

# Quick Facts About the Importance of Participating In the American Community Survey

The survey is conducted under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193.

- All answers are **confidential**. Any Census Bureau employee who violates that confidentiality is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both.
- Addresses are selected at random to represent similar households in their area.
- Approximately 2½ percent of U.S. households are surveyed per year. A sample of group quarters (nursing homes, college dormitories, etc.) are included in the ACS as well.
- The survey is conducted by mail, telephone, and personal visit.

Response to this survey is required by Section 221 of Title 13.

## Benefits for Congress

The ACS is the only source for annual demographic, social, economic, and housing information for Congressional Districts. It provides:

- Current information for decision-making and policy development.
- Current information for allocation of funds.
- Current information for program evaluation.

## Benefits for State and Local Governments

- The ACS provides comparable information across and within states for program evaluation and use in funding formulas.

- ACS information is often used to determine the location of new schools, hospitals, and highways.
- ACS provides information for tracking the well-being of children, families, and the elderly.

## Benefits for your Constituents

- The data will aid federal, state, and local governments in distributing benefits fairly.
- The data are used by community programs such as those for the elderly, libraries, hospitals, banks, and other organizations.
- The data are used by transportation planners to evaluate peak volumes of traffic in order to reduce congestion, plan for parking, and develop plans for carpooling and flexible work schedules.