

American Community Survey Data Release Timetable

By 2010, socio-economic and housing characteristics of the U.S. population that were available only once every 10 years through the census will be available annually through the American Community Survey (ACS).

Currently, single-year data are available annually for all areas with populations of 65,000 or more. It will take three to five years to accumulate a large enough sample to produce data for smaller areas, depending on the population size of the area (see chart below). Once that sample is collected, though, the Census Bureau will be able to release three- or five-year estimates every year for those areas. The larger areas will receive estimates in both the single- and multiyear formats.

Estimates are released in the summer following the calendar year in which the data were collected, according to the following schedule:

Type of Data	Population Size of Area	Data for the Previous Year Released in the Summer of:				
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010+
1-year estimates	65,000+					
3-year estimates	20,000+					
5-year estimates	<20,000 Census Tracts and Block Groups					

* Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county averaging about 4,000 inhabitants. Census block groups generally contain between 600 and 3,000 people. The smallest geographic level for which data will be produced is the block group; the Census Bureau will not publish estimates for small numbers of people if there is a probability that an individual can be identified.

For more information, visit the American Community Survey Web page at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

###

Media contact:

Stephen Buckner, Shelly Lowe or Danielle Conceicao
Public Information Office
U.S. Census Bureau
(301) 763-3691
e-mail: pio@census.gov