

# The American Community Survey and the 2020 Census

## **I already answered the 2020 Census. Is this the same thing?**

The American Community Survey is different from the 2020 Census.

## **How is the American Community Survey different from the 2020 Census?**

The American Community Survey (ACS) shows how we live—our education, housing, jobs, and more. The ACS provides information about the social and economic needs of your community every year. For example, results may be used to decide where new schools, hospitals, and fire stations are needed.

The census is conducted once every 10 years to provide an official count of the entire U.S. population to Congress.

## **Do I have to answer both?**

Yes, you are required by law to answer both the American Community Survey and the 2020 Census (Title 13, U.S. Code).

Your responses will help your community get its fair share of federal funding. The data help determine how more than \$675 billion is distributed to states and communities every year.

## **Can you use my 2020 Census answers for the American Community Survey?**

No, your answers to the 2020 Census cannot be used for the American Community Survey (ACS). The American Community Survey asks questions about topics not on the 2020 Census, such as education, employment, health insurance, and transportation.

## **Why was I chosen for the American Community Survey?**

The U.S. Census Bureau chose this address, not you personally, as part of a randomly selected sample.

**Thank you for your participation in both the ACS and the 2020 Census!**

# The American Community Survey

Each year, a random sample of addresses completes the American Community Survey.

Respond online at  
[respond.census.gov/acs](https://respond.census.gov/acs)

or

Respond by mail  
using the paper form

The screenshot shows the online login interface for the American Community Survey. At the top, it says "United States Census Bureau" and "American Community Survey". Below that, it provides a welcome message and instructions. A "Please Log In" section contains a barcode with a 10-digit User ID (Example: ACS 999 999 999 999 9999 99) and a "User ID" input field. There is also a "Login" button. A "U.S. Census Bureau Notice and Consent Warning" is displayed at the bottom of the page, along with OMB Numbers and approval expiration dates.

The screenshot shows the paper form for the American Community Survey. It features the "Start Here" section with instructions on how to respond online or by mail. The form includes fields for "Please print today's date" (Month, Day, Year), "Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form" (Last Name, First Name, MI, Area Code + Number), and "How many people are living or staying at this address?". There are checkboxes for "INCLUDE" and "DO NOT INCLUDE" options. The form also includes a "Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)" section and a "NECESITA AYUDA?" section for Spanish speakers. At the bottom, it says "Fill out pages 2, 3, and 4 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form." and provides OMB Numbers.

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