Source: United States Census Bureau

The US Census Bureau is a bureau of the US Department of Commerce. The major functions of the Census Bureau are authorized by Article 2, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, which provides that a census of population shall be taken every 10 years, and by Title 13 and Title 26 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations.
The Census Bureau is responsible for numerous statistical programs, including census and surveys of households, governments, manufacturing and industries, and for US foreign trade statistics. The first US census was conducted in 1790 for the purposes of apportioning state representation in the US House of Representatives and for the apportionment of taxes.

Dataset: B17012. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families by Household Type by Number of Related Children Under 18 Years from the American Community Survey Summary File: 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015 Database

Presents an estimate of the numbers of families in the United States, segmented by whether family income was above or below poverty level in the 12 months prior to when the survey was completed and by family type and by number of related children under age 18 in the household. Estimates are reported for specified geographic areas. A family consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. Related children of the householder include ever-married as well as never-married children, and exclude those who maintain households or are spouses or unmarried partners of householders. Family types include married-couple families, ie, families in which the householder and his or her spouse are listed as members of the same household; and other families, ie, families with either a male or female householder and no spouse of householder present. Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same-sex couple households are included in the family household category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption.

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Category: Population and Income

Subject Terms: Poverty Rates  Family Income  Poverty  Household Size  Family Relationships  Population Size  Families  Children

Update Frequency: Annual

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The American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the US Census Bureau provides estimates of the characteristics of the population over a specific time period. The ACS collects data from the 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. It is a continuous survey, in which each month a sample of housing unit addresses receives a questionnaire, with approximately three million addresses surveyed each year. Each year the survey produces data pooled to produce 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates for geographic areas in the US and Puerto Rico, ranging from neighborhoods to congressional districts to the entire nation. Data for each release of the 5-year estimates were collected over a 5-year period ending December 31 of the reference year (eg, data in the 2012 5-year estimates were collected January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2012). The statistics reported represent the characteristics of the population for the entire period vs a specific year within that period. The 5-year estimates are published for areas with populations of all sizes and are the most reliable and precise of the ACS period estimates as well as the most comprehensive, albeit the least current. (The 1-year and 3-year estimates provide data on areas with populations of 65,000+ and 20,000+, respectively). The ACS estimates provide information about the social and economic needs of communities and are used to help determine how more than $400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. It is conducted under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193. Note that counts of the population are provided by the Census of Population and Housing conducted by the US Census Bureau every 10 years; and official estimates of the population are derived from the previous census and from the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program.

Base tables designated with a “B.” provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies. (The Census Bureau also publishes "C" tables for some base tables in which two or more lines from the "B" table have been collapsed to a single line.) Certain of the tables are repeated by nine race and/or Hispanic or Latino groups, identified by the Census Bureau with a suffix (A-I) that pertains to a specific race/ethnic group. For detailed information on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, statistical testing, and sampling methodology and error, please see the technical documentation. Selected earnings and income data are not available for certain geographic areas due to problems with group quarters data collection and imputation. Imputation details and tables may be found on the Census Bureau website (see the Technical Documentation). Note that statistics presented as dollars refer to inflation-adjusted dollars of the survey release year. Also, beginning with 2013 ACS data products, tables reflect edit/processing changes that show same-sex married couples along with all married couples. Tables that have a line for "married couples" will include same-sex married couples, unless otherwise noted, and the marital status for those adults will be shown as "now married" or "married, spouse present." Also see About the ACS 5-Year Estimates at http://data-planet.libguides.com/ACS.

Technical Documentation

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