Quick Guide to the 2003 American Community Survey in American FactFinder

Released January 6, 2005

What the American Community Survey means to you

The American Community Survey collects information similar to the Census 2000 such as income; commute time to work, home value, and other important data on an annual basis. Now, data users such as Federal, state and local governments, non-profit agencies, large and small businesses, the media, and the general public can access this detailed demographic and housing data annually instead of every 10 years, helping them make more accurate and informed decisions.

In response to the needs of users, the new ACS data products provide the capability to rank geographies in the new Ranking Tables and identify trends for a given geography across several years in the new Multi Year Profiles.

The 2003 American Community Survey provides estimates for approximately 862 geographies including the Nation, all states, most areas with a population of 250,000 or more, and selected areas of 65,000 or more. Geographic coverage will increase significantly over time; for example, in 2005, when estimates for over 8,000 geographic areas will be provided.

If you have questions or comments about the new products and features in AFF, please use the Feedback or FAQs button, (at the top of each page in AFF) to send your questions and comments.

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The changes to American FactFinder (AFF) for the 2003 American Community Survey (ACS) fall into two categories:

- A. Updates to the AFF web pages
- B. Addition of new data products

A. Updates to the American FactFinder Web Pages

A1. The AFF Main Page

Use the search box, now located on the AFF main page, to type in the name of a city/town, county, or ZIP Code to access the Fact Sheet containing the demographic and housing information for your community.

You can further refine the search by selecting a state from the drop-down box. You can also pull up a Fact Sheet for a state using the "<u>or select a state using a map</u>" hyperlink inside the search Box.

In addition:

- The 'Census Overview' link has been renamed 'About the Data'
- Links to Genealogy, Religion have been shifted into the Special Interest section
- The old Basic Facts hyperlink is gone from the main page
- The Address Search (by Street Address) tool on the left has been changed to a hyperlink



A2. The 2003 Fact Sheet

The AFF Fact Sheet is now available for 2003. Click on the 2003 tab to view the Fact Sheet with 2003 American Community Survey data.

If 2003 data is not available for a selected geography, you will see a message "2003 data <u>not</u> <u>available</u> for this geography" in place of the 2003 tab. See Section B for a discussion of the geographic coverage of the 2003 American Community Survey.

Ability To View Accuracy Of ACS Sample Data

ACS data is based on a sample of the population and the data are estimates of the true value. The accuracy of these estimates is reflected in certain statistical measures called the "Upper Bound" and the "Lower Bound".

You can see 2003 data with its associated Upper and Lower Bound values on the Fact Sheet, by clicking the "<u>show upper and lower bounds</u>" hyperlink in the right hand corner above the table. This link allows you to toggle between:

- the default view *without* Upper and Lower bounds shown
- the view *with* the Upper and Lower bounds shown



A3. The AFF People Page and the Housing Page

The People and Housing pages are also available for 2003. Clicking on the tab takes the user to the 2003 American Community Survey data for the selected geography.

The '2003' hyperlinks for the topics on the People and Housing pages transport the user to the ACS **Data Profile** for the geography while the '2003 and prior years' links transport the users to the **Multi Year Profile** for the geography. These products are described in more detail in section B1 and B3.

In addition, the search tool near the top right corner allows users to perform a quick search by typing in their city/town, county, or ZIP code as well as toggle to a Search by Address.

If more than one match is found for a geography (for example typing in 'Washington'), the user will be shown all the matches and asked to choose one.



A4. The AFF Data Sets Page

The Data Sets page has been updated.

- The Decennial Supplementary Survey (DSS) data sets have been moved under the American Community Survey tab.
- The 2003 American Community Survey Data Set with the new products has been added to the American Community Survey page.
- On the ACS page, links to the ACS Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) the Quality Measures are provided. Both the PUMS data and Quality Measures are available for four years: 2000-2003.



B. New Products are available for the ACS data

In response to users' needs for current demographic and housing data and their requests for providing new ways to view the data, AFF has incorporated several new products from ACS:

- 1. 2003 Data Profiles,
- 2. 2003 Narrative Profiles
- 3. 2003 Multi-year Profiles,
- 4. 2003 Ranking Tables
 - a. Confidence Interval Charts
- 5. 2000-2003 ACS Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS)
- 6. 2000-2003 Quality Measures

B1. Things to Remember

When using the new data products you should remember these important facts:

- 1. The ACS 2003 data currently covers 862 geographies and the coverage will increase significantly when full implementation begins in 2005.
- 2. The ACS data is based on a sample of the population. This means that the statistical measures of accuracy (such as Upper and Lower Bounds) are important considerations.
- 3. Context Sensitive Help is available
- 4. In most cases, data may be downloaded in .csv or .rtf format (unless otherwise specified)

ACS Geographic Coverage 2003

Summary	Description	Total # of Areas
Level	-	covered in the
Code		2003 ACS
010	United States	1
020	Region	
030	Division	
040	State	51
050	County	241
060	County Sub Division	14
155	County part of place	74
160	Place	88
230	Alaskan Native Regional Council	
250	American Indian Area	
280	State part of American Indian Area	
370	County-level metro area in New England	
374	State part of county-level metro area in New England	
380	MSA or CMSA	116
385	Primary MSA component of a CMSA	50
390	State part of MSA or CMSA	
395	State part of Primary MSA	
400	Urbanized Area	
500	Congressional District	206
510	County part of congressional district	
531	Place part of congressional district	
790	Public Use Microdata Sample Area – 5% Census sample	
A40	ACS Test Site	21
Total		<mark>862</mark>

An overview of the ACS survey methodology may be accessed via the '<u>Survey Methodology</u>' link on the pages of the various data products. The overview includes content and links to topics such as data sampling, data sparsity, geographic coverage, and statistical measures of data accuracy.

The following table outlines the 2003 geographic coverage of the ACS data products:

	United States	State	County	County Subdivision	Place	MSA or CMSA	Primary MSA	108th Congressional District	ACS Test Site
Data Profiles	Х	Х	х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х	Х
Multi Year Profiles	Х	Х	Х	X	Х	Х	Х		Х
Ranking Tables		Х	х		Х				
PUMS		Х							

Detailed descriptions of these new data products are provided in the following sections.

B2. Data Profiles

American Commu	Census Bureau n FactFinder Main Search Feedback FA nity Survey - Data Profile	10 Years of AQs Glossary	on the Web Site Map H	lelp
You are here: Main > 4	II Data Sets + Geography + Results	L Deint / De	under de la Delete	1 71
2003 Data Profiles: • Demographic Social Economic Housing Narrative 2003 Multi-Year Profile Change geography (state, county,	United States General Demographic Characteristics: 2/ 2003 American Community Survey Sum Demographic - Sex and Age, Race, Relationship, H Social - Education, Marital Status, Fertility, Grandpare Economic - Income, Employment, Occupation, Commu Housing - Occupancy and Structure, Housing Value Narrative - Text profile with graphs for easy analysis NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the pop doministics and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality	D03 mary Tables lousehold by Type nts and Costs, Utilities S pulation living in institu	tions, college	a items
Quality Measures	nonsampling error, and definitions, see <u>Survey Methodology</u> . General Demographic Characteristics: 2003	<u>Estimate</u>	Lower Bound	<u>Upper Bou</u>
	Total population	282,909,885	****	**
	SEX AND AGE	139 306 534	139 345 711	129 //7 2
	Female	144,513,361	144,462,548	144,564.1
	Linder Conner	40,070,704	40,050,000	40,705,5

What are they?

Data Profiles allow users to view detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information about a particular geography. There are five types:

- 1. Demographic (Tabular data)
- 2. Social (Tabular data)
- 3. Economic (Tabular data)
- 4. Housing (Tabular data)
- 5. Narrative (Text with bar charts) described in detail below

You may use the links above the table as well as on the left navigation bar to:

- Toggle between the five profile types,
- Navigate to the Multi Year Profile for the corresponding geography, and
- Change your geography selection.

How can I access them?

AFF Main Page \rightarrow Data Sets Page \rightarrow Click ACS Tab \rightarrow Choose Data Year \rightarrow Click Data Profiles hyperlink \rightarrow Geography Selection \rightarrow Demographic Data Profile (Default)

OR

(For 2003 Data Profile Only)

AFF People or Housing page \rightarrow 2003 Tab \rightarrow Choose Geography (using the Search box near the

top right corner) \rightarrow Click the 2003 hyperlink under a chosen topic \rightarrow 2003 Demographic Data Profile (Default)

Available for: 2002 and 2003

B3. Narrative Profiles

U.S. Co	ensus Bureau	Main Search	Feedback	EAOs	Years of	n the Wel	b		
American Commun You are here: Main + All	ity Survey - Narrative Data Sets > Geography > Re	e Profile sults							
						Print Rel	lated Items		
2003 Data Profiles: Demographic Social Economic Housing Narrative Change geography (state, county, place)	California Population and Housing Narrative Profile: 2003 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables Demographic - Sex and Age, Race, Relationship, Household by Type Social - Education, Marital Status, Fertility, Grandparents Economic - Income, Employment, Occupation, Commuting to Work Housing - Occupancy and Structure, Housing Value and Costs, Utilities Narrative - Text profile with graphs for easy analysis								
<u>Quality Measures</u>	POPULATION OF Calif million (50 percent) fem Twenty-seven percent o older.	fornia: In 2003, Cal nales and 17.2 mill of the population w	ifornia had a h ion (50 percen ere under 18 y	ousehold t) males. ears and	population of The median a 10 percent w	34.7 million age was 34.1 ere 65 years	- 17.5 years. and		
		The Age Distribut	ion of People i	n Californi	a in 2003				
	65 and over	10%							
	45 to 64	2	2%						

What are they?

Narrative Profiles are a special type of Data Profile. They provide the capability to view a textbased, easy-to-read narrative of the data found in the American Community Survey (ACS) tabular Data Profiles.

Since a Data Profile is specific to a geography, so is the Narrative Profile that is associated with it. Narrative Profiles include bar graphs of the data from the tabular Data Profile.

How can I access them?

Any Data Profile \rightarrow Click the <u>Narrative</u> link (above the table or on the left nav bar)

OR

AFF 2003 Fact Sheet \rightarrow Click the <u>Narrative</u> link (Top right corner of the page)

Available for: 2002 and 2003

B4. Multi-Year Profiles

🚛 U.S. C	ensus Bureau		Years on the V	Veb		
American	FactFinder Main Search	Feedback FAQs	Glossary Site Ma	p Help		
American Commun You are here: Main > Al	ity Survey - Multi-Year Profile Data Sets ⊨ Geocraphy ► Results		Duint / Download	Delated Bons		
2003 Nutri-Year Prnfiles: > Demographic Social Economic Housing 2003 Data Profile Change geography (safe county, glace) • Quality Measures	California General Demographic Cl 2003 American Commun Demographic - Sex and Age F Social - Education Marital Status Conomic - Income, Engloyment, Housing - Occupancy and Struct NOTE. Data are limited to the household population domitories, and other group quarters. For informar nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Me An ^ Indicates that the data is significantly differer the data are controlled; showing whether they are	haracteristics: 2003 ity Survey Summary 1 Race, Relatonship, Househol, Fertility, Grandparents Oscupation, Commiting to A ture, Houshig Value and Cos and exclude the population tion on confidentially protect thodology. It than date from the most cu- significantly different is not	Tables d by Type Vork ts, Jtilities iving in nstitutions, colleg ion sampling error, rrrent year. A 'c' indicates appropriate	e		
	General Demographic Characteristics	2003 Percent Distribution	2002 Percent Distribution	Per Distrib	2001 rcent ution	2000 Percent Distribution
	Total population	34,650,690	34,292,871	c 33,68	1,509 C	33,051,894
	SEX AND AGE	40.500	40.470	•	4407 +	40.40%
	Female	49.56%	49.47%	* 45	.44% ^ 56% *	49.46%
	Under 5 vears	7.32%	7.40%	* 7	.69% *	7.48%
			1	<u> </u>		

What are they?

Multi Year Profiles (MYP) show detailed demographic, economic, and housing data about a selected geography over several years in tabular form. MYP allow users to view how geography evolves across time and to identify trends and patterns.

How can I access them?

AFF Main Page \rightarrow Data Sets \rightarrow Click ACS Tab \rightarrow Choose Data Year \rightarrow Click Multi Year Profiles hyperlink \rightarrow Geography Selection page \rightarrow Demographic Multi Year Profile (Default)

OR

(For 2003 Multi Year Profile Only)

AFF People page or Housing page \rightarrow Click 2003 Tab \rightarrow Choose Geography (using the Search

box near the top right corner of the page) \rightarrow Click the 2003 and prior years hyperlink under a chosen topic $\rightarrow 2003$ Demographic Multi Year Profile (Default)

What must I remember?

- A '*' indicates if a statistically significant difference exists between the data item for a given year and the current year.
- A 'c' indicates that the data are controlled and displaying a significant difference is not appropriate.

Available for: 2002 and 2003

B5. Ranking Tables

Ranking Tables may be viewed with and without statistical significance. Confidence Interval Charts are associated with Ranking Tables.

Default View – Without Statistical Significance

U.S. C	Census 1	Bureau	X,	× * */				
America	n FactFind	🕰 🔔 Main	Search	Feedback	FAQs	Glossary	Site Map	Help
American Commu	nity Survey	- Ranking Table	s					
You are here: Main 🕨 🏾	All Data Sets 🕨 🖥	anking Tables + Result	s					
						Print / Dow	nload Rel	ated Items
View this table for states for counties in for places in from 2003 from 2002	Swithis table Places within United States for states for counties for places Median Monthly Housing Costs for Specified Owner-occupied Housing Ur Inflation-adjusted Dollars): 2000 Universe: Specified owner-occupied housing units 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables from 2003 from 2002 NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college domitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, population dideficitions es Survey Methodopy							nits (In 2003
significance	Rank 🕹	Place 😃		Media	n	Lower Bound	Upper	Bound
View	1	San Jose city, CA		2,21	9	2,114		2,324
es e chart	2	San Francisco city, CA		2,15	7	2,088		2,226
as a <u>criait</u>	3	Honolulu CDP, HI		2,08	9	1,964		2,214
Other tables	4	New York city, NY		1,81	2	1,772		1,852
Select epother	5	San Diego city, CA		1,79	2	1,734		1,850
ranking table	6	Anaheim city, CA		1,77	4	1,667		1,881
- In the second	7	Los Angeles city, CA		1,75	0	1,702		1,798
	8	Long Beach city, CA		1,71	7	1,619		1,815
	9	Oakland city, CA		1,70	6	1,570		1,842
 <u>Quality Measures</u> 	10	Seattle city_WA		1.70	2	1.628		1 776

View with Statistical Significance

U.S. Census Bureau										
Main Search Feedback FAQs Glossary Site Map Help										
American Community Survey - Ranking Tables You are here: <u>Main + All Data Sets + Ranking Tables</u> + Results										
						Print / Dow	nload Re	elated Items		
View this table Flaces within United States for states Median Monthly Housing Costs for Specified Owner-occupied Housing Units (In 200 Inflation-adjusted Dollars): 2000 if or places Very Superior Specified owner-occupied housing units 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables if from 2003 from 2002 Select a place and click 'GO', or click a row of the table to see statistical significance. Albuquerque city, NM GO								Jnits (In 2003		
significance	indicates the	selected geography.			,					
<u>View</u> as a <u>chart</u>	NOTE. Data an dormitories, an nonsampling e	e limited to the househ id other group quarter rror, and definitions, s	old population s. For inform ee <u>Survey M</u>	n and exclude th ation on confider <u>ethodology</u> .	e populatior itiality prote	n living in institutio ction, sampling e	ons, college rror,			
Other tables	Pank	Place			Median	Lower Bou	nd Ur	wer Bound		
Select another	1	San Jose city, CA			2.219	2.1	14	2.324		
ranking table	2	San Francisco city	, CA		2,157	2,0	188	2,226		
	3	Honolulu CDP, HI			2,089	1,9	964	2,214		
	4	New York city, NY			1,812	1,7	72	1,852		
 Quality Measures 	5	San Diego city, CA			1,792	1,7	'34	1,850		

What are they?

Ranking tables are designed to allow comparison of similar geographic areas on a given characteristic (e.g. "Percent of People over 25 with a Bachelor's degree").

When in the Default view you can:

- Click on the icon of an arrow inside a red box within the column to sort the table.
- Sort the table by rank or by alphabetical order of geography.

When in the view with Statistical significance, you can:

- Use the Drop down list above the table to select a geography and click the GO button OR
- Click on a geography inside the table to view geographies that are statistically different from the one selected

How can I access them?

AFF Main Page \rightarrow Data Sets \rightarrow Click ACS Tab \rightarrow Choose Data Year \rightarrow Click Ranking Tables hyperlink \rightarrow Choose Ranking Table \rightarrow Ranking Table Result (default view)

OR

(For 2003 Ranking Tables Only)

AFF People page or Housing page \rightarrow Click 2003 Tab \rightarrow Click on the icon hyperlink for State, Counties, or Place under a chosen characteristic \rightarrow 2003 Ranking Table Result (default view)

What must I remember?

• In this release ACS data Ranking Tables are available for 19 characteristics

Available for: 2002 and 2003

Confidence Interval Charts

Confidence Interval Charts are associated with Ranking Tables.



What are they?

Confidence Interval Charts depict the degree of uncertainty about the Ranking Table estimate, in a chart form. The confidence interval is represented by two bars – each representing the lower bound and the upper bound.

The further apart the bars, the greater the uncertainty about the estimate. A diamond-shaped point lying between the two bars depicts the estimate.

Move the cursor over the row containing the geography to view the associated Lower Bound (LB), Estimate (Est), and Upper Bound (UB).

How can I access them?

Ranking Table \rightarrow "<u>chart</u>" hyperlink (on the left navigation bar)

Available for: 2002 and 2003

Notes:



B6. ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

U.S. Census Bureau										
American	n FactFinder Main	Search	Feedback	FAQs	Glossary	Site Map	Help			
ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 2003 You are here: Main > All Data Sets > ACS PUMS Overview										
PUMS Data and Documentation: <u>Overview</u> 2003 2002 2004	Note: The population estimate the household population and other group quarters. The grou begins full implementation.	s of the Ame exclude the ip quarters i	erican Commu population livi population will	nity Survey ng in institu be include	(ACS) data a Itions, college d starting in 2	re currently lim e dormitories, 005 when the	nited to and ACS			
2000	Download 2003 PUMS Data			Docume	ntation					
	📕 Select a data type, data forr	nat, and sta	te. Click 'GO'.	• Subje	ects available	in PUMS files				
	Data Type Population Records Housing Records Data Format CSV (comma separat	ed values)		• 2003 • 2003 <u>An</u> <u>Ch</u> His Ind	PUMS top co PUMS Code ISA panic Origin ustry nguage redice	<u>ded values</u> Lists				
	C PC SAS Data Set C UNIX SAS Data Set				cupation ce of Birth					

What are they?

The Public Use Microdata Sample files, or PUMS, are a sample of the actual responses to the ACS. Microdata is for users who want to create do-it-yourself tabulations using specialized tools

How can I access them?

AFF Main Page \rightarrow Data Sets \rightarrow Click ACS Tab \rightarrow Click <u>Public Use Microdata Sample</u> link \rightarrow Click on Year hyperlink from PUMS Overview Page \rightarrow ACS PUMS Download Page

OR

AFF Main Page \rightarrow Data Sets \rightarrow Click ACS Tab \rightarrow Choose Data Set \rightarrow Click the Download PUMS data hyperlink from the options \rightarrow ACS PUMS Download Page

What must I remember?

- The Census Bureau removes all identifying information from PUMS files. Also, a minimum population threshold ensures that no information disclosure occurs about particular households or persons
- There are two basic record types: the housing unit record and the person record. Each has a unique identifier. Each record contains a serial number that links the persons in the housing unit to the housing unit record.
- PUMS data may be downloaded in CSV, PC SAS, and UNIX SAS formats

Available for: 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003

Notes:

B7. 2000-2003 Quality Measures

Quality Measures Page

U.S. Census Bureau	10 Years on the Web
American Community Survey	Contact ACS Site Map Search AC
DATA TABLES RANKING TABLES PU Census >ACS Home > Using the D	BLC USE MICRODATA SURVEY BASICS USING THE DATA ADVANCED METHODOLOGY
Using the Data: Quality M	easures
Available in this Section	The quality measures provided in this section illustrate the steps the Census Bureau takes to ensure that ACS survey dat are accurate and reliable.
Understanding Change Profiles Subject Definitions Accuracy of the Data Quality Measures	1. How large was the sample used to produce the ACS estimates? 3. What was the response to the survey? Sample Size: Select Nation/State Go Response Rates Definitions Response Rates Definitions
Sample Gice: Data Data Data Coverage Rates: <u>Data</u> Definitions Response Rates: <u>Data</u> Data	A subject is the ACS cover the population? A subject is constrained by the ACS cover the population? Cuver age Rates: Select Nation/State Go Subject is constrained by the Action Rates: Select Nation/State Go
Item Allocation Rates: <u>Data</u> <u>Definitions</u> <u>Errata</u>	Luverage rates permittions The ACS produces survey data each year to measure key social, economic, and housing characteristics about the U.S. population. The four questions above identify four important accords of survay quality. These quality measures are

What are they?

Quality Measures, as the name indicates, measure the quality of the responses gathered by the American Community Survey.

The content in quality measures provides discussion and data tables at the state and national level on four key indicators of survey data quality:

- 1. Response rates,
- 2. Coverage rates,
- 3. Sample size and
- 4. Allocation rates

How can I access them?

AFF Main Page \rightarrow Data Sets \rightarrow Click ACS Tab \rightarrow Click Quality Measures link (under "Other Resources) \rightarrow Quality Measures page

OR

Data Product (Data profile, Multi Year Profile or Ranking Table) Result Page \rightarrow Click <u>Quality</u> <u>Measures</u> link (under left navigation bar) \rightarrow Quality Measures page

OR

Data Product (Data profile, Multi Year Profile or Ranking Table) Result Page \rightarrow Click <u>Survey</u> <u>Methodology</u> link \rightarrow Click <u>Quality Measures</u> link in pop up window \rightarrow Quality Measures page

Available for: 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003

Notes:

B8. Search capability for ACS products

The 2003 ACS data products are searchable using the AFF Search button in the top navigation bar.

Typing in keywords such as "Poverty" or "Occupation" generates results that include the ACS data products (see example below).

Make sure that you select the right year and program from the 'Select a year and program' drop down list (in the example shown below we selected '2003 American Community Survey').

U.S. Census	Bureau				Years of	n the Wel	2
American FactFine	der Main	Search	Feedback	FAQs	Glossary	Site Map	Help
Search You are here: Mair Search							
keyword geography							
Select a year and program 2003 American Community Surve	y •						
Enter keyword(s)	use synonyms	Search	() Search Tip	<u>s</u>			
or							
select a subject			▼ Go	,			

Search Results for poverty

Data Profiles

2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables

- <u>Selected Economic Characteristics: 2003</u>
 <u>Selected Social Characteristics: 2003</u>

Multi-Year Profiles

2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables

- MYP1-2 Selected Social Characteristics: 2003
 MYP1-3 Selected Economic Characteristics: 2003