

## What is the American Community Survey?

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey each month to give our country an up-to-date picture of how we live – including our education, employment, housing, and more. The American Community Survey is our nation's most reliable source of accurate data about every part of the country – from the smallest rural communities to the largest cities.

## How does my response benefit my community?

To make informed decisions, our communities need accurate and reliable information. Local charities, small businesses, and government leaders use the data collected by the American Community Survey to decide how to best meet the needs of our communities.

Each year, thanks to responses from people like you, communities across the United States receive more than \$400 billion for services such as reducing traffic congestion, providing job-training programs, and planning for the health care needs of the elderly.

## Will my response be confidential?

Yes. The information you provide will help create a picture of your community, but it cannot be used to identify you. By law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9), all of the information the Census Bureau collects for this survey is completely confidential, and millions of people securely participate in the survey each year.

Census Bureau employees are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or up to five years in prison if they disclose any information that could identify you.

Complete the American Community Survey online – it's the quickest and easiest way to respond.

Go to <https://respond.census.gov/acs>

If you need help or have questions about the American Community Survey, please call 1-800-354-7271.

Vaya a <https://respond.census.gov/acs> para completar la Encuesta sobre la Comunidad Estadounidense en Internet. Si usted necesita ayuda o tiene preguntas, por favor llame al 1-877-833-5625.

如需帮助或对美国社区调查有何疑问, 请致电 1-800-638-5945。

Nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp hay có thắc mắc về cuộc Điều tra Cộng đồng Người Mỹ, hãy gọi tới số 1-877-221-9436.

Если Вам потребуется помощь или у Вас возникнут вопросы относительно данного опроса внутри американского сообщества, звоните по телефону: 1-866-225-2297.

도움이 필요하거나 미국 지역사회 설문조사에 관해 질문이 있을 경우 1-800-722-6728번으로 문의하십시오.

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## The American Community Survey: Frequently Asked Questions





### ***Am I required to fill out the survey?***

Yes. Your response to this survey is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141 and 193). As a randomly selected representative of your community, you are the voice of your neighbors and peers. To create an accurate picture of your community, it is critical that you respond.

### ***How will the Census Bureau use the information I provide?***

Your confidential response will be aggregated with information from other nearby households to produce a portrait of your community. This information is made freely accessible to government leaders, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the public at large.

Based on the information you provide, you may be asked to participate in other Census Bureau surveys that are voluntary. We may combine your answers with information that you gave to other agencies to enhance the statistical uses of these data. This information will be given the same protection as your survey response.

## ***Why Do We Ask Certain Questions?***

Every question we ask contributes directly to providing beneficial programs or services to communities that need them most.

### ***Name***

Names help make sure that everyone in your household is accounted for, but that no one is listed twice. Names provided in surveys are never released or published.

### ***Disability***

Questions about disability provide the means to help develop disability employment and job-training programs and to put in place adequate public transportation accommodations for disabled people, among other uses.

### ***Plumbing and kitchen facilities***

These questions help to identify areas in danger of groundwater contamination or waterborne diseases and areas that may be eligible for housing assistance, rehabilitation loans, or special programs, such as Meals on Wheels.

### ***Income***

Data about income are used to distribute funds to school districts that serve economically disadvantaged children and to identify communities eligible for grants to stimulate economic recovery or run job-training programs, among other uses.

### ***Home value or rent payment***

Government and planning agencies use answers to these questions to evaluate housing affordability and neighborhood quality, develop housing assistance plans for elderly and low-income households, determine impacts of transportation infrastructure on property values, and generally help families to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

### ***Occupation***

Answers to questions about the jobs people hold provide information on unemployment levels and the availability of workers in different areas of the country. Communities can use this information to evaluate demand for staff in certain occupations, and companies can decide where to locate new plants, stores, and offices.

### ***Journey to work***

Answers to these questions help communities plan road improvements, develop public transportation services, and design programs to ease traffic problems.

### ***Education***

Responses to these questions help to determine the number of public schools and day care services required in a community, develop adult education and literacy programs, and assess the qualifications of the U.S. workforce.

***“1.6 million people in this country live without full indoor plumbing. When we know where they live, we can prevent groundwater contamination.”***

***– Jim Dawson,  
Public Health Director***

