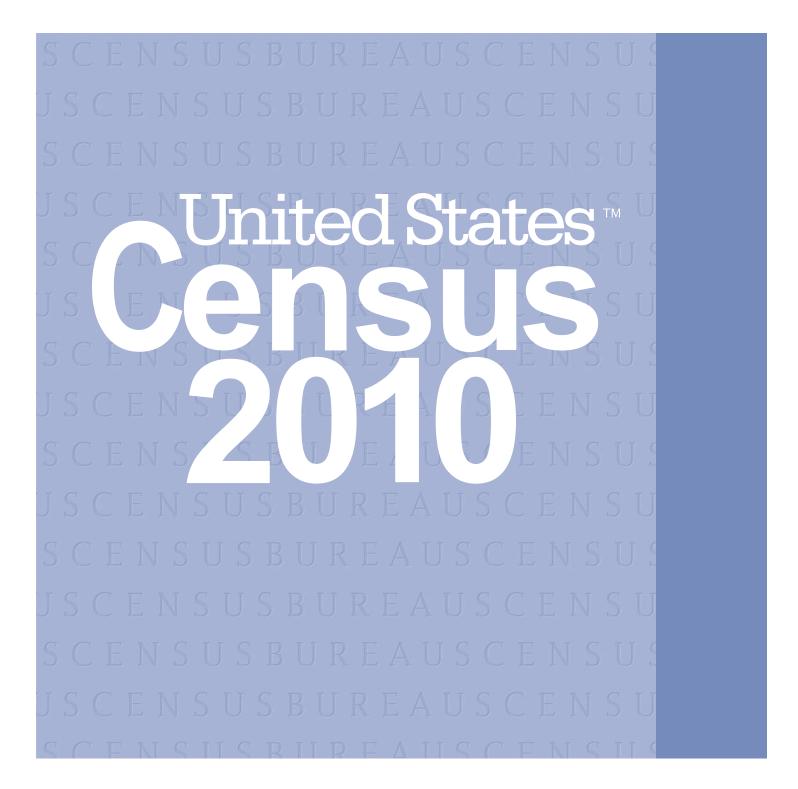
# Subjects Planned for the 2010 Census and American Community Survey

Federal Legislative and Program Uses



## **2010 DECENNIAL CENSUS PROGRAM**

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# A. INTRODUCTION

#### INTRODUCTION

#### Submission of Subjects for the 2010 Decennial Census Program

Section 141 (f) of the Census Act requires that not later than 3 years before the next census, the subjects to be included on that census be submitted to Congress. The contents of this notebook describe the subjects that will be asked on the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey, including proposed new subjects, as well as the subject that will be dropped because it is no longer required by federal agencies.

The Census Act also requires that not later than two years before the Census date, the questions to be included in the next census be submitted to Congress. A document that meets that requirement for the 2010 Decennial Census will be submitted to Congress by March 31, 2008.

In advance of providing the subjects to be included on the next census to Congress, the U.S. Census Bureau asked federal agencies to provide information on their data needs, so that only necessary data are collected, as opposed to data that could be acquired by other means. The Office of Management and Budget facilitates the process to validate current uses of census data, determine unnecessary subjects and questions, and identify new subjects for which questions are required.

#### 2010 Census Plans

Census 2000 included a short form to collect basic information used for reapportionment and redistricting, and a long form sent to approximately 1 in 6 households that was designed to collect detailed information used to distribute fiscal resources under a wide array of federal, state, local, and tribal programs. The 2010 Census will be a "short form only" census.

Decoupling the short form and long form allows the Census Bureau to focus efforts on the constitutional requirements to produce a count of the resident population, employ technology to improve efficiencies, improve accuracy, and reduce costs. Since 2005, the long form data have been collected annually on the American Community Survey. This innovation provides more current, detailed information than has ever been available before. Responses to the American Community Survey, like its predecessor, the decennial census long form, are mandatory.

The 2010 Decennial Census Program is the only data-gathering effort that collects the same information from enough people to produce comparable data for every geographic area recognized by the Census Bureau. It builds on the successful data collection efforts of past censuses. In addition, it moves the nation forward to a new era that will have the advantage of more current and timely census data than ever before to measure its performance, identify its needs, and chart its course.



# **B. 2010 CENSUS**

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 Department of Education uses census age data in its formula for allotment to states. Under the Voting Rights Act, the data on population of voting age are required for legislative redistricting. The 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.

|            | Individuals With Disabilities Education Act [20 U.S.C. 1411(e), Chapter 33, Subchapter II], ocational and Technical Education Assistance to the States [20 U.S.C. 2321(a)(2)(A), (B), & (C) and 2372(a)], School-to-Work Opportunities Act [20 U.S.C. 6145 & 6177, Chapter 69, Subchapter II-Part B and Subchapter III] |
|------------|---|
| EEOC       | Age Discrimination and Employment Act   |
|            | [29 U.S.C. 623 & 633; 29 CFR 1625.7(c)]   |
| HHS[42 U.S | Older Americans Act S.C. 3002(28)-(30), 3025(a)(1)(E) & (2)(E), and 3026(a)(1)], Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1], Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) [42 U.S.C. 8629(a) & (b)(2), and 8622(11)]   |
| HUD        | Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program [42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(6)(D)(iv)]  |
| JUSTICE    |   |
| LABOR      |   |
| VA         |   |

Census data about gender are critical because so many federal programs must differentiate between males and females. The 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 gender. The 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, transportation, and employment.

#### **Employment**

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

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

#### Education

Data about gender 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 gender are used to allocate funds for food, health care services, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

#### Housing

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

| EDUCATION | Higher Education Act [20 U.S.C. 1067a(b), 1067k(2), & (5)]   |
|-----------|--|
| EEOC      | Federal Affirmative Action Plans [5 U.S.C. 7201(a)(1)],<br>Civil Rights Act [42 U.S.C. 2000e-16(b)(1) and<br>42 U.S.C. 2000e-2; 29 CFR 1607.4]   |
| FCC       |  |
| HHS       | Older Americans Act,  [42 U.S.C. 3002(28)-(30),  3025(a)(1)(E) & (2)(E), and 3026(a)(1)]  Public Health Service Act  [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), & 254f-1],  Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  [42 U.S.C. 8629(a) & (b)(2), and 8622(11)] |
| HUD       | National Affordable Housing Act [42 U.S.C 12705(b)(1); 24 CFR 91.205(a)]   |
| JUSTICE   |  |
| VA        | State Projections of Veteran Population [38 U.S.C. 8131 (1) & 8134(a)(2)]  Veterans Benefits Improvement Act [38 U.S.C. 317 & 318, Chapter 3]  |

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.

## **HISPANIC ORIGIN** asked since 1970

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| EEOC   |
|--|
| EDERAL RESERVEHome Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 [12 U.S.C. 2809(a)]   |
| [42 U.S.C. 3002(28)-(30), 3025(a)(1)(E) & (2)(E), and 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)], Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), & 254f-1], Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) [42 U.S.C. 8629(a) & (b)(2), and 8622(11)] |
| IUD  |
| USTICE   |
| ISDA   |
| Veterans Benefits Improvement Act [38 U.S.C. 317 & 318, Chapter 3]   |

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 opportunity through postegual education African secondary for Americans. This is achieved by funding programs at historically Black colleges and universities in professional and academic where African areas 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 make-up 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.

| EDUCATION  |
|--|
| EEOC   |
| FEDERAL RESERVE  |
| HHS  |
| HUD  |
| JUSTICE  |
| USDA   |
| VAVeterans Benefits Program [38 U.S.C. 317 & 318, Chapter 3] |

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. Perhaps the most widely recognized use of relationship data is in the poverty definition, which is based on income thresholds that vary by size of family and number of children. In federally funded nutrition and education programs, how the money is spent hinges, at least partially, on census data about relationship.

#### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### Government

The Social Security Administration uses data about relationship for handling a number of planning issues under the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs.

#### 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 under Title I 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 wellbeing of families and children using information on relationship.

| HHS | Head Start Act                                     |
|-----|--|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 9835(a)],                               |
|     | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 8622 & 8623],                           |
|     | Older Americans Act                                |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1)]                       |
| HUD | National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 /          |
|     | HOME Investment Partnerships Program               |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12747]                                  |

Tenure (whether a home is owned or rented) is the most basic feature of the housing inventory. Homeownership rates have served as an indicator of the nation's economy for decades. The data are an integral component of the formula used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish Fair Market Rents and also are essential for the Federal Housing Authority's mortgage insurance program. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to profile the housing tenure of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) households. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information along with other census data to prepare the value of housing services for the National Income and Product Accounts. This information is used to assess the costs of utilities based on the type of home ownership. Tenure also is used in calculating homeownership vacancy rates and rental vacancy rates that federal and local agencies use to evaluate the overall viability of local housing markets.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Planning**

Local planners use data on tenure to assess neighborhood stability. Generally, higher owner-occupancy rates are considered to be a good indicator of neighborhood stability since owners have considerable long-term investments in their homes.

#### Housing

Tenure is one of the integral components used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish Fair Market Rents for different localities throughout the country. This information is used to allocate Section 8 and other federal housing program subsidies that assist American families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

#### **Banking**

Data on tenure are used to distribute funds for mortgage insurance, for rental housing in urban renewal areas, and for national defense housing.

The Federal Reserve Board uses the data to determine whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of race and Hispanic origin groups in low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

#### **Transportation**

The Federal Highway Administration allocates funds for public transportation services for elderly and handicapped people based in part on proportions of homes rented, since renters are more likely to use public transportation.

| Statistical Information for the Transaction of Public Business [15 U.S.C. 1516] |
|---|
| Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)                              |
| [42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(8)],   |
| Community Services Block Grant Act  |
| [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]   |
| National Affordable Housing   |
| [42 U.S.C. 12705],  |
| Low Income Housing  |
| [42 U.S.C. 1437f(c)(i)],  |
| Fair Market Rents   |
| [42 U.S.C. 1437],   |
| Allocation of Housing Funds   |
| [42 U.S.C. 1439(d)(1)(a)(i)]  |
|   |

## NOTES

# C. AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

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 Department of Education uses census age data in its formula for allotment to states. Under the Voting Rights Act, the data on population of voting age are required for legislative redistricting. The 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

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

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Planners at all levels of government forecast the need for highways, hospitals, health services, and retirement homes by using age data.

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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.

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|------------|---|
| EEOC       | Age Discrimination and Employment Act   |
|            | [29 U.S.C. 623 & 633; 29 CFR 1625.7(c)]   |
| HHS[42 U.S | Older Americans Act S.C. 3002(28)-(30), 3025(a)(1)(E) & (2)(E), and 3026(a)(1)], Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1], Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) [42 U.S.C. 8629(a) & (b)(2), and 8622(11)]   |
| HUD        | Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program [42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(6)(D)(iv)]  |
| JUSTICE    |   |
| LABOR      |   |
| VA         |   |

Census data about gender are critical because so many federal programs must differentiate between males and females. The 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 gender. The 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, transportation, and employment.

#### **Employment**

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

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

#### Education

Data about gender 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 gender are used to allocate funds for food, health care services, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

#### Housing

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

| EDUCATION | Higher Education Act [20 U.S.C. 1067a(b), 1067k(2), & (5)]   |
|-----------|--|
| EEOC      | Federal Affirmative Action Plans [5 U.S.C. 7201(a)(1)],<br>Civil Rights Act [42 U.S.C. 2000e-16(b)(1) and<br>42 U.S.C. 2000e-2; 29 CFR 1607.4] |
| FCC       |  |
| HHS       | Older Americans Act,   |
|           | [42 U.S.C. 3002(28)-(30),  |
|           | 3025(a)(1)(E) & (2)(E), and 3026(a)(1)]  Public Health Service Act   |
|           | [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), & 254f-1],  |
|           | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)   |
|           | [42 U.S.C. 8629(a) & (b)(2), and 8622(11)]   |
| HUD       |  |
| JUSTICE   | Civil Rights Act   |
|           | (Prohibition Against Discrimination in Housing, Education,   |
|           | Employment, and Federally Assisted Programs)   |
|           | [42 U.S.C. 1975c and 42 U.S.C. 2000c-2, d, & e]  |
| VA        | State Projections of Veteran Population [38 U.S.C. 8131 (1) & 8134(a)(2)]  Veterans Benefits Improvement Act [38 U.S.C. 317 & 318, Chapter 3]  |

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.

| EEOC  |
|---|
| FEDERAL RESERVEHome Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 [12 U.S.C. 2809(a)] |
| HHS   |
| HUD   |
| JUSTICE   |
| USDA  |
| VA  |

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**

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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 make-up 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.

| EDUCATION Higher Education Resources and Student Assistance [20 U.S.C. 1057 et seq., 1062a(4), 1063(c), 1063b(e)(2)(a), Chapter 28, Subchapter III], School-to-Work Opportunities Act [20 U.S.C. 6145 & 6177, Chapter 69, Subchapter II-Part B and Subchapter III] |
|--|
| EEOC   |
| FEDERAL RESERVEHome Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 [12 U.S.C. 2809(a)]  |
| HHS  |
| HUD  |
| JUSTICE  |
| USDA   |
| VAVeterans Benefits Program [38 U.S.C. 317 & 318, Chapter 3]   |

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. Perhaps the most widely recognized use of relationship data is in the poverty definition, which is based on income thresholds that vary by size of family and number of children. In federally funded nutrition and education programs, how the money is spent hinges, at least partially, on census data about relationship.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### Government

The Social Security Administration uses data about relationship for handling a number of planning issues under the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs.

#### Housing

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

#### Education

Data about relationships are used to allocate funds under Title I 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 wellbeing of families and children using information on relationship.

# RELATIONSHIP asked since 1880

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Head Start Act                                     |
|-----|--|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 9835(a)],                               |
|     | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 8622 & 8623],                           |
|     | Older Americans Act                                |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1)]                       |
| HUD | National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 /          |
|     | HOME Investment Partnerships Program               |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12747]                                  |

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 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

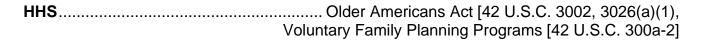
Local governments use data about marital status in assessing needs for housing and other community development services.

#### **Employment**

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

## MARITAL STATUS asked since 1880

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**



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 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 (HHS) 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 (HHS) computes vital statistics for subnational areas using data about children born in the past 12 months.

## FERTILITY asked 1900-1910, 1940-1990; asked in the ACS since 1996

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

## **GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS** asked since 2000

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

This subject was added in 2000 to comply with legislation passed in the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data to distinguish households in which a grandparent has primary responsibility for a child or children and also uses these data as one of the measures that will be used 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, faithbased and other nonprofit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

## **GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS** asked since 2000

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Welfare Reform 1996)
American Dream Down Payment Act
Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth Act

Ancestry identifies the ethnic origins of the population, and 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. The Department of Labor draws samples for surveys that provide employment statistics and other related information for ethnic groups using ancestry.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Social Services**

Data about ancestry assist states and local agencies on aging 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.

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS     | Older Americans Act                    |
|---------|--|
|         | [42 U.S.C. 3002 (27)-(30), 3026(a)(1)] |
| JUSTICE | Civil Rights Act                       |
|         | [42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.]              |

These decennial census subjects 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. Vital information on lifetime migration among states also comes from the place of birth question.

#### 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 Older Americans 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 elderly.

#### Government

The Department of Homeland Security uses citizenship data to project staffing and other resource needs for non-citizens to complete the naturalization process.

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.

# PLACE OF BIRTH asked since 1850 CITIZENSHIP asked 1820-1830, 1870, 1890-2000 YEAR OF ENTRY asked 1890-1930, 1970-2000

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS     | Public Health Service Act<br>[42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B)] |
|---------|--|
| JUSTICE |  |

## LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME asked 1890-1940, 1960-2000

#### **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 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 under the Adult Education Act 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.

#### **Employment**

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, using data about language and ability to speak English, evaluates employment practices in private industry.

## LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME asked 1890-1940, 1960-2000

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS     | Older Americans Act                                     |
|---------|---|
|         | [42 U.S.C. 3002(27)-(30), 3026(a)(1)],                  |
|         | Public Health Service Act                               |
|         | [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d) & 254f-1] |
| JUSTICE | Voting Rights Act-Bilingual Election Requirements       |
|         | [42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a],                                  |
|         | Equal Employment Opportunity Act                        |
|         | [42 U.S.C. 2000e]                                       |

# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT asked since 1940 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT asked since 1850

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

Law requires educational attainment and school enrollment data to be used for profiling the socioeconomic condition of school-age children. Government agencies also require these data for funding allocations and program planning and implementation. The 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.

#### **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 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 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.

# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT asked since 1940 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT asked since 1850

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS     | Older Americans Act                                  |
|---------|--|
|         | [42 U.S.C. 3002(28), 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],        |
|         | Health Professions Reporting System [42 U.S.C. 292h] |
| JUSTICE | Voting Rights Act-Bilingual Election Requirements    |

## RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO asked in the ACS since 1999

#### **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 each individual. Knowing the number and characteristics of movers is essential for federal programs dealing with employment, housing, education, and the elderly. The 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.

#### **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 one 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 in-migration and out-migration to estimate state and county population growth.

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

# RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO asked in the ACS since 1999

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Older Americans Act                               |
|-----|---|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002(27)-(30), 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)] |
| VA  | State Projections of Veteran Population/          |
|     | State Home Facilities for Finishing Domiciliary   |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 8131(1)]                               |

# VETERAN STATUS AND PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE asked 1840, 1890, 1910, 1930-2000

#### MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Veteran status, including period of military service, is used primarily by the 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 Department of Veterans Affairs needs data about veteran status in planning the locations and sizes of veterans' cemeteries.

Based on data about veterans, local agencies develop health care and other services for elderly veterans under the Older Americans Act.

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.

# VETERAN STATUS AND PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE asked 1840, 1890, 1910, 1930-2000

### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Public Health Service Act                               |
|-----|---|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 290aa]                                       |
|     |   |
| VA  | State Home Facilities for Furnishing Domiciliary        |
|     | Nursing Home and Hospital Care                          |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 8131(1)],                                    |
|     | Disabled Veterans Outreach Program                      |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 4103A(a)(1],                                 |
|     | Rehabilitation Services: Evaluation and Data Collection |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 527],  |
|     | State Estimates of Nursing Home Care Needs for Veterans |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 8134(a)(1)],                                 |
|     | Veterans Benefits Improvement Act                       |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 317 and 318]                                 |
|     |   |

Information on disability is used by a number of federal agencies to distribute funds and develop programs for people with disabilities and the elderly. For example, data about the size, distribution, and needs of the disabled population are essential under the Rehabilitation Act, which guarantees to qualified people with disabilities full participation and benefits in all programs that receive federal funding. 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.

#### 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 the number of individuals with functional limitations in order to ensure public transportation services are comparable to those for individuals without disabilities.

## Housing

The Housing and Urban Development Act requires data about disability to distribute funds for housing for people with 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.

# **DISABILITY** asked 1830-1930, 1970-2000

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Older Americans Act                                 |
|-----|---|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002 (27)-(30), 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)], |
|     | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 8629(a)]                                 |
| VA  | Disabled Veterans Outreach Program                  |
|     | [38 U.S.C. 4103A(a)(1)]                             |

Income is a critical decennial census subject, as it is a vital measure of general economic circumstances. Income data are used to determine poverty status, to measure economic well-being, and to assess the need for assistance. These data are included in federal allocation formulas for many government programs. These federal programs, such as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), use income data from the decennial census.

#### 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 apportion funds to counties and school districts. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children.

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| FEDERAL RESERVE Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 [12 U.S.C. 2809(a)],  Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 [12 U.S.C. 2901] |
|--|
| HHS  |
| HUDLow Income Housing [42 U.S.C. 1437]   |
| Low-Income Housing Tax Credits [26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(C)]   |
| USDAEmergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program [7 U.S.C. 1926a(e)(1)], Single-Family Rural Housing [42 U.S.C. 1472]    |

## FOOD STAMPS BENEFIT asked in the ACS since 1996

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Department of Health and Human Services continues to monitor and report state performance on a variety of outcomes including work-related, family formation, and food stamp participation (45 CFR 270.4(c)(2)). The food stamp measure assesses state performance in the current year food stamp participation rate for low-income, working families with children and the change in the participation rate of such families in the state over the prior year.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### Governments

State and local governments need to compare the number of families and individuals needing food assistance with those receiving food stamps. Special attention needs to be paid to the working poor. Adjusting food stamp eligibility guidelines and instituting supplemental food assistance programs could meet shortfalls that are identified.

#### **Social Services**

Faith-based and other non-profit organizations use information about food assistance needs that are not being met by government programs to plan and budget for food banks, food kitchens, and other programs.

## FOOD STAMPS BENEFIT asked in the ACS since 1996

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| SSA | Social Security Act, Section 403(a)            |
|-----|--|
|     |  |
| HHS | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) |
|     | Public Health Service Act. Section 505         |

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 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 decennial census data to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas and eligibility criteria of many federal programs such as Medicaid.

#### **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.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, data about labor force are needed to evaluate job complaints reported on the basis of disability.

#### Education

Data are used to identify local areas that need education and employment programs to improve the conditions of refugees.

## LABOR FORCE STATUS asked since 1930

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS     | Community Services Block Grant Act                                     |
|---------|--|
| JUSTICE | Civil Rights Act   |
| LABOR   | Labor Statistics [29 U.S.C. 1]   |
|         | Labor Statistics; Workforce Investment Act of 1998 [29 U.S.C. 1 and 8] |

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. Vital statistics are computed by the National Center for Health Statistics using these data. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information in conjunction with other decennial census 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.

#### **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.

Under the Older Americans Act, these data are used to plan job-training programs for seniors.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, under the Civil Rights and Equal Pay Acts, uses these data in litigation where employment discrimination is alleged.

## **Social Services**

The Environmental Protection Agency uses these data to help identify which occupations and industries expose people to harmful chemicals and adversely affect the environment.

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

# INDUSTRY asked 1820, 1840, 1910-2000 OCCUPATION asked since 1850 CLASS OF WORKER asked since 1910

### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| <b>EEOC</b> Age Dis | crimination in Employment Act [29 U.S.C. 623 and 633]  |
|---------------------|--|
| HHS[                | Public Health Service Act 42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), & 254f-1], Health Insurance for the Elderly and Disabled [42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)]   |
| JUSTICE Title VII   | of the Civil Rights Act [42 U.S.C. 2000e-2 & 2000e-16]   |
| LABOR               | Job Training Partnership Act [29 U.S.C. 1501 et seq., Sections 1511, 1518, 1532, 1551, 1602, 1603, 1661, 1707, & 1736], Labor Surplus Areas Program [Executive Orders 10582 & 12073], Immigration Act of 1990 [8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)], Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 [8 U.S.C. 1364], Labor Statistics; Workforce Investment Act of 1998 [29 U.S.C. 1 and 8] |

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, and reduce pollution. The data are required to develop standards for reducing work-related vehicle trips and increasing passenger occupancy during peak periods of travel. Also, the data are used to forecast vehicle miles of travel in areas that are designated "nonattainment" with respect to ambient air quality standards under the Clean Air Act. The Office of Management and Budget standards, developed under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act, require the use of decennial census data about place of work to define metropolitan areas.

#### **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 the 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.

# PLACE OF WORK AND JOURNEY TO WORK asked since 1960

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| EEOC | Title VII of the Civil Rights Act [42 U.S.C. 2000e-2 & 2000e-16]         |
|------|--|
| DOT  | Federal-Aid Highways - Metropolitan Planning                             |
|      | [23 U.S.C. 134(a), (g)(3)],  |
|      | Federal-Aid Highways - Statewide Planning                                |
|      | [23 U.S.C. 135(f)(3)]  |
|      | Federal-Aid Highways - Public Transportation                             |
|      | [23 U.S.C. 142(a)(1) and (d)]  |
|      | Federal-Aid Highways - Economic Growth Center Development Highways       |
|      | [23 U.S.C. 143(f)(1) & (2)],   |
|      | Federal-Aid Highways - Carpool and Vanpool Projects                      |
|      | [23 U.S.C. 146(a)]   |
|      | Federal-Aid Highways - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement |
|      | [23 U.S.C. 149(b)(3), (b)(5), and (d)]                                   |
|      |  |

## WORK STATUS LAST YEAR asked since 1940

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

To comply with provisions of the Civil Rights Act, the Department of Justice uses the data to determine the availability of individuals for work. The Department of Labor uses data on work status last year in planning federal farm worker programs and in constructing the Consumer Price Index. 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 the data allow the characterization of workers by full-time/part-time and full-year/part-year status. Data about working last year also are 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.

## WORK STATUS LAST YEAR asked since 1940

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS     | Older Americans Act   |
|---------|---|
|         | [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1)]                                    |
| JUSTICE | Civil Rights Act  |
|         | [42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.],<br>Labor Statistics<br>[29 U.S.C. 1] |
| LABOR   | Immigration Act of 1990   |
|         | [8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],                           |
|         | Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986                      |
|         | [8 U.S.C. 1364],  |
|         | Labor Statistics: Workforce Investment Act of 1998              |
|         | [29 U.S.C. 1 & 8]   |
|         |   |

Vehicles available describes, for each household, the number of passenger cars, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. Used in combination with the place-of-work and journey-to-work data collected in the decennial census, data about vehicles available are essential for transportation programs. For the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency, data about vehicles available are used to develop policies and to plan a number of transportation programs. The Department of Energy uses the information to estimate and forecast energy consumption of motor vehicles and for planning and establishing program activities as part of the Alternative Fueled Vehicles Program.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

## **Transportation**

Based on studies of the typical number of daily trips taken by households with differing numbers of vehicles available, state and metropolitan transportation planning agencies use the data about vehicles available to estimate total vehicle travel and forecast future travel and its effect on their transportation systems.

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

Local governments construct traffic analysis zones using data about the number of vehicles available per household.

### **Social Services**

State and local agencies use the data to determine the need for special transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

Social service agencies use the data to plan for emergency transportation services in areas of high concentrations of households with no vehicle available, such as isolated rural communities.

#### **Environment**

State and local agencies in regions cited for being in "nonattainment" of federal air quality standards use the data to prepare vehicular travel and pollutant emissions profiles and forecasts to comply with requirements under the Clean Air Act.

## **VEHICLES AVAILABLE** asked since 1960

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

Pot Federal-Aid Highways - Metropolitan Planning

[23 U.S.C. 134(a), (g)(3)],

Federal-Aid Highways - Statewide Planning

[23 U.S.C. 135 (f)(3)],

Federal-Aid Highways - Public Transportation

[23 U.S.C. 142(a)(1) and (d)],

Federal-Aid Highways - Carpool and Vanpool Projects

[23 U.S.C. 146(a)],

Federal-Aid Highways - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement

[23 U.S.C. 149(b)(3), (b)(5) and (a)],

Air Pollution, Prevention and Control

[42 U.S.C. 7408(f) (a)(2),7(A)]

The year the structure was built determines the age of housing units. The data are an integral component used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the development of Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country. These data are valuable to several federal agencies in developing formulas for allocating funds, determining substandard housing, and constructing surveys. Funding formulas used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development mandate the use of year structure built data. The data are used to design the Department of Energy's legislatively mandated Residential Energy Consumption Survey. Data about the age of housing in conjunction with other decennial census information are used to develop the Bureau of Economic Analysis state per capita income estimates, used in the allocation formulas or eligibility criteria of more than 20 Federal programs.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

## **Energy**

The age of housing is used to forecast future energy consumption.

## Housing

The data are used in housing assistance programs as a component of measures of substandard housing. The data are used to allocate funds to local governments under the Community Development Block Grant Program and Public Housing Modernization formulas.

#### **Banking**

The Federal Reserve Board uses the data to implement the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act that requires lending institutions to disclose details of lending practices as a safeguard against unfair housing practices in certain communities.

#### **Social Services**

Under the Older Americans Act, the data are used to determine the number of older people who live in inadequate housing and who may be candidates for home repair programs or placement in alternative housing.

Local areas use the data about the year structure was built for forecasting the needs for services such as fire protection.

The data are used to profile the ages of the structures lived in by eligible households under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

# YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT asked since 1940

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| FEDERAL RESERVE | Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975                               |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | [12 U.S.C. 2809]   |
| HHS             | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)                 |
|                 | [42 U.S.C. 8629],  |
|                 | Community Services Block Grant Act [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]             |
| HUD             |  |
|                 | [42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(11), (14) – (16), & (b), and 5306(b)(1) & (2)], |
|                 | Low Income Housing   |
|                 | [42 U.S.C. 1437]   |

The number of units in the structure subdivides the housing inventory into one-family homes, apartments, and mobile homes. The data are an integral component used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to set Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country. When combined with other decennial census items such as tenure (whether a home is owned or rented), income, and year structure built, units in structure serves as the basic identifier of housing used in many federal programs. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to profile housing unit types for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) eligible households.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### Housing

The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the data to assess the multifamily housing market in local areas before issuing any funds for assisted housing.

State and local planners use data about the number of housing units by structure type to forecast the need for services such as roads and hospitals.

#### Health

The Indian Health Service (HHS) and local health agencies use the data to assess the potential for the spread of communicable disease.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

Federal, state, and local officials use the data to identify concentrations of mobile homes in tornado- and hurricane-prone areas in creating emergency-preparedness plans.

#### **Banking**

Data about the type of structure is used to assess fairness in home lending practices and to enforce the Community Reinvestment Act.

## **Energy**

Data about utility costs by type of structure are used to analyze current energy supply and consumption and predict how consumption will change in the future.

#### **Education**

Local school systems use the data at the block level to predict the number of school-age children. Different averages of children per household are used based on whether the structure is a single-family home or multiunit structure.

## UNITS IN STRUCTURE asked since 1940

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| COMMERCE | Statistical Information for the Transaction of Public Business |
|----------|--|
|          | [15 U.S.C. 1516]   |
| HHS      | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)             |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 8629]   |
| HUD      | Low Income Housing   |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 1437],  |
|          | National Affordable Housing                                    |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(3)]  |

Data about the year the householder moved into the unit provides information on the specific period of time when mobility occurs, especially for recent movers (those who moved into their current home in the 12 months prior to interview). This item measures neighborhood stability and helps identify transient communities. The data are an integral component used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the development of Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country. Federal agencies, such as the Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development, use the data to calculate turnover among specified population groups such as elderly and minority households.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

### **Social Services**

State and local areas use data about mobility to project the need for schools and services such as police and fire protection.

Local agencies use the data to evaluate changes in service requirements in a given area because of migration of older people to or from the area.

#### Banking

The data are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of lending practices and homeowner insurance procedures under the Fair Housing Act.

## Housing

Areas with a substantial number of recent movers are targeted for housing and community development projects under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

State and local planners study and analyze demographic and economic characteristics of households that have recently moved to assess the adequacy of the housing stock to meet shelter needs.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

Federal and local emergency management agencies use the data to assess the amount of displacement caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters.

# YEAR MOVED INTO UNIT asked since 1960

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HUD | National Affo | ordable Housing  |
|-----|---------------|------------------|
|     | [42 U.S.      | .C. 12705(b)(1)] |

Data about the number of occupants per room is used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our nation's households. A housing unit is often considered crowded if it has more than one person to a room. Many federal agencies use data about crowding to set and implement policies. The number of rooms in a home also is used as a measure of housing-unit size in the absence of information on square footage by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information in conjunction with other decennial census data to develop its state per capita income estimates, used in the allocation formulas or eligibility criteria of more than 20 federal programs.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

# Housing

Data about the number of persons per room are used to allocate funds for housing assistance to local governments.

The 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.

City and community officials use data about the number of persons per room to determine housing deficiencies in neighborhoods.

#### **Environment**

Data about the average number of rooms are used in feasibility studies for developing waste treatment facilities.

#### **Social Services**

The data about the number of rooms are used to allocate funds to local areas for home energy assistance to low-income individuals and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHSL | ow-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) [42 U.S.C. 8629],  |
|------|--|
| C    | Community Services Block Grant Act [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]   |
| HUD  | The state of the s |
|      | [42 U.S.C. 5302(a) & 5306(b)],   |
|      | National Affordable Housing  |
|      | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)],   |
|      | Homeless Assistance  |
|      | [42 U.S.C. 11373]  |

The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses bedrooms as an essential variable in calculating Fair Market Rents and in allocating funds for Section 8 certificates and housing vouchers. The data are useful in tracking changes in the physical characteristics of the housing inventory over time. The number of bedrooms also is an indicator of housing-unit size.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

# Housing

Data about the number of bedrooms are used to allocate funds to states, counties, and cities under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

State and local planners use the data to evaluate the adequacy of the housing stock to shelter the population.

The 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.

These data are used, under the Older Americans Act, to assist states and local agencies with determining the adequacy of housing units for older people, the cost of maintaining rental units, and the potential usefulness of home-equity conversion programs.

City and community officials use data about the number of bedrooms to determine housing deficiencies in neighborhoods.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the data to judge eligibility for FHA Multifamily Insurance.

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS |                                      |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| HUD | National Affordable Housing          |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)]              |
|     | Low Income Housing [42 U.S.C. 1437f] |
|     | National Affordable Housing          |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12747(b)(1)(A)            |

Complete kitchen facilities are defined as a sink with piped water, a range, and a refrigerator. The data are integral components used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the development of Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country. Federal agencies use this item to identify areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans, and as an indicator of housing quality.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

# Housing

Data about complete kitchen facilities are used to evaluate the Community Development Block Grant Program, a program that provides grants to states and local governments for the rehabilitation of privately owned property that is intended to be rented as residences.

The data are used to distribute federal funds for housing assistance to local governments.

City and community officials use the data about complete kitchen facilities to determine housing deficiencies in neighborhoods.

#### **Social Services**

Under the Older Americans Act, the data are used to determine the number of older people who live in inadequate housing and who may be candidates for housing assistance programs or placement in alternative housing.

City and community agencies use the data to pinpoint areas that need special programs such as Meals On Wheels.

# KITCHEN FACILITIES asked since 1960

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Older Americans Act                      |
|-----|--|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002 (28) - (30), 3026(a)(1], |
|     | Community Services Block Grant Act       |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]                      |
| HUD | National Affordable Housing              |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)],                 |
|     | Low Income Housing                       |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 1437f(c)(1)]                  |
|     | National Affordable Housing              |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12747(b)(1) (A) and (B)],     |
|     | Allocation of Housing Funds              |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 1439(d)(1)(A)(i)]             |

Complete plumbing facilities are defined as hot and cold running water, a flush toilet, and a bathtub or shower. The data are essential components used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the development of Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country. Federal agencies use this item to identify areas eligible for public assistance programs and rehabilitation loans. Public health officials use this item to locate areas in danger of ground water contamination and waterborne diseases.

#### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

# Housing

Data about complete plumbing facilities are used to allocate Section 8 and other federal housing subsidies to local governments. These programs help American families afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the data as a critical variable to assess the quality of the housing stock.

State and local agencies, along with the Department of Agriculture, identify poor quality housing by measuring the lack of plumbing facilities.

#### **Social Services**

Under the Older Americans Act, the data are used to determine the number of older people who live in inadequate housing and who may be candidates for home repair or other assistance.

The data are used by the Indian Health Service to identify specific reservations that are in greatest need of housing assistance. This information is included in its annual report to the Congress.

# PLUMBING FACILITIES asked since 1940

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Older Americans Act                    |
|-----|--|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002(28)-(30), 3026(a)(1)], |
|     | P.L. 100-713,                          |
|     | [25 U.S.C. 1632(g)(1)(B) and (3)],     |
|     | Community Services Block Grant Act     |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]                    |
| HUD | National Affordable Housing            |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)],               |
|     | Low Income Housing                     |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 1437f(c)(1)],               |
|     | Fair Market Rents [42 U.S.C. 1437],    |
|     | National Affordable Housing            |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 12747(b)(1)(A) and (B)]     |
|     |  |

The type of primary house heating fuel has long been used as a basic indicator of the adequacy of the American housing stock. Over the decades, there has been a dramatic shift in the fuels used to heat America's homes. The Department of Energy uses the data to provide information on energy supply and consumption. Also, the Department of Energy uses the data to design the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS), a legislatively mandated survey required to provide information on residential and commercial energy use. The data are widely used by the Environmental Protection Agency for planning and impact assessment.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Environment**

Local planners use the data to identify areas that may be at risk for unhealthy air quality as a consequence of reliance on less efficient and clean home heating fuels.

State and local environmental agencies interested in promoting alternative fuels, such as solar energy, use the data to identify areas with favorable growth potential.

# **Energy**

Utility companies and fuel oil distributors use the data to forecast the need for additional power facilities such as generating plants, long distance pipelines for oil or natural gas, and long distance transmission lines for electricity.

The Environmental Protection Agency uses the data to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet present and future needs of the general public.

#### **Social Services**

The data are needed to determine the type of fuel used by low-income persons and families who receive assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

# **HOUSE HEATING FUEL** asked since 1940

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**



# **TELEPHONE SERVICE AVAILABLE** asked since 1980

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

The lack of telephone service is an important measure of social isolation. The Department of Health and Human Services and local social service agencies use the data to assess the level of need among elderly, low-income, and handicapped households. These data also are valuable to a number of agencies in evaluating how well their policies meet the public's needs. Under the Communications Act, the Federal Communications Commission requires decennial census data about the number of households having telephone service to measure the extent of universal access to telephone service.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### Communications

State and local agencies use the data to develop plans that deliver emergency telephone service. The data help them to assess the extent to which elderly, low-income, and handicapped individuals have access to communication in case they need emergency medical or crime prevention services.

The Administration on Aging uses data about telephone in unit as a measure of social isolation, one of the factors cited in the Older Americans Act as a source of "greatest social need."

The Federal Communications Commission uses the data to evaluate its universal telephone service policies.

# TELEPHONE SERVICE AVAILABLE asked since 1980

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS | Older Americans Act                    |
|-----|--|
|     | [42 U.S.C. 3002(28)-(30), 3026(a)(1)], |
|     | Community Services Block Grant Act     |
|     | [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]                    |

# **FARM RESIDENCE** asked since 1970

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

America's farm population is identified based on the number of acres and volume of sales of agricultural products. The Department of Agriculture allocates funds to states based on the farm population and uses this information from the decennial census to identify farms for the Census of Agriculture. Also, the Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information in conjunction with other decennial census data to develop its state per capita income estimates, used in the allocation formulas or eligibility criteria of more than 20 federal programs such as Medicaid.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

## **Rural Development**

The Department of Agriculture uses the data to allocate federal funds to states based, in part, on the farm residence population, as determined by the decennial census.

The Economic Research Service uses the data to produce economic and social service information to help the Congress and the administration develop and evaluate rural policies.

# FARM RESIDENCE asked since 1970

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| USDA | Smith-    | Lever | · Act |
|------|-----------|-------|-------|
|      | [7 U.S.C. | 343(c | )(2)] |

Tenure (whether a home is owned or rented) is the most basic feature of the housing inventory. Homeownership rates have served as an indicator of the nation's economy for decades. The data are an integral component of the formula used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish Fair Market Rents and also are essential for the Federal Housing Authority's mortgage insurance program. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to profile the housing tenure of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) households. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information along with other census data to prepare the value of housing services for the National Income and Product Accounts. This information is used to assess the costs of utilities based on the type of home ownership. Tenure also is used in calculating homeownership vacancy rates and rental vacancy rates that federal and local agencies use to evaluate the overall viability of local housing markets.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

## **Planning**

Local planners use data on tenure to assess neighborhood stability. Generally, higher owner-occupancy rates are considered to be a good indicator of neighborhood stability since owners have considerable long-term investments in their homes.

#### Housing

Tenure is one of the integral components used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish Fair Market Rents for different localities throughout the country. This information is used to allocate Section 8 and other federal housing program subsidies that assist American families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

## **Banking**

Data on tenure are used to distribute funds for mortgage insurance, for rental housing in urban renewal areas, and for national defense housing.

The Federal Reserve Board uses the data to determine whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of race and Hispanic origin groups in low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

#### **Transportation**

The Federal Highway Administration allocates funds for public transportation services for elderly and handicapped people based in part on proportions of homes rented, since renters are more likely to use public transportation.

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| COMMERCE | Statistical Information for the Transaction of Public Business [15 U.S.C. 1516] |
|----------|---|
| HHS      | Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)                              |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(8)],   |
|          | Community Services Block Grant Act  |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]   |
| HUD      | National Affordable Housing   |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 12705],  |
|          | Low Income Housing  |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 1437f(c)(i)],  |
|          | Fair Market Rents   |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 1437],   |
|          | Allocation of Housing Funds   |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 1439(d)(1)(a)(i)]  |

The value of home and property is an important measure of neighborhood quality, housing affordability, and wealth. The data provide socioeconomic information not captured by household income and comparative information on the state of local housing markets. The Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services use the data to develop housing assistance plans for elderly, low-income, and handicapped individuals. The Department of Transportation uses the information for the development of transportation plans, policies, and programs. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses decennial census information in preparing the value of housing services for the National Income and Product Accounts. Value data are incorporated in annual reports to Congress on housing production, occupancy, and tenure, and in analyses of housing needs.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

## Housing

Statistics about housing value are used by local agencies in determining the adequacy of housing units for older people, the cost of maintaining owned units, and the potential usefulness of home equity conversion programs.

## Banking

The Federal Reserve Board uses the data to assess the fairness of home lending practices.

Data about home values are used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as an independent check of appraised values for determining the amount of mortgage to be financed.

#### **Social Services**

The data are used to allocate funds for home mortgage insurance for elderly, lower- and moderate-income, and displaced families in programs under the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Local social service organizations use the data for raising funds, writing proposals for grants, locating service areas, and identifying clients wanting specific services, such as thrift and discount stores, to be located nearby.

## **Transportation**

These data are used in developing transportation plans for local areas by assessing the impact on the value of homes affected by road, bridge, and subway construction, and related problems such as noise and pollution.

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| COMMERCE | Statistical Information for the Transaction of Public Business  |
|----------|---|
|          | [15 U.S.C. 1516]  |
| HUD      | National Affordable Housing                                     |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)]   |
| JUSTICE  | Fair Housing Act  |
|          | (Discrimination in Lending and Homeowners' Insurance Practices) |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.]  |

Rent is an essential measure of shelter costs. Rent amounts are critical for the establishment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 Fair Market Rents. Fair Market Rents are used for a wide variety of housing programs that assist American families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. When compared with income, data about rent offer an excellent measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. Various agencies, including the Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture, use the data to allocate funds to assist low- and moderate-income families whose rents exceed 30 percent of their household income. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information in conjunction with other decennial census data to develop its state per capita income estimates, which are used in the allocation formulas or eligibility criteria of more than 20 federal programs such as Medicaid.

## **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Social Services**

Data about rent are needed to distribute funds for housing for low-income senior citizens under the Older Americans Act and for home energy assistance to low-income individuals and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Data about rent are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Community Development Block Grant Program, which provides grants to states and local governments for rehabilitation of privately owned properties intended for rent as residences.

These data are needed to evaluate a locality's qualification for federal housing assistance.

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| COMMERCE | Statistical Information for the Transaction of Public Business |
|----------|--|
|          | [15 U.S.C. 1516]   |
| HHS      | Community Services Block Grant Act                             |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 9902(2)]  |
| HUD      | Low-Income Housing Fair Market Rents                           |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 1437f(c)(1)],                                       |
|          | Low-Income Housing Tax Credits                                 |
|          | [26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(C)(iii)(1)],                               |
|          | National Affordable Housing                                    |
|          | [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)]  |

Selected monthly owner costs, such as mortgage payments and utilities, are a measure of the cost of homeownership. When combined with income, selected monthly owner costs offer an excellent measure of affordability and excessive shelter costs. The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the data in nearly all of its housing assistance programs. The Department of Health and Human Services uses the data to assess the need for housing assistance for elderly, handicapped, and low-income homeowners. The Department of Energy incorporates the data about utility costs to help analyze energy supply and consumption.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Social Services**

Data about selected monthly owner costs are used to allocate funds for housing for the elderly under the Older Americans Act and for home energy assistance to low-income individuals and families under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development uses the data as one of the selection criteria for urban development grants for cities and counties under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

# Housing

The data are benchmark statistics used to measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of goals for national housing policy: a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.

# **Energy**

Data about the cost of utilities are used to analyze current residential energy supply and consumption in order to forecast future needs.

# **SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS** asked since 1980

# **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS  |
|--|
| HUDLow-Income Housing Tax Credits                |
| [26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(c)(iii)(1)],                 |
| Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program |
| [42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(12)],                         |
| National Affordable Housing                      |
| [42 U.S.C. 12705(b)(1)],                         |
| HOME Investment Partnerships Program             |
| [42 U.S.C. 12747],                               |
| National Affordable Housing                      |
| [42 U.S.C. 12747(b)(1)],                         |
| Energy Efficiency Standards                      |
| [42 U.S.C. 12709],                               |
| Low Income Housing [42 U.S.C. 1437f(c)(1)]       |

# **NOTES**

# D. NEW FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

# HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE proposed, 2008 ACS

#### **MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

This subject is being proposed to be added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 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. The continuing high uninsured rate among Americans during a time of economic prosperity is of great concern to policy makers at federal, state and local levels. What makes the increasing number of uninsured particularly troubling is the well-known fact that millions of individuals are eligible for government programs such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) but remain unenrolled and uninsured. Such eligible but unenrolled individuals needlessly go uninsured, face severely restricted access to health care for acute and chronic conditions, and rarely get needed preventive health care.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Social Services**

Data regarding health insurance is used to distribute \$5 billion in annual federal grants to states for the SCHIP. The current source of the 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 would offer an improved data source for distributing these funds.

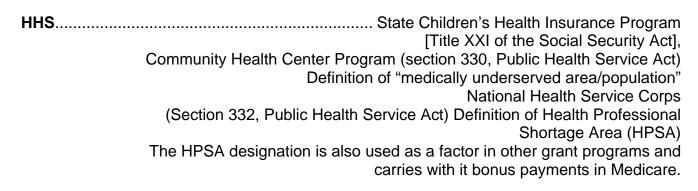
State and localities would use the statistically reliable county-level data on the uninsured to more efficiently target outreach and enrollment efforts to those who are eligible for Medicaid and SCHIP but not enrolled, thereby facilitating increased insurance coverage.

#### **Public Health**

Measuring health insurance status on the ACS would help the HHS better target its public health grant resources to locations where need is great.

# **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE** proposed, 2008 ACS

#### **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**



Marital history is being proposed to be added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable multiple agencies to more accurately measure the effects of federal and state policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families.

Measures of marital transitions will allow the ACS to provide estimates of marriage and divorce rates, as well as flows into and out of marriage. Information about rates, flows, and duration are critical for more refined analyses of eligibility for program services and benefits and of behavioral changes resulting from federal policies and programs. Besides the ACS, no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage.

For the Department of Health and Human Services, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program will use the marriage and divorce data 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 Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal and state agencies such as the Department of the Treasury, state tax departments, and the Social Security Administration.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

#### **Social Services**

Data will be used for formulation and assessment of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 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.

#### **Employment**

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

# **Social Security**

The Social Security Administration will use marriage and divorce data to improve Social Security projections and analyses, as well as the formulation and assessment of Social Security policy.

#### 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 status in assessing needs for housing and other community development services under the Community Development Block Grant Evaluation.

# **STATUTORY USES**

| HHSOlder Americans Act  |
|---|
| [42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)],                           |
| Public Health Service Act   |
| [42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A) & (B), 254e(b) & (d), 254f-1],             |
| Child Welfare Act [42 U.S.C. 192],                                  |
| Voluntary Family Planning Programs                                  |
| [42 U.S.C. 300a-2],   |
| Hospital Insurance Benefits for Aged and Disabled                   |
| [42 USC 1395i-2(d)(4)(B) and (d)(5)(B)]                             |
| Child Support Enforcement (Part D of the Social Security Act)       |
| [42 U.S.C. 652(a)(1), 652(g)(3)(A), 652(j) 667, 669b]               |
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program              |
| (Part A of the Social Security Act (SSA))                           |
| [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq]  |
| Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood Grant program         |
| (Sec 403(a)(2) of the SSA) [42 U.S.C. 603(a)(2)]                    |
| (200 100(4)(2))   |
| HUDLow-Income Housing Tax Credits                                   |
| [26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(A)],  |
| Mortgage Revenue Bonds Program                                      |
| [26 U.S.C. 143(j) & (k)],   |
| Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Evaluation                 |
| [42 U.S.C. 12701],  |
| Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategies (CHAS)               |
| [42 U.S.C. 12701 & 12705(b)]  |
| [42 0.0.0. 12701 & 12700(b)]  |
| LABORImmigration Act of 1990  |
| [8 U.S.C. 1182 note & 1182(a)(5)(A)],                               |
| Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986                          |
| [8 U.S.C. 1364]   |
| [0 0.3.3. 1304]   |
| NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION National Science Foundation Act of 1950 |
| [42 U.S.C. 1862],   |
| National Science Foundation Biennial Report                         |
| [42 U.S.C. 1885d]   |
| [42 0.3.0. 1000d]   |

# VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING proposed, 2008 ACS

#### MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

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

VA is required to provide annually a 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 would 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 would 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**

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.

# VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING proposed, 2008 ACS

## **SELECTED STATUTORY USES**

| HHS  |
|--|
| LABOR  |
| VA   |
| [38 U.S.C. 527], State Estimates of Nursing Home Care Needs for Veterans [38 U.S.C. 8134(a)(1)], Equal Employment Opportunity Data on Veterans   |
| [38 U.S.C. 4212],<br>Veterans Benefits Program<br>[38 U.S.C. 317],   |
| Reports to Congress on Veterans Needs [38 U.S.C. 542, 4107(c)], VA Health Care Demand Estimates Classified by VA Health Care Enrollment Priority Enrollment Level Decision Analysis (ELDA) [38 U.S.C 1705 and implementing regulation CFR 17.36(c)(1)] |

# **NOTES**

E. SUBJECT IN THE 2000 CENSUS BUT NOT PLANNED FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

# **NOTES**

# YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE deleted for 2008 ACS

In Census 2000, information describing veterans with less than 2 years of service was to be used in conjunction with information about period of service after September 1980 to ascertain those veterans not eligible for many VA benefits, health care, and other services. However, the law provides for many exceptions to this 2-year rule. Many activated Reserve and National Guard service members, for example, will be entitled to benefits even if they serve tours of less than 2 years. The importance of Reserve and Guard forces as part of the total active duty military force has grown in recent years, particularly with respect to conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a result, exceptions to the "2-year active duty" requirement have also grown. The VA Office of the Actuary's veteran population projection model no longer makes use of data from the length of service question. Rather, the focus of this model is on counting veterans, not measuring eligibility.