

American Community Survey

Housing: Question on Vehicles Available

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

9 How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?

None

1

2

3

4

5

6 or more

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Vehicles available describes, for each household, the number of passenger cars, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. Used in combination with the place-of-work and journey-to-work data collected in the American Community Survey, data about vehicles available are essential for transportation programs. For the U.S. Department of Transportation, data about vehicles available are used to develop policies and to plan a number of transportation programs. The U.S. Department of Energy uses the information to estimate and forecast energy consumption of motor vehicles and for planning and establishing program activities as part of the Alternative Fueled Vehicles Program.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Transportation

Based on studies of the typical number of daily trips taken by households with differing numbers of vehicles available, state and metropolitan transportation planning agencies use these data about vehicles available to estimate total vehicle travel and forecast future travel and its effect on their transportation systems.

These data are used to help form the database used by state departments of transportation and the more than 350 metropolitan planning organizations responsible for comprehensive transportation planning activities.

Programs include transportation safety, long-range transportation investments, emergency response, and evacuation planning.

Social Services

State and local agencies use these data to determine the need for special transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

Social service agencies use these data to plan for emergency transportation services in areas of high concentrations of households with no vehicle available, such as isolated rural communities.

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