**Survey Description (Modified from:** <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/chapter2/chapter2.shtml#ACS> **)**

The American Community Survey is a monthly rolling sample of households designed to replace the Census long form. Nationally-representative ACS data have been available each year since 2000.

The ACS sample includes about 3 million households nationwide. About 1 percent of the national “group quarters” population are also included in the 2006-onward ACS samples. The public use sample of the ACS is extracted from the Census Bureau's larger internal data files and are thus subject to additional sampling error and further data processing (such as imputation and allocation).

**The sampling unit is the household and all persons residing in the househol**d. To protect individual confidentiality, geographic identifiers are restricted to areas with population over 100,000, and individual variables, such as income and housing values, are top coded.

The **ACS sample design** approximates the Census 2000 long form sample design and oversamples areas with smaller populations. Each month a systematic sample is drawn to represent each U.S. county or county equivalent. The selected monthly sample is mailed the ACS survey at the beginning of the month. Nonrespondents are contacted via telephone for a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) one month later. One third of the nonrespondents to the mail or telephone survey are contacted in person for a computer assisted personal interview (CAPI) one month following the CATI attempt.

**Weights** included with the ACS PUMS for the household and person-level data adjust for the mixed geographic sampling rates, nonresponse adjustments, and individual sampling probabilities. **We have used these weights to create a representative national sample.** Estimates from the ACS sample may not be consistent with summary table ACS estimates due to the additional sampling error.

**Tips:**

* **Pay attention to who is in the subsample for your analysis!**

**Total sample sizes are:**

* + 50,000 households (to get 1 observation per household use if pernum==1)
  + 119,837 people *(this includes adults and children*!)