

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.