

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT A**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
**The American Community Survey and the**  
**Puerto Rico Community Survey**  
**OMB Control No. 0607-0810**

## **Abstract**

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing monthly survey that collects detailed housing and socioeconomic data from a sample of about 3.54 million addresses in the United States and about 36,000 addresses in Puerto Rico each year, where it is known as the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS). The ACS also collects detailed socioeconomic data from a sample of about 170,900 residents living in group quarters (GQ) facilities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Resulting tabulations from this data collection are provided on a yearly basis. The ACS allows the U.S. Census Bureau to provide timely and relevant housing and socioeconomic statistics, even for low levels of geography. The Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to revise the ACS to continue producing an accurate demographic snapshot of the nation and its people.

## **Justification**

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The Census Bureau requests authorization from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to revise the American Community Survey (ACS) and Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) data collection. The Census Bureau developed the ACS to collect and update demographic, social, economic, and housing data every year that are essentially the same as the “long-form” data that the Census Bureau formerly collected once a decade as part of the decennial census. There is a need for current data describing lower geographic areas and subpopulations, such as groups within the Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian populations, the elderly, and children. Federal and state government agencies use such data to evaluate and manage federal programs and to distribute funding for various programs that include food stamp benefits, transportation dollars, and housing grants. State, county, tribal, and community governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the general public use information such as housing quality, income distribution, journey-to-work patterns, immigration data, and regional age distributions for decision-making and program evaluation. The ACS is now the only source of comparable data about social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics for small areas and small subpopulations across the nation and in Puerto Rico.

The ACS program provides estimates annually for all states and all medium and large cities,

counties, and metropolitan areas. For smaller areas and population groups, it takes five years to accumulate enough data to provide reliable estimates. Every community in the nation continues to receive a detailed, statistical portrait of its social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics each year through one-year and five-year ACS products.

The Census Bureau is collecting these data under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141, 193, 221, and 223. Please see the Title 13 U.S.C. section 141, 193, 221, and 223 excerpt in Attachment T for more information about this legal authority.

The goals of the ACS and PRCS are to:

- Provide federal, state, tribal, and local governments with an information base for the administration and evaluation of government programs; and
- Provide data users with timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data updated every year that can be compared across states, communities, and population groups.

**2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

The ACS collects detailed socioeconomic data, which is documented here:

<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/dec/planned-questions-2020-ac.html>

Information is requested from residents of sampled households. For in-person interviews, respondents must be at least 15 years old. Respondents may complete the survey online, by paper questionnaire, telephone interview, or in-person interview. The Census Bureau selects a random sample of addresses to be included in the ACS. Each address has about a 1-in-480 chance of being selected in a month, and no address should be selected more than once every five years.

Using the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF), which is continually updated, a sample of addresses is selected, and survey materials are mailed each month to a new group of potential households. Most households are asked first to complete the survey through the internet, with a paper questionnaire provided to those households that do not respond by internet. Of the remaining households that have not responded either by paper, telephone, or internet, a subsample of remaining households is selected for a personal interview, generally at a rate of one in three. Addresses for which the ACS did not mail survey materials because the address was unmailable are subsampled for a personal interview at a rate of two in three. The ACS also conducts interviews with a sample of residents at selected group quarters (GQ) facilities. The collection of these data from a new sample of housing units (HUs) and GQ facilities every month provides more timely data and lessens respondent burden as compared to being collected via the long-form questionnaire. The following section details the ACS data collection practices.

## ACS Household Data Collection

The Census Bureau uses a multiple-mode contact strategy to collect ACS data. These modes include mail, internet, telephone, and personal visits. For households eligible to receive survey materials by mail, the first contact (Attachment A) is a letter that provides instructions on how to complete the survey online, prominently displays the user identification number, and explains that a paper questionnaire will be sent later if the respondent is unable to complete the survey online.

The internet version of the questionnaire is available in English and Spanish and includes questions about the HU and the people living in the HU. The internet questionnaire (Attachment B) has space to collect detailed information for 20 people in the household.

The second mailing is a letter (Attachment C) that reminds respondents to complete the survey online, thanks them if they have already done so, and informs them that a paper questionnaire will be sent at a later date if the Census Bureau does not receive their response. This letter includes clear instructions to log in and prominently displays the user identification number.

The third mailing is a paper questionnaire package (Attachment D) that is sent only to those sample addresses that have not completed the online questionnaire. This package includes a letter that reminds the household of the importance of the ACS and asks them to respond soon either by completing the survey online or by returning a completed paper questionnaire. The back of the letter includes frequently asked questions and provides basic information about the survey in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean, and provides a phone number to call for assistance in each language. The paper questionnaire has room to collect data on all questions for five people and a few questions for seven more people.

The fourth mailing (Attachment E) is a postcard that reminds respondents to mail back the questionnaire or respond on the internet. It also informs them that an interviewer may contact them if they do not complete the survey and reminds them of the importance of the ACS.

The fifth mailing (Attachment F) is sent to respondents who have not completed the survey within five weeks. This mailing includes a due date reminding these respondents to complete their survey by a specified deadline to be removed from the list of HUs that will be visited by Census Bureau interviewers and thanks them if they have already done so. This letter includes clear instructions to log in, prominently displays the user identification number, and provides an option to complete the survey over the phone.

If a respondent starts to answer the survey online and provides an e-mail address but does not complete the survey, an e-mail (Attachment G) will be sent to the respondent to remind them to return to the survey to complete their online questionnaire. This e-mail includes a link to the online survey, clear instructions to log in, and prominently displays the user identification number. This e-mail is sent only once to a respondent, either before the third mailing or before the fifth mailing

depending on when they started filling out the online survey.

Respondents can call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance (TQA) line and request Spanish-language materials. An address can receive a letter in Spanish that provides instructions on how to complete the survey online, prominently displays the user identification number, and explains that a paper questionnaire will be sent later if the respondent is unable to complete the survey online. A Spanish paper questionnaire package, as well as a reminder postcard, are sent to sample addresses that have not completed the online questionnaire and requested Spanish-language materials. The Spanish questionnaire package contains the same materials as the English package. The address will also receive a reminder letter in Spanish if the Census Bureau does not receive the completed questionnaire by a cut-off date. All the materials that are sent to respondents who request a replacement package in Spanish are included in Attachment H.

A different mail strategy is used for sample housing units in Puerto Rico. Based on the results of testing in 2011 and concerns with the resulting internet response rates from that testing, the ACS deferred the introduction of an internet response option to further assess the best implementation approach. Therefore, the Census Bureau continues to use the previously used mail strategy with no references to an internet response option. All of the materials that are sent to respondents in Puerto Rico, including related reminder postcards, are included in Attachment I.

- The first mailing of the PRCS includes a prenotice letter in Spanish and English.
- The second Puerto Rico mailing includes an introductory letter, a FAQ brochure, a paper questionnaire, and a return envelope.
- The third Puerto Rico mailing is a reminder postcard.
- The fourth Puerto Rico mailing is a replacement package similar to the second mailing and is mailed only to nonrespondents.
- The fifth Puerto Rico mailing is a reminder postcard that is mailed only to nonrespondents.

Upon request through TQA, respondents are mailed an English version of the PRCS questionnaire and appropriate informational materials.

The ACS provides TQA for respondents who need assistance with completing the paper or internet questionnaires, who have questions about the survey, or who would like to complete the ACS interview over the telephone instead of by other modes. Respondents may call the ACS toll-free TQA numbers listed on the various ACS mail materials, including information and dedicated telephone numbers in the Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, and Russian languages.

The TQA staff answers respondent questions and/or completes the entire ACS interview using a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) instrument. The questions in the CATI instrument are very similar to those on the internet questionnaire and paper questionnaires with small changes for

adaption for a telephone interview and is available in both English and Spanish. The CATI instrument has space to collect detailed information for 20 people in the household.

The Failed Edit Follow Up (FEFU) operation is used to follow up with households with coverage problems (such as mail respondents with more than five people, mail respondents with more people listed on the cover than in the basic demographic section, or questionnaires returned for vacant units). The Census Bureau also uses the FEFU operation to confirm the status of internet responses classified as vacant units and businesses and to collect the minimum amount of information needed to further process the questionnaire. FEFU staff use a CATI instrument to conduct interviews. The CATI instrument has space to collect detailed information for 20 people in the household and is available in both English and Spanish. The FEFU questions can be found in Attachment J.

The final mode of data collection is the nonresponse follow-up operation that uses a computer-assisted interview (CAI) to either conduct personal interviews (CAPI) or telephone interviews (CATI) for a sample of addresses for which the Census Bureau has not obtained a self-response. Since this is a personal visit operation, we refer to this as a CAPI instrument, regardless of telephone or in-person interview. The questions in the CAPI instrument are very similar to those on the internet and mail questionnaires with small changes for adaption for a telephone or personal visit interview. The CAPI instrument is available in English and Spanish, includes questions about the HU, and collects detailed information for up to 20 people living in a household.

For stateside households eligible to receive survey materials by mail, a "CAPI Internet Letter" is mailed to encourage respondents to complete the survey online to avoid an in-person interview. It prominently displays the user identification number to access the internet version of the questionnaire and describes how to respond to the survey online. CAPI interviewers, also referred to as field representatives, provide a separate "Internet Letter" to respondents with unmailable addresses. The letters are included in Attachment L.

The CAPI interviewers have several materials available to explain the ACS to households. They may provide an "Introductory Letter" and the HU informational brochure to respondents during the initial personal visit. The "Introductory Letter" explains the importance of the ACS and provides respondents with information on how their data is kept confidential. The HU informational brochure helps respondents understand the value of ACS data, how people use ACS data to help their communities, and how to contact a regional office by telephone for additional questions. The letter and brochure are included in Attachment L.

The CAPI interviewers may also have additional materials mailed to households depending on questions raised by potential respondents. The "Better Understanding" letter emphasizes the confidentiality of the survey data and the benefits of the survey to motivate response. The respondent is told to call the Census Bureau interviewer or go online to respond. The ACS uses the "Confidentiality Letter" when a respondent indicates they have specific concerns about their response being kept confidential or their data being secure. The ACS sends the "Refusal Letter"

when a respondent explicitly refuses to participate in the survey. The letter is short and to the point regarding confidentiality and the legal requirements to participate. It provides response options and emphasizes that the respondent will be contacted again soon to complete the interview. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) brochure is given to reluctant respondents to provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the ACS including information about the ACS, how the data are used, and protections for participant information. The letters and brochure are included in Attachment L.

During nonresponse follow-up operations, interviewers have three types of letters available to send to addresses they are unable to contact. The ACS sends a “No One Home” letter to an address when the interviewer is unable to contact anyone at the sample address but thinks someone lives there. It emphasizes the confidentiality of the survey data and the benefits of the survey to motivate response. The respondent is told to call the interviewer or go online to respond. The ACS sends the “Please Call Me” letter to respondents to encourage response. This letter can be used instead of other letters. The letter is short and straight to the point, as research with similar letters has shown to be highly successful in gaining response. The ACS uses the “Final Attempt” letter at the end of the data collection period. The letter is short; it expresses the uniqueness of being selected for the survey, the legal requirement for participation, and the different ways to respond. The letters are included in Attachment L.

If the interviewer is having access issues, three types of letters are available. The “Management Letter for Multiunit Buildings” helps interviewers gain access to multiunit buildings when they cannot directly access the sampled address. The “Management Letter for Gated Communities” helps interviewers gain access to addresses located in gated communities. A “Seasonal Unit” letter is sent when the interviewer suspects that the sampled address is only used seasonally and cannot contact anyone at the sample address. Interviewers may send this letter to someone who may be able to verify that the unit is seasonal. The letters are included in Attachment L.

Finally, the interviewer may also give a “Thank You” bookmark to respondents who completed the interview in person or may send a “Thank You” letter to respondents who completed the interview by phone. These materials thank the respondent for their participation and let them know they may be contacted for quality assurance purposes. These thank you materials are included in Attachment L.

The introductory letter, HU informational brochure, FAQ brochure, and the thank you bookmarks are translated into other languages (Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Vietnamese) to reflect the English versions.

The ACS also collects housing information from HUs identified as vacant. On the paper questionnaire and online questionnaire, the Census Bureau asks a knowledgeable contact to answer the housing questions. For TQA and nonresponse follow-up, we ask vacancy status questions in the ACS instruments. The questions in the instruments for vacant units are included in Attachment K.

The ACS conducts a reinterview operation to monitor CAPI interviewer performance. Only respondents who provide an interview through CAPI are eligible for this reinterview. For the housing unit reinterview operation, the Census Bureau uses a separate set of questions for units that were identified as occupied, vacant, or noninterview at the time of the original CAPI interview. Reinterviews are initially conducted through a centralized CATI operation. Reinterview cases are transferred to the regional offices for personal visit interviewing if they cannot be resolved through the telephone attempts. The housing unit ACS Reinterview questions are included in Attachment M.

### **ACS Group Quarters (GQ) Collection**

In addition to selecting a sample of residential addresses, the ACS selects a sample of group quarters. The Census Bureau defines group quarters as places where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Examples of group quarters include college/university student housing, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' group living quarters and Job Corps centers, and emergency and transitional shelters. An "introductory letter" and FAQ brochure for the facility administrator are mailed to the sample GQ approximately two weeks before the period when an interviewer may begin making contact with the GQ. The interviewer gives the facility contact person a thank you brochure when they arrive for the interview. The introductory letters, FAQ brochures, and thank you brochure can be found in Attachment N. The interviewer uses the CAPI Group Quarters Facility Questionnaire (GQFQ) in English or Spanish when making initial telephone contact to schedule an appointment and to conduct a telephone or personal visit with the sample GQ. The GQ has the option to provide a hard copy of the listing information or upload an electronic listing of the residents in the online eListing application to generate the subsample of persons for ACS interviews. The GQFQ questions, eListing screens, and listing sheets can be found in Attachment O.

The ACS uses a subset of the ACS HU questions to conduct interviews with sampled GQ residents, eliminating topics that are not relevant. Resident-level personal interviews with sampled GQ residents are conducted using CAPI, but bilingual paper questionnaires can also be used for self-response. GQ residents in some GQs will have the option to self-respond to the survey online. The GQ CAPI, internet, and paper questionnaires contain questions for one person. The GQ CAPI questionnaire also excludes certain questions for residents of institutional group quarters that are out of scope to reduce burden. The GQ resident data collection packages (Attachment P) include a questionnaire, resident introductory letter, reminder letter, thank you bookmark, and a copy of the ACS GQ brochure. Attachment P also includes the resident's introductory e-mail and reminder. The Census Bureau conducts a separate operation to collect ACS GQ data from sampled GQs in federal prisons and in Remote Alaska.

For Puerto Rico sample GQ residents, the Census Bureau uses PRCS data collection packages (Attachment Q) to collect the GQ data.

The ACS conducts a GQ reinterview (RI) operation to monitor the performance of CAPI interviewers conducting the GQFQ interviews. For the GQ RI operation, the Census Bureau uses a separate set of questions to verify and monitor the interviews at the GQ level (Attachment R). Similar to the housing unit RI operation, GQ RIs are initially conducted through a centralized telephone operation using a CATI instrument. Reinterview cases are transferred to the regional offices for personal visit interviewing if they cannot be resolved by telephone attempts.

Information quality is an integral part of the pre-dissemination review of the information disseminated by the Census Bureau (fully described in the Census Bureau's Information Quality Guidelines). Information quality is also integral to the information collection conducted by the Census Bureau and is incorporated into the clearance process required by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

See <https://www.census.gov/about/policies/quality/guidelines.html> for more information about the Census Bureau's Information Quality Guidelines.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

The ACS uses web-based technology to collect data for stateside housing unit interviews and certain types of group quarters interviews. Paper questionnaires are still available to respondents who need or prefer to use paper. If a respondent starts to complete the survey online and provides an e-mail address, but does not complete the survey, they will be sent an e-mail reminding them to return to the survey to complete their online questionnaire. This e-mail includes a link to the online survey, clear instructions to log in, and prominently displays the user identification number. This e-mail is sent only once to a respondent.

The ACS uses web-based technology to obtain group quarters residency lists directly from facilities.

Computer-assisted interviewing is used for personal visits and telephone interviews, for both housing unit and group quarters interviews. Computer-assisted instruments allow for the automation of skip patterns and conduct error checks on the spot to minimize costly follow-up interviews or editing.

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Question 2.**

The ACS is used to collect detailed population and housing data that had traditionally been collected only during the decennial census. The content of the ACS reflects topics that are required by law and that the Census Bureau determines are not duplicative of another agency's data collection. Several questions in the ACS appear in other demographic surveys but these results are



typically not released as frequently as ACS results or at the same level of geography. The comprehensive set of ACS questions, coupled with the tabulation and dissemination of data for small geographic areas, does not duplicate any other single information collection. Moreover, many smaller federal and non-federal studies use a small subset of the same measures to benchmark those results to the ACS, which is often the most authoritative source for local area demographic data.

The OMB Interagency Committee for the ACS, co-chaired by OMB and the Census Bureau, includes more than 25 participating federal agencies and meets periodically to examine and review ACS content. This committee ensures that other agencies are aware of the ACS content and provides an extra safeguard that ACS does not duplicate its collection and content with other surveys.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

The collection of ACS data for housing units does not involve small businesses or other small entities.

The collection of ACS data for group quarters could include small entities (such as small group homes). Small group quarters facilities (defined as having fewer than 15 people) are eligible to be in sample only once every five years. The focus of the interview is on a sample of residents, not the business, though a facility administrator is involved in the data collection.

**6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

Collecting the data less frequently, on fewer sampled cases, would increase the margin of error on the estimates produced by the ACS especially affecting small geographic areas. The ACS is conducted monthly because collecting data every month provides the most accurate annual average of many survey items that can vary by month or season. A monthly survey also helps the Census Bureau stabilize workloads across the year for in-person interviews and account for seasonal changes that occur. If the collection is not conducted, many federal agencies will not be able to implement programs as intended or meet requirements defined by law. Examples of federal uses for the ACS data and associated laws (when applicable), are described in the ACS Handbook of Questions and Current Federal Uses.

<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-federal-uses.html>

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **Requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **That includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **Requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

The ACS data collection does not require any of the special circumstances mentioned above.

- The ACS samples housing units in such a way that no address can be in sample more than once every five years. Data for a sampled address are collected once. If a person moves or has more than one location where they live, they can be in sample more than once.
- Respondents are instructed to respond to the survey as soon as possible, which avoids costly follow-up activities such as in-person interviewing. However, once in sample, a respondent has three months to respond to the survey.
- Other than the survey itself, respondents are not required to submit any documents.
- Respondents are not required to produce or retain records for the survey.
- The data collected from the ACS and associated research studies result in statistics that are released or in reports documenting findings. The sample is designed to ensure sufficient geographic coverage so that the ACS can produce an accurate demographic snapshot by surveying a representative sample of the population.
- ACS survey results, including statistical estimates categories, are established, and

recognized as an official survey time series that has been used as survey benchmarks for other data collection programs for nearly two decades.

- ACS survey materials include information related to Title 13 protections of the data collection. The Census Bureau implements disclosure avoidance procedures on all its products and complies with federal regulations related to data security policies.
- Respondents are not required to submit proprietary information. All information collected is protected by law.

**8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publications in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

**Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

The ACS frequently consults with persons outside of the Census Bureau to obtain views on a variety of topics. The ACS consults with data users, other federal agencies, and experts in the fields of survey methodology and statistics for feedback on the data produced from the survey as well as data collection activities, statistical techniques, and disclosure protection.

In June 2018, the Census Bureau solicited proposals for new or revised ACS content from over 25 federal agencies. For new questions, the proposals explained why these data were needed and why other data sources that provide similar information were not sufficient. Proposals for new content were reviewed to ensure that the requests met a statutory or regulatory need for data at small geographic levels or for small populations.

The Census Bureau, in consultation with the OMB and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy Subcommittee on the ACS, determined which proposals moved forward. Approved proposals for new content or changes to current content were tested via [the ACS content change process](#). This process included cognitive testing and field testing of several topics, including household roster, educational attainment, health insurance coverage, disability, and labor force questions. The testing also included evaluating the addition of three new topics on electric vehicles, sewage disposal, and solar panels.

A Federal Register notice (FRN) posted on February 9, 2021, solicited public comments on the initial proposals for testing changes and additions to the ACS content. Another FRN was posted on March 21, 2022, which contained more details on the proposed changes for each topic and the operational details of the test. The most recent FRN, posted on October 20, 2023, invited the public to comment on the proposed changes to the 2025 ACS and PRCS. The public provided

comments through December 19, 2023. The Census Bureau received over 12,000 comments on the most recent 60-day FRN for the 2025 ACS content changes. Comments are available to the public here [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Table 1 below shows the general topics that the comments covered. Note that the total adds to more than the comments received because some comments touched on multiple topics. For example, if one commenter wrote about electric vehicles (EV) and solar panels they are counted in each category.

Over 98 percent of the comments received were about the changes to the disability questions. One point three percent were on the other topics with a proposed change or the topic was not specified in the comment. An additional 0.7 percent were comments on other topics or proposed new questions not included in the test, general comments about the ACS, recommendations about data collection methods, or were not applicable to the 60-day FRN.

Table 1. Count and Percent of Comments Received by Topic

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Disability	12,188	98%
Topic Not Specified	50	0.4%
All Topics (General Comment)	17	0.1%
Electric Vehicles	23	0.2%
Solar Panels	16	0.1%
Health Insurance	15	0.1%
Sewage Disposal	15	0.1%
Household Roster	12	0.1%
Educational Attainment	8	<0.1%
Labor Force	8	<0.1%
Income	1	<0.1%
SNAP*	1	<0.1%
Comment about other topics on the ACS	27	0.2%
Data Collection & Privacy	15	0.1%
General ACS Comment	13	0.1%
Unrelated to the ACS	30	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,439</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Looking at the comments about specific topics, Table 2 summarizes whether the commenter expressed support for the change or opposition to the change. In addition, many commenters made statements that neither indicated support nor opposition to the proposal. Many of these comments were suggestions for other changes to the questions that were not tested or expressed how the data are used by the commenter.

Table 2. Percent of Opposition to Questions by Topic

Topic	Support Change	Oppose Change	Not Indicated	Total
<b>Disability</b>	11 (<0.1%)	12,094 (99%)	83 (<0.1%)	12,188 (100%)
Electric Vehicles	9 (39%)	5 (22%)	9 (39%)	23 (100%)
Solar Panels	9 (56%)	2 (13%)	5 (31%)	16 (100%)
Health Insurance	3 (20%)	1 (0%)	11 (73%)	15 (100%)
Sewage Disposal	11 (73%)	2 (13%)	2 (13%)	15 (100%)
Household Roster	6 (50%)	4 (33%)	2 (17%)	12 (100%)
Educational Attainment	4 (50%)	0 (0%)	4 (50%)	8 (100%)
Labor Force	2 (25%)	0 (0%)	6 (75%)	8 (100%)
Income	1 (100%)	0	0	1 (100%)
SNAP*	1 (100%)	0	0	1 (100%)

\*SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

### **Disability**

As seen in Table 2, a majority of comments received on disability opposed the proposed change to the questions. Comments on disability were received from over 140 organizations, over 20 government organizations, hundreds of people with university affiliations, and thousands of individuals with disabilities. A summary of the themes in comments opposing the changes to the disability questions is in Table 3. Submissions could include comments that were classified into multiple themes. However, not everyone who objected provided any other “theme” information other than their objection (i.e., don’t change the questions).

Table 3. Count and Percent of Comment Themes for Disability

Theme	Count	Percent
Need for Stakeholder Engagement	9,531	78.2%
Questions and proposed tabulation don’t include all persons with disabilities	9,591	78.7%
Accurate data are important and have an impact on funding and benefits	7,585	62.2%
Questions undercount and erase persons with disabilities	5,734	47.0%
COVID	2,434	20.0%
Political	835	6.9%
Current questions are better than the proposed questions	730	6.0%
Other comment	232	1.9%
Total Comments on Disability	12,188	100.0%

The majority of commenters expressed concerns about the changes proposed to the disability questions and asked the Census Bureau not to proceed with the changes. Most commenters also expressed dissatisfaction with not having been included in the process. They indicated that the Census Bureau should conduct more comprehensive public engagement before proposing modifications to the disability questions. Some of these comments also suggested that a task force should be formed. Many letters incorporated the motto and sentiment of, “Nothing About Us Without Us.”

Many commenters were unhappy with the limited scope of the disability questions. These comments had three sub-themes. First, they felt that both the existing and proposed questions, which are focused on functional disabilities, do not measure the full breadth of disabilities. Commenters suggested that the questions be revised to include other types of disabilities. Second, they were concerned that the definition of disability would exclude people who indicated they had “some difficulty,” as measured by the new graded response options. The commenters suggested that a measure that includes “some difficulty” be provided or a composite measure be used if the change proceeds. Third, some commenters were concerned that people would not know how to answer the graded response options in the proposed questions because the ability to do things varies from day to day for some people with disabilities.

Another theme of comments related to the usefulness of the data. There were concerns raised that if the changes are implemented the data would not be available for 5 years for many areas of the country. According to the ACS publication thresholds, 5 years' worth of data with the new disability questions would be required to produce data for geographies with populations under 20,000 people. This would prevent data comparisons on disability pre-2025 with 2025 and beyond. Additionally, many commenters were concerned about how the change in the data would impact funding, benefits, and services for people with disabilities. Some also felt that the data would not be accurate. These commenters did not support a change to the new questions.

Related to the data that would result from the proposed changes, many people felt that it would result in an undercount of people with disabilities. Commenters also mentioned that this community was already undercounted, and the proposal would erase people from the counts producing inaccurate data. These commenters did not support a change to the new questions.

Another theme included comments that mentioned COVID. Some mentioned that long COVID needs to be identified as a disability and included in the data. Others felt that a change in the questions would mask the impacts of COVID. Still, others felt that because of COVID, people with disabilities would be further undercounted and that more services are needed. These commenters did not support a change to the new questions.

Commenters also felt the proposed changes were political and the disabled community would have to further navigate prejudice and discrimination. Finally, some commenters simply expressed that the current ACS questions are better than the proposed questions.

The Census Bureau received eleven comments in support of the disability change. Three commenters felt that the change would align census data at the international level. Some

commenters supported the use of scaled response categories because it would capture levels of disability, broader categories, and more detailed data about severity.

The Census Bureau plans to retain the current ACS disability questions for the 2025 ACS. Refer to the Census Bureau Director's Blog on the [Next Steps on the ACS Disability Questions](#).

### **Electric Vehicles**

For electric vehicles, nine commenters supported the addition of the question. Commenters supporting this change felt it would give communities a better understanding of the number of electric vehicles which will inform about infrastructure availability, help understand consumer needs, and further expand the use of data about these types of vehicles. They also expressed interest in distinguishing between hybrid and full-electric vehicles, as a potential future improvement. Five comments were received objecting to the addition of the question. One objected because they think the question should ask about charging at home, not just if the vehicle is kept there; one objected because they felt the purpose of the data was for marketing; one objected because they felt it was too soon to start measuring EVs; one objected because they did not think people would answer the question, and one said the question needs more clarity by distinguishing hybrid vehicles from full electric vehicles. The remaining comments could not be classified as supporting or objecting to the change. These commenters provided suggestions for additional questions or changes to the question related to EVs including asking about interest in future purchases, charging at home, and hybrid vs full electric distinction.

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval to add the proposed electric vehicles question to the 2025 ACS.

### **Solar Panels**

For the addition of a question on solar panels, we received 16 comments: nine supported the question, two objected, and five did not clearly indicate if they supported or opposed the question. Supporting commenters felt that adding the question would further expand the use of data by allowing it to match energy consumption to energy production, help track access inequities by demographics, and is critical to infrastructure development and funding decisions. One objection suggested that the data would be used for marketing and therefore wasn't appropriate to ask; the other indicated they felt people would not answer the question. Among the remaining five comments, there were suggestions to expand the question to include other solar power uses (i.e., heat) or other alternative sources (i.e., wind).

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval to add the proposed solar panels question to the 2025 ACS.

### **Health Insurance**

The proposed change for health insurance was supported by three commenters, one objection, and eleven that were not clearly in support or opposed to the changes. Among the eleven, most

provided suggestions for other changes or expressed value for health insurance data in general. The objection to the changes related to the reduced reporting of Medicaid coverage in the recommended version. Additionally, the commenter also was concerned that the timing of the change would impact the ability of data users to assess the impacts of Medicaid “unwinding” that began in 2023.

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval for the proposed revisions to the health insurance question for the 2025 ACS.

### **Sewage Disposal**

The addition of a question on sewage disposal was supported by eleven commenters. Four of these comments were from organizations and were very similar. They were in support of the question but also advocated for clarification in the question and other data that are needed. One also mentioned the use of administrative data. There were two objections to the question. One felt that people wouldn’t answer the question; one suggested using administrative records instead and engaging stakeholders. They were also concerned that the ACS cognitive testing results indicated that people don’t know the answer to this question and are guessing. Finally, two comments were received that we were not able to classify as either supporting or objecting to the question though both commenters expressed the need for these data.

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval to add the proposed sewage disposal question to the 2025 ACS.

### **Household Roster**

There were four comments voicing concerns about the roster changes, two were concerned about revealing personally identifiable information, and one questioned whether the revised questions improved tenuous connections within the household and properly counted young children. One commenter opposed the change but no specific information was provided. Six commenters supported the change to the household roster; commenters felt the revision would improve the clarity of the question, better capture data, and would improve the count of complex households and tenuously attached residents.

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval for the proposal to revise the household roster question for the 2025 ACS.

### **Educational Attainment**

There were eight comments on the changes to educational attainment: four in support of the changes and four that did not clearly indicate if they supported or opposed the changes. Of the latter, they provided suggestions for changes to the question.

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval for the proposal to revise the educational attainment question for the 2025 ACS.

### **Labor Force**



Eight comments were received about the labor force questions. Two commenters were in support of the changes. The remaining six did not clearly indicate if they were in support or opposed to the change. Comments were received providing suggestions for changes.

The Census Bureau is requesting OMB approval for the proposal to revise the labor force questions for the 2025 ACS.

### **Income**

Only one comment was received on income. That commenter supports the decision to do additional testing and research before implementing the reference period change.

The Census Bureau plans to conduct additional research and testing to determine future potential changes to the income questions. The Census Bureau plans to maintain the current income questions in the 2025 ACS.

### **SNAP**

Only one comment was received on the question about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). That commenter supports the decision to do additional testing and research prior to implementing the reference period change.

The Census Bureau plans to conduct additional research and testing on the SNAP question and maintain the current SNAP question in the 2025 ACS.

### **OTHER**

Fifty commenters did not specify the topic of their comment and may have said something like, "Don't move forward with this question." Seventeen commenters made general comments without specifying a topic like "I support all the changes" or "I'm against changes." Of the seventeen general comments, thirteen were in support of the changes and four were opposed.

Twenty-seven comments were received related to other topics on the ACS that were not discussed above or about adding a question to the ACS. These topics included: race, ethnicity, citizenship, employment status, Hispanic origin, fuel use, computer, internet, ancestry, and relationship. Other comments suggested adding questions on gender identity, public water, voting age population, immigrants, library services, mental and physical health, financial awareness, and tribal citizenship status.

Fifteen commenters mentioned various aspects of data collection such as comments about the mailings sent to solicit self-response, comments about simplifying questions, and general advice about collecting data. Two also mentioned being concerned about protecting people's data.

Thirteen comments were about the ACS in general or about the Census Bureau, indicating they either supported the Census Bureau and the ACS or were against it overall.

Thirty comments were unrelated to the ACS or not associated with the FRN.

The public had an additional opportunity to review and submit comments on the American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey during the 30-day Notice of Proposed Information Collection. The notice for public comment, titled “The American Community Survey and The Puerto Rico Community Survey,” appeared in the Federal Register March 25, 2024 (pages 20630-20632).

The Census Bureau received four comments on the 30 day FRN; two requested the need for meaningful engagement with the disabled community and disability researchers, as well as research and collaboration to identify the most inclusive and accurate ways to measure disability. One comment was in relation to the ACS sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) test, and the final comment opposed the proposed updates to the Health Insurance question. The Census Bureau’s response to the health insurance comment can be found in the document titled “Response to the ACS 30 Day FRN\_Health Insurance.”

### **Disability**

The Census Bureau and our interagency subcommittee on disability would like to thank members of the community for taking the time to send comments in reference to the 2025 American Community Survey content test.

The Census Bureau is committed to engaging stakeholders and communities to better understand challenges with identifying and accessing data for the disability community. We have been working these past few months with the Office of Management and Budget, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Council on Disability, and the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities to plan a meeting with federal agency disability stakeholders, disability community representatives, data users, researchers, and disability advocates. The meeting is scheduled for this summer and more details will be available soon.

The Census Bureau plans to look into a CNSTAT (Committee on National Statistics) panel and will share more information when it is available.

### **SOGI**

We appreciate the public's interest in the American Community Survey (ACS) and support of testing sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) content in the ACS. The Census Bureau is submitting final recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget to test this content in the 2024 ACS SOGI Test. If approved, the Census Bureau plans to begin the self-response portion

of the test in the summer of 2024.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

The Census Bureau does not pay ACS respondents or provide respondents with gifts.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the bias for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If the collection requires a system of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.**

The Census Bureau collects data for this survey under Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141, 193, 221, and 223. All data are confidential under Section 9 of that Title. In accordance with Title 13, each household, GQ administrator, and each person within a GQ participating in the ACS is assured of the confidentiality of their answers. Confidentiality information is sent to sampled housing units in the initial mailing. Respondents using the internet questionnaire are presented with additional assurances of the confidentiality and security of their online responses. At the beginning of follow-up interviews, the interviewer explains the confidentiality of data collected and that participation is required by law. The interviewer may also give the household respondent a copy of a letter explaining the confidentiality of all information provided and a FAQ brochure, as appropriate.

The brochure mailed to sample GQs with the GQ introductory letter contains assurances of confidentiality. A brochure is also provided to sampled GQ residents at the time of the interview. The interviewer also explains the confidentiality of data collected and that participation is required by law. GQ administrators and GQ residents may ask for additional information. The interviewer may provide a Questions and Answers Guide, as appropriate to explain confidentiality regulations and standards.

ACS data collection is covered under the COMMERCE/CENSUS-5 Decennial Census Programs system of records notice (SORN). Records are maintained to perform methodological evaluations and enhancements for data collection and quality control studies and to undertake linkages with survey and administrative data for statistical projects as authorized by law. Additional information can be found here:

<https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/census-5.html>

The Associate Directorate for Decennial Census Programs (ADDCP) American Community Survey Office (ACSO) IT system maintains the ACS data stored and processed on Census Bureau servers. This system interacts with other Census Bureau IT systems to collect, process, and store data. The Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for the American Community Survey can be found here:

[https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/privacy/census%20pias/ADDCP-ACS-PIA\\_SAOP\\_Approval\\_Delegated.pdf](https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/privacy/census%20pias/ADDCP-ACS-PIA_SAOP_Approval_Delegated.pdf)

Related PIAs referenced in that document are located here:

<https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/privacy/Census-pias.html>

- 11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior or attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

Some of the data the Census Bureau collects on the ACS, such as race, ethnicity, disability, and sources of income and assets, may be considered to be of a sensitive nature. The Census Bureau takes the position that the collection of these types of data is necessary for the analysis of important policy and program issues and has structured the questions to lessen their perceived sensitivity. The Census Bureau has provided guidance to the interviewers on how to ask these types of questions during the interview. The Census Bureau has materials that demonstrate how the data from these questions are used and how those data are kept confidential. Respondents who use the internet to complete the survey have access to links on the survey screens that provide information to help address their questions or concerns with topics they may consider sensitive. The purpose and use of these questions and other ACS questions can be found here at <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/>.

Race and ethnicity data are collected and classified in accordance with the OMB *Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* (1995).

The ACS program does not plan to implement the revisions to *Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15)* in 2025. The Census Bureau will share updates on their plans to implement the updated race/ethnicity standards on the ACS with the public this Summer. Implementation will be contingent on a separate request to OMB (with public comment) and approval by OMB.

- 12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.**

The sample size is 298,000 households per month, including Puerto Rico. The Census Bureau plans to mail survey materials to approximately 293,500 households each month that are considered to be mailable. The Census Bureau estimates that, for the average household, the paper questionnaire

or the internet questionnaire will take approximately 40 minutes to complete, including the time for reviewing the instructions and answers. The Census Bureau plans to conduct reinterviews for approximately 1,908 households each month. The Census Bureau estimates the average time for a reinterview will be 10 minutes.

The Census Bureau plans to conduct personal interviews at 1,675 GQs each month. At each facility, one GQ contact is interviewed to collect data about the GQ and to provide a list of residents in the GQ. This list is used to randomly select the sample of individuals to complete the ACS. The estimated time for each facility contact interview is 15 minutes. The Census Bureau samples approximately 14,200 people in GQs each month. The estimated response time for each person to complete the ACS-1(GQ) is 25 minutes. The Census Bureau also conducts GQ reinterviews for approximately 116 GQ facility contacts each month. The Census Bureau estimates the average time for a GQ reinterview will be 10 minutes.

Please note the number of respondents is 3,767,000 but because of recontacting respondents during our reinterview operation, the number of responses is 3,791,000. The Census Bureau has based these estimates of the average length of time on our previous ACS tests and on experiences with forms of comparable lengths used in previous censuses and tests. The total number of respondent burden hours for a full year is 2,464,283 hours. See Table 4 for the detailed respondent and burden hour estimates.

### Estimated Annualized Respondent Burden Hours

**Table 4. Annual ACS and PRCS Respondent and Burden Hour Estimates**

Data Collection Operation	Questionnaires or Instrument Used in Data Collection	Annual Estimated Number of Respondents	Estimated Minutes Per Respondent by Data Collection Activity	Annual Estimated Burden Hours
I. ACS Household Questionnaire, Online Survey, Telephone and Personal Visit	ACS-1, ACS 1(SP), ACS-1PR, ACS-1PR(SP), Online Survey, Telephone, CAPI	3,576,000	40	2,384,000
II. ACS GQ Facility Questionnaire CAPI - Telephone and Personal Visit	CAPI GQFQ	20,100	15	5,025
III. ACS GQ CAPI Personal Interview or	CAPI, ACS-1(GQ),	170,900	25	71,208

Telephone, and Paper Self-response	ACS-1(GQ)(PR)				
IV. ACS Household Reinterview – CATI/CAPI	ACS HU-RI	22,900	10		3,816
V. ACS GQ-level Reinterview – CATI/CAPI	ACS GQ-RI	1,400	10		233
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>3,791,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>		<b>2,464,283</b>

**Table 5. Estimated Annualized Respondent Costs**

Type of Respondent	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response	Hourly Wage Rate*	Total Burden Costs
Household Respondent	3,576,000	1	40	\$29.76	\$70,947,840
Facility Administrator	20,100	1	15	\$48.37	\$243,060
Facility Resident	170,900	1	25	\$7.25	\$516,260
<b>Total</b>	--	--	--	--	<b>\$67,536,918</b>

\*The wage rate for household respondents is estimated based on the average hourly rate among all occupations as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as of May 2021. BLS's *Occupational Outlook Handbook* <https://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm> The wage rate for Facility Administrators is estimated based on an average among the various types of facility administrators (such as medical and health service managers and lodging managers at educational institutions) as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as of May 2021. The wage rate for Facility Residents (such as college students, group home residents, and nursing home residents) is estimated to be minimum wage.

**13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected on the burden worksheet).**

There are no capital or ongoing maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.**

The estimated annual cost of the ACS is approximately \$235 million. The description sought can be found in the budget request. The Census Bureau will pay the total cost of the ACS.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in ROCIS.**

The content of the proposed 2025 ACS questionnaire and data collection instruments for both Housing Unit and Group Quarters operations reflect changes to content and instructions that were proposed primarily as a result of the 2022 ACS Content Test, but also as a result of interagency consultation. The Census Bureau periodically conducts tests of new and improved survey content to ensure the ACS is meeting the data needs of its stakeholders. The primary objective of content tests is to test whether changes to question wording, response categories, and definitions of underlying constructs improve the quality of data collected. The Census Bureau also regularly participates in interagency meetings with various Federal agencies that sponsor the content of the ACS. Those meetings provide the opportunity to ensure that the ACS content remains relevant and is reflective of current policies and regulations.

The ACS is one of the Department of Commerce's most valuable data products, used extensively by businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local governments, and many federal agencies. In conducting this survey, the Census Bureau's top priority is respecting the time and privacy of the people providing information while preserving its value to the public.

The 2025 ACS changes cover several topics: household roster, educational attainment, health insurance coverage, and labor force questions. Additionally, three new questions are proposed to be added to the ACS and the PRCS on solar panels, electric vehicles, and sewage disposal. A summary of changes for each topic is as follows:

**Household Roster** – The roster instructions have not changed since the 1990s while household living arrangements have increased in complexity. Instructions on who to include and not include on the roster were revised for the paper questionnaire. For the internet and CAPI instruments, the roster is built through a series of probes. These probes were modified to focus on situations and people who are more likely to be omitted from the roster or erroneously included. Overall, the revised version resulted in similar or better data quality indicators than the current roster instructions and probes. The revisions to the instructions for the paper questionnaire resulted in a lower item missing data rate and lower count discrepancy rates. In the internet instrument, the help text was accessed a significantly lower percentage of the time. An analysis of the roster actions in the CAPI and internet modes found a higher percentage of people were originally rostered on the first screen, a significantly lower percentage of people were deleted, a higher percentage of young children (0-4) were added during the second roster screen, and a higher percentage of added people were ultimately kept on the final roster.

**Educational Attainment** – A relatively high percentage of adults are selecting the response category, “No schooling completed.” Ongoing research suggests that this includes adults who have completed some level of schooling. The revision reduces erroneous reports in this category through formatting and wording changes to clarify the response options.

**Health Insurance Coverage** – Since implementation in 2008, research has found that Medicaid and other means-tested programs are underreported in the ACS and the PRCS and that direct-purchase coverage is overreported, in part due to misreporting of non-comprehensive health plans and reporting multiple coverage types for the same plan (Mach & O'Hara, 2011; Lynch et al., 2011; Boudreaux et al., 2014; O'Hara, 2010; Boudreaux et al., 2011; Boudreaux et al., 2013). Moreover, revisions to the health insurance coverage question would help capture changes to the health insurance landscape that occurred with and since the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Changes to the health insurance coverage question include a change in formatting of the question that adds an explicit response category for those who are uninsured, reordering some response options and rewording response options for direct purchase, Medicaid, employer, and veteran's health care.

**Labor Force** – Labor force questions related to when the person last worked, the number of weeks, and the number of hours worked are being updated to clarify instructions to only include work for pay, to include all jobs a person may hold, and to ensure that military service is included.



Electric Vehicles – This new question asks if there are plug-in electric vehicles kept at the housing unit. By adding this question, we will be able to provide data to stakeholders to project future energy sources, infrastructure, and consumer needs for the growing popularity of electric vehicles. The ACS and the PRCS would be the only data source at the housing unit level to adequately inform these projections.

Solar Panels – This new question asks if the housing unit uses solar panels that generate electricity. By adding this question, we will be able to obtain data for operational solar panels on a housing unit level across the country. This information will help the Energy Information Administration (EIA) match energy consumption to energy production across the United States.

Sewage Disposal – This new question asks if the housing unit is connected to a public sewer, septic tank, or other type of sewage system. By adding this question, we will be able to obtain consistent data on the decentralized wastewater infrastructure status in rural and other communities. These data are needed to protect public health, water quality, and to understand and meet the country's growing infrastructure needs. The ACS and the PRCS are the only available surveys that can provide these levels of data in a timely, consistent, and standardized manner.

**16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

The 2025 ACS data collection activities will begin in late December 2024.

Approximately two months after the initial mailing for a sample month, ACS will begin the CAPI operation for a sample of households that have not responded by mail or internet.

Each month, the ACS conducts interviews with sample GQ administrators and a sample of residents. The data collection for each GQ sample month is six weeks. The GQ reinterview takes place approximately one month after the beginning of the survey year and continues until the end of December each year. The ACS GQ does not include a formal nonresponse follow-up operation, but CAPI interviewers contact a respondent or GQ administrator for missing responses on the questionnaire at any point during the six-week data collection period.

The Census Bureau publishes approximately 2,500 tables each year using data collected over a 1-year and 5-year period. For the 1-year publication, tables are produced for areas of 65,000 or greater beginning in September the year following data collection. For the 1-year Supplemental publication, tables are produced for areas of 20,000 or more. For the 5-year publication, tables are published down to the census tract and block group levels. The Census Bureau also provides custom tabulations of the ACS data on a cost-reimbursable basis. In addition, the ACS releases yearly Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) microdata files consisting of a subsample of responses received in that year.

This information is available through the Census Bureau's main data dissemination site, [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov), and is generally published each fall for the previous 1-year and 5-year periods,

using data collected over that previous year and 5-year period.

The Census Bureau protects the confidentiality of the data by using approved data protection techniques. The data tables and microdata are reviewed and approved by the Census Bureau's Disclosure Review Board to ensure they meet the Census Bureau's confidentiality standards.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be appropriate.**

The Census Bureau is seeking approval to not display the OMB expiration date on the paper questionnaires associated with this information collection. The ACS is an ongoing and continuous survey that is mandatory. If there is an expiration date on the questionnaire, respondents may infer that the survey is over as of the expiration date, which is not the case.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."**

The Census Bureau certifies compliance with [5 CFR 1320.9](#) and the related provisions of [5 CFR 1320.8\(b\)\(3\)](#).

# Appendix A

## 2025 ACS Data Collection Materials

A American Community Survey Household (HU) First Mailing:

- ACS-13PS(2024) (05-23-2023), ACS Introductory Letter

B American Community Survey Internet Screen Capture Guide

- ACS-400C (January 2024), ACS Internet Data Collection Instrument Screen Capture Guide

C American Community Survey Household (HU) Second Mailing:

- ACS-20PS(2024) (05-23-2023), ACS Reminder Letter

D American Community Survey HU Third Mailing:

- ACS-1(2025) (2-28-2024), ACS Stateside Questionnaire
- ACS-14(L)(2024) (05-23-2023), ACS Follow-up Letter
- ACS-46(2024) (03-22-2023), ACS Stateside Outgoing Envelope
- BRE 6385-47(2024) (05-05-2023), ACS Business Reply Envelope

E American Community Survey HU Fourth Mailing:

- ACS-29(2024) (04-27-2023), Postcard for Second Reminder

F American Community Survey HU Fifth Mailing:

- ACS- 23PS(2024) (05-23-2023), ACS Due Date Letter

G American Community Survey E-mail Reminder

H American Community Survey HU Spanish Mailing Package:

- ACS-1(SP)(2025) (2-29-2024), ACS Stateside Questionnaire in Spanish
- ACS-13PS(SP)(2024) (07-19-2023), ACS Introductory Letter Spanish
- ACS-14(L)(SP)(2024) (05-23-2023), ACS Follow-up Letter in Spanish
- ACS-23PS(SP)(2024) (05-23-2023), Additional Mailing Postcard (English/Spanish)
- ACS-29(SP)(2024) (04-26-2023), Postcard for Second Reminder, Stateside Spanish

- ACS-46(2024) (03-22-2023), ACS Stateside Spanish Outgoing Envelope
- BRE 6385-47(2024) (05-05-2023), ACS Business Reply Envelope

I Puerto Rico Community Survey HU Mailing Materials:

- ACS-1PR(2025) (02-28-2024), PRCS Questionnaire in English
- ACS-1PR(SP)(2025) (02-29-2024), PRCS Spanish Questionnaire in Spanish
- ACS-10SMPR(2021) (01-04-2021), PRCS FAQ Brochure in English/Spanish
- ACS-12(L)PR(2023) (10-18-2022), PRCS Pre-notice Letter
- ACS-13(L)PR(2022) (03-16-2022), PRCS Introductory Letter in English/Spanish
- ACS-14(L)PR(2022) (03-16-2022), PRCS Follow up Letter in English/Spanish
- ACS-20PR(2022) (03-18-2022), PRCS Reminder/Thank You Postcard in English/Spanish
- ACS-23PR(2023) (04-07-2022), PRCS Reminder Postcard in English/Spanish
- ACS-40PR(2020) (08-02-2019), PRCS Pre-notice Envelope
- ACS-46PR(2024) (03-22-2023), PRCS Outgoing Envelope
- BRE 6385-47(2024) (05-05-2023), ACS Business Reply Envelope

J American Community Survey Failed Edit Follow up Questions

K American Community Survey Vacant Unit Questions

L American Community Survey CAPI Materials

- ACS-16(L)(2-14-24) Introductory Letter in Multiple Languages
- ACS-16(L)(7-1-2022) Introductory Letter in English
- ACS-16(L)(SP)(7-1-2022) Introductory Letter in Spanish
- ACS-16(L)(PR)(7-1-2022) Introductory Letter for PRCS
- ACS-26(B)(7-2022) Thank You Bookmark in English
- ACS-26(B)(7-2022) Thank You Bookmark in Multiple Languages
- ACS-26(B)(PR)(7-2022) Thank You Bookmark for PRCS
- ACS-26(B)(SP)(7-2022) Thank You Bookmark in Spanish
- ACS-50(HU)(10-2022) Informational Brochure in English
- ACS-50(HU)(01-2024) Informational Brochure in Multiple Languages
- ACS-50(HU)(PRCS)(10-2022) Bilingual Informational Brochure for Puerto Rico
- ACS-50(HU)(RA)(10-2022) Informational Brochure for Remote Alaska
- ACS-50(HU)(SP)(10-2022) Informational Brochure in Spanish
- ACS-50(HU)(TL)(10-2022) Informational Brochure for Tribal Lands
- ACS-51(HU)(01-2023) FAQ Brochure in English
- ACS-51 (HU) (01-2024) FAQ Brochure in Multiple Languages

- ACS-51(HU)(SP)(1-2023) FAQ Brochure in Spanish
- ACS-BUL Better Understanding Letter Multiple Languages
- ACS-BUL ENG Better Understanding Letter in English
- ACS-BUL PRCS Bilingual Better Understanding Letter for Puerto Rico
- ACS-BUL SP Better Understanding Letter in Spanish
- ACS-CON ENG Confidentiality Letter in English
- ACS-FAL ENG Final Attempt Letter in English
- ACS-INET ROXX (2023) (8-24-2023) CAPI Internet Letter (PSM Mailed from NPC)
- ACS-INT ENG Internet Letter in English (ROSCO version)
- ACS-INT SP Internet Letter in Spanish (ROSCO version)
- ACS-MU-1(L) ENG Management Letter for Multiunit Buildings in English
- ACS-MU-1(L) PRCS Bilingual Management Letter for Multiunit Buildings for PRCS
- ACS-MU-2(L) ENG Management Gated Community Letter in English
- ACS-MU-2(L) PRCS Management Gated Community Letter for PRCS
- ACS-NOH ENG No One Home Letter in English
- ACS-NOH No One Home Letter in Multiple Languages
- ACS-NOH PRCS Bilingual No One Home Letter for Puerto Rico
- ACS-NOH SP No One Home Letter in Spanish
- ACS-PCM ENG Please Call Me Letter in English
- ACS-PCM PRCS Bilingual Please Call Me Letter for PRCS
- ACS-PCM SP Please Call Me Letter in Spanish
- ACS-REF ENG Refusal Letter in English
- ACS-REF PRCS Bilingual Refusal Letter for PRCS
- ACS-REF Refusal Letter in Multiple Languages
- ACS-REF SP Refusal Letter in Spanish
- ACS-SEA ENG Seasonal Unit Letter in English
- ACS-TYL ENG Thank You Letter in English
- ACS-TYL SP Thank You Letter in Spanish

M [American Community Survey Housing Unit Content Reinterview \(CRI\) Questions](#)

N [American Community Survey Group Quarters Facilities Data Collection Package](#)

- ACS-18(L)(C)(GQ)(2024) ACS GQ Student Housing Introductory Letter
- ACS-18(L)(GQ)(2024) ACS GQ Facility Manager Introductory Letter
- ACS-18(L)(GQ)(PR)(2024) PRCS GQ Introductory Letter (English)
- ACS-18(L)(GQ)(PR)(S)(2024) PRCS GQ Introductory Letter (Spanish)
- ACS-18(L)(H)(GQ)(2024) ACS GQ Health Care Introductory Letter
- ACS-26(B)(GQ), ACS GQ Thank You Bookmark (English/Spanish)
- ACS-26(B)(GQ)(PR), PRCS Thank You Bookmark (English/Spanish)
- ACS-51(GQ)(F) ACS GQ Facility FAQ Brochure

O American Community Survey Group Quarters Facility Questionnaire and Listing Sheets

- ACS-290(GQ) (8-1-2022) ACS GQ Listing Sheet
- ACS-290(GQ)(PR)(SP)(9-22-2022) PRCS GQ Listing Sheet
- ACS-290B(GQ) (8-1-2022) ACS GQ Control List
- ACS-290B(GQ)(PR)(SP)(9-22-2022) PRCS GQ Control List (Spanish)
- eListing Screens
- GQFQ Facilities Questionnaire

P American Community Survey Group Quarters Resident Data Collection Package

- ACS-1(GQ)(2025), ACS GQ Questionnaire (English/Spanish)
- ACS-17(L)(GQ)(2024), ACS Resident Introductory Letter (English/Spanish)
- ACS-17R(L)(GQ), ACS Resident Reminder Letter (English)
- ACS-26(B)(GQ), ACS GQ Thank You Bookmark (English/Spanish)
- ACS-50(GQ) ACS Brochure (English/Spanish)
- ACS-50(GQ)(RA) Remote Alaska FAQ Brochure
- Resident ACS GQ e-mail intro with ID (Spanish)
- Resident ACS GQ e-mail intro with ID
- Resident ACS GQ e-mail reminder with ID (Spanish)
- Resident ACS GQ e-mail reminder with ID
- BRE 6385-46(GQ)(2024) ACS GQ Business Reply Mail Envelope

Q Puerto Rico Community Survey – Group Quarters Resident Questionnaire Package:

- ACS-1(GQ)(PR)(2025), PRCS GQ Questionnaire (English/Spanish)
- ACS-17(L)(GQ)(PR)(2024), PRCS Resident Introductory Letter (English/Spanish)
- ACS-26(B)(GQ)(PR) PRCS Thank You Bookmark (English/Spanish)
- ACS-50(GQ)(PR) PRCS FAQ Brochure (English/Spanish)
- BRE 6385-46(GQ)(2024) PRCS GQ Business Reply Mail Envelope

R American Community Survey Group Quarters Reinterview Questions

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T Comparison of DY24 Paper Changes with DY25 Proposed Changes