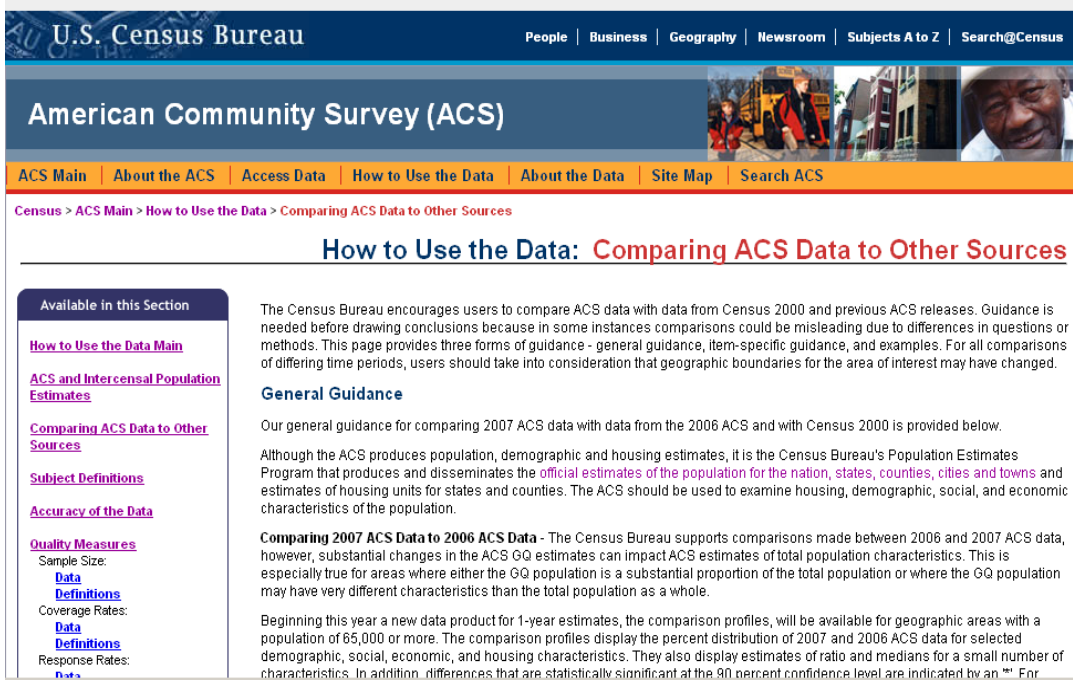


CASE STUDIES OF 2007 ACS COMPARISONS

Example #1: Can I compare educational attainment in the 2007 ACS with Census 2000 sample data on this item?

To find an answer to this question, go to the Web page, *Comparing ACS Data to Other Sources* <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm>. A screenshot of the top of that page is shown below.



Under General Guidance there is a section that focuses on Comparing 2007 ACS Data to Census 2000 Data– This section notes, “There are global differences that exist between the 2007 ACS and Census 2000. These include differences in residence rules, universes, and reference periods. For example, the 2007 ACS uses a “two-month” residence rule – defined as anyone living for more than two months in the sample unit when the unit is interviewed whereas Census 2000 used a “usual residence” rule – defined as the place where a person lives or stays most of the time. The Census Bureau subject matter specialists have reviewed all of these factors and have determined that for most population and housing subjects, comparisons can be made.”

To find item-specific advice about comparing data on educational attainment between the 2007 ACS and Census 2000, scroll down to Educational Attainment in the table and review the information. Part of that table is shown below.

Subject Area/Item ¹	Comparing 2007 ACS with Census 2000	Comparing 2007 ACS with 2006 ACS
Educational Attainment (15)		
Educational Attainment	Compare	Compare
	more info table crosswalk	more info

The guidance on comparing 2007 ACS data with Census 2000 data on educational attainment is to **“Compare.”**

Because the 2007 ACS detailed tables do not largely differ from the 2006 ACS detailed tables, the “table crosswalk”, which compares 2006 ACS detailed tables to SF3 tables, was not updated. Therefore, to determine if a 2007 ACS detailed table is directly comparable to a SF3 table, the 2006 “table crosswalk” should be used.

The [table crosswalk](#) link in this table helps you find comparable 2006 ACS and Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) detailed tables. You can use this information to identify comparable Census 2000 tables for 2007 detailed tables. A portion of that table crosswalk is shown below. The first column identifies the item, while the second and third columns identify the SF 3 table number and table title, respectively. The fourth and fifth columns identify the 2006 ACS table number and table title, respectively.

Subject Area/Item	Census 2000 SF 3 Table Number	Census 2000 SF 3 Table Title	2006 ACS Table Number	2006 ACS Table Title
Educational Attainment (15)				
Educational Attainment	PCT25	SEX BY AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER	B15001	SEX BY AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER
Educational Attainment	P37	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER	B15002	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER
Educational Attainment	P148A	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (WHITE ALONE)	B15002A	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (WHITE ALONE)
Educational Attainment	P148B	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	B15002B	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)
Educational Attainment	P148C	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)	B15002C	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)
Educational Attainment	P148D	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (ASIAN ALONE)	B15002D	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (ASIAN ALONE)
Educational Attainment	P148E	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE)	B15002E	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE)
Educational Attainment	P148F	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (SOME OTHER RACE ALONE)	B15002F	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (SOME OTHER RACE ALONE)
Educational Attainment	P148G	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (TWO OR MORE RACES)	B15002G	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (TWO OR MORE RACES)
Educational Attainment	P148H	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO)	B15002I	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO)
Educational Attainment	P148I	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (HISPANIC OR LATINO)	B15002H	SEX BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OVER (HISPANIC OR LATINO)

As shown above, the 2006 ACS detailed table B15001. SEX BY AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER is a comparable table to the Census 2000 SF 3 detailed table PCT 25. You can assume that this is the correct 2007 ACS detailed number.

Here are the steps involved in accessing Table B15001 from the 2007 ACS data set.

1. Go to the Census Bureau home page, www.census.gov.
2. On the left side of the page, click on American FactFinder.
3. In the section of the American FactFinder page, Getting Detailed Data, under American Community Survey, click the link [get data](#) to bring up the Data Sets page.

4. To the right of the 2007 American Community Survey section at the top of the Data Sets page click the link, Detailed Tables.
5. The next page you will see is the Select Geography page. On this page, select a geographic type, for example State. Then select a geographic area, for example Alaska.
6. Click the **Add** button to copy the state of Alaska into the Current geography selections box. Then click **Next** to bring up the Select Tables page.
7. On this page, under Select one or more tables, scroll down to Table B15001. Highlight this selection and click **Add**. Then click **Show Result**.

The steps involved in accessing Census 2000 SF 3 detailed tables PCT 25 are very similar.

1. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 above.
2. In the section on the American FactFinder page, Getting Detailed Data, under Decennial Census, click the link [get data](#) to bring up the Data Sets page.
3. On the Data Sets page, scroll down to **Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) – Sample Data** and click the radio button to the left of the selection. To the right of the Summary File 3 section click the link, Detailed Tables.
4. Repeat Steps 5 and 6 above.
5. On the Select Tables page, scroll down to Table PCT25. Highlight this selection and click **Add**. Then click **Show Result**.

Portions of the 2007 ACS detailed table B15001 and Census 2000 SF 3 detailed table PCT25 are shown below. As you can see, the 2007 ACS table presents estimates with the margin of error associated with each estimate. The Census 2000 SF 3 table does not show the margins of error for the estimates, although, the data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability.


The screenshot shows the American FactFinder interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Main, Search, Feedback, FAQs, Glossary, Site Map, and Help. Below this, the page title is "Detailed Tables" and the breadcrumb trail is "You are here: Main > Data Sets > Data Sets with Detailed Tables > Geography > Tables > Results". A secondary navigation bar offers "Use the links above to change your results" and "Options | Print / Download | Related Items".

The main content area displays the table title: "B15001. SEX BY AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER - Universe: POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER". Below the title, it specifies the data set as "2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates" and the survey as "American Community Survey".

A note states: "NOTE. Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties." A link to "Survey Methodology" is provided for more information on confidentiality, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions.

A link to view the "collapsed version of this table" is present, with a note that geographies missing from the table are listed below. The table for Alaska is shown with columns for "Estimate" and "Margin of Error".

Alaska	
	Estimate Margin of Error
Total:	
Male:	
18 to 24 years:	
Less than 9th grade	
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	
Some college, no degree	
Associate's degree	
Bachelor's degree	
Graduate or professional degree	
25 to 34 years:	
Less than 9th grade	
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	
Some college, no degree	
Associate's degree	



U.S. Census Bureau
American FactFinder

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Detailed Tables

You are here: [Main](#) > [Data Sets](#) > [Data Sets with Detailed Tables](#) > [Geography](#) > [Tables](#) > [Results](#)

Use the links above to change your results | [Options](#) | [Print / Download](#) | [Related Items](#)

[PCT25. SEX BY AGE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER \[83\] - Universe: Population 18 years and over](#)
Data Set: [Census 2000 Summary File 3 \(SF 3\) - Sample Data](#)

NOTE: [Corrected counts](#) are available for one or more geographies displayed in this table.
NOTE: Data based on a sample except in P3, P4, H3, and H4. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, definitions, and count corrections see <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expsf3.htm>.

	Alaska
Total:	436,425
Male:	225,993
18 to 24 years:	30,317
Less than 9th grade	553
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	6,872
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	12,495
Some college, no degree	8,879
Associate degree	676
Bachelor's degree	797
Graduate or professional degree	45
25 to 34 years:	46,217
Less than 9th grade	622
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,772
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15,247
Some college, no degree	14,680
Associate degree	3,140
Bachelor's degree	6,879
Graduate or professional degree	1,877
35 to 44 years:	59,187
Less than 9th grade	1,203
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,801
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	19,477

When you compare data from the 2007 ACS with data from Census 2000, often it is more appropriate to look at the percentage distributions rather than the estimates numbers in each category.

Example #2: Can I compare group quarters data from the 2007 ACS with groups quarters data from 2006 ACS?

The table on the Web page, *Comparing ACS Data to Other Sources*, answers this question. Guidance for the subject area item, Group Quarters, is displayed in the table below in the right-hand column.

Subject Area Item ¹	Comparing 2007 ACS with Census 2000	Comparing 2007 ACS with 2006 ACS
Group Quarters (26)		
Group Quarters	Compare with Caution more info No comparable detailed tables published	Compare with Caution more info

The guidance on comparing group quarters population data from the 2007 ACS with data on this item from the 2006 ACS is “**Compare with Caution.**” By selecting the [more info](#) link, you will get more information on why caution should be taken. As shown below, the text states “Compare with caution at Nation and State level (do not compare below State level) - The weighting for the group quarters (GQ) population is controlled at the state level, but not at sub-state levels. For this reason, users may observe greater fluctuations in year-to-year ACS estimates of the GQ population at sub-state levels than at state levels. The causes of these fluctuations typically are the result of either GQs that have closed or where the current population of the GQ is significantly different than the

expected population as reflected on the sampling frame. Substantial changes in the ACS GQ estimates can impact ACS estimates of total population characteristics for areas where either the GQ population is a substantial proportion of the total population or where the GQ population may have very different characteristics than the total population as a whole. Users can assess the impact that year-to-year changes in sub-state GQ total population estimates have on the changes in total ACS population estimates by accessing Table B26001 on American Fact Finder. Users should also use their local knowledge to help determine whether the year-to-year change in the ACS estimate represents a real change in the GQ population or may be the result of the lack of adequate population controls for sub-state areas.”

Subject Area/Item*	Comparing 2007 ACS with Census 2000	Comparing 2007 ACS with 2006 ACS
Group Quarters (26) Group Quarters Population	Compare with Caution - The total group quarters (GQ) population in the 2007 ACS may not be comparable with Census 2000 because: 1) There are some Census 2000 GQ types that were out of scope in the 2007 ACS such as domestic violence shelters, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food vans, targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations, crews of maritime vessels and living quarters for victims of natural disasters. Also, there are some Census 2000 GQ type categories that are no longer valid (residential care facility providing "Protective Oversight," hospitals/wards for the chronically ill and hospitals/wards for drug/alcohol abuse). The exclusion of these GQ types from the 2007 ACS may result in a small bias in some ACS estimates to the extent that the excluded population is different from the included population. 2) A sample of GQ facilities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico were selected for the 2007 ACS. ACS controls the GQ sample at the state level only. Therefore, for lower levels of geography, particularly when there are relatively few GQs in a geographic area, the ACS estimate of the GQ population may vary from the estimate from Census 2000.	Compare with caution at Nation and State level (do not compare below State level) - The weighting for the group quarters (GQ) population is controlled at the state level, but not at sub-state levels. For this reason, users may observe greater fluctuations in year-to-year ACS estimates of the GQ population at sub-state levels than at state levels. The causes of these fluctuations typically are the result of either GQs that have closed or where the current population of the GQ is significantly different than the expected population as reflected on the sampling frame. Substantial changes in the ACS GQ estimates can impact ACS estimates of total population characteristics for areas where either the GQ population is a substantial proportion of the total population or where the GQ population may have very different characteristics than the total population as a whole. Users can assess the impact that year-to-year changes in sub-state GQ total population estimates have on the changes in total ACS population estimates by accessing Table B26001 on American Fact Finder. Users should also use their local knowledge to help determine whether the year-to-year change in the ACS estimate represents a real change in the GQ population or may be the result of the lack of adequate population controls for sub-state areas.

For example, from 2006 to 2007 the estimates group quarters population of Coryell County, Texas increased from 4,565 to 10,761. Analyzing whether the change in the group quarters population and resulting impact on the total population estimates represents real change or is the result of sampling and/or weighting requires some local knowledge. In this case, the change in the GQ population and resulting change in the total population estimates is the result of a large troop deployment from the Fort Hood Army Base in January 2006 with the first soldiers returning home in September 2006.

Example #3: Can I compare disability in the 2007 ACS with Census 2000 sample data for this item?

To find specific advice about comparing data on disability between the 2007 ACS and Census 2000, scroll down to Disability in the table on the Web page, *Comparing ACS Data to Other Sources*. The guidance on comparing disability data from the 2007 ACS with data on this item from Census 2000 is “**Do Not Compare.**” By selecting the more info link, you will get more information on why comparisons should not be made. As shown below, the reason is “The 2007 ACS disability questions are different from the Census 2000 disability questions, thus comparisons cannot be made.”

Subject Area/Item*	Comparing 2007 ACS with Census 2000	Comparing 2007 ACS with 2006 ACS
Disability (18)		
Disability Going Out / Working	Do Not Compare - The 2007 ACS disability questions are different from the Census 2000 disability questions, thus comparisons cannot be made.	Compare
Disability Learning / Dressing		Compare
Disability Vision / Hearing / Physical		Compare