

### **American Community Survey (ACS)**

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a national survey that uses continuous measurement methods. In this survey, a series of monthly samples produce annual estimates for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample.

#### **Methodology:**

Through the [2014 Design and Methodology Report](#), and supplemental pages, the Census Bureau provides detailed information about the methods used to collect and produce ACS estimates, including information about the following:

- the history and evolution of the ACS—including an archive of past questionnaires
- the ACS sample, as well as current and historical sample sizes
- ACS content and the process of testing new content
- data collection
- data processing—including weighting, estimation, and coding operations
- data product preparation and release
- how data quality is measured, as well as current and historical measures
- how future changes are considered and researched

#### **References:**

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology.html>

#### [Design and Methodology Report](#)

The updated ACS Design and Methodology Report include information on changes to the ACS program through 2013, including the new internet response mode.

#### [Sample Size and Data Quality](#)

ACS samples about 3.54 million addresses each year. Discover how well that sample covers the population, and how we measure the reliability of ACS estimates.

#### [Mandatory vs. Voluntary Methods](#)

If the ACS was not mandatory, research shows reduced response rates, increased sample, more follow-up, and additional cost of more than \$90 million annually.