THE ACS IS ESSENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING

State, local, and regional planners use ACS data for decision making

- Forecasting population and housing needs
- Building new transit lines, schools, hospitals, and roads
- Prioritizing projects for funding under Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Ensuring projects meet environmental justice and social equity goals
- Conducting program and project evaluation

The Census Project provides this report on the origins of the American Community Survey (ACS) from the outdated census “long form”. It provides detailed examples of how the ACS provides robust, accurate data critical for the government, businesses, and non-profits to make informed decision. It follows this discussion with an analysis of current limitations of the survey and recommendations to improve the quality, timeliness, and completeness of the data.

Learn How America’s Vital Data is At Risk
Federal, state, and local agencies use ACS data to inform polices and programs

- Identifying needs of veterans at the community level
- Helping communities administer programs and estimate future demand
- Estimating future demand for health care services and VA medical facilities
- Planning how to meet the education, employment, and long-term care needs of veterans and their families
Our health care system depends on the ACS

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Health officials and planners use ACS to inform health care policies and programs

- ACS disability data are used to plan and fund programs for people with disabilities
- Targeting uninsured populations with outreach and enrollment efforts
- Communities use disability status, income, and health insurance status to identify and enroll families in beneficial programs such as CHIP
- Identifying language needs of Medicare beneficiaries by race and ethnicity

Learn How America’s Vital Data is At Risk
ACS DATA PREPARE FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

ACS data aid response to disasters and other emergencies

- Help federal, state, and local officials coordinate evacuations
- Conduct damage assessments
- Carry out recovery plans

ACS data have been essential for understanding and responding to COVID-19

- Community Resilience Estimates
- COVID-19 Data Hub

COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on African Americans

African American share of state/city populations and COVID-19 deaths (as of April 6, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Share of state/city's population</th>
<th>Share of COVID-19 deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Census, respective state/city health departments

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OUR DEMOCRACY RELIES ON ACS DATA

Members of Congress use ACS data to
- Learn about their districts
- Conduct legislative research

Federal agencies rely on ACS data to
- Protect people from employment discrimination
- Provide fair access to affordable housing

ACS data help ensure fair political representation
- Citizen Voting Age Population data for redistricting
- Compliance with Voting Rights Act bilingual ballot requirements

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