



Finding Disability Data at the Local Level from the American Community Survey (ACS)



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Introduction

The purpose of this report is help guide people through the process of retrieving local level disability data from US Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/>). These instructions should be helpful whether you need a quick introduction to how to find data, or whether you need step-by-step instructions. This document can also be used as a reference for steps to accomplish specific data retrieval.

In this document, you will find out about the disability data available from the US Census Bureau, the American Community Survey, and the American FactFinder website. You will also find guidance for whether to use 1, 3, or 5 year estimates for local data, how to find specific disability data tables, how to decipher the table numbering system, and how to create maps of data.

Disability Data from the Bureau of the Census

The Census Bureau collects the following data on the following schedules:

- [Population & Housing Census](#) - every 10 years
- [Economic Census](#) - every 5 years
- [Census of Governments](#) - every 5 years
- [American Community Survey](#) - annually
- [Other surveys](#) -- Demographic & Economic
- [Economic Indicators](#)

The Census Bureau collects **disability data** annually through the American Community Survey (ACS) which gives the most current estimates at any point in time. In this document, we will focus on the American Community Survey (ACS).

Where to Find Disability Data from the ACS: The American Fact Finder Web Site

American Fact Finder (AFF) is a web site used for distributing and accessing data collected by the Census Bureau about United States, Puerto Rico. Previously data was distributed in printed volumes. The following data are available on AFF:

- American Community Survey
- American Housing Survey
- Annual Economic Surveys
- Annual Surveys of Governments
- Census of Governments
- Decennial Census
- Economic Census
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation
- Population Estimates Program
- Puerto Rico Community Survey

The AFF can be accessed by going to <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

What is the American Community Survey (ACS)?

The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides data every year. The ACS survey sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis. Information generated from the survey results give communities the current information they need to plan investments and services and help determine how federal and state funds are distributed each year.

To help communities, state governments, and federal programs, the ACS asks about:

- age
- sex
- race
- family and relationships
- income and benefits
- health insurance
- education
- veteran status
- **disabilities**
- where you work and how you get there
- where you live and how much you pay for some essentials

Estimates from the ACS contribute to providing an important picture of America.

When to Use 1-Year, 3-Year or 5-Year Estimates

The ACS datasets are available as 1-year, 3-year or 5-year estimates. Which estimate you use depends on many factors such as population size of the area for which data is available, how accurate you want the data and how current you want the data to be.

The first 5 year ACS estimates (2005-2009) were released in 2010; however the questions relating to disability significantly changed in 2008. Therefore, the five year estimates for disability start with the 2008-2012 period. Because of the change in the disability definition, disability data starting in 2008 should not be compared with previous years' data.

Multiyear estimates and single year estimates have different statistical properties and it is important to understand these.

The ACS provides single-year estimates of demographic, housing, social, and economic characteristics for states and communities with at least 65,000 residents. Statistically, if the community has any less than 65,000 residents, these 1 year estimates are unreliable. Therefore, for areas with fewer residents, ACS combines individual years to provide more reliable 3 and 5 year estimates.

Depending on the population size of the geography you are interested in, you may have a choice of:

- 1, 3 and 5 year estimates (population of 65,000 and over)
- 3 and 5 year estimates only (population of 20, 000 to 64,999)
- 5 year estimate only (population of 1 to 19,999)

When searching for estimates, you will usually see 1, 3, and 5 year estimates. If your search turns up no 1 year estimate tables then this will be because the geographic area you are searching has **less than 65,000 residents**. You will need to use 3 year estimates, or if those are not available, 5 year estimates for the geographic area. For example the only ACS estimates available for Loving County, Texas (population approximately 90) will be 5 year estimates.

If the population size of the geography you are interested in is **65,000 and over**, you can choose any of the yearly estimates, however you need to be aware of the following when choosing which estimate to use:

- 1 year estimates are more current than 3 year estimates which in turn are more current than 5 year estimates.
- 5 year estimates are more accurate than 3 year estimates which in turn are more accurate than 1 year estimates.

Table 1 below summarizes the attributes of 1, 3, and 5 year estimates for reliability and currency of the estimate, along with a summary of the circumstances when each is best to use.

Table 1. Attributes of One, Three & Five Year Estimates

	1-year estimates	3-year estimates	5-year estimates
Populations of area for which data is available	65,000+	20,000+	Any
Sample size	Smallest	Larger than 1-year	Largest
Reliability of data	Least reliable	More reliable than 1-yr.; less reliable than 5-yr.	Most reliable
How current is the data?	Most current	Less current than 1- yr. estimates; more current than 5- yr.	Least current
Best used when	Currency is more important than precision Analyzing large populations	Needs for precision and currency are similar Analyzing smaller populations Examining smaller geographies (1- yr. estimates are not available)	Precision is more important than currency Analyzing very small populations Examining tracts and other smaller geographies (1- yr. estimates are not available)

When looking for trends by making comparisons between different yearly estimates be aware than trends may be difficult to discern in cases where the multiyear estimates overlap. For example if you are interested in a region for which the population is less than 20,000 only 5 year estimates are available, if you compare adjacent 5 year estimates such as 2008-2012 and 2009-2013 then you are unlikely to see much change as both estimates overlap by 4 years. The Census Bureau suggests not comparing periods that overlap, for example comparing 2008-12 with 2013-2017 which means having to wait longer to identify trends.

How Disability is Measured

A “disability” is defined as,

A long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

All major Bureau of Census surveys use this definition of disability.

In the 2008-2012 American Community Survey, disability concepts were asked in questions 17 through 19. Question 17 had two subparts and was asked of all persons regardless of age. Question 18 had three subparts and was asked of people age 5 years and older. Question 19 was asked of people age 15 years and older. The questions used to collect disability were:

17.a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?

Yes No

17.b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

Yes No

18.a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Yes No

18.b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

Yes No

18.c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

Yes No

19. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?

Yes No

(<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/questionnaires/2012/Quest12.pdf>, downloaded 6/24/14)

The Bureau of the Census describes how the disability estimates are derived from these questions in the following summaries:

*"Hearing difficulty was derived from question 17a... Vision difficulty was derived from question 17b... Cognitive difficulty was derived from question 18a... Ambulatory difficulty was derived from question 18b... Self-care difficulty was derived from question 18c... Independent living difficulty was derived from question 19. **Disability status** is determined from the answers from these six types of difficulty. For children under 5 years old, hearing and vision difficulty are used to determine disability status. For children between the ages of 5 and 14, disability status is determined from hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, and self-care difficulties. For people aged 15 years and older, they are considered to have a disability if they have difficulty with any one of the six difficulty types."*

(http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2012_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf, pg 55-56, downloaded 6/24/14).

How to Retrieve Disability Data From the ACS

To start a new search for disability data, go to the American Fact Finder home page:

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

The American Fact Finder provides two search methods for accessing data, a **guided search** and an **advanced search**. The *guided search* helps you narrow down your search by dataset, topic, geography etc. The *advanced search* allows you to search by keyword or table name in addition to narrowing your search down by dataset, topic, geography etc.

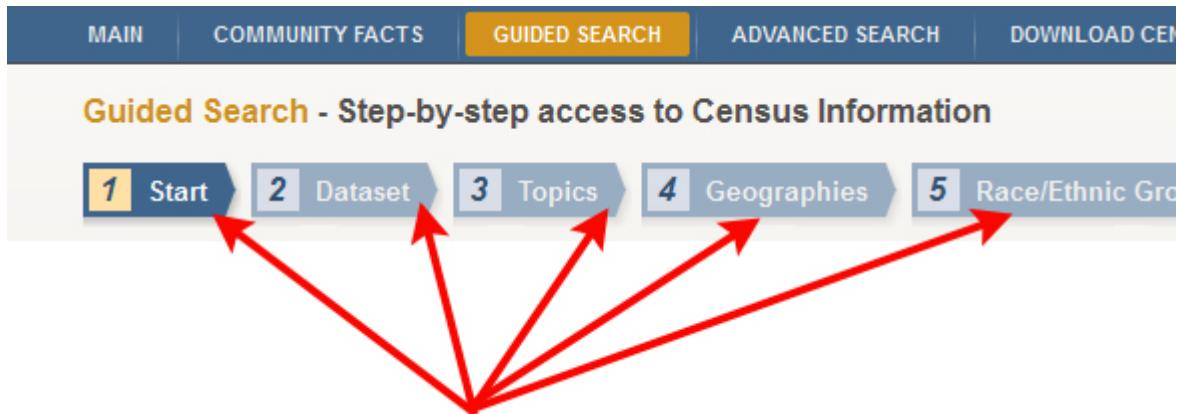
Guided Search

The guided search leads you step by step to help find the data you are looking for.

- From any Fact Finder page select *Guided Search*



- On the *guided search* page you will see the steps that you will be guided through to retrieve your desired data. These steps include, what dataset you wish to use, the topics you are interested in, the geographic locations (e.g. state, county or city) and the race/ethnic groups that you want to include.



1 Start

Start allows you to specify what kind of information you are looking for or where you want to look for information (e.g. in a particular dataset). There are always multiple paths to finding the same data, for example if you were looking for disability information from the ACS dataset, you could select:

- People (Start) > disability (Topic) > all states (Geography) > ACS dataset (dataset) = Search Results

or alternatively you could select:

- ACS dataset (Start)> disability (Topic) > all states (Geography) = Search Results

In this example we will first select the dataset first.

Choose from one of the following and click **Next**.

- I'm looking for information about **people**.
(age, sex, income, poverty, education, ...)
- I'm looking for information about **housing**.
(housing units, household type, value of home, ...)
- I'm looking for information about **businesses or industries**.
(annual payroll, sales and receipts, number of employees, ...)
- I'm looking for information from a specific **dataset**.
(2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2007 Economic Census, 2010 Census Summary File 1, ...)
- I want to search for a **table number** or a **table title**.
(P1, EC0700A1, b04*, Social Characteristics, ...)

Select dataset as your starting point

2 Dataset

Dataset allows you to select a particular dataset. From the program menu select the “American Community Survey”

Search the dataset you're interested in. Click **Next**.

Select a program:

-- Select a program: --

Once you have selected “American Community Survey” an additional menu will appear, from which you can select the latest ACS 5-year estimate, which in this instance is 2012. Refer to table 1 to help you decide whether you want 1, 3 or 5 year estimates.

Search the dataset you're interested in. Click **Next**.

Select a program:
American Community Survey

Select a dataset:

- 2012 ACS 5-year estimates
- 2012 ACS 3-year estimates
- 2012 ACS 1-year estimates
- 2011 ACS 5-year estimates
- 2011 ACS 3-year estimates
- 2011 ACS 1-year estimates
- 2010 ACS 5-year Selected Population Tables
- 2010 ACS 5-year American Indian and Alaska Native Tables
- 2010 ACS 5-year estimates
- 2010 ACS 3-year estimates

3 Topics

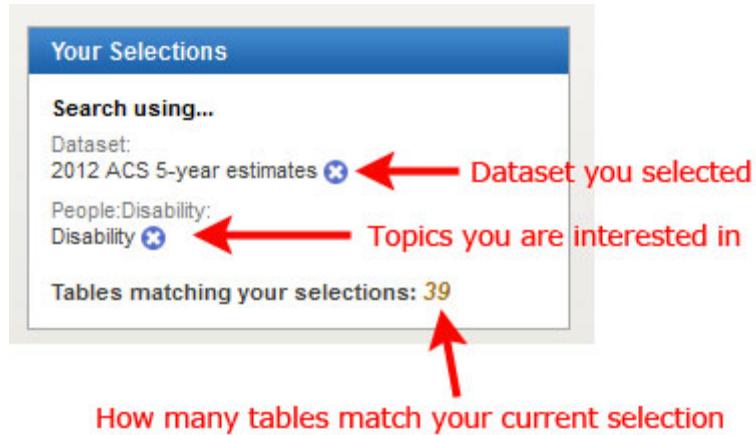
The topic screen allows you to select which topic you are interested in. Drill down and select “Disability”.

Select the topic(s) you're interested in. Click **Next**.

You can select one or more topics to add to Your Selections. As of tables matching Your Selections is updated.

- People
 - + Basic Count/Estimate
 - + Age & Sex
 - + Age Group
 - Disability
 - Disability (39)
 - Mobility (2)
 - Self-Care Limitations (4)
 - Work Disability Status (3)
 - + Education
 - + Employment
 - + Income & Earnings
 - + Insurance Coverage

During this selection process the “Your Selections” panel on the right hand side allows you to view your current selections. It also displays how many tables match your selection.



4 Geographies

Geographies allow you to select a particular geographic area for your data. You have many choices, such as state, county, places etc. You can either enter a single region or use the lower pull down menu to select multiple regions.

As an example, to access county level data under “Select a geographic type” select “County”.

The screenshot shows a search interface for selecting geographies:

- Enter a state, county, city, town or zip code: GO (with a red arrow pointing to the input field labeled 'Enter a single county')
- or --
- Add one or more geographic areas (states, cities, towns, etc.) to Your Selections. Click **Next**.
- The guided search allows you to select from the most requested geographies. To select from all available geographies, use the [Advanced Search](#).*
- Select a geographic type: Select multiple counties

On the right, there is a 'Your Selections' sidebar with the following content:

- Search using...
- Dataset: 2012 ACS 5-ye

You will notice that some choices under “select a geographic type” such as “census tract” and “Zipcode” are unavailable; these choices are only available in the “advanced search”. After selecting a county the next screen gives you the option of selecting an:

- Individual county
- All counties within a specific state
- All US counties

The screenshot shows a search interface for selecting geographic areas. At the top, there are two main options: "Enter a state, county, city, town or zip code:" with a search bar and "GO" button, and "Select an individual county" with a red arrow pointing to it. Below these are instructions to "Add one or more geographic areas (states, cities, towns, etc.) to Your Selections. Click Next." A note says "The guided search allows you to select from the most requested geographies. To select from all available geographies, use the [Advanced Search](#)." A large central box contains three steps: 1. "Select a geographic type:" with a dropdown menu set to "County". 2. "Select a state:" with a dropdown menu set to "-- select a state --". 3. "Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:" with a list containing "All Counties within United States" and "All Counties within United States and Puerto Rico". Red arrows point from the text "Select a particular state" to the state dropdown and from "or all counties in the US" to the list of geographic areas. On the right side, there's a sidebar titled "Your Selections" showing "Dataset: 2012 ACS 5-yr People: Disability" and a "Tables matrix" section. At the bottom of the central box is a "ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS" button.

If you select a particular state the following screen gives you the option of selecting an:

- Individual county
- All counties within that state

Enter a state, county, city, town or zip code:

-- or --

Add one or more geographic areas (states, cities, towns, etc.) to Your Selections.

The guided search allows you to select from the most requested geographies. To select from all geographies, use the [Advanced Search](#).

If you selected a state you have the option to choose all counties within that state or a single county

or a single county

You can add multiple counties by repeating the process of selecting a county and clicking on "ADD TO YOUR SELECTION"

ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS

..... County

Select a geographic type:

Select a state:

North Dakota

Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

All Counties within North Dakota
Adams County, North Dakota
Barnes County, North Dakota
Benson County, North Dakota
Billings County, North Dakota
Bottineau County, North Dakota
Bowman County, North Dakota
Burke County, North Dakota
Burleigh County, North Dakota
Cass County, North Dakota

ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS

5 Race/Ethnic Groups

Race/Ethnic group allows you to select one or more race or ethnic group, ancestry group, tribal group and country of birth. Collectively these groups are known as population groups. You have two options, “**Select From Basic Groups**” or “**Select From Detailed Groups**”. If you are not interested in race or ethnic groups, you can skip this step.

Are you looking for data for a race or ethnic group ([race](#), [ancestry](#), or [tribe](#))? [?](#)

[SKIP THIS STEP](#) No, I'm not looking for race or ethnic group data

[SELECT FROM BASIC GROUPS](#) I'm looking for general information about basic race groups, or basic counts of ancestries or tribes.
Use "Basic Groups" to find more than one race groups within a single table for instance, the populations of the 57 race combinations.

[SELECT FROM DETAILED GROUPS](#) I am looking for detailed information about race groups.
Use "Detailed Groups" to find detailed demographic data for one or more specific races (e.g. White and Black, Navajo alone, or Taiwanese alone). These tables come from the Decennial Census (SF 2, SF 4, and AIAN) and the American Community Survey (Selected Population Profiles and AIAN tables).

Basic Groups

“**Select From Basic Groups**” provides general information and you can choose one or more of the race or ethnic groups as shown below.

You are searching for basic information about basic race/ethnic groups.

Select the race or ethnic group(s) you are interested in. Click **Next**.

You can select one or more Race and Ethnicity filters to add to Your Selections. As you add and remove filters, the number of tables matching Your Selections is updated.

Race & Ethnicity	
Alaska Native (1)	?
American Indian (1)	
Ancestry (6)	
Asian (1)	
Black or African American (1)	
Hispanic or Latino (1)	
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (1)	
Race/Ethnicity of Individual (10)	
Some Other Race (1)	
Two or More Races (1)	
White (1)	
White, Not Hispanic or Latino (1)	

Your Selections	
Search using...	
Dataset:	2012 ACS 3-year estim
People: Disability:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability
Table matching your	

[PREVIOUS](#) [NEXT](#)

Detailed Groups

"Select From Detailed Groups" provides access to detailed race, ancestry, or tribal data as shown below

You are searching for detailed information on race/ethnic groups:

Search for a race, ancestry, or tribe: **GO**

-- or --

Browse race and ethnic groups using the options below

Population Group Type

- Race and Hispanic Origin (1,782)
- Ancestry Group (100)
- Country of Birth (258)

Select one or more race and ethnic groups and click **Add to Your Selections**. Click **Next**.

Race and Ethnic Group Results: 1-25 of 2,140

Your filters: 'Your Race and Ethnic Group Filters' is empty

Selected: Add to Your Selections | Check All | Clear All |

1 2 3 4 5 ► ►

	Code	Population Group Name	Code Base	Population Group Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	-00	All available races		Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	001	Total population	2000, 2010, ACS	Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	-01	All available basic races alone		Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	-02	All available basic races alone or in combination		Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	002	White alone	2000, 2010, ACS	Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	003	White alone or in combination with one or more other races	2000, 2010, ACS	Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	004	Black or African American alone	2000, 2010, ACS	Race and Hispanic Origin
<input type="checkbox"/>	005	Black or African American alone or in combination with one or more other races	2000, 2010, ACS	Race and Hispanic Origin

Race and Ethnic Group data is not available for all combinations of topics and datasets and if you see the following dialog after selecting "Race and Ethnic Groups" trying changing your selected topics.



There are no race or ethnic groups available based upon the contents of 'Your Selections'.

Click [Next](#) to continue.

6

Industry Codes

Industry codes are not available in the *guided search* for disability data and this selection option will be skipped automatically.

7 Search Results

Even though a *guided search* may find many tables or documents for you, only the top ten results will be displayed.

The screenshot shows a search results page with a table of 10 results and a sidebar for 'Your Selections'.

Table Id (red arrow pointing to the 'ID' column header)

Your Selections

- Search using...
- Dataset: 2012 ACS 5-year estimates
- People: Disability: Disability
- State: All States within United States and Puerto Rico
- Tables matching your selections: 39

Click "Advanced Search" to see all 39 search results (red text)

See the Advanced Search to view all 39 search results matching the contents of 'Your Selections': (red arrow pointing to the 'Advanced Search' link)

Table, File or Document Title	ID	Dataset
SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES	DP02	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN PUERTO RICO	DP02PR	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	S1810	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	S1811	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
DISABILITY STATUS OF GRANDPARENTS LIVING WITH OWN GRANDCHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS BY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OWN GRANDCHILDREN AND AGE OF GRANDPARENT	B10052	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS	B18101	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (WHITE ALONE)	B18101A	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	B18101B	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)	B18101C	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (ASIAN ALONE)	B18101D	2012 ACS 5-year estimates

Select the table title to view the data. To see all possible tables matching your search, you need click on the “Advanced Search” link at the bottom of the page.

The results table includes a table ID column, it is useful to understand this Id for the *advanced search*.

Understanding ACS Table IDs

Since the release of the 2005 ACS data, detailed tables, as well as other tables and maps, use the same identification (ID) numbering scheme.

An ACS ID consists of up to **five elements**:

1. The initial character(s) is always a letter (or more than one letter), designating the “product type” (or table format):
 - A “B” is used for base tables. These tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies.

- A "**C**" is used for a collapsed version of a "B" table. A "C" table is very similar to a "B" table with the same number (e.g., C07001 and B07001), but two or more lines from the "B" table have been collapsed to a single line in the "C" table. For example, the lines "75 to 79 years", "80 to 84 years" and "85 years and over" from a "B" table may be collapsed to a single line of "75 years and over" in a "C" table. Not every "B" table has a collapsed version.
 - A "**DP**" is used for Data Profiles and "**NP**" for Narrative Profiles (1- and 3-year estimates only)
 - A "**GCT**" is used for Geographic Comparison Tables
 - A "**R**" is used for Ranking Tables (1-year estimates only, down to State level only)
 - An "**S**" is used for Selected Population Profiles (1- and 3-year estimates only) and Subject Tables (a collection of one or more data elements that are classified into some logical structure either as dimensions or data points).
2. The next two characters identify the subject of the table.
- 01 = Age and Sex
02 = Race
03 = Hispanic or Latino Origin
04 = Ancestry
05 = Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year or Entry; Nativity
06 = Place of Birth
07 = Residence 1 Year Ago; Migration
08 = Journey to Work; Workers' Characteristics; Commuting
09 = Children; Household Relationship
10 = Grandparents; Grandchildren
11 = Household Type; Family Type; Subfamilies
12 = Marital Status and History
13 = Fertility
14 = School Enrollment
15 = Educational Attainment
16 = Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English
17 = Poverty
18 = Disability
19 = Income (Households and Families)
20 = Earnings (Individuals)
21 = Veteran Status
22 = Food Stamps
23 = Employment Status; Work Experience; Labor Force
24 = Industry; Occupation; Class of Worker
25 = Housing Characteristics
26 = Group Quarters
27 = Health Insurance
98 = Quality Measures
99 = Imputation table for any subject
3. The next 3 digits are a sequential number, such as 001 or 002, to uniquely identify the table within a given subject.

4. For selected tables, an alphabetic suffix follows to indicate that a table is repeated for the nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups:

A = White Alone
B = Black or African American Alone
C = American Indian and Alaska Native Alone
D = Asian Alone
E = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone
F = Some Other Race Alone
G = Two or More Races
H = White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino
I = Hispanic or Latino

5. For selected tables, a final alphabetic suffix "PR" follows to indicate a table used for Puerto Rico geographies only. These Puerto Rico-specific tables exist because for some geography-based subjects, the wording of the Puerto Rico Community Survey questionnaire differs slightly but significantly from the American Community Survey questionnaire. The matching table used for United States geographies has the same ID but without the trailing "PR" (e.g., B06014 and B06014PR).

Using this information we can deconstruct some of ID's in the above table.

Example 1. S1810

Table, File or Document Title	ID	Dataset
DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	S1810	2012 ACS 5-year estimates

The initial letter "S" indicates that this is a subject table (a collection of one or more data elements).

The next two characters are numbers ("18" in the example) designating the table topic, in this case, Disability.

Example 2. B18101C

Table, File or Document Title	ID	Dataset
AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)	B18101C	2012 ACS 5-year estimates

The initial letter "B" indicates that this is a base table (base tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies). The next two characters are numbers ("18" in the example) designating the table topic, in this case, Disability. The next three characters are numbers ("101" in the example) provide a unique identifier for the table. The following suffix ("C" in the example above) indicates that a table is repeated for the nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups. "C" denotes American Indian and Alaska Native.

What Tables Should I Look At?

With so many tables available, often the best table to look at first is the subject table (S1810 for disabilities). This table gives you a sample of data taken from multiple base tables (base tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies. A “B” is used to denote base tables.)

In the table below the left column displays the subjects found in table S1810 with the right column displaying the associated base tables where you would find more detailed data.

Table S1810 Subjects and Associated base tables

S1810 Subject	Related “Base” tables
Population under 5 years	
With a hearing difficulty	B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)
With a vision difficulty	B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)
Population 5 to 17 years	
With a hearing difficulty	B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)
With a vision difficulty	B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)
With a cognitive difficulty	B18104 (sex by age by cognitive difficulty)
With an ambulatory difficulty	B18105 (sex by age by ambulatory difficulty)
With a self-care difficulty	B18106 (sex by age by self-care difficulty)
Population 18 to 64 years	
With a hearing difficulty	B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)
With a vision difficulty	B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)
With a cognitive difficulty	B18104 (sex by age by cognitive difficulty)
With an ambulatory difficulty	B18105 (sex by age by ambulatory difficulty)
With a self-care difficulty	B18106 (sex by age by self-care difficulty)
With an independent living difficulty	B18107 (sex by age by independent living difficulty)
Population 65 years and over	
With a hearing difficulty	B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)
With a vision difficulty	B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)
With a cognitive difficulty	B18104 (sex by age by cognitive difficulty)
With an ambulatory difficulty	B18105 (sex by age by ambulatory difficulty)
With a self-care difficulty	B18106 (sex by age by self-care difficulty)
With an independent living difficulty	B18107 (sex by age by independent living difficulty)
Sex	
Male	B18101 (SEX BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS)
Female	B18101 (SEX BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS)
Race and Hispanic or Latino origin	
White alone	B18101A (age by disability status -white alone)
Black or African American alone	B18101B (age by disability status - black or African American alone)
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	B18101C (age by disability status - American Indian and Alaska native alone)

Asian alone	B18101D (age by disability status - Asian alone)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	B18101E (age by disability status (native Hawaiian and other pacific - islander alone)
Some other race alone	B18101F (age by disability status - some other race alone)
Two or more races	B18101G (age by disability status - two or more races)
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	B18101H (age by disability status -white alone, not Hispanic or Latino)
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	B18101I (age by disability status - Hispanic or Latino)

Advanced Search

Differences between Guided and Advanced

The main differences between the guided search and the advanced search are listed below.

	Advanced Search
Topics	Expanded to include: "Governments", "Years", "Product Type" and "Program".
Geographies	Expanded to include additional geographic types such as "Census tracks", "Zip codes", "Addresses" and "Zoom-able selectable maps".
Search Results	Results can be further filtered by keywords.

It is recommended that you always select a geographic region (state, county, address etc) otherwise your results will return data based on a default location which is often the whole of the US.

One of the useful features about searching by table ID is that you can use wildcards in the search. Earlier we mentioned that the 2nd and 3rd numbers of the table Id represented the table subject, so if we enter as a table ID *18* the search will return all tables relating to disability.

MAIN COMMUNITY FACTS GUIDED SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH DOWNLOAD CENTER

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections
'Your Selections' is empty

To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:

Using wildcards

Search using the options below:

- Topics (age, income, year, dataset, ...)
- Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)
- Race and Ethnic Groups (race, ancestry, tribe)
- Industry Codes (NAICS industry, ...)
- EEO Occupation Codes (executives, analysts, ...)

1 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

topic or table name *18* state, county or place (optional) GO ?

topics race/ancestry industries occupations

-- or --

Select from Topics, Race and Ethnic Groups, Industry Codes, EEO Occupation Codes.

- these are added to 'Your Selections'
- the Search Results are updated

2 Next, select Geographies (states, counties, cities, towns, etc.)

- these are added to 'Your Selections'
- the Search Results are updated

Click "Go" to review the resulting tables.

Search Results: 1-25 of 10,108 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'			
Refine your search results:		topic or table name	state, county or place (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> topics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> race/ancestry <input type="checkbox"/> industries <input type="checkbox"/> occupations		<input type="button" value="GO"/>	<input type="button" value="?"/>
Selected:	<input type="button" value="View"/> <input type="button" value="Download"/> <input type="button" value="Compare"/> <input type="button" value="Clear All"/> <input type="button" value="?"/>	<input type="button" value="<"/> <input type="button" value="<"/> <input type="button" value="1"/> <input type="button" value="2"/> <input type="button" value="3"/> <input type="button" value="4"/>	Show results from: All available
ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B02018	ASIAN ALONE OR IN ANY COMBINATION BY SELECTED GROUPS	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	

To narrow down the search results use the search options on the right hand side, which include, topic, geography and race/ethnic groups.

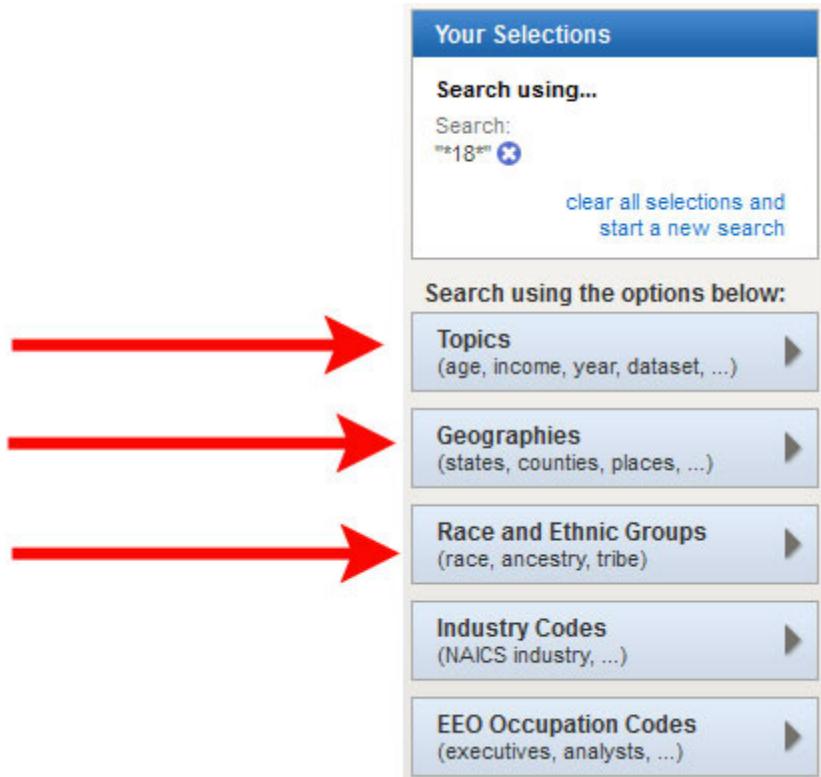


Table Templates

To see what variables are included in a particular table in your search results (guided or advanced), click on the “i” button in the far right column.

Search Results: 76-100 of 1,167 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

topic or table name state, county or place (optional) per page: 25

Refine your search results: GO ?

topics race/ancestry industries occupations

4 Selected: View Download Compare Clear All ?

Show results from: All available years ▾

ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B18120	EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B18120	EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B18121	WORK EXPERIENCE BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B18121	WORK EXPERIENCE BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	

Clicking the about “i” provides an empty table, complete with table notes as shown below:

Example:

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

	Geography	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:		
In the labor force:		
Employed:		
With a disability:		
With a hearing difficulty		
With a vision difficulty		
With a cognitive difficulty		
With an ambulatory difficulty		
With a self-care difficulty		
With an independent living difficulty		
No disability		
Unemployed:		
With a disability:		
With a hearing difficulty		
With a vision difficulty		
With a cognitive difficulty		
With an ambulatory difficulty		
With a self-care difficulty		
With an independent living difficulty		

Downloading and Modifying Data Tables

Downloading Single Tables

To save your data and download it to your local computer, you need to be viewing the table which you wish to download and then click the download button at the top.

The screenshot shows a data table titled "DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS" for the "2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates". The table has two columns: "Alabama" and "Alaska". Under "Alabama", there are three rows: "Total", "With a disability", and "Percent with a disability". Under "Alaska", there are two rows: "Total" and "With a disability". A red arrow points to the "Download" button in the "Actions" menu at the top of the page.

You will be asked how you want your data formatted. Select csv (comma separated values) or Excel if you wish to process or manipulate the data mathematically. If you want to have a layout or change the layout, choose pdf or rich text format.

The screenshot shows a "Download" dialog box. It starts with a message: "Select a download format and click OK." Below this is a section for "Comma delimited (.csv) format (data rows only)". It includes a note that ".csv is compatible with spreadsheet programs such as Microsoft Excel". There are three radio buttons: "Data and annotations in a single file" (selected), "Data and annotations in separate files", and "Include descriptive data element names" (checked). Below this is a section for "Presentation-ready formats". It lists "PDF", "Microsoft Excel (.xls)", and "Rich Text Format (.rtf)" as options. To the right, there are settings for "Orientation" (Portrait selected) and "Paper size" (8 1/2" x 11" selected). At the bottom, there is a note: "[PDF] or [Excel] Indicate a document in Adobe's Portable Document Format . To view the file you will need the [Adobe® Acrobat® Reader](#) available free from Adobe." Two buttons at the bottom are "OK" and "CANCEL".

Downloading Multiple Tables

You can download multiple tables by selecting the check box to the left of the table names and then selecting download. When you download multiple tables they are downloaded in csv format.

Search Results: 1-25 of 1,167 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

Refine your search results: topic or table name state, county or place (optional) GO

topics race/ancestry industries occupations

4 Selected: View Download Compare Clear All ?

Clear all checked boxes

ID	Table, File or Document Title
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DP02	SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P02	SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I002	SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T02PR	SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN PUERTO RICO
<input type="checkbox"/> DP02PR	SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN PUERTO RICO

Multiple tables checked for download

When dealing with hundreds or even thousands of tables, the “*clear all*” checked boxes is a useful feature.

Modifying Tables

It is possible to modify tables before download. Options available are:

- Rearranging the order of the column and rows
- Collapsing rows
- Hiding rows and columns
- Transpose rows and columns
- Filter rows

Actions: [Hide Table Tools](#) | [Bookmark](#) | [Print](#) | [Download](#) | [Create a Map](#)

Table Tools: [Reset Table](#) | [Show Hidden Rows/Columns](#) | [Transpose Rows/Columns](#) | [?](#)

Click 'Back to Search' to select other tables or geographies

Legend: show/hide rows and columns | collapse/expand data categories | rearrange columns | rearrange rows | sort ascending/descending | filter rows

Display or hide column

Subject	Alabama				Alaska				Arizona			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE												
Total households	1,845,169	+/-11,483	1,845,169	(X)	251,651	+/-2,883	251,651	(X)	2,392,168	+/-11,611	2,392	
Family households (families)	1,233,937	+/-11,653	66.9%	+/-0.5	166,400	+/-3,894	66.1%	+/-1.3	1,560,687	+/-15,808	65	
With own children under 18 years	502,537	+/-9,611	27.2%	+/-0.5	82,259	+/-3,610	32.7%	+/-1.3	674,358	+/-11,858	28	
Married-couple family	883,291	+/-10,427	47.9%	+/-0.5	123,248	+/-3,766	49.0%	+/-1.4	1,122,884	+/-13,816	46	
With own children under 18 years	323,513	+/-8,869	17.5%	+/-0.5	54,673	+/-2,715	21.7%	+/-1.0	429,016	+/-10,065	17	
...												

Filter rows is particularly helpful if your table has many columns and do not wish to display every column. For example you can add a filter such that it only displays the "estimate" and "percent" values.

Filter Dimension X

Display Columns where ?
Estimate
is one of the following

	Code ▲	Meaning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HC01	Estimate
<input type="checkbox"/>	HC02	Margin of Error
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HC03	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/>	HC04	Percent Margin of Error

[REMOVE THIS FILTER](#) [OK](#) [CANCEL](#)

Applying this filter gives:

Subject	▼	Alabama		Alaska		Arizona		Arkansas		California		Colorado	
		Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent
		▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶	◀ ▶
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE	▼												
Total households	▼	1,845,169	1,845,169	251,651	251,651	2,392,168	2,392,168	1,143,859	1,143,859	12,552,658	12,552,658	1,996,088	1,996,088
Family households (families)	▼	1,233,937	66.9%	166,400	66.1%	1,560,687	65.2%	758,601	66.3%	8,585,787	68.4%	1,278,264	
With own children under 18 years	▼	502,537	27.2%	82,259	32.7%	674,358	28.2%	315,273	27.6%	4,046,765	32.2%	589,021	

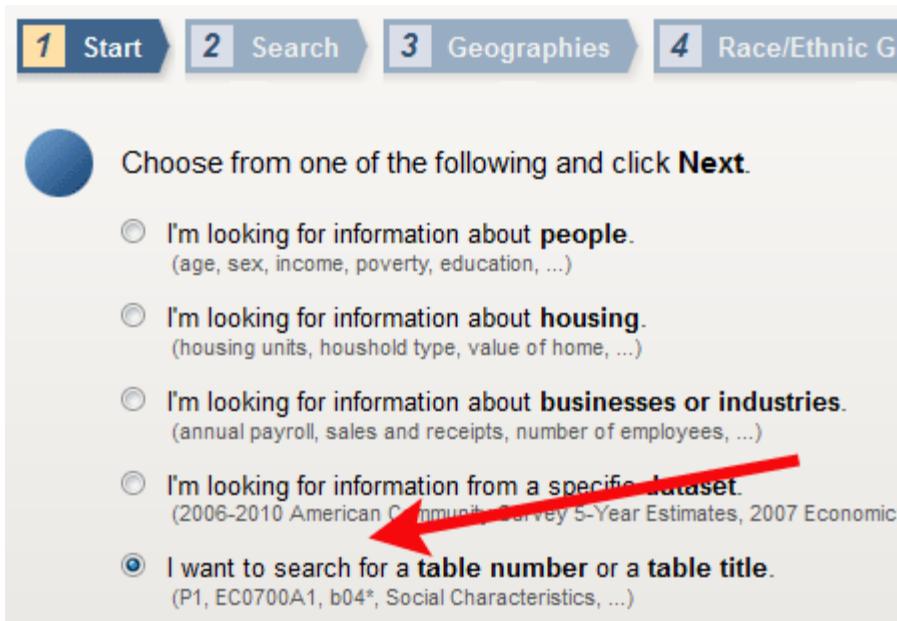
Example: Finding Data for a Particular County

In this example we walk you through the process of finding disability data for a particular county. From table S1810 (see above) let us suppose that the data we are looking for is “Populations aged 18 and over, with an independent living difficulty”. From table S1810 we see that this subject has a base table whose id is B18107 (as mentioned above in “Understanding ACS Table Ids”, base tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies).

You can search by table Id using both the “Guided” and “Advanced” searches.

For Guided the steps are:

- I want to search for a table number or a table title. **Enter B18107**



- Under “Geographies”, even if you know the name of the county it is often best to select “County” (for a particular state) from the pull down menu as county names are not unique

across the US. Once you have selected your county click the “Add to your selections” button.

1 Start → 2 Search → 3 Geographies → 4 Race/Ethnic Groups → 5 In

Enter a state, county, city, town or zip code: _____
-- or --

Add one or more geographic areas (states, cities, towns, etc.) to Your Selections

The guided search allows you to select from the most requested geographies. To select from other geographies, use the [Advanced Search](#).

Select a geographic type:

Select a state:

Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

All Counties within Illinois
Adams County, Illinois
Alexander County, Illinois
Bond County, Illinois
Boone County, Illinois
Brown County, Illinois
Bureau County, Illinois
Calhoun County, Illinois
Carroll County, Illinois
Cass County, Illinois

- There will be no Race/Ethnic Group options related to your current selections so click “Next” to continue.
- Depending on the population size of the county you selected the results table will display estimates relating to 1, 3 and 5 year estimates, 3 and 5 year estimates or 5 year estimates only. You should review above section title, “1-Year, 3-Year and 5-Year Estimates” to help you decide which estimates you should use.



Select a table, file or document from these top 10 search results:

Show results from: All available years ▾

Table, File or Document Title	ID	Dataset
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2012 ACS 1-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2012 ACS 3-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2012 ACS 5-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2011 ACS 1-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2011 ACS 3-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2010 ACS 1-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2010 ACS 3-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2009 ACS 1-year estimates
SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY	B18107	2008 ACS 1-year estimates

Your Selections

Search using...

Search:Table:
B18107: SEX BY A
DIFFICULTY

County
Adams County, Illir

Tables matching

PREVIOUS



See the [Advanced Search](#) to view all 9 search results matching the contents of 'Your Selections':

Selecting the first table (2012 ACS 1-year estimates) gives the number of people in Adams County, Illinois aged 18 and over, with an independent living difficulty as shown below.

1
27
of
27

		Adams County, Illinois	
		Estimate	Margin of Error
27	Total:	50,730	+/-543
of	Male:	24,413	+/-409
27	18 to 34 years:	6,617	+/-273
	With an independent living difficulty	238	+/-205
	No independent living difficulty	6,379	+/-346
	35 to 64 years:	12,769	+/-343
	With an independent living difficulty	744	+/-409
	No independent living difficulty	12,025	+/-556
	65 to 74 years:	2,674	+/-93
	With an independent living difficulty	111	+/-107
	No independent living difficulty	2,563	+/-132
	75 years and over:	2,353	+/-122
	With an independent living difficulty	520	+/-273
	No independent living difficulty	1,833	+/-284
	Female:	26,317	+/-454
	18 to 34 years:	6,932	+/-196
	With an independent living difficulty	278	+/-275
	No independent living difficulty	6,654	+/-323
	35 to 64 years:	13,160	+/-284
	With an independent living difficulty	896	+/-356
	No independent living difficulty	12,264	+/-441
	65 to 74 years:	3,157	+/-55
	With an independent living difficulty	537	+/-319
	No independent living difficulty	2,620	+/-325
	75 years and over:	3,068	+/-458
	With an independent living difficulty	364	+/-224
	No independent living difficulty	2,704	+/-462

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Example: Creating a County Level Data Map

If you wish to view the data graphically, Fact Finder provides a way to represent the data visually. In this example we will create a map at the county level for the percentage of people aged 5-17 with a disability. Start a new advanced search and search by table id for “S18*” (S stands for summary table and 18 stands for the subject, disability) and select “Go”. From the Geography option on your left select a geographic type of “county” and on the following screen select “All counties within United States”. From the results of this search, view one of the S1810 tables. Note the availability of data for specific geographies will vary between the 1-year, 3-year and 5-year estimates. In this example we will use the 2012, 5-year estimate.

Note: You will only be able to create a county level map if you have selected at least two counties.

Search Results: 1-25 of 25 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

topic or table name state, county or place (optional) GO ?

topics race/ancestry industries occupations

1 Selected: View Download Compare Clear All Choose a dataset that meets your needs Show results from: All available

ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 2-year estimates	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2011 ACS 1-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2011 ACS 3-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2011 ACS 1-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1811	SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS	2011 ACS 3-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2010 ACS 1-year estimates	i
<input type="checkbox"/> S1810	DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS	2010 ACS 3-year estimates	i

Select, “**create a map**” and then select the data cell you wish to visualize. In this example we will select “percentage population aged 5 to 17, with a disability”.

Note: The “**create a map**” button will be grayed out if multiple counties have not been selected. To enable the button, return to “**add geographies**” and make sure you have at least two counties selected.



Second, select the data cell you wish to map

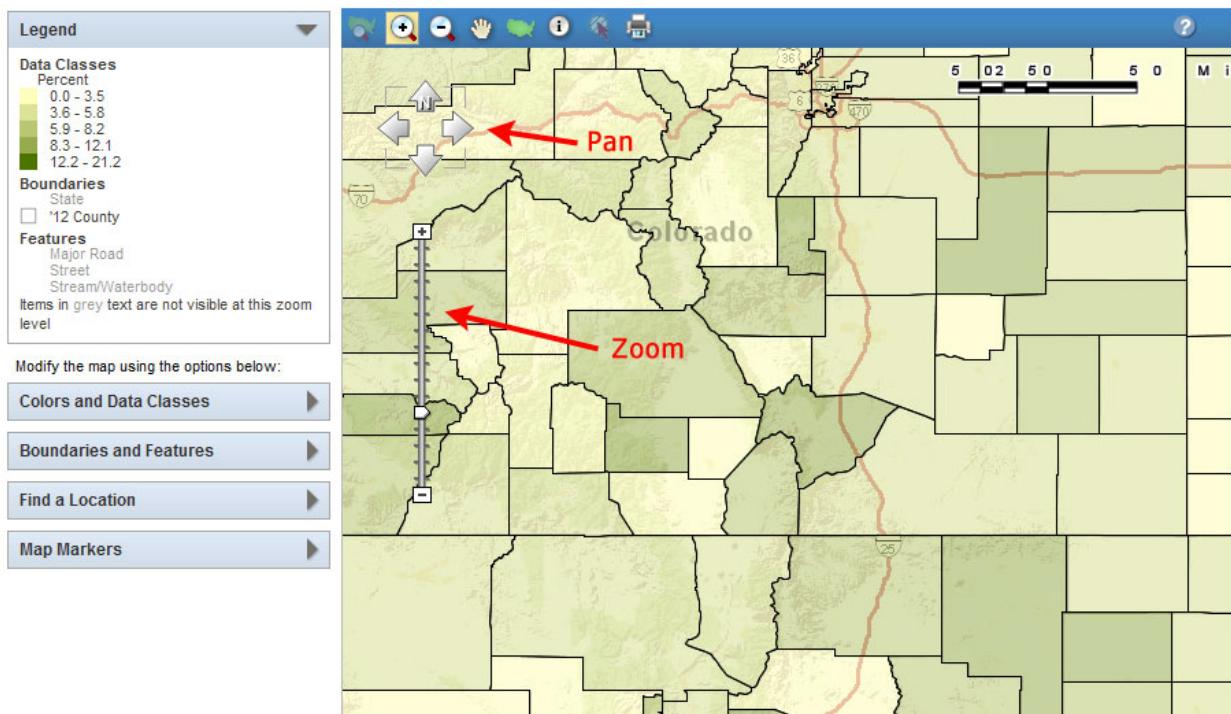
[View Ge](#)

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that provides official estimates for the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

<< 1 - 18 of 4,884 >>

Subject	Baldwin County, Alabama						Calhoun County, Alabama						Total	
	Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability		Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error		
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	188,192	+/-1,361	30,147	+/-2,963	16.0%	+/-1.6	115,995	+/-852	22,873	+/-2,250	19.7%	+/-1.9	79,660	
Population under 5 years	10,771	+/-1,167	47	+/-79	0.4%	+/-0.7	7,126	+/-597	63	+/-105	0.9%	+/-1.5	4,698	
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	0	+/-184	0.0%	+/-1.3	(X)	(X)	63	+/-105	0.9%	+/-1.5	(X)	
With a vision difficulty	(X)	(X)	47	+/-79	0.0%	+/-0.7	(X)	(X)	63	+/-105	0.9%	+/-1.5	(X)	
Population 5 to 17 years	31,657	+/-1,110	2,241	+/-1,073	7.1%	+/-3.4	19,028	+/-679	1,400	+/-549	7.4%	+/-2.9	13,211	
With a hearing difficulty	(X)	(X)	64	+/-112	0.2%	+/-0.4	(X)	(X)	300	+/-262	1.6%	+/-1.4	(X)	

The map may take some time to render but once it does you can use the “pan” and “zoom” feature to examine particular regions.



Sources

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about_the_survey/american_community_survey/

<https://ask.census.gov/faq.php?id=5000&faqId=6481>

http://factfinder2.census.gov/help/en/american_factfinder_help.htm

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/handbooks/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf>

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2012_ACS_SubjectDefinitions.pdf

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/questionnaires/2012/Quest12.pdf>