

## Census: American Community Survey Data

(Used for Indicator E4)

Brief description of the data set	The U.S. Census Bureau collects detailed population data for a sample of the United States population and provides information for 1-, 3-, and 5-year averages.
Who provides the data set?	U.S. Census Bureau.
How are the data gathered?	The American Community Survey collects detailed population information for a sample of the United States population using a mail survey and/or personal interviews.
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	<a href="http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/summary_file/">http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/summary_file/</a> <a href="http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/">http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/</a>
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant information includes populations by year or group of years, county, census tract, census block group, race, ethnicity, age, and sex.
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	National.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Not publicly released.
How are database files obtained?	<a href="http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_via_ftp/">http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_via_ftp/</a> (all available data tables) <a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml">http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml</a> (selected data tables)
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	All data are based on a sample and not the entire census. 1-year estimates are only available for areas with populations above 65,000, are less reliable but more current than 3-year or 5-year estimates, and provide the least detailed information. 3-year estimates are only available for areas with populations above 20,000. 5-year estimates are available for all areas, are more reliable but less current than 1-year or 3-year estimates, and provide the most detailed information.
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	<a href="http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml">http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml</a>
For what years are data available?	1-year ACS files are released annually, beginning with 2002 data. 3-year ACS files are released annually, beginning with 2005-2007 data. 5-year ACS files are released annually, beginning with 2005-2009 data.
What is the frequency of data collection?	Every year.
What is the frequency of data release?	Every year.
Are the data comparable across time and space?	Populations for counties, census tracts, or census block groups may not be comparable between years or periods due to boundary changes.

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Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?

The data can be stratified by race, ethnicity, region (state, county, census tract, census block group, MSA, urban area), and income. Stratifications by age, race/ethnicity, and income combined are only available for census tracts in the 5-year data and for higher geographies in the 1- and 3-year data.