



ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION CENTERS POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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U.S. Census Bureau

- The Census Bureau is the premiere source of information about the American people and the economy. The Bureau accomplishes its mission by collecting, tabulating and disseminating relevant and quality information in a timely manner. The Census Bureau also publishes numerous reports and produces statistical compendia, catalogues, guides, and directories to provide critical information to Congress, the Executive branch and the public. The Bureau is best known for conducting decennial censuses; however, the Census Bureau also conducts numerous surveys measuring changes in individual and household demographic and economic conditions of the nation.
- To fulfill constitutional and legal mandates, the Census Bureau continues to reengineer the Census to collect basic demographic data. One of the most ambitious programs developed by the Bureau is the American Community Survey (ACS) – an innovative effort to improve the timeliness of data traditionally collected on the long form of the Decennial Census of Population. The questions on the ACS questionnaire are essentially the same as those that have been asked as part of the decennial census. It is simply a change to collecting and updating the data annually, instead of once every 10 years as the Decennial Census. The Census Bureau began releasing annual data for all areas of 65,000 or more in 2006. For smaller areas, it will take three to five years to accumulate a large enough sample to produce data for areas as small as census tracts. In 2008 the Bureau will release the first three-year averages every year for these areas, followed by the five-year averages in 2010. The Census Bureau also sponsors the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).
- The Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittees in the House of Representatives and Senate have jurisdiction for funding the Census Bureau. In Fiscal Year 2007, Congress appropriated \$893 million for the Bureau. For Fiscal Year 2008, the Administration requested \$1.2 billion to support the Census. The increase reflects the cost of preparation for the Decennial Census.
- The PAA and APC support the Bureau's efforts to improve the quality, accuracy, timeliness, and availability of data that are appropriately collected and disseminated. PAA and APC are members of The Census Project, www.thecensusproject.org, a collaboration of Census stakeholders.
- For additional information about the U.S. Census Bureau, go to <http://www.census.gov/>.

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