

## Guide for Using Census Bureau Resources

The Census Bureau provides a number of data products. Two of the most commonly used are the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey.

The Decennial Census is useful because it presents detailed information about the District of Columbia (using census tracts, block groups and blocks and more). Topics covered include demographic, economic, social, and housing data. It covers ten year intervals with the most recent conducted in 2000, 1990 and 1980.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is useful because it provides more current information. The ACS has data as recent as 2004 covering a range of social, economic, housing and demographic issues. The limitation of the ACS is that it currently only presents data for the entire City.

### Guide for Using the Decennial Census

- Get on the internet and go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).



- In the left column of your screen, click on **American FactFinder:**
- To learn more about the Decennial Census such as its purpose and coverage, click the “learn more” link under Decennial Census in the “Getting Detailed Data” box.

#### Getting Detailed Data

**Decennial Census** - taken every 10 years to collect information about the people and housing of the United States

[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

See the [Count Question Resolution Program](#) for information on Census 2000 count corrections.

**American Community Survey** - an ongoing survey that provides data about your community every year

[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

**Population Estimates Program** - population numbers between censuses

[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

**Economic Census** - profiles the U.S. economy every 5 years

[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

**Annual Economic Surveys** - data from the Annual Survey of Manufactures and Nonemployer Statistics

[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

- Click on the “get data” link to reach the screen below. You will see the option to select from several files from either 2000 or 1990. Each file is described and contains specific information and data types. The file you should choose depends on your particular needs. For this guide, choose the 2000 Summary File 3 (SF-3) and click the “Quick Tables” link on the right side of the screen.

2000

**Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data**

Summary File 1 presents counts and information [age, sex, race, Hispanic/Latino origin, household relationship, whether residence is owned or rented] collected from all people and housing units.

**Census 2000 Summary File 2 (SF 2) 100-Percent Data**

Population and housing characteristics iterated for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

[SF 2 Thresholds](#)

**Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data**

Summary File 3 presents detailed population and housing data (such as place of birth, education, employment status, income, value of housing unit, year structure built) collected from a 1-in-6 sample and weighted to represent the total population.

[Comparing SF 3 Estimates with Corresponding Values in SF 1 and SF 2](#)

Select from the following:

[Detailed Tables](#)  
[Geographic Comparison Tables](#)  
[Quick Tables](#)  
[Thematic Maps](#)  
[Reference Maps](#)  
[Custom Table](#)

**Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF 4) - Sample Data**

Summary File 4 contains tabulations of population and housing data collected from a sample of the population. The data are shown down to the census tract level for 336 race, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native, and ancestry categories.

[SF 4 Thresholds](#)

[Enter a table number](#)  
[List all tables](#)  
[List all maps](#)  
[About this data set](#)  
[Technical Documentation \(PDF\)](#)

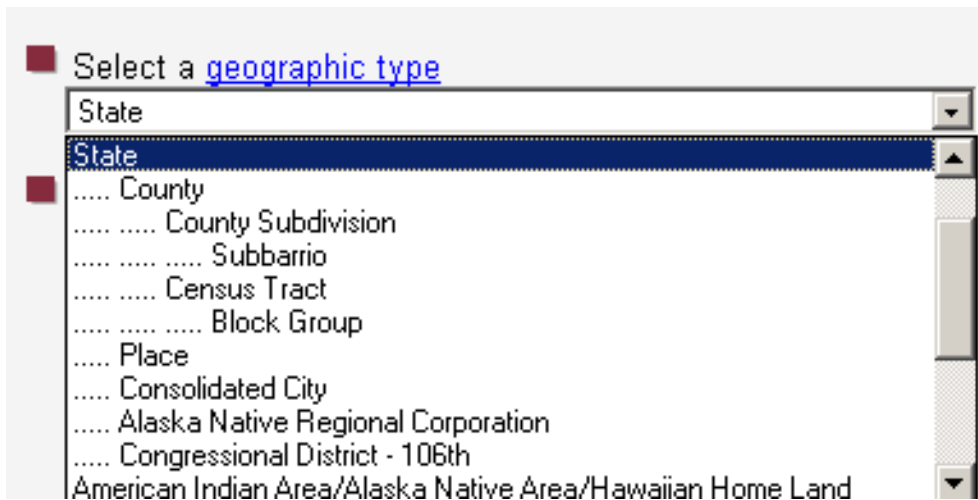
**Census 2000 American Indian and Alaska Native Summary File (AIANSF) - Sample Data**

The American Indian and Alaska Native Summary File contains tabulations of population and housing data collected from a sample of the population. The data are shown for the U.S., regions, divisions, states, and selected metropolitan areas for many specified American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

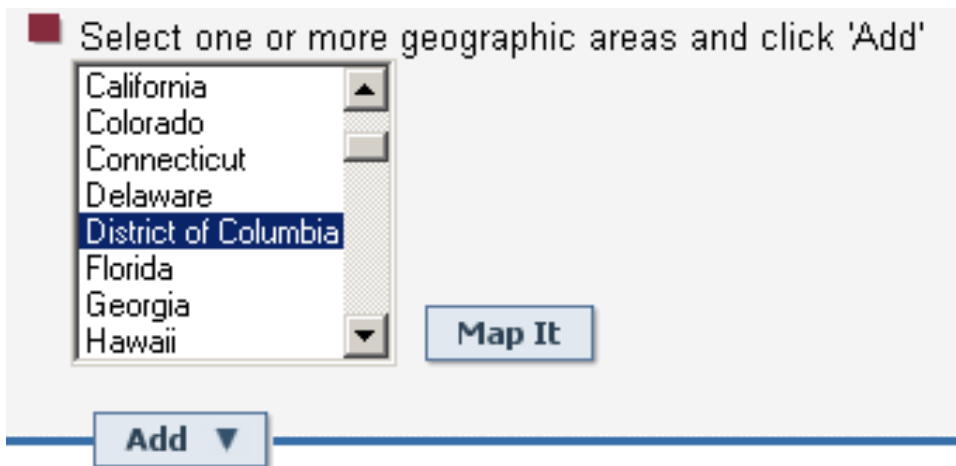
**109th Congressional District Summary File (Sample)**

Data from the Census 2000 Summary File 3 have been retabulated for the newly drawn 109th Congressional District boundaries.

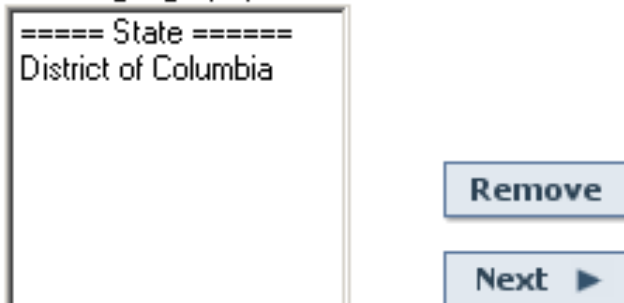
- After selecting “Quick Tables”, on the screen that appears next click on the drop-down arrow under “Select a geographic type” and choose the state level. (The District of Columbia is included as a state.)



- The 50 states and DC will appear as options in the box below. Scroll down and select District of Columbia, then click the box labeled “Add.”



Current geography selections:



- “District of Columbia” will appear in the box labeled “current geography selections. Click on the button labeled “Next.”
- This will give you a list of all of the tables available in the SF-3 file for the District of Columbia. Choose a table and click the “Add” button. Once the table name appears in the box labeled “Current table selections” click the “Show result” button.

■ Choose a table selection method

by subject   by keyword   **show all tables**

■ Select one or more tables and click 'Add'

QT-P14. Nativity, Citizenship, Year of Entry, and Region of Birth: 2000
QT-P15. Region and Country or Area of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: 2000
<b>QT-P16. Language Spoken at Home: 2000</b>
QT-P17. Ability to Speak English: 2000
QT-P18. Marital Status by Sex, Unmarried-Partner Households, and Grandparents as Caregivers: 2000
QT-P19. School Enrollment: 2000
QT-P20. Educational Attainment by Sex: 2000
QT-P21. Disability Status by Sex: 2000
QT-P22. Place of Birth and Residence in 1995: 2000
QT-P23. Journey to Work: 2000

[What's this?](#)

**Add** ▼

Current table selections:

QT-P16. Language Spoken at Home: 2000
---------------------------------------

[Remove](#)

[Show Result ▶](#)

- The next page will include the table you have selected, in this example Language Spoken at Home in the District of Columbia.

Language	Number	Percent
<b>Population 5 years and over</b>	<b>539,658</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Speak only English	449,241	83.2
Speak a language other than English	90,417	16.8
<b>Speak a language other than English</b>	<b>90,417</b>	<b>16.8</b>
Spanish or Spanish Creole	49,461	9.2
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	9,085	1.7
French Creole	598	0.1
Italian	1,723	0.3
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	1,013	0.2
German	2,695	0.5
Yiddish	117	0.0
Other West Germanic languages	454	0.1
Scandinavian languages	637	0.1
Greek	791	0.1
Russian	1,110	0.2
Polish	371	0.1
Serbo-Croatian	781	0.1
Other Slavic languages	896	0.2
Armenian	87	0.0
Persian	585	0.1
Gujarathi	179	0.0
Hindi	477	0.1
Urdu	605	0.1
Other Indic languages	549	0.1
Other Indo-European languages	968	0.2
Chinese	2,913	0.5
Japanese	926	0.2
Korean	709	0.1
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	31	0.0
Miao, Hmong	0	0.0
Thai	233	0.0
Unspecified	65	0.0

- This is one of the many tables available from the Decennial Census. Tables are available for other geographies including county, census tract, and census block groups.

- You can produce a table of census tracts in the District of Columbia by returning to the geography page and adding all of the census tracts in DC and clicking "Show Result." From here, you will once again choose a table.

■ Choose a selection method

[list](#) | [name search](#) | [address search](#) | [map](#) | [geo within geo](#)

[Show all geography types](#) | [i Explain Census Geography](#)

■ Select a [geographic type](#)

..... Census Tract

■ Select a state

District of Columbia

■ Select a county

District of Columbia

■ Select one or more geographic areas and click 'Add'

All Census Tracts

Census Tract 1

Census Tract 2.01

Census Tract 2.02

Census Tract 3

Census Tract 4

Census Tract 5.01

Census Tract 5.02

Map It

Add

Current geography selections:

==== Census Tract =====

Census Tract 1, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Census Tract 2.01, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Census Tract 2.02, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Census Tract 3, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Census Tract 4, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Census Tract 5.01, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Census Tract 5.02, District of Columbia, District of Columbia

Remove

Show Result

- You have the option of selecting multiple tables at once. You can also search for a table by subject or a keyword by clicking the tabs to the left of the “show all tables” tab.

■ Choose a table selection method

by subject   by keyword   **show all tables**

---

■ Select one or more tables and click 'Add'

QT-H13. Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in 1999: 2000	▲
QT-H14. Value, Mortgage Status, and Selected Conditions: 2000	
QT-H15. Mortgage Status and Selected Monthly Owner Costs: 2000	
QT-H16. Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1999: 2000	
<b>QT-P13. Ancestry: 2000</b>	
QT-P14. Nativity, Citizenship, Year of Entry, and Region of Birth: 2000	
QT-P15. Region and Country or Area of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: 2000	
QT-P16. Language Spoken at Home: 2000	
QT-P17. Ability to Speak English: 2000	
QT-P18. Marital Status by Sex, Unmarried-Partner Households, and Grandparents as Caregivers: 2000	▼

[What's this?](#)

**Add ▼**

Current table selections:

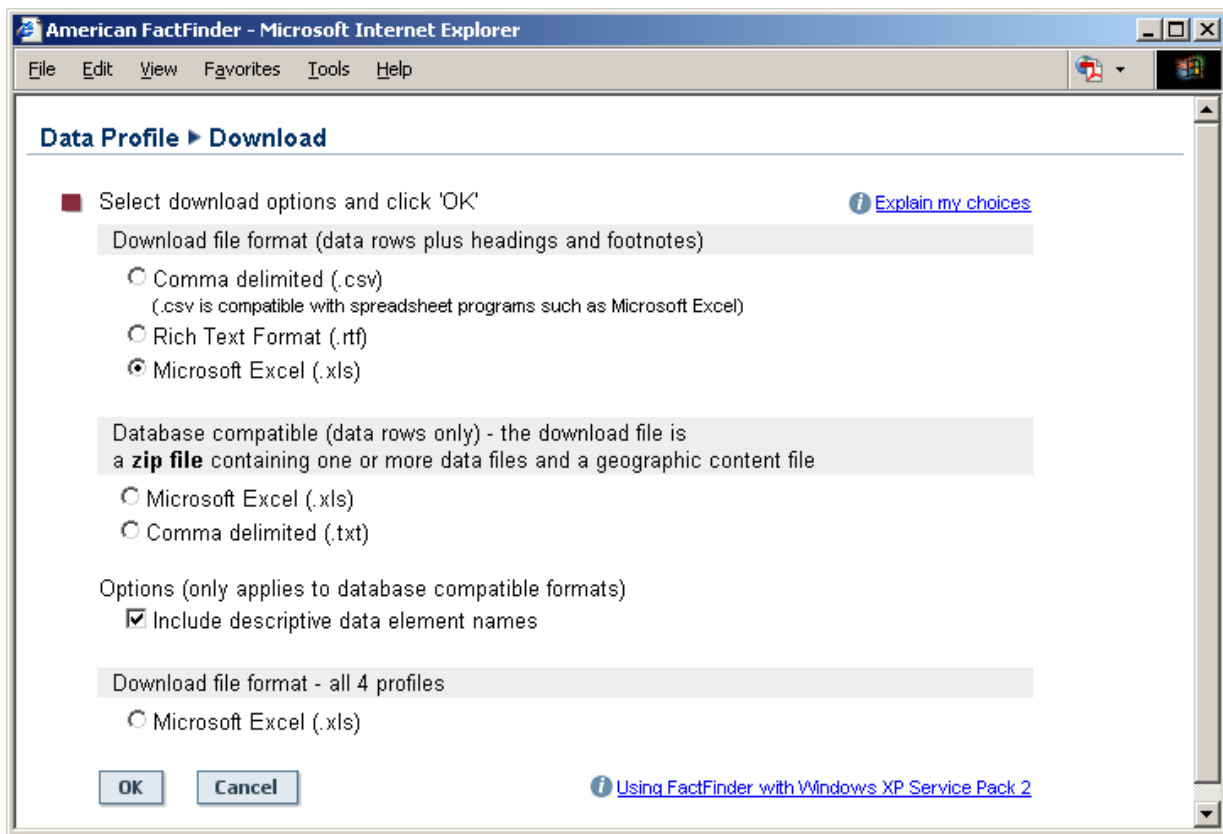
QT-P17. Ability to Speak English: 2000
QT-P16. Language Spoken at Home: 2000
QT-P13. Ancestry: 2000

[Remove](#)

[Show Result ▶](#)

- The “Quick Tables” option used here is the fastest and easiest way of getting data from the 2000 census. However, it is helpful to explore throughout the Decennial Census page. Many options exist through different files, geographies, and types of tables that you can use.

- You can either print the table or save it to your desktop from the “Print/Download” box above the table. When downloading the data, you are given options of saving your file in different file formats. Choosing Microsoft Excel (.xls) downloads a file to your computer that you can open with Excel.





## Guide for using the Census Bureau's American Community Survey

- Get on the internet and go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).



- In the left column of your screen, click on **American FactFinder:**
- To learn more about the American Community Survey such as its purpose and coverage, click the "learn more" link under American Community Survey in the "Getting Detailed Data" box.

### Getting Detailed Data

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[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

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[learn more](#) | [get data](#)

- Click on the "get data". You will see the options to select different years of the American Community Survey from 2000 to 2004. Select the 2004 ACS.

- Click the “Data Profiles” link on the right side of the screen.

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website interface. At the top, the browser title is "United States - Data Sets - American FactFinder - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?\\_program=AC5&\\_submenuId=datasets\\_2&\\_lang=en&\\_ts=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=AC5&_submenuId=datasets_2&_lang=en&_ts=)

The page header includes the U.S. Census Bureau logo and the "American FactFinder" search bar. A navigation menu contains links for Main, Search, Feedback, FAQs, Glossary, Site Map, and Help.

On the left side, there is a vertical menu with categories such as POPULATION FINDER, FACT SHEET, PEOPLE, HOUSING, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT, ABOUT THE DATA, DATA SETS, DOWNLOAD CENTER, MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY, and TOOLS AND REFERENCES. The "DATA SETS" section is expanded to show "AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY".

The main content area features a description of the American Community Survey: "The American Community Survey is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. It will replace the long form in future censuses and is a critical element in the Census Bureau's reengineered 2010 census plan. [more...](#)"

Below the description, there are links for "Notes on errata" and "Other Resources". The "Other Resources" section includes links to the American Community Survey Main Page, Quality Measures, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) - download data and view documentation, Download Center, and Download 1996-1999 data via FTP.

The "2004" section is selected, showing the "2004 American Community Survey" data products. It includes a description: "The 2004 data products include estimates of demographic and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units (both occupied and vacant) for every state in the Nation, most areas with a population of 250,000 or more, and selected areas of 65,000 or more." Below this description are links for "2004 Quick Guide" and "Important Notes About Using the Data".

To the right of the 2004 section, there is a list of links under the heading "Select from the following:": Data Profiles, Multi-Year Profiles, Selected Population Profiles, Ranking Tables, Subject Tables, Detailed Tables, Thematic Maps, Reference Maps, Custom Table, Enter a table number, List all tables, List all maps, and Download PUMS data.

The "2003" section is also visible, showing the "2003 American Community Survey" data products. It includes a description: "The 2003 Summary Tables include estimates of demographic and economic characteristics of people, households and housing units for every state in the Nation, most areas with a population of 250,000 or more, and selected areas of 65,000 or more. The tables include housing units, both occupied and vacant."

- Click on the drop-down arrow under “Select a geographic type” and choose the state level. (The District of Columbia is included as a state.)

■ Select a [geographic type](#)

Nation

State

..... County

..... County Subdivision

..... Place

..... Congressional District - 109th

..... American Community Survey Test Site

Metropolitan Statistical Area/Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area

..... Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area

Show Result ▶

- The 50 states and DC will appear as options in the box below. Scroll down and select District of Columbia, then click the box labeled “Show Result.”

■ Select a geographic area and click 'Show Result'

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho

**Note:** not all areas of the U.S. are available. [more »](#)

Map It

Show Result ▶

- This will take you to a table of the 2004 ACS General Demographic Characteristics for the District of Columbia.

American Community Survey - Data Profile

You are here: [Main](#) > [Data Sets](#) > [Geography](#) > [Results](#)

[Print / Download](#) | [Related Items](#)

2004 Data Profiles:

Demographic

- [Social](#)
- [Economic](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Narrative](#)

2004 Multi-Year Profile

[Change geography \(state, county, place...\)](#)

- [Subject Definitions](#)
- [Quality Measures](#)



District of Columbia

General Demographic Characteristics: 2004 ?

Data Set: 2004 American Community Survey

- Demographic** - Sex and Age, Race, Relationship, Household by Type
- Social** - Education, Marital Status, Fertility, Grandparents...
- Economic** - Income, Employment, Occupation, Commuting to Work...
- Housing** - Occupancy and Structure, Housing Value and Costs, Utilities...
- Narrative** - Text profile with graphs for easy analysis...

NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

General Demographic Characteristics: 2004	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
<b>Total population</b>	<b>518,074</b>	*****	*****
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			
Male	243,267	242,632	243,902
Female	274,807	274,172	275,442
Under 5 years	34,806	34,650	34,962
5 to 9 years	29,130	27,108	31,152
10 to 14 years	29,496	27,455	31,537
15 to 19 years	17,382	16,603	18,161
20 to 24 years	34,901	34,110	35,692
25 to 34 years	105,763	105,488	106,038
35 to 44 years	79,128	78,151	80,105
45 to 54 years	70,417	69,456	71,378
55 to 59 years	29,403	27,706	31,100
60 to 64 years	24,778	23,074	26,482
65 to 74 years	33,200	32,789	33,611
75 to 84 years	22,554	21,603	23,505

- You can select from the links above the table to access data types other than demographic.
- Click the [2004 Multi-Year Profile](#) link on the left of the screen to see combined data from the previous American Community Surveys.
- The [Change geography \(state, county, place...\)](#) link on the left takes you back to the geography menu where you can select a different state or a different level such as a county or a metropolitan area to view. For example, if you want to view Fairfax County, VA, select "county" as your geographic type and Virginia as the state.

- You can either print the table or save it to your desktop from the “Print/Download” box above the table. When downloading the data, you are given options of saving your file in different file formats. Choosing Microsoft Excel (.xls) downloads a file to your computer that you can open with Excel.

