

Census Bureau: American Factfinder

10 Takeaways for Data Users

1. ACS Data = Sampled Estimates; Decennial Data = hard numbers: Population Estimates Data = Estimates based on records
2. ACS is divided into: 1-year estimates and 5-year estimates (population of 65,000 is cut-off for 1-yr. data).
3. September each year: 1-year data release; December: 5-year data release.
4. American Factfinder (AFF) is the main data portal: www.factfinder.census.gov
5. When searching for data in AMERICAN FACTFINDER, you may want to select your geographies first. Go to : factfinder.census.gov -> advanced search (show me all) -> geographies.
6. Margin of Error gives you a value that fluctuates on either side of the reported estimate.
7. Bookmarking a table creates a URL link than can be saved and emailed.
8. Tables are categorized: B = Base table, S = Subject table, DP = Data Profile, C = Collapsed table.
9. DP Tables have percentages in them (DP02, DP03, DP04) which are good for mapping and generalizing.
10. Info specific to ACS is available at: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

My contact info: David Kraiker – david.j.kraiker@census.gov – Tel: 202-740-2909