

Your Answers, Your Future

The American Community Survey (ACS) provides vital information on a yearly basis about our nation and its people. Through the ACS, we know more about jobs and occupations, educational attainment, veterans, whether people own or rent their home, and other topics. Public officials, planners, and entrepreneurs use this information to assess the past and plan the future. When you respond to the ACS, you are doing your part to help your community plan hospitals and schools, support school lunch programs, improve emergency services, build bridges, and inform businesses looking to add jobs and expand to new markets, and more. The ACS consists of 72 questions pertaining to the topics shown below.

What we ask about...

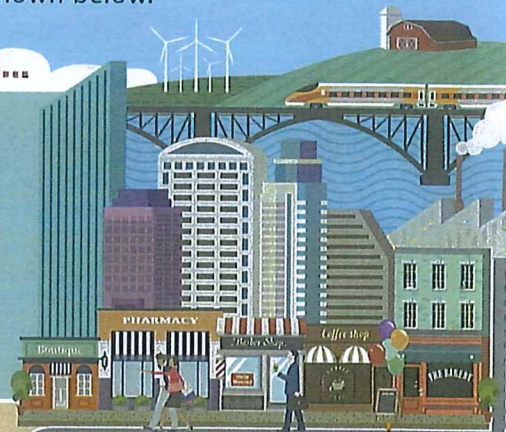
How your responses help...

Employment

The ACS asks whether respondents are employed, unemployed, and out of the labor force. It also asks about weeks and hours worked and about industry and occupation.



This information helps government at all levels better understand unemployment and the availability of workers, plan unemployment programs and services, and develop programs to boost employment. Communities learn which occupations and industries are growing in their areas and businesses can find locations with the workforce they need.



Education

The ACS asks about school enrollment, gathering information on America's students from nursery school to graduate school and on whether they are in a private or public school. It also asks about educational attainment—did the respondent earn a high school diploma or the equivalent, a bachelor's degree, or higher?



These statistics help communities to measure how well educational resources are serving their populations, measure changes in education over time, evaluate the educational attainment of the workforce, and identify the educational and training needs of adults. This information also helps communities to bridge gaps between the educational attainment of potential workers and the educational requirements of potential employers.

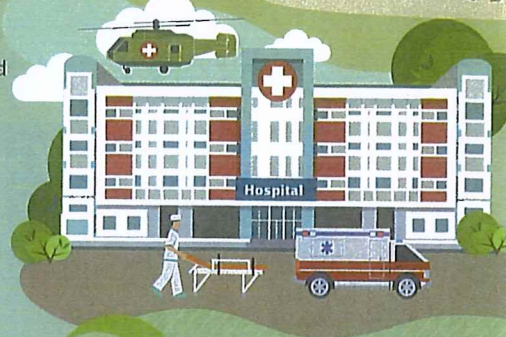


Veterans

The ACS asks about a person's military service, where veterans are moving throughout the country, their ages, and their VA service-connected disability rating status to understand veterans' needs at the community level. Though the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) maintains veterans' records, the ACS provides additional statistics about all veterans, regardless of whether they utilize VA services.



These statistics about veterans help communities plan for future health care and nursing homes, plan and fund job training, and improve the home loan guarantee program. They also benefit businesses looking to hire or serve veterans.



Income and Housing Costs

The ACS asks several questions about the money you receive from various sources and your regular living expenses such as rents, mortgages, taxes, and utilities.



The statistics that result from these questions help gauge the need for economic and housing assistance. How many people live in poverty, what are their characteristics—the ACS is the only source of these data at the community level. Income and poverty estimates factor into funding requests that address need. When combined with income, selected monthly owner costs provide an excellent measure of affordability and excessive shelter costs.

