

American Community Survey

Population: Question on Sex

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

3 What is Person 1's sex? Mark (X) ONE box.

Male

Female

Source: ACS-1 (2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Census data about sex are critical because so many federal programs must differentiate between males and females. The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services are required by statute to use these data to fund, implement, and evaluate various social and welfare programs, such as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Laws to promote equal employment opportunity for women also require census data on sex. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs must use census data to develop its state projections of veterans' facilities and benefits.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Planning

State and local planners analyze social and economic characteristics of males and females to predict future needs for housing, education, childcare, health care, transportation, and employment.

Employment

Data about sex are used to evaluate employment practices under the Civil Rights Act.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, using data about sex, establishes and evaluates guidelines dealing with equal employment opportunity.

Education

Data about sex are used to allocate funds to institutions of higher learning that increase participation, particularly of minority women, in scientific and engineering programs under the Higher Education Act.

Social Services

At the state and county levels, data about sex are used to allocate funds for food, health care services, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

Housing

Data about sex are used to evaluate housing policies and practices under the Civil Rights Act.

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