

# American Community Survey

## Population: Question on Marital Status

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

**20** What is this person's marital status?

Now married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

Never married → SKIP to **1**

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

## MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

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 U.S. 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.

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