

Using www.census.gov to Access Data from the

American Community Survey

4 EASY STEPS

NEED HELP NAVIGATING OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE DATA?

Fortunately, the solution is in your hands! This reference tool will help you 'navigate' through the American Factfinder to access the most current information from the American Community Survey in 4 easy steps. The ACS is our monthly survey that releases detailed social, economic and housing data on an annual basis rather than every 10 years.

Just type in the URL www.census.gov and access the American Factfinder by clicking on the icon located within the dark blue column on the left side of the homepage. Now, prepare to become a data accessing guru.



Boston Regional Census Center

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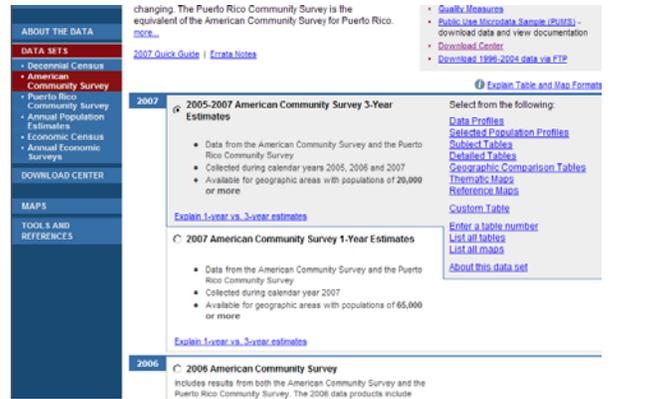
1 Select the Data Set

Locate and click on the Data Sets button along the left side of the Factfinder mainpage. This area serves as a gateway to all of the information that's stored in the American Factfinder. It opens the door to a wealth of Census data by allowing users to access all available tables for the Decennial Censuses of 1990 and 2000, the American Community Survey, and Population Estimates for every geographic area available. When the submenu appears, click on the American Community Survey.



2 Select your year and table option

Our next step is to select the year and type of table we want. Since we want the most up to date information, we'll choose the 2006 American Community Survey. Luckily, it is already selected so you'll need to choose the type of tables you want. For this example, we'll choose the 'Detailed Tables' link. 'Detailed Tables' provides the user with the most detailed information available and allows for the selection of multiple geographies and multiple tables.



3 Select Geography*

Now it's time to choose the geographic area(s) to which you would like to concentrate your search.

- *Choose a selection method*—disregard this bulleted instruction and leave the selection method on 'list'.
- *Select a geographic type*—Here you can drop the menu down and choose the geographic type that best suits your needs (e.g. Nation, State, County, Congressional District, etc). The 'County Subdivision' selection includes cities and towns. After selecting the type, follow any added directions.
- *Select one or more geographic areas and click 'Add'* - Once you have your areas listed in the box, click on your selection and then click the 'Add' button. Your selection should show up in the box below the 'Add' button.

(NOTE: You can select multiple geographic areas).

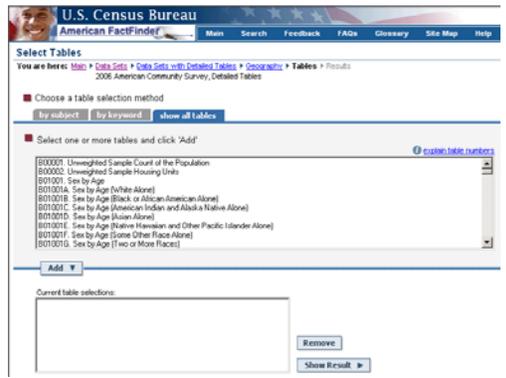
- Click the 'Next' button located to the right of the lower box.



4 Select Table

The next, and final step, is to select the table(s) that best suit your statistical needs.

- *Choose table selection method*—Your best bet here is to select the 'by subject' selection and drop down the 'subject' menu.
- *Select the subject you are interested in*—Scroll through the subject selections until you find the subject you are interested in. Click on the subject and then click 'Search'.
- *Select one or more tables and click 'Add'* - click on whichever table suits your needs and then click the 'Add' button. Your selection should show up in the box below the 'Add' button. (NOTE: If you choose, you can select more than one table)
- Once you have selected all of your tables, click the 'Show Table' button.



**Congratulations!
You've created your table.**