How the American Community Survey Works for Your Community

About 1 in 38 U.S. households per year receives an invitation to participate in the American Community Survey (ACS).

Individuals can complete the questionnaire for their household either online or on a paper form.

Those who don't complete the survey receive a call or personal visit from Census staff.

The Census Bureau publishes statistics as reports, tables, and other products through its Web sites, American FactFinder, and QuickFacts.

Government agencies use these statistics to help with decision-making and to allocate over $400 billion each year back to your community.

Civic & academic institutions, and businesses use the ACS for a variety of purposes.

The ACS is an official Census Bureau survey that is part of the Decennial Census Program. It is sent to a small percentage of U.S. households monthly.