

# Finding American Community Survey Data

Dissemination Outreach Branch  
Center for Enterprise Dissemination  
U.S. Census Bureau

# Outline

- **ACS Data in [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)**
- **ACS Data in the Census API**
- **ACS Data in the Microdata Access Tool**
- **Resources**



# **ACS Data in data.census.gov**

# Data on data.census.gov

## General Data Availability:

- Decennial Census: 2000-present
- Population Estimates Program: Limited tables starting with one from the 2019 vintage
- **American Community Survey (ACS): 2010-2023**
- Econ Census and Selected Surveys: 2012-present

	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ACS 1-Year Detailed Tables		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Data Profiles		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Comparison Profiles		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Subject Tables		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Selected Population Profiles		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
ACS 5-Year American Indian and Alaska Native Tables		✓					✓						✓		
ACS 5-Year Selected Population Tables		✓					✓						✓		
ACS 5-Year Detailed Tables		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 5-Year Data Profiles		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 5-Year Comparison Profiles							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 5-Year Subject Tables		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACS 5-Year Equal Employment Opportunity										✓					
ACS Supplemental Estimates						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
ACS 1-Year Supplemental Data Profiles for Congressional Redistricting															✓
Community Resilience Estimates											✓				
Decennial Demographic Profile												✓			
Decennial Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)												✓			
Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A (Detailed DHC-A)												✓			
Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File B (Detailed DHC-B)												✓			
Supplemental Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (S-DHC)												✓			
Decennial Summary File 1 (SF1), Summary File 2 (SF2)	✓	✓													
Decennial Summary File 3 (SF3), Summary File 4 (SF4)	✓														
Decennial Summary File 2 (SF2), Summary File 3 (SF3), File 4 (SF4) Demographic Profile	✓														
Decennial National Redistricting Data		✓													
Decennial Redistricting Data (PL 94-171)	✓	✓										✓			
Decennial American Indian and Alaska Native Demographic Profile	✓														
Decennial American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Island, and U.S. Virgin Islands												✓			

For the full list, visit <https://ask.census.gov/prweb/PRServletCustom?pyActivity=pyMobileSnapStart&ArticleID=KCP-5489>

# The American Community Survey

## Content Overview

POPULATION			HOUSING
Social	Economic	Demographic	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancestry</li> <li>• Citizenship Status</li> <li>• Citizen Voting-Age Population</li> <li>• Disability Status</li> <li>• Educational Attainment</li> <li>• Fertility</li> <li>• Grandparents as Caregivers</li> <li>• Language Spoken at Home</li> <li>• Marital History and Status</li> <li>• Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago</li> <li>• Place of Birth</li> <li>• School Enrollment</li> <li>• Undergraduate Field of Degree</li> <li>• Veterans Status; Period of Military Service</li> <li>• Year of Entry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class of Worker</li> <li>• Commuting and Place of Work</li> <li>• Employment Status</li> <li>• Food Stamps (SNAP)</li> <li>• Health Insurance Coverage</li> <li>• Income and Earnings</li> <li>• Industry and Occupation</li> <li>• Poverty Status</li> <li>• Weeks Worked Last Year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Group Quarters Population</li> <li>• Hispanic or Latino Origin</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Relationship to Householder</li> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Total Population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedrooms</li> <li>• Computer &amp; Internet Use</li> <li>• Costs (Mortgage, Rent, Taxes, Insurance)</li> <li>• Electric Vehicles</li> <li>• House Heating Fuel</li> <li>• Kitchen/Plumbing Facilities</li> <li>• Occupancy/Vacancy Status</li> <li>• Occupants per Room</li> <li>• Rooms</li> <li>• Solar Panels</li> <li>• Telephone Service Available</li> <li>• Tenure (Owner/Renter)</li> <li>• Units in Structure</li> <li>• Value of Home</li> <li>• Vehicles Available</li> <li>• Year Householder Moved Into Unit</li> <li>• Year Structure Built</li> </ul>

# ACS Data in data.census.gov

## Group Exercises

- Commuting characteristics tables for all counties in New Jersey – Advanced Search
- Veteran status tables for all Census Tracts in Atlanta, Georgia – Advanced Search
- Income to poverty ratio for Iowa – Single Search
- Monthly housing costs for owner occupied housing units with a mortgage in Virginia – Single Search

# ACS Data in data.census.gov

## Individual Exercises

- Search using a word or phrase
  - Tenure by vehicles available for Chicago, Illinois
    - Hints:
      - Use the Single Search – think about the keywords needed for this search, i.e. using ‘vehicles available Chicago’
      - Use table B25044 from the 2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates
- Search using filters
  - Median earnings for Chippewa County, Minnesota
    - Hints:
      - Use the Advanced Search
      - Earnings (Individuals) can be found under the Income and Poverty filter
      - Use table S2001 from the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates



# **ACS Data in the Census API**



# Census Data API

## Census Data API

- Data service that allows software developers and other users to access public data in a standardized way

## Uses:

- Supports mobile and web applications (internal and external)
- Drives interactive data visualizations
- Connects to statistical analysis software like SAS and R

## Advantages:

- Access only the variables and geographies needed
- Immediate access to updates
- No need to host data on another server
- More data than what is available on [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

# Why would you use the API?

- \* Want older data not available on data.census.gov, such as pre-2010 ACS**
- \* Want to gather a lot of data at once (usually involves use of third-party software)**
- \* Problems pulling data from data.census.gov**
- \* Pull data for multiple tables at once, rather than viewing individual tables on data.census.gov**
- \* Using Census data to create your own application or visualization**

# Available APIs Page

Within Developers

About

API Forum

App Gallery

Available APIs

Geography

Guidance for Developers

News

Terms of Service

Updates

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// Census.gov / Data / Developers / Available APIs

## Available APIs

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We plan on adding more of our publicly available datasets. Here you'll find which of our many data sets are currently available via API. To make specific requests for the release of datasets, please sign up and submit your requests on our [Developer Forum](#).

NEW: We now have a machine-readable dataset discovery service available in beta release. Visit our [Discovery Tool page](#) to learn more

EXPAND ALL | COLLAPSE ALL

⊖ American Community Survey (ACS)

American Community Survey 1-Year Data (2005-2023)

September 12, 2024

Areas with populations of 65,000+. Covers a broad range of topics about social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. population.

>

⊖ American Community Survey 1-Year Supplemental Data (2014 - 2023)

October 17, 2024

High-level detailed tables tabulated on the 1-year microdata for geographies with populations of 20,000 or more.

>

⊖ American Community Survey 3-Year Data (2007-2013)

September 15, 2016

Areas with populations of 20,000+. Covers a broad range of topics about social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. population.

>

⊖ American Community Survey 5-Year Data (2009-2023)

December 12, 2024

Data available down to the block-group level. Covers a range of topics about social, economic, demographic, and housing characteristics of the U.S. population.

>

⊖ American Community Survey Migration Flows

September 26, 2024

⊖ Decennial Census

⊖ Economic Census

⊖ Population Estimates and Projections

⊖ Health Insurance Statistics

⊖ Poverty Statistics

⊖ Annual Business Survey (ABS)

⊖ Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (ASE)

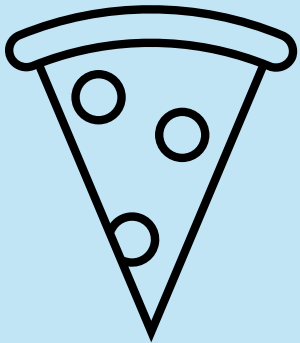
Provides the same information found in the Discovery Tool, but in an easier to read format

Available APIs Page  
<https://www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets.html>

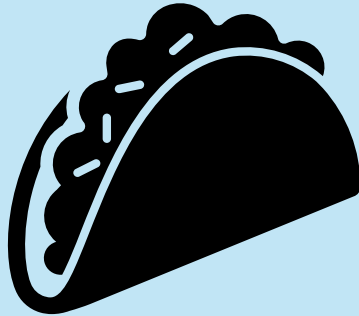
# What is an endpoint?

It can be considered a URL path for accessing a specific dataset.

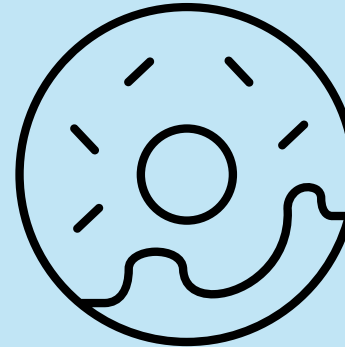
[https://api.census.gov  
/data/2023/acs/acs5](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5)



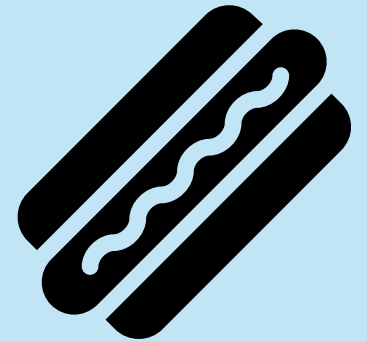
[https://api.census.gov  
/data/2020/dec/pl](https://api.census.gov/data/2020/dec/pl)



[https://api.census.gov  
/data/2017/ecnbasic](https://api.census.gov/data/2017/ecnbasic)



[https://api.census.gov  
/data/2022/cbp](https://api.census.gov/data/2022/cbp)



# Different Endpoints for the Same Program or Survey

All these different endpoints exist for the American Community Survey.

American Community Survey 1-Year Data	<a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1">https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1</a>
American Community Survey 1-Year Supplemental Data	<a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acsse">https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acsse</a>
American Community Survey 3-Year Data	<a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2013/acs/acs3">https://api.census.gov/data/2013/acs/acs3</a>
American Community Survey 5-Year Data	<a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5">https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5</a>
American Community Survey Migration Flows	<a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2022/acs/flows">https://api.census.gov/data/2022/acs/flows</a>

Please note that the year found in the endpoint will change according to the year of data you are looking at.

# Unique Endpoints Within the ACS 1-Year and 5-Year Estimates

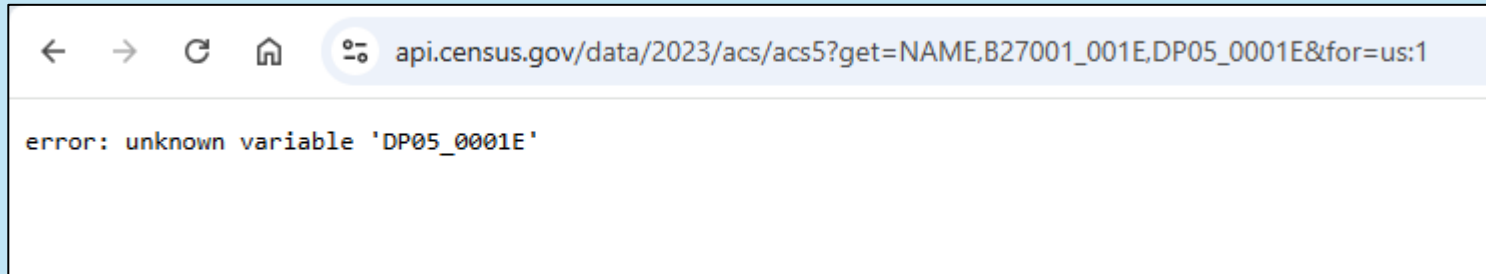
API Dataset	Table ID Begins with	API Call Begins with
Detailed Tables	B or C	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1
Data Profiles	DP	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1/ <b>profile</b>
Comparison Profiles	CP	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1/ <b>cprofile</b>
Selected Population Profiles	S0201, S0201PR	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1/ <b>spp</b>
Subject Tables	S	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs1/ <b>subject</b>

API Dataset	Table ID Begins with	API Call Begins with
Detailed Tables	B or C	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5
Data Profiles	DP	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5/ <b>profile</b>
Comparison Profiles	CP	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5/ <b>cprofile</b>
Subject Tables	S	api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5/ <b>subject</b>

# Unique Endpoints Within the ACS 1-Year and 5-Year Estimates

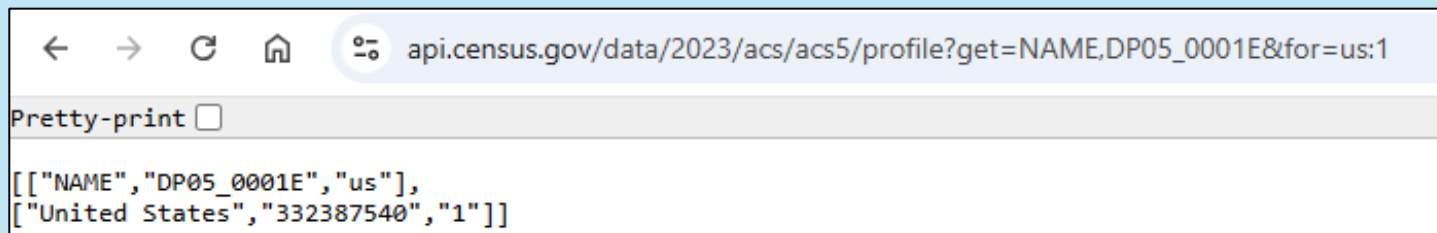
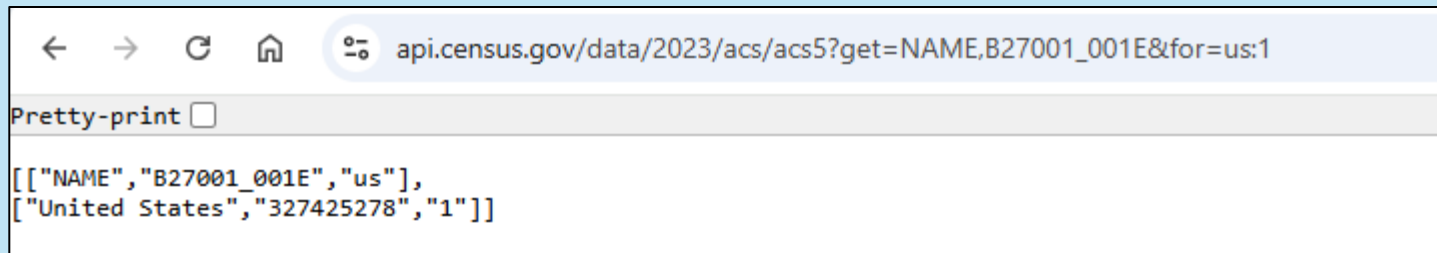


[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E,DP05\\_0001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E,DP05_0001E&for=us:1)



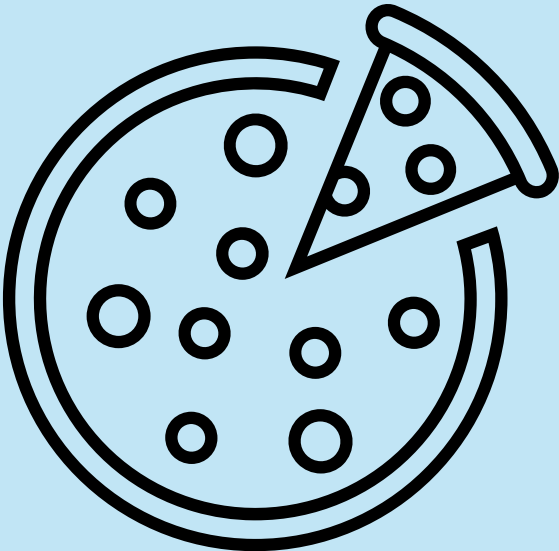

[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E&for=us:1)

[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5/profile?get=NAME,DP05\\_0001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5/profile?get=NAME,DP05_0001E&for=us:1)



# API Query Structure

[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E&for=us:1)

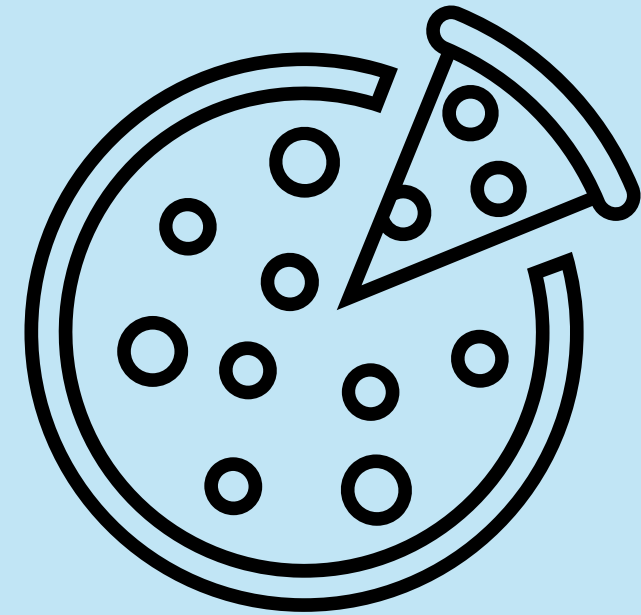
API Endpoint	Geographies and Variables
	



# API Query Structure: Endpoint

[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E&for=us:1)

This endpoint indicates that the specific dataset being used is the 2023 ACS 5-year Detailed Tables.



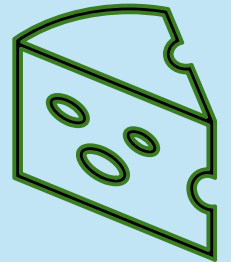
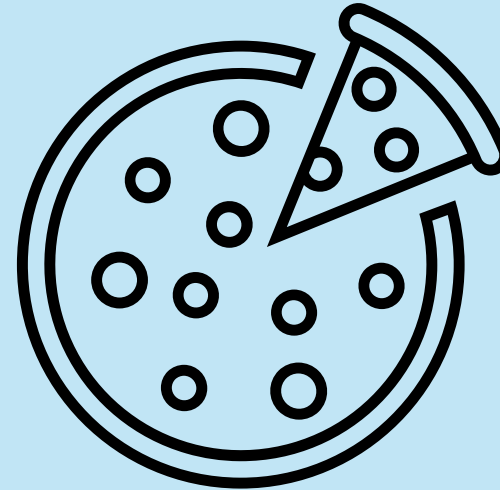
# API Query Structure: Variables or Group

[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E&for=us:1)

The **?get=** portion is where you can specify the individual variables or the table that you want.

Using the **NAME** variable means that you will receive the name of the geography written out (e.g., “United States” or “New York city, New York”).

Adding the **B27001\_001E** variable means that we will get data for the first estimate in table B27001, which is the Total number of people in the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

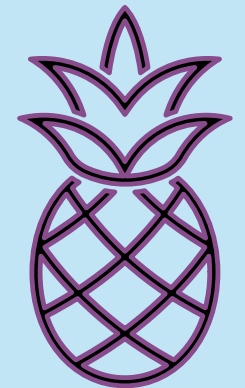
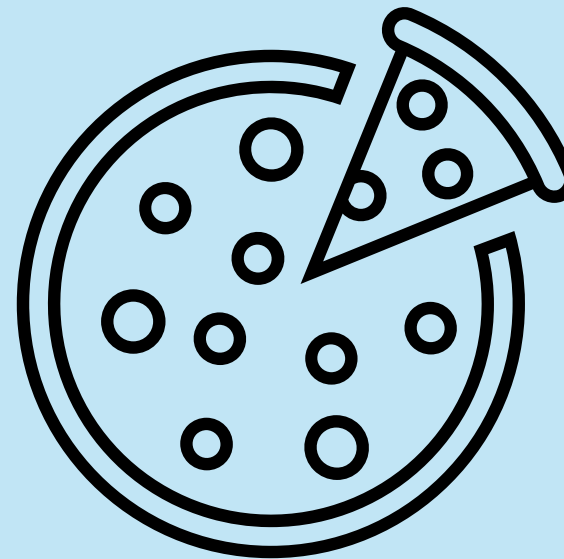


**?get=NAME,B27001\_001E**

# API Query Structure: Geography

[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E&for=us:1)

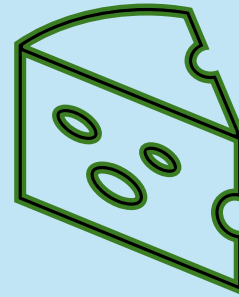
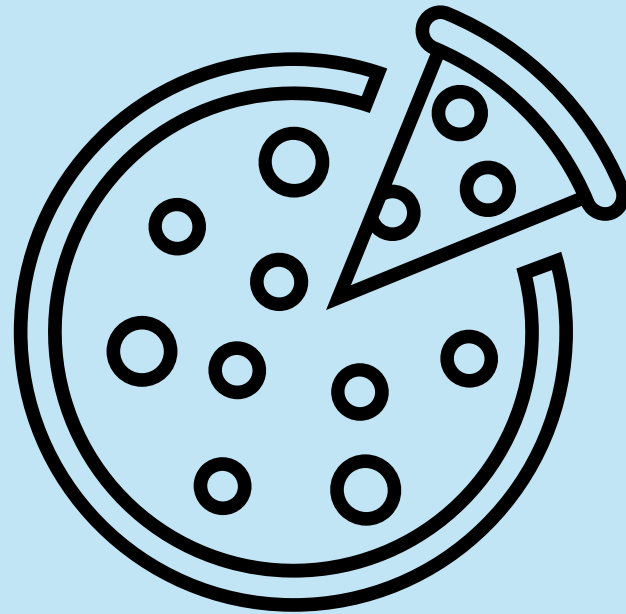
The **&for=** portion indicates the geography being used.



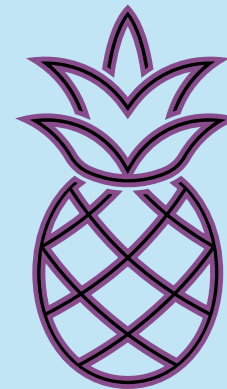
**&for=us:1**

# API Query Structure

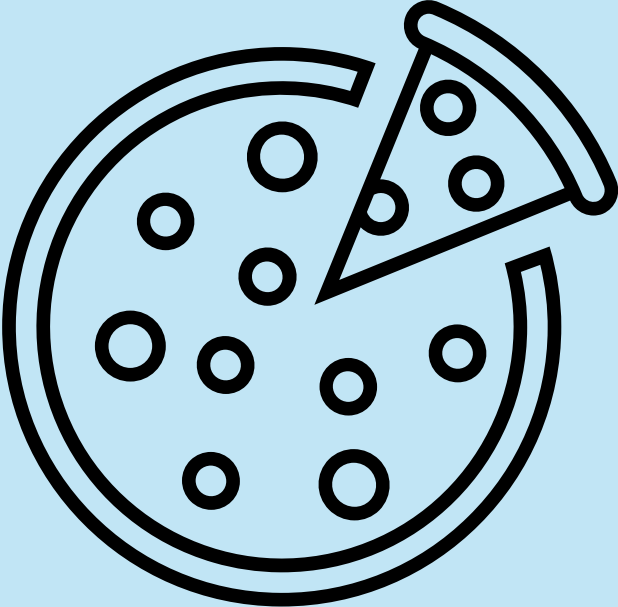

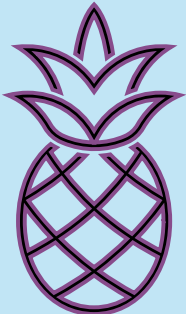



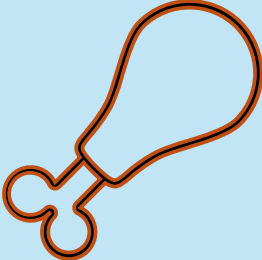
[https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001\\_001E&for=us:1](https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5?get=NAME,B27001_001E&for=us:1)



?get=NAME,B27001\_001E



&for=us:1

API Endpoint	Geographies and Variables		
<p><a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5">https://api.census.gov/data/2023/acs/acs5</a></p> 	<p>?get=NAME, B27001_001E</p>   <p>&amp;for=us:1</p>	<p>?get=NAME, B01001C_001E</p>   <p>&amp;for=place:*&amp;in=state:*</p>	<p>?get=NAME, B19001_015E</p>   <p>&amp;for=county*</p>

# ACS Data in the Census API

## Group Exercises

- Single estimate for multiple geographies (American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates)
  - How can I find the unemployed population for all states in the U.S.?
- Groups functionality (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)
  - How can I access commuting data for all counties in the U.S.?

# ACS Data in the Census API

## Individual Exercises

- **Females 15 years and over who have never been married in South Carolina**

### Hints:

- Use the 2023 ACS 1-Year API
- Use the Data Profile Variables and Example API calls
- Use the first example query under the 'state' section
- Once you find the variable code for females 15 years old and over who have never been married, add it to the example query
  - Add the variable *after* the NAME variable & separate the variables with a comma (,)
- Optional: You can also edit the query to only display data for one state by changing the asterisk (\*) to the FIPS code for South Carolina



# **ACS Data in the Microdata Access Tool**



# What is the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample?

## Public Use Microdata Sample



### **Anonymized**

- No personally identifiable information
- Edits to protect confidentiality

### **Accessible**

- [data.census.gov/mdat](https://data.census.gov/mdat)
- Application Programming Interface (API)
- Download through FTP sites

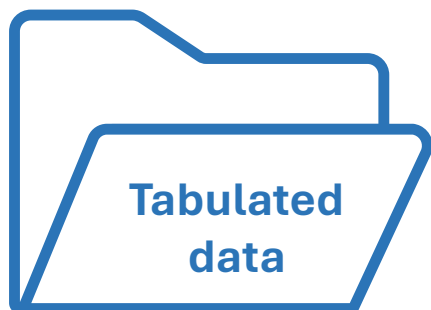
### **Individual Responses**

- Must be tabulated and weighted by user

### **Smaller Number of Responses**

- Data represents about two-thirds of the responses collected in the ACS

# Tabulated Data vs. Microdata: What's the Difference?



Label	Maryland	
	Male	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
▼ Civilian employed population 16 years and over	1,615,907	±12,313
▼ Management, business, science, and arts occupations:	756,381	±14,137
▼ Management, business, and financial occupations:	320,055	±9,449
Business and financial operations occupations	109,114	±5,477
▼ Computer, engineering, and science occupations:	247,584	±8,709
Computer and mathematical occupations	145,566	±5,810
Architecture and engineering occupations	61,006	±5,000

[data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

**Aggregated tables for a geography:**

“In 2023 in Maryland, approximately 145,566 males worked in computer and mathematical occupations.”



SPORDER	ST	SEX	OCCP
4	24	1	4710
5	24	2	9
6	24	2	9
1	24	1	2100
1	24	2	5740
2	24	1	1031
1	24	1	150
2	24	2	5740

[Microdata Access Tool \(MDAT\)](#)

**Microdata (a set of edited survey responses):**

“This male in Maryland is a web developer.”

# Available Geographies in the ACS PUMS

## ACS Available Geographies

Nation

Region

Division

State

Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

# ACS Data in data.census.gov vs. MDAT



**B16001** | Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over

American Community Survey | Universe: Population 5 years and over | 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed...

Please note that American Community Survey 1-Year estimates are published for geographies with a population of 65,000 or more.

Label	United States	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
✓ Total:	316,581,199	±19,409
Speak only English	245,472,067	±221,387
✓ Spanish:	43,369,734	±134,347
Speak English "very well"	25,773,177	±87,884
Speak English less than "very well"	17,596,557	±112,150
✓ French (incl. Cajun):	1,194,555	±25,224
Speak English "very well"	942,772	±20,484
Speak English less than "very well"	251,783	±10,425
✓ Haitian:	973,378	±28,208

[data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)  
High level language categories

Only 43 categories (some of which combine languages) are included in table B16001.



Dataset: ACS 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample (2023)

Filter by Topic: -- All Topics --

Variable	Label	Value Count	Type
> HREL	Household language	6	Estimate
> LANX	Language other than English spoken at home	3	Edited Items
> HRLANP	Detailed household language	130	Estimate
✓ LANP	Language spoken at home	129	Estimate

Values	Description
• 1000: Jamaican Creole English	Language spoken at home
• 1025: Other English-based Creole languages	
• 1055: Haitian	
• 1069: Kibwevian	
• 1100: German	
• 1120: Swiss German	
• 1125: Pennsylvania German	
• 1130: Yiddish	
• 1132: Dutch	
• 1134: Afrikaans	
• 1140: Swedish	
• 1141: Danish	
• 1142: Norwegian	

[Microdata Access Tool \(MDAT\)](#)  
Detailed language categories by variable

All language spoken at home values are listed in the LANP variable.

# Creating a Table in MDAT using ACS data

## Group Exercises

- Earnings by race for all states in the U.S.
- Hispanic origin and sex by single year of age for the U.S.

# Creating a Table in MDAT using ACS Data

## Individual Exercises

- Detailed language spoken at home by sex for California

### Hints:

- Use the 2023 ACS 1-Year PUMS
- Use the Label search bar to find the two variables (LANP and SEX)
- Put the Selected Geographies and Sex in the Columns and Language Spoken at Home in the Rows



# Resources

# Stay Connected

**data.census.gov Resources page:**  
[census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html](https://census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html)

**Feedback:** Email comments to [census.data@census.gov](mailto:census.data@census.gov)

**data.census.gov Training Requests:**  
[ced.cedsci.outreach@census.gov](mailto:ced.cedsci.outreach@census.gov)

# data.census.gov Resources

EXPLORE DATA ON DATA.CENSUS.GOV

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LinkedIn

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VIEW ALL VIDEOS

### Finding Geographic Information Using the Census Geocoder

Learn how to find geographic information about a given geography using the Census Geocoder.

## How-to Materials

## Webinars

### Latest Data Releases

Find out the latest news about data.census.gov, the Census API, and the Microdata Access, including the most recent data releases.

2024

2023

2022

2021

2020

#### 2024

Find out the 2024 data releases about data.census.gov, the Census API, and the Microdata Access.

### Upcoming Webinar

census.gov News and Updates: January 2024

Monday, January 23, 2024

12:00pm - 3:00pm (ET)

VIEW ALL RECORDED WEBINARS

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# Additional ACS Resources

ACS Program Page:  
[census.gov/acs](https://census.gov/acs)

Join the ACS Data Users Group:  
<https://acsdatacommunity.prb.org/>

ACSO Contact Information:  
[acso.users.support@census.gov](mailto:acso.users.support@census.gov)

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Respond to the ACS

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Microdata

Guidance for Data Users

Geography & ACS

Technical Documentation

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American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation.

Featured

Respond to the ACS

Learn the different ways to respond to the American Community Survey online, by phone, by email. Read our FAQs or contact us for more information.

American Community Survey

The American Community Survey releases new estimates, in a variety of tables, tools, and analyses.

Subscribe

Subscribe to GovDelivery email updates to stay informed about the American Community Survey.

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Within American Community Survey (ACS)

About the Puerto Rico Community Survey

ACS and the Decennial Census

ACS Data Stories

ACS Information Guide

Language Brochures

Sample ACS & PRCS Forms and Instructions

Top Questions About the Survey

Why We Ask Each Question

About the American Community Survey

What is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides vital information on a yearly basis about our nation and its people. Information from the survey generates data that help inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year.

Through the ACS, we know more about jobs and occupations, educational attainment, veterans, whether people own or rent their homes, 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 for 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.

ACCESS ACS DATA

RESPOND TO THE ACS

About the Puerto Rico Community Survey

Learn about a customized version of the American Community Survey that provides data every year for Puerto Rico communities.

JOIN THE  
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USERS GROUP

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# How-To Materials for Microdata Access

## Resources Link:

<https://www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov/guidance-for-data-users/how-to-materials-for-using-the-microdata-access.html>

## Includes:

- PDFs
- Recorded Webinars
- Video Tutorials
- Data Availability
- Data Dictionaries

Within Guidance for Data Users

Frequently Asked Questions

How-to Materials for Using data.census.gov

How-to Materials for Using the Census API

**How-to Materials for Using the Microdata Access**

Transition from AFF

Transition from DataFerrett

Video Tutorials

Webinars

## How-to Materials for Using the Microdata Access

Share   

Do you have questions on how to use [Microdata Access](#)? Check out our step-by-step guidance to learn how to use [Microdata Access](#) to create your own tabulations.

 [Using Microdata Access: With ACS 1-Year Estimates – Public Use Microdata Sample \[1.5 MB\]](#)

 [Using Microdata Access: How To Create Poverty Estimates From The CPS ASEC \[2.4 MB\]](#)

## Webinars

**Creating Customized Tables: Microdata Access Tool in data.census.gov**

Learn how the Microdata Access Tool (MDAT) allows users to create custom...

**Custom Tabulation Capabilities on data.census.gov**

In this webinar we share background information on MDAT and discuss the...

Want a sneak peek at what we are working on?

Search...

[Click Here for Our Canary Site](#)

## Related Information

[Guidance for Developers](#)

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[DATA TOOL](#)

[Census Survey Explorer](#)

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# How-To Materials for the Census API

## Resources Link:

<https://www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov/guidance-for-data-users/how-to-materials-for-using-the-census-api.html>

## API User Guide:

<https://www.census.gov/data/developers/guidance/api-user-guide.html>

Includes available data, core concepts, and example API queries

// Census.gov / Data / data.census.gov Resources / Guidance for Data Users / How-to Materials for Using the Census API

**Within Guidance for Data Users**

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[How-to Materials for Using data.census.gov](#)

**How-to Materials for Using the Census API**

[How-to Materials for Using the Microdata Access](#)

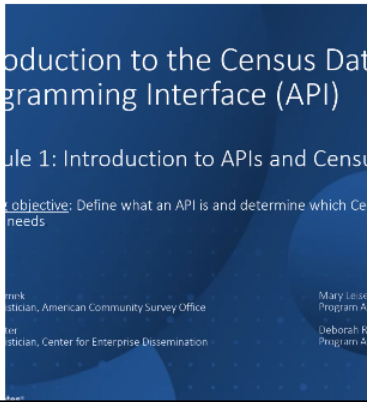
[Video Tutorials](#)

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## How-to Materials for Using the Census API

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Do you have questions on how to use the Census API? Check out our [step-by-step guidance](#) to learn how to use the Census API to find the data you need. To learn more, visit our [API Developers](#) page.




// Census.gov / Data / Developers / Guidance for Developers / Census Data API User Guide

## Census Data API User Guide

January 14, 2021

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The purpose of this user guide is to instruct developers and researchers on how to use the Census Data Application Programming Interface (API) to request data from U.S. Census Bureau datasets.

**Download Census Data API User Guide [PDF - <1.0 MB]**

**Related Information**

[DATA TOOL](#)  
[Explore Census Data](#)


[How-to Materials for Using the Census API](#)

[Overview](#) [What Is The API](#) [Available Data](#) [Core Concepts](#) [Example API Queries](#) [Help & Contact Us](#)

# Email Updates

Get [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) updates delivered to your inbox!

Sign up for email updates:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/15450>



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- ☐ COVID-19 Data Hub
- ☐ Weekly Pulse Newsletter
- ☐ Experimental Data Products
- ☐ Census Business Builder
- ☐ Census Data API
- ☐ Developer Newsletter

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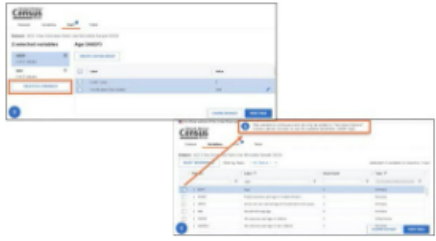
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☐ By checking this box, you consent to our [data privacy policy](#). \*

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## Data.census.gov Newsletter – February 2025



In January, we introduced a few updates to enhance your experience on [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov). These updates are a part of our ongoing efforts to make the site easier to use and more efficient, incorporating valuable feedback from our users.

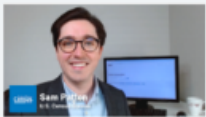
### What's New?

For the **Microdata Access Tool (MDAT)**, we've introduced a few enhancements:

- **New "Delete All Variables" Button:** In the cart tab, you'll now find a button that allows you to quickly delete all selected variables.
- **Improved Continuous Variable**

### Featured Video Tutorial

[Mapping 2020 Census Supplemental DHC Data on data.census.gov](#)



Learn how to map data from the 2020 Census Supplemental Demographic and Housing Characteristics File on [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov).

More Videos

### Featured Question

How Do I Navigate Between Different Pages?

[Navigating](#)

# More data.census.gov Workshops

Register at

<https://www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov/workshops.html>

## data.census.gov Workshops

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These participatory classes walk you through examples of using data.census.gov to find demographic and economic data. Time is allotted throughout the training for questions, and participation is strongly encouraged.

- Please click the box below to view available classes.
- Registration is required to attend these workshops. Attendance is limited to 50 participants per session.

\*\*\*When registering, if you receive a message that you are waitlisted, please sign up for later class. We are trying to move classes to Waitlist as they fill, but sometimes there is a lag in that update.

### Basics of Finding Data Using data.census.gov

In these participatory classes, data.census.gov outreach staff walk you through examples that cover basics and advanced of using data.census.gov to find data.



### Advanced Usage of data.census.gov

These participatory classes walk you through some of the more advanced ways to use data.census.gov to find demographic and economic data.



### Making the Most of Mapping in data.census.gov

Join us in this participatory class as we look at mapping capabilities in data.census.gov.



### Basics of Using the Microdata Access Tool in data.census.gov

Join us for a participatory class that walks you through the Microdata Access Tool (MDAT) within data.census.gov.



### Basics of Using the Census API

Join us in this hands-on class as we learn how to access data through the Census Data Application Programming Interface (API).



### Data.census.gov Geography Essentials for Beginners

This introductory workshop is geared towards data users who want to master the fundamentals of census geographies.



### Finding American Community Survey Data

In this participatory class, our staff will walk you through various ways of accessing data from the ACS via three of our data tools.



### Finding Economic Data on data.census.gov and the API

This workshop is geared towards intermediate/advanced data.census.gov users who want to learn how to access economic datasets on data.census.gov and the API.

