home care for veterans.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs needs data about veteran status in planning the locations and sizes of veterans' cemeteries.

For the Public Health Service Act, veteran status is used as one factor to determine the segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

### Employment

Data about veteran status are used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on VA Service-Connected Disability Rating

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**28** a. **Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?**

Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ... , 100%)

No → *SKIP to question 29a*

**b. What is this person's service-connected disability rating?**

0 percent

10 or 20 percent

30 or 40 percent

50 or 60 percent

70 percent or higher

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability rating was added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to measure a veteran's service-connected disability compensation entitlement status. This information will improve the VA's ability to accurately anticipate the need for VA care and its associated cost.

VA is required to provide an annual report to Congress that determines whether VA health care appropriations for the coming fiscal year are sufficient to cover expenditures associated with the expected demand for VA health care services. Adding the proposed service-connected disability status measure to the ACS will enable VA to make county-level estimates of veterans classified by income, service-connected status, and several other characteristics that are needed to classify enrollment priorities.

This information will fundamentally improve VA's capability to describe the total veteran population in terms of age, priority, and market area and to more accurately estimate the demand for VA care.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Health

VA medical centers and their associated outpatient clinics would use these data to measure key determinants of the demand for VA care.

Data on service-connected disability ratings would allow VA medical centers (and their regional networks) to engage in meaningful local area planning that accounts for expectations of the future demand for VA care.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Labor Force Status

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**29** a. **LAST WEEK, did this person work for pay at a job (or business)?**

- Yes → *SKIP to question 30*
- No – Did not work (or retired)

b. **LAST WEEK, did this person do ANY work for pay, even for as little as one hour?**

- Yes
- No → *SKIP to question 35a*

**35** a. **LAST WEEK, was this person on layoff from a job?**

- Yes → *SKIP to question 35c*
- No

b. **LAST WEEK, was this person TEMPORARILY absent from a job or business?**

- Yes, on vacation, temporary illness, maternity leave, other family/personal reasons, bad weather, etc. → *SKIP to question 38*
- No → *SKIP to question 36*

c. **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 37*
- No

**36** **During the LAST 4 WEEKS, has this person been ACTIVELY looking for work?**

- Yes
- No → *SKIP to question 38*

**37** **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.)

**38** **When did this person last work, even for a few days?**

- Within the past 12 months
- 1 to 5 years ago → *SKIP to L*
- Over 5 years ago or never worked → *SKIP to question 47*

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Labor force status is key to understanding work and unemployment patterns and the availability of workers. Based on labor market areas and unemployment levels, the U.S. Department of Labor identifies service delivery areas and determines amounts to be allocated to each for job training. The impact of immigration on the economy and job markets is determined partially by labor force data, and this information is included in required reports to Congress. The Office of Management and Budget, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, uses data about employed workers as part of the criteria for defining metropolitan areas. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information, in conjunction with other data, to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas and eligibility criteria of many federal programs such as Medicaid.

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Labor Force Status

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### Employment

For local areas with substantial unemployment, labor force data are used to allocate funds and identify programs that create new jobs.

Data are used to target state and local areas with a labor force surplus

for programs that promote business opportunities.

Within the U.S. Department of Labor, data about the labor force are needed to evaluate job complaints reported on the basis of disability.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Place of Work and Journey to Work

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**30 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**

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

**31 How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK?** *If this person usually used more than one method of transportation during the trip, mark (X) the box of the one used for most of the distance.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Car, truck, or van	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus or trolley bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Streetcar or trolley car	<input type="checkbox"/> Walked
<input type="checkbox"/> Subway or elevated	<input type="checkbox"/> Worked at home → SKIP to question 39a
<input type="checkbox"/> Railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> Other method
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferryboat	
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxicab	

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

Person(s)

**33 What time did this person usually leave home to go to work LAST WEEK?**

Hour Minute  a.m.  p.m.

 : 

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

Minutes

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Basic knowledge about commuting patterns and the characteristics of commuter travel come from responses to these questions. The commuting data are essential for planning highway improvements and developing public transportation services, as well as for designing programs to ease traffic problems during peak periods, conserve energy, reduce pollution, and estimate and project the demand for alternative-fueled vehicles. These data are required to develop standards for reducing work-related vehicle trips and increasing passenger occupancy during peak periods of travel. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) plans to use county-level data in computing gross commuting flows to develop place-of-residence earnings estimates from place-of-work estimates by industry. In addition, BEA also plans to use these data for state personal income estimates for determining federal fund allocations.

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Place of Work and Journey to Work

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### **Transportation**

These data form the database used by state departments of transportation and the more than 350 metropolitan planning organizations responsible for comprehensive transportation planning activities.

Metropolitan planning organizations use these data to manage traffic congestion and develop strategies to mitigate congestion, such as carpooling programs and flexible work schedules.

Public transit agencies use these data to plan for transit investments, identify areas needing better transit service, determine the most efficient routes, and plan for services for disabled persons.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

Police and fire departments use data about where people work to plan emergency services in areas of high concentrations of employment.

#### **Employment**

Data are used to identify patterns of discrimination in hiring among minorities and other population groups within labor markets.

#### **Banking**

Financial institutions use data about commuting patterns and occupation to define market areas for describing lending practices and the effects of bank mergers.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Work Status Last Year

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**39** a. During the PAST 12 MONTHS (52 weeks), did this person work 50 or more weeks? Count paid time off as work.

Yes → SKIP to question 40

No

**b.** How many weeks DID this person work, even for a few hours, including paid vacation, paid sick leave, and military service?

50 to 52 weeks

48 to 49 weeks

40 to 47 weeks

27 to 39 weeks

14 to 26 weeks

13 weeks or less

**40** During the PAST 12 MONTHS, in the WEEKS WORKED, how many hours did this person usually work each WEEK?

Usual hours worked each WEEK

--	--	--	--

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

To comply with provisions of the Civil Rights Act, the U.S. Department of Justice uses these data to determine the availability of individuals for work. Government agencies, in considering the programmatic and policy aspects of providing federal assistance to areas, have emphasized the requirements for reliable data to determine the employment resources available. Data about the number of weeks and hours worked last year are essential because these data allow the characterization of workers by full-time/part-time and full-year/part-year status. Data about working last year are also necessary for collecting accurate income data by defining the universe of persons who should have earnings as part of their total income.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Employment

Under the Older Americans Act, these data are used to plan employment programs for the elderly.

Researchers use these data to analyze differences between men and women or among various race or ethnic groups for individuals with similar weeks or hours worked.

Companies use data on work status last year to make decisions on where to place new plants or offices.

Data on work status last year are used for legal cases on discrimination under the Civil Rights Act.

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

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Class of Worker

### Questions on Industry

### Questions on Occupation

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

**41 Was this person –**  
Mark (X) ONE box.

an employee of a PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT company or business, or of an individual, for wages, salary, or commissions?

an employee of a PRIVATE NOT-FOR-PROFIT, tax-exempt, or charitable organization?

a local GOVERNMENT employee (city, county, etc.)?

a state GOVERNMENT employee?

a Federal GOVERNMENT employee?

SELF-EMPLOYED in own NOT INCORPORATED business, professional practice, or farm?

SELF-EMPLOYED in own INCORPORATED business, professional practice, or farm?

working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

**42 For whom did this person work?**  
If now on active duty in the Armed Forces, mark (X) this box →   
and print the branch of the Armed Forces.

Name of company, business, or other employer

**43 What kind of business or industry was this?**  
Describe the activity at the location where employed.  
(For example: hospital, newspaper publishing, mail order house, auto engine manufacturing, bank)

**44 Is this mainly – Mark (X) ONE box.**

manufacturing?

wholesale trade?

retail trade?

other (agriculture, construction, service, government, etc.)?

**45 What kind of work was this person doing?**  
(For example: registered nurse, personnel manager, supervisor of order department, secretary, accountant)

**46 What were this person's most important activities or duties?** (For example: patient care, directing hiring policies, supervising order clerks, typing and filing, reconciling financial records)

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

These questions describe the work activity and occupational experience of the American labor force. Data are used to formulate policy and programs for employment, career development and training, and to measure compliance with antidiscrimination policies. Mandated reports for Congress on the labor force rely on the analysis of these characteristics. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information, in conjunction with other data, to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas or for eligibility criteria in many federal programs such as Medicaid and plans to use the county-level information to develop its county and state per capita income estimates.

# American Community Survey

Population: Question on Class of Worker

Questions on Industry

Questions on Occupation

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### Employment

Information about industry, occupation, and class of worker is important for creating jobs as companies use these data to decide where to locate new plants, stores, or offices.

Agencies use these data to plan job-training programs for seniors.

Federal agencies use these data in litigation where employment discrimination is alleged.

### Social Services

Data are used to estimate the demand for staff in health care occupations and their geographic distribution based on these data.

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



# American Community Survey

## Population: Questions on Income

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### **Social Services**

Under the Older Americans Act, funds for food, health care, and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on data about elderly people with low incomes.

Data about income at the state and county levels are used to allocate funds for food, health care, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

#### **Employment**

Income data are used to identify local areas eligible for grants to stimulate economic recovery, run job-training programs, and define areas such as empowerment or enterprise zones.

#### **Housing**

Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, income data are used to allocate funds to areas for home energy aid.

Under the Community Development Block Grant Program, funding for housing assistance and other community development is based on income and other decennial census data.

#### **Education**

Data about poor children are used to allocate funds to counties and school districts. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children.

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