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Introduction

BACKGROUND

Since 1790, a national census of the U.S. population has been conducted every 10 years, as required by the U.S. Constitution. Additional information beyond the population count has been collected with each census in response to the challenges facing the nation and a national desire to understand ourselves.

In the 20th century, most addresses received a "short" form, while a portion of addresses received a more detailed "long" form. The Census 2000 short form was designed to collect basic demographic and housing information (i.e., age, race, gender, relationship, and tenure) to be used for apportionment and redistricting. The long form sent to approximately 1 in 6 households collected social, housing, and economic information (i.e., citizenship, educational attainment, disability status, employment status, income, and housing costs) that was used to plan and determine funding for a wide array of federal, state, local, and tribal programs.

Since 2005, in order to provide communities, businesses, and the public with the detailed long-form information more frequently, these data have been collected monthly (and released annually) through the American Community Survey (ACS).¹ This innovation enabled the 2010 Census to be a "short-form-only" census. Decoupling the collection of short- and long-form data allowed the U.S. Census Bureau to focus decennial census efforts on the constitutional requirements to produce a count of the resident population, while employing technology in both collections to improve efficiencies, improve accuracy, and reduce costs. The result has been the dissemination of more current and detailed information than has ever been available.

The 2020 Decennial Census Program, comprised of the 2020 Census and the ACS, will provide an official count through a "short-form-only" census, as well as a portrait of communities counted across the nation through data collected by the ACS. This program is the only data-gathering effort that collects information from enough people to produce comparable data for every geographic area recognized by the Census Bureau.

SUBMISSION OF SUBJECTS PLANNED FOR THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS PROGRAM

Section 141(f) of the Census Act requires that the subjects to be included in the next census be submitted to Congress no later than 3 years before the census date. The contents of this handbook describe the subjects that will be asked on the 2020 Census and the ACS.

The Census Act also requires that the questions to be included in the next census be submitted to Congress no later than 2 years before the census date. A document that meets that requirement for the 2020 Census and the ACS will be submitted to Congress by March 31, 2018.

ABOUT THE SUBJECTS PLANNED FOR THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS PROGRAM

To prepare the subjects planned, the Census Bureau invited federal agencies to provide updated information on their data needs. The Census Bureau provided documentation of uses collected from federal agencies as part of the 2014 ACS Content Review and asked agencies to review, verify, and update this information. Regular reviews of federal requirements ensure that only required data are collected, as opposed to data that could be acquired by other means.

The descriptions of the subjects on the following pages are designed to give the reader a clear understanding of 1) the relationship between questions asked of respondents and the summarized data that are released in published tables, 2) how federal agencies use the resulting data, and 3) the benefits of the data at the community level. Selected statutes and regulations directing these uses are listed on the reverse of each page.

¹ The ACS also collects short-form data on its questionnaire. However, ACS asks for basic demographic and housing information from a sample of households, while the decennial census asks for basic demographic and housing information from all households.

Operational Questions

Some operational questions will appear on the 2020 Census and American Community Survey that will not result in published counts or estimates. These questions are asked to better administer the data collection process and to ensure greater accuracy of the data collected through the other subjects.

A person's contact information, including name and phone number, are requested in case someone must be reminded to complete their response or to verify information in a follow-up operation.

Contact information is not part of published estimates and is carefully protected, as mandated by federal law, to respect the personal information of respondents.

An address is verified or requested to ensure that the data collected from the people in each household are included in the correct place.

The U.S. Census Bureau is required to provide state legislatures with the small-area census population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. For example, a county count will be a summary of the data collected from all of the addresses in that county. To ensure that a household's data are included with the correct town, county, and state counts, we need to ensure that we know where the information was collected. Addresses are not part of published tabulations and are carefully protected, as mandated by federal law, to respect the personal information of respondents.

2020 Census questions about the number of people in the home, whether anyone was included who does not usually live or stay there, or whether anyone who does usually live or stay there was forgotten are used to ensure that everyone is counted once, only once, and in the right place.

The first U.S. decennial census in 1790 established the concept of "usual residence" as the main principle in determining where people were to be counted. The Census Bureau uses residence criteria to determine whom to count and where, especially because the place where a person lives and sleeps most of the time is not necessarily the same as the person's voting residence or legal residence. Asking these additional questions helps ensure that no one is missed, people are not counted in multiple locations, and that people are included in the right place.

2020 Census questions about maritime vessels, military living quarters, and other group quarters facilities, such as college or university student housing, nursing/skilled nursing facilities, group homes, emergency and transitional shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and other such locations, are used to better administer the data collection process in group living situations.

Asking these additional questions helps ensure accurate classification of group quarters which is a part of the Census Bureau's mission to ensure that everyone is counted once, only once, and in the right place.

Protecting the Information Collected by These Subjects

The Census Bureau has an obligation to produce accurate, relevant statistics about the nation's economy and people, but we recognize that the information collected in these subjects is often private. We depend on cooperation and trust, and promise to protect the confidentiality of this information.

Federal law protects this information; Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all collected information. Violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. Please visit www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/data_protection/federal_law.html.

OUR PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

We recognize the value of respondent trust, and we believe that when a person answers the 2020 Census or the ACS we must serve as caretakers of the information. The Census Bureau's Privacy Principles remind us of this promise and help ensure the protection of respondent information throughout all of our activities.

The Privacy Principles are our guidelines. They help us as we determine content to consider respondents' rights and concerns. Every principle embodies a promise to the respondent.

Necessity: Do we need to collect information on this subject?

Every time we prepare to ask a question, we determine whether the information is truly necessary. All of the information we collect is used for federal programs.

- We promise to collect only information necessary for each survey and census.
- We promise that we will use the information only to produce timely, relevant statistics about the population and the economy of the United States.

Openness: Do respondents know why we are collecting this information?

We collect information only for statistical purposes, and it is never used to identify individuals. Before participating, respondents have the right to know why we are conducting the survey or census, why we are asking specific questions, and the purposes for which the information will be used.

- We promise to inform respondents about the purpose and uses for every survey or census we conduct before respondents provide answers.

Respectful treatment of respondents: Are our efforts reasonable and do we treat people with respect?

- We promise to minimize the effort and time it takes for respondents to participate in the data collection by efficient designs.
- We promise to use only legal, ethical, and professionally accepted practices in collecting data.
- We promise to ensure any collection of sensitive information from children and other sensitive populations does not violate federal protections for research participants and is done only when it benefits the public good.

Confidentiality: How do we protect this information?

In addition to removing personally identifiable information (i.e., names, telephone numbers, and addresses) from our data files, we use various approaches to protect personal information—including computer technologies, statistical methodologies, and security procedures.

Our security measures ensure that only a restricted number of authorized people have access to private information and that access is only granted to conduct our work and for no other purposes. Every person who works with census confidential information collected by the Census Bureau is sworn for life to uphold the law.

Violating the confidentiality of a respondent is a federal crime with serious penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

- We promise that every person with access to respondent information is sworn for life to protect respondent confidentiality.
- We promise that we will use every technology, statistical methodology, and physical security procedure at our disposal to protect respondent information.

Selected Statutory Uses of Operational Questions Data

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	The Census Act, 13 USC § 141(c)
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	The Census Act, 13 USC § 181

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**Subjects Planned for the 2020 Census and the
American Community Survey**

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Age

Age asked since 1790.

AGE AND DATE OF BIRTH QUESTIONS ARE USED TO UNDERSTAND THE SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA BY AGE.

Age data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

AGE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance to Older Americans

Knowing how many people in a community are aged 60 and older helps local officials provide programs and services that enable older adults to remain living safely in their homes and communities (Older Americans Act). Age data are also used in programs that provide services and assistance to seniors, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

Provide Assistance to Children and Families

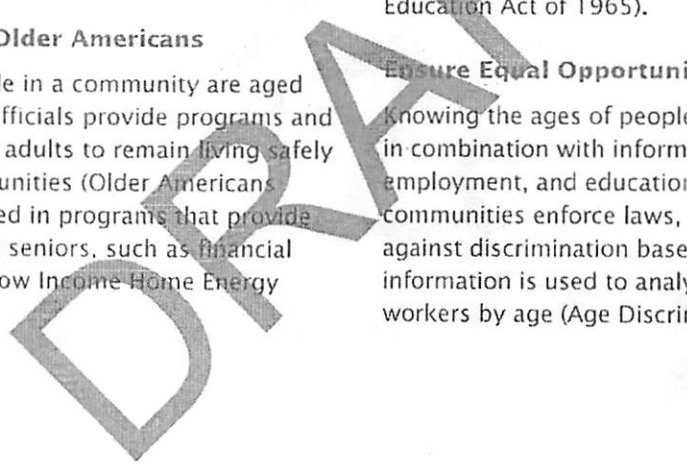
Knowing the numbers and ages of children in families in combination with other information, such as household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, age data are used in targeted efforts to enroll eligible people in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Educate Children and Adults

Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions. Age in combination with other information, such as disability status, language spoken at home, and poverty status, assists schools in understanding the needs of their students and qualifying for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the ages of people in the community in combination with information about housing, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on age. For example, age information is used to analyze the employment status of workers by age (Age Discrimination in Employment Act).



Selected Statutory Uses of Age Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	42 USC §§ 1472, 1474, 1485, 1486, 1490, and 1490a 7 CFR 3550.10
U.S. Department of Education	20 USC §§ 6333, 6334(a)(1), 6335(a), and 6337(b)(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Education	220 USC §§ 6821, 6824, 7011(5), and 7801(20)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, § 10334; 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii(b)(2)(A)-(C)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	12 USC § 1701q; 24 CFR part 891
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, Public Law 89-110, as amended, § 203; 52 USC § 10503; 28 CFR Part 55
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352; 42 USC § 2000e-2
U.S. Department of Labor	Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000, Public Law 109-365, 42 USC § 3056e; 20 CFR 641.140, 641.360, and 641.365
U.S. Department of Labor	29 USC §§ 49f(a)(3)(D), 49g(d), and 49l-2(a)15
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 8104(b)(2)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Public Law 90-202, 29 USC § 623(a)-(d) and 633a; 29 CFR 1625.7(d); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)
U.S. Social Security Administration	The Social Security Act, Public Law 74-271, as amended, 42 USC § 401(c)

Gender

Gender asked since 1790.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE GENDER OF EACH PERSON IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT MALES AND FEMALES AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA, SUCH AS OCCUPATION, BY GENDER.

Gender data are used in planning and funding government programs and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

GENDER DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the gender of people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination on the basis of gender. For example, gender data are used to enforce laws against discrimination based on gender in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972).

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people of different genders have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, the National Science Foundation uses gender data to provide information on women in the science and engineering workforce, and several agencies use gender data to investigate whether women, including women who are military veterans, have similar employment opportunities as men.

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Selected Statutory Uses of Gender Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8623(a)(2) and (4), § 8629(a)(1)–(3), and (6), § 8629(b)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	42 USC §§ 299a(a)(3),(6),(8), 299b-2(a)(1), and 299(c)(1)(B)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, § 10334; 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service	42 USC § 254e; 42 CFR 5.2
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)–(C)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Fair Housing Act, Public Law 90-284, 42 USC 3600–3620, 42 USC 3608(e)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k); <i>Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio</i> ; 90 U.S. 642 (1999)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC § 1701 et seq.
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 546
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)–(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352; 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); <i>Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States</i> , 433 U.S. 299, 307–308 (1977)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352; 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); <i>Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States</i> , 433 U.S. 299, 307–308 (1977)
U.S. Social Security Administration	The Social Security Act, Public Law 74-271, as amended, 42 USC § 401(c)

Race/Ethnicity

Race asked since 1790, ethnicity asked since 1970.

A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON'S RACE OR ETHNICITY IS USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT RACE AND ETHNIC GROUPS.

These data are required for federal and state programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Race and ethnicity data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial and ethnic groups and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects race and ethnicity data in accordance with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards on race and ethnicity. The categories on race and ethnicity are based on self-identification and generally reflect a social definition of race and ethnicity. The categories are not an attempt to define race and ethnicity biologically, anthropologically, or genetically.

RACE AND ETHNICITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the races and ethnicities of community members in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. For example, race and ethnicity data are used in the following ways:

- Establish and evaluate the guidelines for federal affirmative action plans under the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program.

- Monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act and enforce bilingual requirements.
- Monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Identify segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services under the Public Health Service Act.
- Allocate funds to school districts for bilingual services under the Bilingual Education Act.

Understand Changes

Knowing if people of different races and ethnicities have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. The National Science Foundation uses data on race and ethnicity to provide information on people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds in the science and engineering workforce. Several federal agencies use race and ethnicity data to investigate whether housing or transportation improvements have unintended consequences for specific race and ethnic groups. Data on race and ethnicity are used with age and language data to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.

Administer Programs for Specific Groups

Knowing how many people are eligible to participate in certain programs helps communities, including tribal governments, ensure that programs are operating as intended. For example, the Indian Housing Block Grant program, Indian Community Development Block Grant program, and Indian Health Service all depend on accurate estimates of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population come from the question about a person's race or ethnicity.

Selected Statutory Uses of Race/Ethnicity Data

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	13 USC § 141(c)
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	52 USC § 10503
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC §§ 9902(2), 9903, and 9908(b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Older Americans Act of 1965, Public Law 89-73, 42 USC § 3018
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111- 148, § 10334; 42 USC § 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Snyder Act, Nov. 2, 1921, c. 115, 25 USC § 13; Transfer Act, Aug. 5, 1954, c. 658, § 2, 42 USC § 2001(a); Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, Public Law 94-43; 25 USC § 1602
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Connston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91, 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11371- 11376; 24 CFR Part 91
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 USC 5306(a)(1); 24 CFR §1003.101
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Native American Housing Assistance and Self- Determination Act of 1996, Public Law 104-330, as amended, 25 USC § 4152(b); 24 CFR 1000.324-1000.330
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000e-2
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, § 203, 52 USC § 10503; 28 CFR Part 55
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n) (1), and (o)(1)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e- 2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299, 307-308 (1977)

Relationship

Relationship asked since 1880.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF EACH PERSON IN A HOUSEHOLD TO ONE CENTRAL PERSON IS USED TO CREATE ESTIMATES ABOUT FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS, AND OTHER GROUPS, AND TO PRESENT OTHER DATA AT A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL.

Relationship data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

RELATIONSHIP DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing about the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. Information about the relationships among people in a household, in combination with housing costs and the combined income of all people in a household, helps communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, relationship data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Provide Assistance to Families

Knowing more about families, such as the ages of children, household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as Head Start and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. Relationship data are also used to ensure that programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are making a difference for families.

Understand Changing Households

Information about living arrangements and how they are changing, including whether older residents are staying in their homes as they age, whether young people are living with parents or moving in with roommates, and which kinds of households include young children, can help communities plan future programs and services for residents. For example, the Social Security Administration estimates future program needs based on the current relationships of working people.

Selected Statutory Uses of Relationship Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Energy	Energy Conservation and Production Act, Public Law 94-385, as amended, 42 USC § 6861, 6864; 10 CFR 440.10
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n)
U.S. Department of Education	20 USC §§ 6333, 6334(a)(1), 6335(a), 6337(b)(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC §§ 8629 (a) (1)–(3) and (5)–(6), 8629 (b), and 8622 (11)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	13 USC § 1411 note
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, § 124(c)(5); 42 USC 15072
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, §10334; 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)–(C)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11371–11376; 24 CFR Part 91
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, Public Law 93-383, 42 USC 5301, 5302, and 5305; 24 CFR 91.205(a)–(c), 91.305(a)–(c), 570.208(a)(1), 570.483(b)(1), 570.704(a)–(c), 570.707(a)–(c), and 570.901
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)–(3); 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR 91.205(a)–(c)
U.S. Social Security Administration	The Social Security Act, Public Law 74-271, as amended, 42 USC § 401(c)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-389, Title III—Labor and Education Matters, Subtitle C—Vocational Rehabilitation Matters, § 334, 38 USC § 3122

Tenure (Owner/Renter)

Tenure asked since 1890.

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A HOME IS OWNED OR RENTED IS USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT TENURE, RENTERS, AND HOME OWNERSHIP.

Tenure is the most basic characteristic to assess housing inventory. Tenure data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is affordable for residents. Tenure data are also used to provide and fund housing assistance programs. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in private-market housing, government programs, and in society.

TENURE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) and rates of home rental and ownership helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. Data about owners and renters, in combination with housing costs and the combined income of all people in a household, help communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents.

When housing is not sufficient or affordable, data about owners and renters can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the balance of rented homes, mortgaged homes, and owned homes changes over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets; identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies; and to reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties. Tenure is also used in formulas that communities use to determine housing assistance funding (Fair Market Rents).

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the characteristics of people who rent and people who own homes in the community, such as age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability, helps government and communities enforce laws, such as the 1968 Fair Housing Act, designed to eliminate discrimination in housing.

Understand Changing Households

Knowing whether older residents are staying in homes as they age or moving into rented homes; and whether young people are staying with parents, renting with roommates, or buying homes, can help governments and communities distribute funds appropriately between home ownership and rental housing programs and services for residents.

Selected Statutory Uses of Tenure Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	42 USC §§ 1472, 1474, 1485, 1486, 1490, 1490a, 1490l, 1490m, 1490p-2, 1490r; 7 CFR 1940.563-564, 1940.575, 3560.11, and 3560.152(a)(2)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC § 11371-11376; 24 CFR Part 91
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1439 (d)(1)(A)(i); 24 CFR 791.402
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1437f(c)(1); 24 CFR 888.113; 24 CFR 982.401
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91, 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(f)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, Public Law 93-112, 29 USC 794; 24 CFR § 8.22(b); 24 CFR § 8.23(a)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	12 USC § 4368
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	12 USC § 1701q; 24 CFR part 891
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Tax Reform Act of 1986, Public Law 99-514, 26 USC § 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), (iii)(I), (iv), and(g); 15 U.S.C § 631
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965; 52 USC § 10301; 28 CFR Part 51; LULAC v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399 (2006); Johnson v. DeGrandy, 512 U.S. 997 (1994); Thornburg v. Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986)
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC § 5303; 49 CFR Part 613
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n)
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC §§ 6302(b)(3)(B), 6302(c), 6304(a), 6309(a)

Subjects Planned for the American Community Survey

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Acreage and Agricultural Sales

Acreage asked since 1960, agricultural sales asked since 1960.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ACREAGE ASSOCIATED WITH HOUSES, MOBILE HOMES, AND AGRICULTURAL SALES ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOME VALUE STATISTICS.

These data are used in planning government programs designed to benefit the farm population and identifying or excluding agricultural areas for many other programs.

ACREAGE AND AGRICULTURAL SALES DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Equitable Housing Assistance

Knowing which homes might qualify for farm subsidies, and which homes qualify for housing subsidies, is important to ensure that funds are fairly allocated. For example, the historical definition of Fair Market Rents, used to allocate housing assistance, has always excluded units on acreage of more than 10 acres to eliminate those units that might benefit from farm subsidies and therefore have lower than-market rents. Understanding which kinds of properties are eligible for certain programs helps communities inform eligible residents and determine whether the community is eligible for funds based on its farm population.

Support Agricultural Programs

Knowing which areas of a community are agricultural helps communities ensure eligible institutions receive funding for cooperative agricultural extension work and agricultural research. This funding is distributed to eligible institutions based on a legislatively determined formula that uses these data.

Plan Community Development

Knowing the size and agricultural nature of areas of each community can help communities understand changes in local housing markets; identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies; and reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties.

Selected Statutory Uses of Acreage and Agricultural Sales Data

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Tax Reform Act of 1986, Public Law 99-514, 26 USC § 42(d)(5)(B)(iii)(I); 15 USC § 631
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1437f(c)(1); 24 CFR 888.113, 24 CFR 982.401
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Air Pollution Control Act (Clean Air Act), Public Law 84-159, 42 USC § 7403(a)(1), (b)(6), (b)(7), (e), and (g)
U.S. Federal Reserve Board	Public Law 95-128, 12 USC § 2901 et seq.; 12 CFR 228.12
U.S. Federal Reserve Board	Public Law 94-200, 12 USC § 2809(a); 12 CFR 203

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Ancestry

Ancestry asked since 1980.

A QUESTION ABOUT A PERSON'S ANCESTRY OR ETHNIC ORIGIN IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT ANCESTRY GROUPS IN AMERICA.

Ancestry data are used in planning and evaluating government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

ANCESTRY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the ethnic groups in a community in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on national origin. For example, ancestry data are used to enforce nondiscrimination in education (including monitoring desegregation); to enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations; and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in federal financial assistance (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people from different backgrounds have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, ancestry data are used with age and language data, to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.

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Selected Statutory Uses of Ancestry Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000d-2000d-7; 28 CFR 42.101-42.112; 28 CFR 42.401-42.415; 28 CFR 50.3; 67 Fed. Reg. 41,555 (June 18, 2002); Lau v. Nichols, 414 U.S. 563 (1974)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 USC § 1701 et seq.; Castaneda v. Pickard, 648 F.2d 989 (1981)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000c et seq.
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352; 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299, 307-308 (1977)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352; 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299, 307-308 (1977)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n) (1), and (b)(1)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, § 673 (2), 674, and 681A, 42 USC § 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908 (b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Snyder Act, Nov. 2, 1921, c. 115; 25 USC § 13; Transfer Act, Aug. 5, 1954, c. 658, § 2, 42 USC § 2001(a); 42 C.F.R. § 136.12(a)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000d; Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act § 1557, 42 USC § 18116

Commuting (Journey to Work)

Journey to work asked since 1960.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE WORK, HOW THEY GET THERE, WHEN THEY LEAVE, AND HOW LONG IT TAKES ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT COMMUTING OR A PERSON'S JOURNEY TO WORK.

Journey to work data are used in planning and funding for improvements to road and highway infrastructure, developing transportation plans and services, and understanding where people are traveling in the course of a normal day. These data are also used to evaluate transportation plans to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups.

COMMUTING DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Improve Transportation Planning

Knowing where people commute to and from, and what time of day they are commuting, helps transportation planners create mass transportation and metropolitan transportation plans that are compliant with various transportation, environmental, and antidiscrimination regulations.

Local agencies and organizations use these statistics to plan transportation programs and services that meet the diverse needs of local populations, including the disabled population, bicycle commuters, carpool and ride-shares, and many other groups. Commuting data are also used to forecast future use of new or updated transportation systems.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing where people could reasonably commute from in order to work in a certain area is used by communities and businesses for employment planning, and by communities and governments to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against employment discrimination.

Understand Changes in Commutes

As commuting patterns change, information about where people could reasonably commute from in order to work in a certain area is used to understand commercial markets and labor force participation, and to plan local emergency response programs.

Selected Statutory Uses of Commuting (Journey to Work) Data

U.S. Department of Energy	Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486, 42 USC § 13385
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC § 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908 (b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	2003 Medicare Modernization Act, 42 USC § 1395ww(d)(13)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Healthcare Workforce Analysis	Public Health Service Act, §§ 761(b)(2)(A), 792(a), 792(b)(2), and 806(f)(1), 42 USC §§ 294n, 295k, and 296e
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000e(2)(k); <i>Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio</i> , 490 U.S. 642 (1989)
U.S. Department of the Interior	Public Law 100-477, 25 USC §§ 3401 and 3416; Senate Report 107-188
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC § 5302; 49 CFR Part 613
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5304; 49 CFR Part 613, Subpart B
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n)
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC §§ 6302(b)(3)(B), 6303(c), 6304(a), 6309 (a)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC §§ 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), (o)(1)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112; 29 USC § 791(b); 29 CFR 1614.602

Computer and Internet Use

Computer and Internet use asked since 2013.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COMPUTERS AND DEVICES THAT PEOPLE USE, WHETHER PEOPLE ACCESS THE INTERNET, AND HOW PEOPLE ACCESS THE INTERNET ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE.

These statistics were first released to the public in September 2014. The questions were added as a requirement of the Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2008. They help federal agencies measure the nationwide development of broadband access and decrease barriers to broadband access.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Residents Can Communicate

State and local agencies can use these statistics to evaluate access to broadband in their communities. They can measure access to information on the Internet, including access for schools, libraries, rural health care providers, and other public services. Communities ensure their residents are connected to assistance programs, emergency services, and important information. These statistics may also be useful to understand whether to use Internet or more expensive outreach methods for distributing important public health or safety information.

Federal agencies use these data to evaluate the extent of access to, and adoption of broadband, with a focus on underserved areas. State and local agencies might choose to use these statistics to evaluate access to broadband in their communities.

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Selected Statutory Uses of Computer and Internet Use Data

U.S. Federal Communications Commission	Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-385, 47 USC § 1303(d)
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-385, 47 USC § 1303(d)
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5304; 49 CFR Part 613, Subpart B

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Disability

Disability asked since 1830.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S DIFFICULTY WITH SPECIFIC DAILY TASKS ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT DISABILITY.

Disability data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for populations with disabilities. In addition, these data are used in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure that they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

DISABILITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the different types of disabled households in a community helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, disability data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Provide Health Care to Children and Families

Knowing the disability status of people in families in combination with other information, such as household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, disability data are used to target efforts to enroll eligible people in Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Disability data are also used to ensure that Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs are adequately serving these families.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the disability status of people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, employment, and education, helps governments and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on disability status. For example, disability data are used to evaluate whether there are health care or public health program disparities based on disability status (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000).

Provide Assistance to People With Disabilities

Knowing how many people in a community over a certain age have a disability helps local officials provide programs and services to older adults that enable them to remain living safely in their homes and communities (Older Americans Act). Disability status data are also used in programs that provide services and assistance to people with a disability, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people with disabilities have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. Communities also need to understand changes in the needs and geographic concentrations of people with disabilities to ensure that they can meet the community's needs during weather events, disasters, and public health emergencies.

Selected Statutory Uses of Disability Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Public Health Service Act, § 301, 42 USC 241; Public Health Service Act, § 3101, 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, § 124(c)(5); 42 USC 15024
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Older Americans Act of 1965; Public Law 89-73; 42 USC § 3013, 3024, 3030-1, 3032
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, § 10334; 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration	Public Health Service Act § 792(b)(2), 42 USC § 295(k)(b)(2)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Snyder Act, Nov. 2, 1921, c. 115; 25 USC § 13; Transfer Act, Aug. 5, 1954, c. 658, § 2, 42 USC § 2001(a); Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, Public Law 94-43, 25 USC § 1602
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, Public Law 93-112; Americans With Disabilities Act Titles II and III, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Public Law 110-325, 42 USC 126
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11371-11376; 24 CFR Part 91
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, Public Law 93-112, 29 USC 794; 24 CFR § 8.22(b); 24 CFR § 8.23(a)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 546
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 8104(b)(2)

Fertility

Fertility asked since 1890.

A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER A WOMAN HAD A BABY IN THE LAST YEAR IS USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT FERTILITY.

Fertility data are used in planning government programs and adjusting other important data, such as the size of the population eligible for different services, as new people are born. These statistics can also be used to project the future size of the population and to understand more about growing families.

FERTILITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Health Care to Children and Families

Knowing the numbers of women with a recent birth in combination with other information, such as marital status, labor force status, household income, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities understand changes in the demand for health care. For example, knowing how many American Indian babies are born can help communities, tribes, and the federal government estimate the demand for health care through the Indian Health Service.

Understand Changing Households

Knowing the characteristics of women who are giving birth, including where in the country they live, is important to understand the relationships among different development patterns, including housing and travel information and public health and pollution.

Though local vital statistics offices typically have a count of births per year, fertility data are able to provide federal program planners, policymakers, and researchers with additional statistics about the age, education, and employment of parents in households welcoming children, and other important information about the homes (age, size, etc.) and households (income, language spoken, etc.) for a more complete picture of families.

State and local agencies can use these statistics in combination with other information about new mothers, such as education and income, to understand future needs for the local education system and health services.

Selected Statutory Uses of Fertility Data

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)–(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Snyder Act, Nov. 2, 1921, c. 115, 25 USC § 13; Transfer Act, Aug. 5, 1954, c. 658, § 2, 42 USC § 2001(a); Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, Public Law 94-43, 25 USC § 1602
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Snyder Act, Nov. 2, 1921, c. 115, 25 USC § 13; Transfer Act, Aug. 5, 1954, c. 658, § 2, 42 USC § 2001(a); Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, Public Law 94-43, 25 USC § 1602

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Grandparent Caregivers

Grandparent caregivers asked since 2000.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER FOR HIS/HER GRANDCHILDREN AND HOW LONG HE/SHE HAS CARED FOR HIS/HER GRANDCHILDREN, ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT GRANDPARENT CAREGIVERS.

Grandparent caregiver data help federal agencies understand the special provisions needed for federal programs designed to assist families, as older Americans are often in different financial, housing, and health circumstances than those of other ages. These data are also used to measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs.

GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance to Families

Knowing more about families, particularly those where grandparents care for grandchildren, along with data about the ages of children, household income, disability, and poverty status can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as the Children's Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. These data are also used to evaluate programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Provide Assistance to Older Americans

Knowing how many people in a community are over a certain age, including whether older Americans are caring for grandchildren, helps local officials fund programs and services targeted to reach older adults with the greatest economic and social needs (Older Americans Act).

Understand Changing Households

Knowing more about how often grandparents are responsible for the basic care for grandchildren and how long they have been responsible in combination with information about age, presence of children, income, etc., can help communities understand if available housing and services are meeting residents' needs.

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Selected Statutory Uses of Grandparent Caregivers Data

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	13 USC § 141 note
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	13 USC § 141 note

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Health Insurance

Health insurance asked since 2008.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOURCES OF A PERSON'S HEALTH INSURANCE ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE SOURCES OF HEALTH INSURANCE.

Health insurance data are used in planning government programs, determining eligibility criteria, and encouraging eligible people to participate in health insurance programs.

HEALTH INSURANCE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance to Children and Families

Knowing the health insurance coverage status in combination with other information, such as number and age of children in families, household income, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, health insurance coverage status and age data are used to target efforts to enroll eligible people in Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Health Insurance data are also used to ensure that Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs are improving health outcomes for families.

Provide Health Care for Veterans

Knowing the number and characteristics of veterans eligible to use Department of Veterans Affairs health care, compared to those currently using services, can help communities and the federal government estimate the future demand for health care services and facilities for veterans.

Provide Health Care for American Indians

Knowing the health insurance coverage of American Indians can help communities, tribes, and the federal government estimate the demand for health care through the Indian Health Service.

Understand Changes

Knowing the health insurance coverage status of people in a community helps planners identify gaps in community services, plan programs that address those gaps, and qualify for funding for those programs.

Knowing more about changes in health insurance coverage rates and the characteristics of people who have or do not have health insurance is also of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities use health insurance coverage data in their comprehensive reviews and analyses of the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Selected Statutory Uses of Health Insurance Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	42 USC §§ 299a(a)(3), (6), (8), 299b-2(a)(1), and 299(c)(1)(B)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, §10334; 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Snyder Act, Nov. 2, 1921, c. 115, 25 USC § 13; Transfer Act, Aug. 5, 1954, c. 658, § 2, 42 USC § 2001(a); 42 CFR § 136.12(a)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504; Public Law 93-112; Americans With Disabilities Act, Titles II and III, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Public Law 110-325, 42 USC, Chapter 126
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397n (b)(2)(A)-(C)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Public Law 106-117, 38 USC §§ 8134(a)(2)

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Home Heating Fuel

Home heating fuel asked since 1940.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOME HEATING FUEL ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT HOME ENERGY USE.

These data are used in government programs that analyze community air quality and energy needs. Federal agencies use these statistics to forecast future energy demand, analyze the fuels available to community residents, and plan and fund programs that help low-income residents afford to heat their homes.

HOME HEATING FUEL DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Assistance With Utilities

Knowing which fuel is used to heat homes in combination with the cost of those fuels and the characteristics of the low-income households that need assistance with their utilities, helps communities enroll eligible households in assistance programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and qualify for grants to fund assistance. These data are also used to evaluate whether these programs benefit eligible households.

Estimate Future Energy Demand

Knowing the current users of certain heating systems and the kinds of systems used in new homes helps communities predict future demand for fuels and the future costs of systems in use in a community. For example, the Department of Energy uses these data to project demand over the next 30 years, assessing the energy needs of the U.S. economy in a domestic and international context.

Measure Environmental Impacts

Communities with older heating systems may have lower air quality at times when they are in high use. Home heating fuel data are used to develop an inventory of the national aggregate emissions of each greenhouse gas and to research and report on the relationships among different development patterns (including housing and travel information) and public health and pollution (Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act).

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Selected Statutory Uses of Home Heating Fuel Data

U.S. Department of Energy	Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486, Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486, 42 USC § 13385
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8629(a) and (b)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8623(a)(2) and (4), § 8629(a)(1)-(3) and (6), § 8629(b)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8623(a)(2) and (4) and § 8622(11)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8629(a)(1)-(3) and (6)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Air Pollution Control Act (Clean Air Act), Public Law 84-159, 42 USC § 7403(a)(2), (b)(1), and (b)(6)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Air Pollution Control Act (Clean Air Act), Public Law 84-159, 42 USC § 7403(a)(1), (b)(6), (b)(7), (e), and (g)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254 (a)(2), (b)(6), and (s)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)

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Home Value and Rent

Home value asked since 1940, rent asked since 1940.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MONTHLY RENT AMOUNT OR HOW MUCH THE HOME AND PROPERTY ARE WORTH ARE USED TO PRODUCE STATISTICS ABOUT RENT AND HOME VALUE.

These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is affordable for residents and provide and fund housing assistance programs. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies designed to eliminate discrimination in private-market housing, government programs, and in society.

HOME VALUE AND RENT DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the different types of households in a community (single people, couples, families, roommates, etc.) helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. Housing costs in combination with relationship and combined income of all people in a household helps communities understand whether housing is affordable.

When rental housing is not affordable, rent data are used to identify rental distribution of housing units (the standard cost of different types of housing in different areas of the country) and to determine Fair Market Rents, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development uses to determine the amount of tenant subsidies in housing assistance programs.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, housing cost data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the balance of rented homes, mortgaged homes, and owned homes changes over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets and identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing more about people who rent and people who own homes in the community in combination with age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and other data, helps government and communities enforce laws, such as the 1968 Fair Housing Act designed to eliminate discrimination in housing.

Understand Changing Households

Knowing whether older residents are staying in their homes as they age, whether young people are staying with parents or moving in with roommates, and which kinds of households include young children can help communities plan programs and services for residents.

Selected Statutory Uses of Home Value and Rent Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	42 USC 1485, 1486, 1490a, 1490l, 1490m, 1490p-2, 1490r; 7 CFR 1940.560-1940.567, 1940.575; 7 CFR 3550.10, 3560.11, 3560.152(a)(2), 3560.254(c)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC § 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908 (b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC §§ 9902 (2), 9908(b)(1)(A), and 9914 (a) and (c)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	42 USC §§ 299a(a)(3),(6),(8), 299b-2(a)(1), and 299(c)(1)(B)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Social Security Act, Public Law 74-271, § 1848e(1)(A), 42 USC § 1395w-4(e)(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Castro National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91, 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11371-11376; 24 CFR Part 91
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, Public Law 104-330, as amended, 25 USC § 4152(b); 24 CFR 1000.324-1000.330
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 93-383, as amended; 42 USC § 1437f(c)(1); 24 CFR 888.113, 24 CFR 982.401
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, § 1338, 12 USC § 4568
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC §§ 6302(b)(3)(B), 6303(c), 6304(a), and 6309 (a)
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j),(k), and (n)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)

Income

Income asked since 1940.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUNDS A PERSON RECEIVES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT INCOME, ASSISTANCE, EARNINGS, AND POVERTY STATUS.

Income data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide economic assistance for populations in need and measure the economic well-being of the nation. Income and poverty estimates are often part of allocation formulas that determine how food, health care, job training, housing, and other assistance are distributed.

INCOME DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the combined income of all people in a household in combination with housing costs helps communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents. When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, income data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Provide Assistance to Older Americans

Knowing how many older people in a community are living in poverty in combination with other information, such as age and disability status of other family members, can help communities ensure these residents receive appropriate assistance, such as financial assistance with utilities (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

Provide Assistance to Children and Families

Knowing household income in combination with other information, such as the number and age of children in families, health insurance status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them. For example, income data are used to identify eligibility and provide funding in programs like Medicaid, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Head Start.

Educate Children and Adults

Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions. Household income and family composition determine poverty status, which is used along with school enrollment, information on disability status, and language spoken at home, to help schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for students with needs for additional services or assistance, including free/reduced price school lunches (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Plan Community Development

Knowing more about the financial situation of residents, including income, employment, and housing costs, can help communities qualify for loan and grant programs designed to stimulate economic recovery, improve housing, run job-training programs, and define areas as empowerment or enterprise zones.

Selected Statutory Uses of Income Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act, Public Law 95-113, Title XIV; Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 7 USC § 3175; 7 USC § 343(d)
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 USC § 1759a(g)
U.S. Department of Agriculture	7 USC § 2020(e)(1); 7 CFR 272.4(b)(6)
U.S. Department of Agriculture	42 USC § 1766(f)(3)(A)(ii)(I)(aa) and 1766(f)(3)(E)(i); 7 CFR 226.15(f)
U.S. Department of Education	20 USC § 6333, 6334(a)(1), 6335(a), 6337(b)(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, §10334; 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Public Health Service Act, § 301, 42 USC 241; Public Health Service Act, § 3101, 42 USC 300kk
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Mossiny-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11371-11376; 24 CFR Part 91
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, Public Law 104-330, as amended, 25 USC § 4152(b); 24 CFR 1000.324-1000.330
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 USC 5306(a)(1); 24 CFR §1003.101
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1439 (d)(1)(A)(i); 24 CFR 791.402
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended; Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC 5301, 5302, and 5305; 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c), 91.305(a)-(c), 570.208(a)(1), 570.483(b)(1), 570.704(a)-(c), 570.707(a)-(c), 570.901
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Tax Reform Act of 1986, Public Law 99-514, 26 USC § 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), (iii)(I), (iv), and(g); 15 U.S.C § 631
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91, 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c)

Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker

Industry asked since 1820,¹ occupation asked since 1850, class of worker asked since 1910.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S EMPLOYER, THE KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY OF THAT EMPLOYER, THE KIND OF WORK A PERSON DOES, AND THAT PERSON'S MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES ARE USED TO PRODUCE INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, AND CLASS OF WORKER STATISTICS.

These data are used to provide information about the labor force in government programs, to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups, and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, AND CLASS OF WORKER DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Employment Opportunities

Knowing whether programs designed to employ specific groups, such as people with disabilities or veterans, are succeeding is important to employers, federal agencies, and federal government contractors (Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Industry, occupation, and class of worker data provide additional detail about the jobs and careers pursued by people participating in these programs.

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify labor surplus areas (areas with people available for hiring and training), plan workforce development programs including job fairs and training programs, and promote business opportunities.

Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity

Knowing more about people who are employed or looking for work in combination with educational attainment, age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability status, veteran status, and other data, helps governments and communities enforce civil rights laws against employment discrimination. For example, these data are used to enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes

Knowing the characteristics of growing or declining industries and occupations is an important part of estimating changes in the economy. Labor force estimates are used in funding decisions; to ensure surveys are accurate, including surveys that provide official labor market estimates; and to understand change in other data (Wagner-Peyser Act and Workforce Investment Act).

Class of worker data, in particular, are used by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to understand changes in farm workers and agriculture.

¹ Industry asked in 1820, 1840, and 1910 until present.

Selected Statutory Uses of Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	Smith- Lever Act of 1914, 7 USC § 343(c)
U.S. Department of Agriculture	7 USC 3222b, NIFA Funding Opportunity Announcement (RFA)
U.S. Department of Agriculture	National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act, Public Law 95-113, Title XIV, 7 USC § 3222
U.S. Department of Agriculture	National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act, Public Law 95-113, Title XIV, 7 USC § 3221
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Act of Mar. 2, 1887, ch. 314, 7 USC § 361c
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)-(C)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2; Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio, 490 U.S. 642 (1989)
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC § 5303; 49 CFR Part 613
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC §§6303(c) and 6304(a);
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-389, Title III—Labor and Education Matters, Subtitle C—Vocational Rehabilitation Matters, § 334—Longitudinal study of Department of Veterans Affairs vocational rehabilitation programs, 38 USC § 3122
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112; 29 USC § 791 (b); 29 CFR 1614.602
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Public Law 90-202, 29 USC § 623(a)-(d) and 633a; 29 CFR 1625.7(d); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352; 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)

Labor Force Status

Labor force status asked since 1890.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON WORKED LAST WEEK AND, IF THE ANSWER IS NO, WHY HE/SHE WAS NOT WORKING, WHETHER HE/SHE PLANS TO RETURN TO WORK, AND HOW MUCH THEY WORKED IN THE PAST YEAR ARE USED TO PRODUCE STATISTICS ABOUT THE LABOR FORCE, INCLUDING UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

Labor force data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide unemployment assistance and services. These data are also used to evaluate other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups, and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

LABOR FORCE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Employment Opportunities

Knowing whether programs designed to employ specific groups, such as people with disabilities or veterans, are succeeding is important to employers, federal agencies, and federal government contractors (Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify labor surplus areas (areas with people available for hiring and training), plan workforce development programs, including job fairs and training programs, and to promote business opportunities.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing more about people who are employed or looking for work in combination with age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability status, veteran status, and other data, helps governments and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in employment. For example, labor force data are used to enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes

Knowing the characteristics of people who are working or looking for work is an important part of estimating changes in the economy. Labor force estimates are used in funding decisions; to ensure surveys are accurate, including surveys that provide official labor market estimates; and to understand change in other data (Wagner-Peyser Act and Workforce Investment Act).

Selected Statutory Uses of Labor Force Status Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, Section 124(c)(3); 42 USC §15024
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)–(C)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2; Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio, 490 U.S. 642 (1989)
U.S. Department of Labor	29 USC §§ 49f(a)(3)(D), 49g(d), and 49l-2(a)
U.S. Department of Labor	Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220; 20 CFR 668.296(b) and 668.440
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC § 5307; 49 CFR Part 613
U.S. Department of Transportation	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, Public Law 112-141 (2012), 49 USC § 5304 (a); 49 CFR Part 613, Subpart B
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 546
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-389, Title III—Labor and Education Matters, Subtitle C—Vocational Rehabilitation Matters, Section 334—Longitudinal study of Department of Veterans Affairs vocational rehabilitation programs, 38 USC § 3122
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, 29 USC § 791 (b); 29 CFR 1614.602
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Public Law 90-202, 29 USC § 623(a)–(d) and 633a; 29 CFR 1625.7(d); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)

Language Spoken at Home

Language spoken at home asked since 1890.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON SPEAKS A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME, WHAT LANGUAGE HE/SHE SPEAKS, AND HOW WELL HE/SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT LANGUAGE AND ABOUT ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH.

Language data are used in planning government programs for adults and children who do not speak English well. These data are also used to ensure that information about public health, law, regulations, voting, and safety is communicated in languages that community members understand.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Educate Children

Knowing how many children and youth with limited English-speaking abilities depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term staffing and funding decisions. Language spoken at home in combination with other information, such as disability status, school enrollment, and poverty status, helps schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the languages spoken by people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, employment, and education, helps the government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on national origin. For example, language data are used to support the enforcement responsibilities under the Voting Rights Act to investigate differences in voter participation rates and to enforce laws and policies related to bilingual requirements.

Knowing languages spoken in a community also helps federal agencies identify needs for services for people with limited English proficiency under Executive Order 13166.

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people who speak languages other than English have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. For example, language data are used with age and ancestry data to address language and cultural diversity needs in health care plans for the older population.

Selected Statutory Uses of Language Spoken at Home Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	7 USC § 2020(e)(1); 7 CFR 272.4(b)(6)
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	52 USC § 10503
U.S. Department of Education	20 USC §§ 6821 and 6824, 7011(6), and 7801(25)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 9835(g)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	42 USC § 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Older Americans Act of 1965, Public Law 89-73, as amended, 42 USC §§ 3013, 3024, 3030s-1, 3032
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148, § 10324; 42 USC § 300kk
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k (f)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)-(C)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 USC § 11371-11376; 42 USC § 12901; 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR Part 576;
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC § 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91, 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, § 203, 52 USC § 10503; 28 CFR Part 55
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, 42 USC § 2000d-2000d-7; 28 CFR 42.101-42.112; 28 CFR 42.401-42.415; 28 CFR 50.3; Lau v. Nichols, 414 U.S. 563 (1974)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 USC § 1701 et seq.; Castaneda v. Pickard, 648 F. 2d 989 (1981)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 USC § 10301; 28 CFR Part 51; LULAC v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399 (2006); Johnson v. DeGrandy, 512 U.S. 997 (1994); Thornburg v. Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986)

Marital Status and Marital History

Marital status asked since 1880, marital history asked since 1850.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS CURRENTLY MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED, OR NEVER MARRIED; WHETHER HIS/HER MARITAL STATUS CHANGED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS; AND LIFETIME MARRIAGES ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT CURRENT MARITAL STATUS AND MARITAL HISTORY.

Marital status and marital history data help federal agencies understand marriage trends, forecast future needs of programs that have spousal benefits, and measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs.

MARITAL STATUS AND MARITAL HISTORY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES

Provide Benefits to Spouses and Survivors

Knowing more about how many spouses and ex-spouses may qualify for programs with spousal benefits, including veteran and social security programs, can help federal agencies ensure adequate funding and facilities for these programs and can help communities determine where gaps in benefits and services might exist.

Provide Assistance to Families

Knowing more about families, particularly blended and single-parent families, along with data about the presence of children, labor force status, and poverty status, can help communities enroll eligible families in programs designed to assist them, such as the Children's Health Insurance Program, and can help communities qualify for grants to fund these programs. These data are also used to evaluate programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Understand Changing Households

Knowing more about community marriage trends (whether people are marrying later in life, not getting married, or marrying again) in combination with information about age, presence of children, income, etc., can help communities understand if the available housing, job training, rental assistance, and administrative services and programs are meeting residents' needs during their major life changes. These data also help the federal government plan for the future. For example, the Social Security Administration estimates future program needs based on the current relationships of working people.

Selected Statutory Uses of Marital Status and Marital History Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	13 USC § 141 note
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	42 USC §§ 299a(a)(3), (6), (8), 299b-2(a)(1), and 299(c)(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)–(C)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 546
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 8104(b)(2)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, Title III—Labor and Education Matters, Subtitle C—Vocational Rehabilitation Matters, Section 334—Longitudinal study of Department of Veterans Affairs vocational rehabilitation programs 38 USC § 3122
U.S. Social Security Administration	Social Security Act, Public Law 74-271 as amended, 42 USC § 401(c)

Migration (Previous Residence)/Residence 1 Year Ago

Residence 1 year ago asked since 1930.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON MOVED IN THE LAST YEAR AND WHERE HE OR SHE LIVED 1 YEAR AGO ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT WHERE PEOPLE ARE MOVING (TO/ FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND WITHIN THE UNITED STATES).

Migration (residence 1 year ago) data are used in planning government programs and adjusting other important geographic data as people move. The characteristics of people who have moved are also an important part of estimating population changes. These population estimates are used in funding decisions, to ensure surveys are accurate, to understand change in other data, and to produce official international migration estimates.

MIGRATION/RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Understand Changes

Knowing the characteristics of people who have moved and the patterns of migration (where people move to and from) is an important part of estimating population changes. Population estimates are used in funding decisions, to ensure surveys are accurate, to understand change in other data, and to produce international migration estimates. These data also help agencies assess residential stability and the effects of migration on urban and rural areas.

Knowing where certain populations move to and from helps federal agencies assess the needs of counties with large refugee populations and the effects of immigration on local areas.

Knowing the characteristics of people who live or have lived in certain areas is important to understand the relationships among different development patterns, including housing and travel information, public health, and pollution. These data may also assist state and local agencies in developing programs that attract new residents or employers.

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Selected Statutory Uses of Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago Data

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	13 USC § 181
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC §§ 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908 (b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i),
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service	Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, 25 USC § 13; 42 USC § 2001(a); 42 CFR 136.12(a)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)–(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)

DRAFT

Place of Birth, Citizenship, and Year of Entry

Place of birth asked since 1850, citizenship asked since 1820,¹ year of entry asked since 1890.²

QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, AND YEAR OF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT CITIZENS, NONCITIZENS, AND THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION.

These statistics are essential for agencies and policymakers setting and evaluating immigration policies and laws, seeking to understand the experience of different immigrant groups, and enforcing laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination based on national origin. These statistics are also used to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP, AND YEAR OF ENTRY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing how many people in the community are born in other countries in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps the government and communities to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on national origin. For example, these data are used to support the enforcement responsibilities under the Voting Rights Act to investigate differences in voter participation rates and to enforce other laws and policies regarding bilingual requirements.

Educate Children

Knowing how many foreign-born children depend on services through schools helps school districts make staffing and funding decisions. Place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry statistics in combination with other information, such as language spoken at home, help schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people of different races or countries of birth have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers. These data may also help communities with large refugee populations that qualify for financial assistance (Immigration Nationality Act).

¹ Citizenship asked 1820–1830, 1870, and 1890 to present.
² Year of entry asked 1890–1930, and 1970 to present.

Selected Statutory Uses of Place of Birth, Citizenship, and Year of Entry Data

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	52 USC § 10503
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census	13 USC § 141(c)
U.S. Department of Education	20 USC §§ 6821, 6824, 7011(5), and 7801(20)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC §§ 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908(b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI; Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Section 1557
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 297il(4)(2)(A)(C)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Fair Housing Act, Public Law 90-284, 42 USC 3600-3620; 42 USC 3608(e)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, § 203; 52 USC § 10503; 28 CFR Part 101
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2 ; Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio, 490 U.S. 642 (1989)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, 29 USC § 791 (b); 29 CFR 1614.602
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)
U.S. Social Security Administration	Social Security Act, Public Law 74-271, as amended, 42 USC § 401(c)

Plumbing Facilities, Kitchen Facilities, and Telephone Service

Plumbing facilities asked since 1940, kitchen facilities asked since 1940, telephone service asked since 1960.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER, A BATHTUB OR SHOWER, A SINK WITH A FAUCET, A STOVE OR RANGE, A REFRIGERATOR, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT INDICATORS OF HOUSING QUALITY.

These data are used in planning and funding government programs that identify areas eligible for housing assistance, rehabilitation loans, and other programs that help people access and afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. Public health officials may also use this information to locate areas in danger of ground-water contamination and waterborne diseases.

PLUMBING FACILITIES, KITCHEN FACILITIES, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing more about the quality of housing in a community helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, data on household facilities can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the quality of different types of homes in combination with whether they are occupied or vacant, can help communities identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies and to reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties. These data may also be useful in identifying types of homes in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.

Ensure Residents Can Communicate

Measuring the extent of telephone service, including access for schools, libraries, health care providers, and low-income residents, helps communities ensure their residents have universal access to assistance programs, emergency services, and important information.

Measure Environmental Impacts

Substandard plumbing systems may impact the local water supply. Understanding where these systems are concentrated helps communities research their wastewater infrastructure needs and work to improve their systems.

Selected Statutory Uses of Plumbing Facilities, Kitchen Facilities, and Telephone Service Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	42 USC §§ 1472, 1474, 1485, 1486, 1490, 1490a, 1490c, 1490d, 1490e, and 1490l.; 7 CFR 1940.560–1940.567, 1940.575; 7 CFR 3550.10, 1980.312, 3560.11; 7 CFR 3550.53(a), 3550.67(b), 3550.68(c); 7 CFR 1980.301(d); 7 CFR 3560.152(a)(2), 3560.254(c) RD Instruction 1980-D, Exhibit C
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, Public Law 104-330, as amended, 25 USC § 4152(b); 24 CFR 1000.324–1000.330 (Also Appendices A and B)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1437f(c)(1); 24 CFR 888.113; 24 CFR 982.401
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625 42 USC § 12705(b)(1)–(3); 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR 91.205(a)–(c)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Tax Reform Act of 1986, Public Law 99-514, 26 USC § 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), (iii)(I), (iv), and (v); 15 U.S.C § 631
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, § 1338, 12 USC § 4568
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC § 12747(b)(1)(A) and (B); 24 CFR 92.100(a), (b), and (c)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 USC § 10301; 28 CFR Part 51; LULAC v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399 (2006); Johnson v. DeGrandy, 512 U.S. 997 (1994); Thornburg v. Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986)
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94; 49 USC § 5304; 49 CFR Part 613, Subpart B
U.S. Federal Communications Commission	Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 47 USC §151 and 254; 47 CFR 54.702(i)

School Enrollment, Educational Attainment, and Undergraduate Field of Degree

School enrollment asked since 1850, educational attainment asked since 1940, undergraduate field of degree asked since 2009.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A PERSON IS ATTENDING SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED, AND THE FIELD OF ANY COMPLETED UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE DEGREES ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT EDUCATION.

These statistics are used to analyze the characteristics and needs of school-aged children and to understand the continuing education needs of adults.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AND UNDERGRADUATE FIELD OF DEGREE DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Educate Children and Adults

Knowing how many children and adults depend on services through schools helps school districts make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions. School enrollment in combination with other information, such as disability status, language spoken at home, and poverty status, helps schools understand the needs of their students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for those students (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Knowing how many adults do not have a high school diploma or equivalent helps schools understand the needs of adult students and qualify for grants that help fund programs for these students (Workforce Investment Act).

Knowing the major fields of study of adults with bachelor's degrees enables efforts to develop the nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics labor force (America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010).

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Understanding more about the characteristics of people enrolled or not enrolled in school helps government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in education (Civil Rights Act).

Knowing the educational attainment of workers compared to those seeking employment in combination with age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and other data, helps enforce nondiscrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964). This information is also used in targeting voting rights enforcement (Voting Rights Act).

Selected Statutory Uses of School Enrollment, Educational Attainment, and Undergraduate Field of Degree Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 9835(g)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, Section 124(c)(5); 42 USC § 15024
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	42 USC § 299a(a)(3),(6),(8); 42 USC § 299b-2(a)(1); 42 USC § 299(c)(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics	42 USC § 242k(b), (h), and (l)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	42 USC § 1397ii (b)(2)(A)-(C)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 USC § 1701 et seq.; <i>Castaneda v. Pickard</i> , 648 F.2d 989 (1981)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Rights to Public Education and Equal Educational Attainment), 42 USC § 2000c et seq.
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, § 203; 52 USC § 10503; 28 CFR Part 55
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 USC § 10301; 28 CFR Part 51; <i>LULAC v. Perry</i> , 548 U.S. 399 (2006); <i>Johnson v. DeGrandy</i> , 512 U.S. 997 (1994); <i>Thornburg v. Gingles</i> , 478 U.S. 30 (1986)
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2; <i>Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio</i> , 490 U.S. 642 (1989)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 546
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-389, Title III-Labor and Education Matters, Subtitle C-Vocational Rehabilitation Matters, Section 334-Longitudinal study of Department of Veterans Affairs vocational rehabilitation programs, 38 USC § 3122
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	38 USC § 8104(b) (2)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of General Counsel	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A)
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); <i>Hazelwood School Dist. v. United States</i> , 433 U.S. 299 (1977)

Selected Monthly Owner Costs (Cost of Utilities, Condominium and Mobile Home Fees, Taxes, Insurance, and Mortgages)

Cost of utilities asked since 1940, condominium and mobile homes fees asked since 1990, taxes asked since 1940,¹ insurance cost asked since 1980, mortgages cost asked since 1940.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE AND COST OF COMMON UTILITIES, ANY APPLICABLE CONDOMINIUM AND MOBILE HOME FEES, TAXES, UTILITIES, MORTGAGES, AND HOME LOANS ARE USED TO PRODUCE STATISTICS ABOUT SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS.

These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is affordable for residents and to provide and fund housing assistance programs. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER COSTS DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Comparing housing costs to household income (the combined income of everyone in the household) helps communities understand whether housing is affordable for residents.

When housing is not sufficient or not affordable, housing cost data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how housing costs change over time can help communities understand changes in local housing markets and to identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing more about the housing costs of people who own homes in the community in combination with age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and other data about the household residents, helps government and communities enforce laws, such as the 1968 Fair Housing Act designed to eliminate discrimination in housing.

¹ Cost of utilities asked since 1940, condominium and mobile homes fees asked since 1990, taxes asked since 1940, insurance cost asked since 1980, mortgages cost asked since 1940.

Selected Statutory Uses of Selected Monthly Owner Costs Data

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis	15 USC § 1516; Department Organization Order 35-1A
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC § 11371–11376, 42 USC § 12901; 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR Part 576; 24 CFR Part 574
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, Public Law 104-330, as amended, 25 USC § 4152(b); 24 CFR 1000.324–1000.330 (Also appendices A and B)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC § 12705(b)(1)–(3); 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR 91.205(a)–(c)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)–(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamps

SNAP/food stamps asked since 2005.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A HOUSEHOLD'S RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS/SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)¹ ARE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

SNAP data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide food assistance and in evaluating other government programs.

SNAP DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Food Assistance to School Children

Knowing more about food assistance program participation in combination with school enrollment, income, and poverty status, can help communities streamline administration of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program by replacing administrative paperwork with American Community Survey estimates of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Evaluate SNAP

Knowing more about food-assistance program participation is used to evaluate the SNAP program and award bonuses to communities that administer SNAP funds well.

Understand Changes

State and local agencies use these statistics to assess state food assistance needs and participation rates for eligible families and individuals and to determine gaps in services and programs. Faith-based and other nonprofit organizations use information about food assistance needs to determine where food banks, food kitchens, and other programs could be beneficial and how the needs of their communities can be met with additional resources and services.

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Selected Statutory Uses of SNAP Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 USC § 1759a(g)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC § 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908 (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)1, and (c)(1)(A) (i)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 9835(g)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC §§ 8629 (a)(1)–(3) and (5)–(6), 8629 (b), and 8622 (11)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	13 USC § 141 note
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 603(a)(4)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)–(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n) (1), and (n)(1)

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Units in Structure, Rooms, and Bedrooms

Units in structure asked since 1940, rooms asked since 1940, bedrooms asked since 1960.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TYPE OF BUILDING, UNITS IN THE STRUCTURE, NUMBER OF ROOMS, AND NUMBER OF BEDROOMS ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT HOUSING TYPES AND HOUSING DENSITY.

These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is available and affordable for residents and provide and fund housing assistance programs. The number of rooms in combination with the number of people living in a unit provides a ratio of people to rooms, which can be used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our nation's households. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination in government programs and in society.

UNITS IN STRUCTURE, ROOMS, AND BEDROOMS DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the different types of housing, and how many people occupy that housing, helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. For example, these data are used to measure overcrowding in communities and are used as integral components to set Fair Market Rents for all areas of the country.

When housing is not sufficient, data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them (such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

These data provide benchmark statistics that measure progress toward the Congressional declaration of goals for a national housing policy—a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family.

Plan Community Development

These data are used to identify adequate housing and may be useful in identifying types of structures in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.

Selected Statutory Uses of Units in Structure, Rooms, and Bedrooms Data

U.S. Department of Agriculture	42 USC §§ 1472, 1474, 1485, 1486, 1490, 1490a, 1490c, 1490d, 1490e, 1490l, 1490m, 1490p-2, 1490r; 7 CFR 1940.560-1940.567, 1940.575; 7 CFR 3550.10, 1980.312, 3560.11; 7 CFR 3550.53(a), 3550.67(b), 3550.68(c); 7 CFR 1980.301(d); 7 CFR 3560.152(a)(2), 3560.254(c) RD Instruction 1980-D, Exhibit C
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8629 (a) and (b)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC §§ 8623 (a) (2) and (4), 8629 (a) (1)-(3) and (6), 8629 (b)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Social Security Act, Section 1848e(1)(A)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1990, Public Law 104-330, as amended, 25 USC § 4152(b); 24 CFR 1000.324-1000.330 (Also appendices A and B)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; 42 USC § 5306(d)(1); 24 CFR 1003.101
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	42 USC § 1701q; 24 CFR Part 891
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Kinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; 42 USC §§ 11371-11376; 42 USC § 12901; 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR Part 576; 24 CFR Part 574
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1439 (d)(1)(A)(i); 24 CFR 791.402
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383 as amended, 42 USC §§ 5302(a)(6)(D)(iv), (a)(9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (20), and (b) and 5306(a), (b)(1), (2), and (3) and (d)(1); 24 CFR 1003.101
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC § 12705(b)(1)-(3); 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR 91.205(a)-(c)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, section 1338, 12 USC § 4568
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)

Vehicles Available

Vehicles available asked since 1960.

A QUESTION ABOUT THE VEHICLES AVAILABLE TO EACH HOUSEHOLD IS USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT VEHICLE ACCESS.

Vehicle data are used in planning and funding for improvements to road and highway infrastructure, developing transportation plans and services, and understanding how people are traveling in the course of a normal day. These data are also used to evaluate pollution and access to transportation in emergencies.

VEHICLE AVAILABILITY DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Improve Transportation

Knowing how many households have access to vehicles, in combination with where people commute to and from, and whether they commute with a personal vehicle helps transportation planners create mass transportation and metropolitan plans that are compliant with various regulations.

Local agencies and organizations use these data to plan programs and services for the disabled population, bicycle commuters, carpool and ride-sharers, and many other groups; and to predict future use of new or updated transportation systems based on their understanding of the current users of various transportation options.

Understand Changes in Vehicle Use

Understanding vehicle availability and use helps communities understand exposure to air pollution and plan programs to help people without vehicles move about the community. Knowing whether people could evacuate using their personal vehicles in an emergency also helps communities plan emergency response.

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Selected Statutory Uses of Vehicles Available Data

U.S. Department of Energy	Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486, 42 USC § 13385
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 USC § 1973 et seq.; 28 CFR Part 51; LULAC v. Perry, 548 U.S. 399 (2006); Johnson v. DeGrandy, 512 U.S. 997 (1994); Thornburg v. Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986)
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC § 5303; 49 CFR Part 613
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, 49 USC § 5304; 49 CFR Part 613, Subpart B
U.S. Department of Transportation	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, 49 USC § 5303(c), (e), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n)
U.S. Department of Transportation	49 USC §§ 6302(b)(3)(B), 6303(c), 6304(a), and 6309(a)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Air Pollution Control Act (Clean Air Act), Public Law 84-159, 42 USC § 7403(a)(2), (b)(1), and (b)(6)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Air Pollution Control Act (Clean Air Act), Public Law 84-159, 42 USC § 7403(a)(1), (b)(6), (b)(7), (e), and (g)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254 (a)(2), (b)(6), and (s)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o) (1)

Veteran Status, Period of Service, and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Service-Connected Disability Rating

Veteran status asked since 1890,¹ period of military service asked since 1890, VA service-connected disability rating asked since 2008.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S MILITARY SERVICE AND SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING ARE USED TO CREATE ESTIMATES OF VETERANS AND THEIR NEEDS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.

Data about veterans are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for veterans and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of veterans. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination in society. Though the VA maintains veterans' records, these statistics do not provide federal program planners, policymakers, and researchers with additional statistics about all veterans, regardless of whether they use VA services.

VETERAN STATUS, PERIOD OF SERVICE, AND VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Administer Programs for Veterans

Knowing the numbers and characteristics of veterans eligible for federal programs benefiting veterans, such as the VA Home Loan Guarantee program, the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and job training and hiring preference programs can help communities and the federal government estimate the future demand for these programs and services. These data are also used to evaluate these programs to determine whether they are benefiting veterans as intended.

Provide Health Care for Veterans

Knowing the number of veterans eligible to use VA health care in combination with age, disability, and service-connected disability ratings, can help communities and the federal government estimate the future demand for health care services and facilities. Communities in need of major VA medical facilities throughout the country make a case for new construction projects using these data to estimate the expected usage of new facilities.

Plan End-of-Life Options for Veterans

Knowing where veterans are living toward the end of their lives is important, as the VA estimates the number of nursing home and domiciliary beds needed based on the concentrations of eligible veterans over age 65. These data are also important for the VA National Cemetery Administration, whose goal is to have a VA burial option within 75 miles of a veteran's residence. These data are used to plan construction of new cemeteries near the communities where veterans choose to live.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the veteran and service-connected disability rating status of people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, employment, and education, helps government and communities enforce against discrimination based on veteran or disability status.

Understand New Challenges for Veterans

Knowing more about the characteristics of veterans returning to civilian life is also important to combat specific problems they may face. For example, these data are used in research to understand why veteran status is a predictor of homelessness. Such data have been combined with administrative data produced by shelters in an attempt to understand and document which interventions reduce homelessness among veterans.

¹ Veteran status and period of service were not asked in 1920.

Work Status Last Year

Work status last year asked since 1880.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MANY WEEKS A PERSON WORKED IN THE LAST YEAR, AND HOW MANY HOURS HE OR SHE WORKED EACH WEEK ARE USED TO PRODUCE STATISTICS ABOUT FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS, AS WELL AS YEAR-ROUND AND SEASONAL WORKERS.

Data on work status last year are used in planning and funding government programs that provide unemployment assistance and services, and to understand trends and difference in wages, benefits, work hours, and seasonal work. These data are also used to evaluate other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all groups, and to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

WORK STATUS LAST YEAR DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Employment Opportunities

Knowing whether programs designed to employ specific groups, such as people with disabilities or veterans, are succeeding is important to employers, federal agencies, and federal government contractors (Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

State and local agencies use these statistics to identify labor surplus areas (areas with people available for hiring and training), plan workforce development programs including job fairs and training programs, and promote business opportunities.

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing more about people who are employed or looking for work, in combination with age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, disability status, veteran status, and other data, helps governments and communities enforce laws, policies, and regulations against discrimination in employment. For example, data on work status last year are used to enforce laws against discrimination in employment by federal agencies, private employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Understand Changes

Knowing the characteristics of people who are working or looking for work is an important part of estimating changes in the economy. Estimates of work status last year are used in funding decisions; to ensure surveys are accurate, including surveys that provide official labor market estimates; and to understand change in other data (Wagner-Peyser Act and Workforce Investment Act).

Selected Statutory Uses of Work Status Last Year Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living	Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402, Section 124(c)(5), 42 USC § 15024
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 105-285, 42 USC § 9902 (2), 9903, and 9908 (b)(1)(A), (b)(11), and (c)(1)(A)(i)
U.S. Department of Labor	Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Public Law 105-220; 20 CFR 668.296(b) and 668.440
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations	The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, 29 USC § 791(b); 29 CFR 1614.602
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Research, Information, and Planning	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 42 USC § 2000e-2(k)(1)(A); Hazelwood v. United States, 433 U.S. 299 (1977)

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Year Built and Year Moved In

Year built asked since 1940, year moved in asked since 1960.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHEN A BUILDING WAS BUILT AND WHEN A PERSON MOVED INTO THAT HOME ARE USED TO CREATE DATA ABOUT HOUSING AGE AND AVAILABILITY.

These data are used in government programs that analyze whether adequate housing is available and affordable for residents, provide and fund housing assistance programs, and measure neighborhood stability.

YEAR BUILT AND YEAR MOVED IN DATA HELP COMMUNITIES:

Provide Adequate Housing

Knowing the ages of housing in a community helps communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents.

When housing is not sufficient or older than a certain age, housing data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them (such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), and can help communities qualify for grants from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS, and other programs.

Plan Community Development

Knowing how the balance of different ages of homes in combination with whether they are occupied or vacant, can help communities identify opportunities to improve tax, assistance, and zoning policies and to reduce tax revenue losses from vacant or abandoned properties. These data may also be useful in identifying older structures in disaster-prone areas during emergency planning and preparation.

Knowing more about the age of the housing stock in combination with the financial situation of residents, including income, employment, and housing costs, can help communities qualify for loan and grant programs designed to stimulate economic recovery, improve housing, run job-training programs, and define areas as empowerment or enterprise zones.

Selected Statutory Uses of Year Built and Year Moved In Data

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC § 8629(a) and (b)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families	42 USC §§ 8623(a)(2) and (4), 8629 (a)(1)–(3) and (6); 42 USC 8629(b)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 93-383, as amended, 42 USC § 1437f(c)(1); 24 CFR 888.113; 24 CFR 982.401
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93–383, as amended, 42 USC § 1439 (d)(1)(A)(i); 24 CFR 791.402
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383 as amended, 42 USC § 5302(a)(6)(D)(iv), (a) (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (20), and (b); 42 USC § 5306(a), (b)(1), (2), and (3) and (d)(1); 24 CFR 1003.101
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC 12705(b)(1)–(3); 24 CFR Part 91; 24 CFR 91.205(a)–(c)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Tax Reform Act of 1986, Public Law 99-514, 26 USC § 42(b)(5)(B)(ii)(I), (iii)(I), (iv), and (g); 15 U.S.C § 631
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Public Law 101-625, 42 USC § 12747(b)(1)(A) and (B); 24 CFR 92.50(a),(b), and (c)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Public Law 92-500, 33 USC § 1254(a)(1)–(2), (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7), (n)(1), and (o)(1)

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Proposed Subjects for the American Community Survey

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Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Potential topic for 2019 ACS/2020 Census

Some subjects are currently being evaluated to determine whether they produce data required by federal agencies. Whether these questions appear on the 2020 Census or the American Community Survey will depend on the strength of the federal uses of the resulting data, and a final determination by the Office of Management and Budget.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S SEX AT BIRTH, CURRENT GENDER IDENTITY, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION COULD BE USED TO CREATE STATISTICS ABOUT THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER POPULATION.

Sexual orientation and gender identity questions are being evaluated and may be proposed to aid in planning and funding government programs and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all people. These statistics could also be used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in society.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY DATA WOULD HELP COMMUNITIES:

Ensure Equal Opportunity

Knowing the sexual orientation and gender identity of people in the community in combination with information about housing, voting, language, employment, and education, helps federal, state, and local governments and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Understand Changes

Knowing whether people of different sexual orientations and gender identities have the same opportunities in education, employment, voting, home ownership, and many other areas is of interest to researchers, advocacy groups, and policymakers.

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Appendix
Year Current Subjects Planned First Asked in
Decennial Census Program

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Year Current Subjects Planned First Asked in Decennial Program

Subjects Planned for 2020 Census and/or ACS	Year Subject First Asked in Decennial Census or ACS	Years Not Asked
Acreage	1960	
Age	1790	
Agricultural Sales	1960	
Ancestry	1980	
Bedrooms	1960	
Citizenship	1820	1840-1860, 1880
Class of Worker	1910	
Commuting (Journey to Work)	1960	
Computer and Internet Use	2013	
Condominium and Mobile Home Fees	1990	
Cost of Utilities	1940	
Disability	1830	
Educational Attainment	1940	
Ethnicity	1970	
Fertility	1890	
Gender	1790	
Grandparent Caregivers	2000	
Health Insurance	2008	
Home Heating Fuel	1940	
Home Value	1940	
Income	1940	
Industry	1820	1830, 1850-1900
Insurance	1980	
Kitchen Facilities	1940	
Labor Force Status	1890	
Language Spoken at Home	1890	
Marital History	1850	
Marital Status	1880	
Migration (Previous Residence)/Residence 1 Year Ago	1930	
Mortgages	1940	
Occupation	1850	
Period of Military Service	1890	1920
Place of Birth	1850	
Plumbing Facilities	1940	
Race	1790	
Relationship	1880	
Rent	1940	
Rooms	1940	
School Enrollment	1850	
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity	Proposed	

Year Current Subjects Planned First Asked in Decennial Program—Con.

Subjects Planned for 2020 Census and/or ACS	Year Subject First Asked in Decennial Census or ACS	Years Not Asked
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/ Food Stamps	2005	
Taxes	1940	1950-70
Telephone Service	1960	
Tenure (Owner/Renter)	1890	
Undergraduate Field of Degree	2009	
Units in Structure	1940	
VA Service-Connected Disability Rating	2008	
Veteran Status	1890	1920
Work Status Last Year	1880	
Year Built	1940	
Year Moved In	1960	
Year of Entry	1890	1940-1960

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