Understanding and Using <u>American Community Survey Data</u> What Congress Needs to Know

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Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data

What Congress Needs to Know





U.S. Department of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary

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U.S. CENSUS BUREAU Steven Dillingham, Director Issued June 2020

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UNDERSTANDING AND USING AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA: WHAT CONGRESS NEEDS TO KNOW

Congress needs accurate, up-to-date information to make good decisions—from allocating federal program funds to developing program eligibility requirements, monitoring compliance with federal laws, and evaluating community needs. Congressional staff also need timely data to support communication efforts, respond to constituent inquiries, draft legislation, analyze legislative proposals, and conduct legislative research.

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) provides members of Congress the data they need for decision-making. This guide provides a brief overview of how members of Congress use ACS data for important legislative purposes.

What Is the American Community Survey?

The ACS is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely social, economic, housing, and demographic data every year. The Census Bureau uses data collected in the ACS to provide estimates on a broad range of population, housing unit, and household characteristics for states, counties, cities, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, tribal subdivision areas, school districts, congressional districts, census tracts, block groups, and many other geographic areas.

The ACS has an annual sample size of about 3.5 million addresses, with survey information collected nearly every day of the year. Data are pooled across a calendar year to produce estimates for that year. As a result, ACS estimates reflect data that have been collected over a period of time rather than for a single point in time as in the decennial census, which is conducted every 10 years and provides population counts as of April 1 of the census year.

ACS 1-year estimates are data that have been collected over a 12-month period and are available for geographic areas with at least 65,000 people. Starting with the 2014 ACS, the Census Bureau is also producing 1-year supplemental estimates—simplified versions of popular ACS tables—for geographic areas with at least 20,000 people. The Census Bureau combines 5 consecutive years of ACS data to produce multiyear estimates for geographic areas with fewer than 65,000 residents. These 5-year estimates represent data collected over a period of 60 months.

For those who want more detailed information about the ACS—how to judge the accuracy of ACS estimates, understanding multiyear estimates, knowing which geographic areas are covered in the ACS, and how to access ACS data on the Census Bureau's Web site—see the Census Bureau's handbook on *Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know.*¹

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks /general.html>.

1. HOW CONGRESS USES ACS DATA

While the main function of the decennial census is to provide counts of people for the purpose of apportionment and redistricting, the primary purpose of the American Community Survey (ACS) is to measure the changing social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population—our education, housing, jobs, and more.

ACS content is designed to meet the needs of federal government agencies, and every question on the ACS is asked for a statutory or programmatic purpose. For example, questions about how people get to work, what time their trip to work usually begins, and the length of their commutes are used for planning improvements to roads, highways, rail lines, and bus routes, and for planning emergency response routes. More information about the subjects included in the ACS is available in the section on "Understanding the ACS: The Basics" in the U.S. Census Bureau's handbook *Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know.*²

Using ACS Data to Allocate Funds and Monitor Compliance With Federal Laws

Many laws require the use of ACS or decennial census data as the basis for establishing program or grant eligibility and for allocating federal program funds. For example, ACS data on veteran status and period of military service are used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans. Income data from the ACS are used to determine poverty status, measure economic well-being, and assess the need for assistance. Many federal programs, including Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Community Development Block Grant, National School Lunch Program, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Head Start, and Americorps use ACS income data to allocate formula grants (see Box 1.1). The Census Bureau estimates that 132 programs used census data, including data from the ACS, to distribute more than \$675 billion in funds during fiscal year 2015.³

ACS data are also used to monitor compliance with federal laws. For example:

• ACS data on age, housing, employment, and education are used to help the government and communities enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination based on age such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

- Data on age, sex, race/ethnicity, labor force status, and work status are used to monitor compliance with the Civil Rights Act.
- ACS data on housing characteristics, such as units in a structure, kitchen and plumbing facilities, rent, tenure, and selected monthly owner costs, are used to implement and assess compliance with the National Affordable Housing Act.

Many of the questions on the ACS were previously included on the 2000 Census and prior census longform questionnaires. However, in the years since the ACS achieved full implementation in 2005, questions have been added, revised, or removed from the survey. For example, questions about household computer ownership and Internet access were added to the ACS in 2013 as a requirement of the Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2008.

In 2014, the Census Bureau conducted a comprehensive assessment of the ACS program, including a review of each ACS question. This ACS content review sought to determine which federal programs use the information collected in response to each question and assess how the Census Bureau might reduce respondent burden.⁴ A summary of federal agencies' uses of

Box 1.1. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Enacted as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a mandatory block grant program to the states. The mission of LIHEAP is to help low-income households pay their home energy bills.

Congress established the law's block grant distribution formula based on each state's climate and low-income population. The income question on the ACS is essential to determining the lowincome population in each state. Implementation of the LIHEAP program also relies on data from other ACS questions, including age, sex, Hispanic origin, relationship, disability status, units in structure, and occupants per room. LIHEAP program administrators also use data from the ACS question on selected monthly owner costs to analyze current residential energy supply and consumption and to forecast future energy needs.

² U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks /general.html>

³ U.S. Census Bureau Library, *Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution*, 2017, <www.census.gov/library/working -papers/2017/decennial/census-data-federal-funds.html>.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), *Content Review*, 2014, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/operations -and-administration/2014-content-review.html>.

ACS data from each question is included in the Census Bureau's ACS Handbook of Questions and Current Federal Uses.⁵ The Census Bureau has also developed a series of interactive Web pages that explain why each question is asked on the ACS. Each page shows the question as it appears on the form and allows users to explore some of the most popular statistics that come from the question at the local level. The pages also explain the origin of each question, privacy concerns, and how the statistics are used to help communities.⁶

How Members of Congress and Staff Use ACS Data

The ACS provides a wealth of timely social, economic, housing, and demographic data for all congressional districts and states that can be used in drafting legislation, press releases, statements, and constituent correspondence; conducting legislative research; and developing grant formulas for proposed programs.

The Census Bureau releases annual ACS data for each of the 435 congressional districts. Members and staff can use these data to produce current snapshots of the characteristics of their districts.

TIP: Members of Congress can also compare ACS estimates with those of previous years to look at trends over time. However, congressional district data from the 2012 ACS and later years reflect the new boundaries that were drawn after the 2010 Census, while ACS data for earlier years reflect the 2000 Census boundaries. Given the major changes to district boundaries after each census, a comparison of congressional district data between 2011 and 2012 and later years is not advisable.⁷ Data users should also use caution when working with ACS estimates for districts that have been subject to intercensal redistricting.

Following are some examples of how congressional staff can use ACS data to carry out their responsibilities.

Cosponsoring Legislation

The breadth of ACS data can support research for a wide variety of potential bills. For example, if a senator

wants to draft a housing assistance bill that targets people who are spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing expenses, the ACS provides estimates of the number and characteristics of homeowners and renters who spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing and utilities. Congress can use these data to allocate funds to state and local governments through a formula grant.

Drafting a Floor Statement

Members of Congress sometimes need to make floor statements on very short notice. For example, a member who wants to make a speech about the economy might ask his or her staff to quickly determine the proportion of families in the district living below the poverty level and how that figure compares with the national poverty rate. These data are readily available in published ACS tables.

Responding to a Constituent Inquiry

Constituents occasionally send letters or call their member's office to ask why they were selected to participate in the ACS. Members and their staffs need to understand how addresses are selected, how personal information is protected, what questions are asked in the questionnaire, and how Congress uses the responses to write legislation and assist constituents. The Census Bureau provides answers to these and other common constituent questions in a two-page flyer available for download from the ACS Web site.⁸ Specific answers as to why each question is asked are also provided in a series of interactive Web pages.⁹

Some respondents are reluctant to answer the ACS because of concerns about the confidentiality of the data. However, the final published statistics do not reveal names, addresses, or any other information that would identify any individual respondent, and strict confidentiality laws protect all ACS information that could be used to identify individuals or households, under the authority of Title 13 of the U.S. Code.¹⁰ This is true even for interagency communication: other government agencies do not have the legal right to access individuals' confidential information.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Handbook of Guestions and Current Federal Uses, 2014, <www.census.gov /programs-surveys/acs/operations-and-administration/2014-content -review/federal-uses.html>.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Questions on the Form and Why We Ask*, <www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why -we-ask-each-question/>.

⁷ Note: 2011 Data Profiles for congressional districts are available through the Census Bureau's file transfer protocol server, https://www2.census.gov/acs2011_1yr/CD113/>.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), ACS Resources for Congress Flyer, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys /acs/library/outreach-materials/flyers/acs-constituent-answers.html>.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *Questions on the Form and Why We Ask*, <www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why -we-ask-each-question/>.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, Data Protection and Privacy Program, Title 13 - Protection of Confidential Information, <www.census.gov/about /policies/privacy/data_stewardship/title_13_-_protection_of _confidential_information.html>.

Analyzing Legislative Proposals

Members receive a wide variety of legislative proposals that require detailed evaluation. The ACS provides a broad range of social, economic, housing, and demographic data that can help staff conduct these assessments. For example, if an advocacy group sends a proposal to reform the Social Security system, ACS data on labor force participation and disability could be used to evaluate how many people would be affected by this proposal.

2. ACS DATA PRODUCTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL USES

Data.census.gov

Data.census.gov is the U.S. Census Bureau's primary tool for accessing population, housing, and economic data from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Puerto Rico Community Survey, the decennial census, and many other Census Bureau data sets.¹¹ Data.census.gov provides access to ACS data for a wide range of geographic areas, including states, cities, congressional districts, counties, census tracts, and block groups. For more information about data.census.gov, view the Census Bureau's data.census.gov Resources page.¹²

Accessing ACS Data Through the My Congressional District Tool

My Congressional District is a specialized tool that allows members of Congress and their staff to easily access and view population and housing estimates for congressional districts from the most recent ACS 1-year estimates, as well as business data from the Census Bureau's latest County Business Patterns

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov.
 ¹² U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov Resources, <www.census.gov/content/census/en/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html>.

database.¹³ The tool displays tables of the latest ACS 1-year estimates for selected characteristics, including:

- People: Demographic measures including sex and age, race, Hispanic or Latino origin, place of birth, ancestry, veteran status, disability status, and residence 1 year ago.
- Workers: Employment status, commuting to work, occupation, industry, and class of worker.
- Housing: Housing occupancy, housing tenure (owner or renter), year householder moved into unit, value of home, mortgage status, selected monthly owner costs, and gross rent.
- Socioeconomic: Income and benefits, health insurance coverage, and poverty status for families and for individuals by age.
- Education: School enrollment and educational attainment.

To access estimates from My Congressional District, select a state and choose a congressional district using the drop-down menus (see Figure 2.1). There is also an

 $^{^{\}rm 13}$ U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <www.census.gov /mycd/>.



option to identify a congressional district by entering a ZIP code.

After selecting a congressional district, select one of the six topical areas to browse the data on that topic (see Figure 2.2). A box underneath the table gives you the option of displaying the data with or without accompanying margins of error. For information about understanding and using the margins of error for ACS estimates, see "Understanding Error and Determining Statistical Significance" in the Census Bureau's handbook Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know.¹⁴ There is also a "Download and Share" icon under the table that allows users to download the data and share it on social media platforms, or post it on a blog or other Web site.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html.



If you click the "Download and Share" icon, you can either download a comma-separated values (CSV) file with data just for the congressional district you have selected or for all districts within the state (see Figure 2.3). There is also an option to embed the results page on a Web site for a specific congressional district. In 2017, over 70 members of Congress embedded My Congressional District on their member Web sites, which is a great way to highlight the characteristics of their districts to their constituents.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <www.census.gov/mycd/>.

Why this tool may be right for you	Why you may want to consider another tool
It contains statistics for every congressional district in a user-friendly and intuitive interface.	The geography selection is limited to congres- sional districts.
It combines ACS data on population, housing, educa- tion, and the economy with County Business Patterns data on employment, payroll, and establishments by sector.	It contains only a subset of all ACS and County Business Patterns topics.
The results page can be embedded on your Web site.	The tool does not allow side-by-side compari- sons or selections of multiple congressional districts.

3. CASE STUDIES USING ACS DATA

Case Study #1: Exploring Ancestry Data in My Congressional District

Skill Level: BeginnerSubject: AncestryType of Analysis: Analyzing characteristics of a congressional districtTool Used: My Congressional District

The ancestry question on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) measures the characteristics of ethnic groups, beyond the Hispanic origin and race questions. Data based on this question help create a more detailed picture of cultural groups. Members of Congress and their staffs may be interested in this information to better understand the characteristics of their constituents. Federal agencies also use these data to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin.¹⁵

Accessing data on ancestry and other district-specific information is quick and easy using the My Congressional District tool on the Census Bureau's Web site (see Figure 3.1).¹⁶ My Congressional District combines the latest data from the ACS and County Business Patterns to provide a detailed set of social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics for every congressional district for the current legislative session in the United States.



¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey (ACS) Handbook of Questions and Current Federal Uses,* <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/operations-and-administration/2014-content-review/federal-uses.html>.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <www.census.gov/mycd/>.



From the Web site, use the drop-down boxes (labeled 1 and 2) to choose your state and district (see Figure 3.2). If you do not know the district number, you can use the ZIP code search tool, which links users to the U.S. House of Representatives district lookup tool.

After you have selected your district, the right side of the window updates with demographic, socioeconomic, housing, and employment information about the district. Information is arranged by subject area: People, Workers, Housing, Socio-Economic, Education, and Business.

Nativity information is found within the "People" topic, which is the default display when a user first chooses a district (see Figure 3.3). Information for Sex and Age are displayed first, but you can use the gray bar on the right to scroll down to information about Ancestry. Members of Congress and their staffs can use this information to better understand the ancestral makeup of their constituents. For example, in 2017, there were 2,375 people of Czech ancestry in California Congressional District 49.



To view information in any of the other subject areas, click on the associated icon.

Users who are interested in knowing the margin of error—or level of uncertainty—associated with the estimates can view that information by checking the box "Display ACS Margin of Error" below the data table (see Figure 3.4). The estimate of people with Czech ancestry has a margin of error of +/-956, indicating a high likelihood that the true value of this estimate falls somewhere between 1,419 and 3,331 in California Congressional District 49.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <www.census.gov/mycd/>.

The My Congressional District tool offers several options for downloading and sharing data (see Figures 3.5 and 3.6). Clicking on the "Download and Share" icon allows users to download a comma-separated values (CSV) file with all the data for their district or for all districts in their state. Users can also share their results on social media platforms or download a widget, which can be embedded on a Web site to display the most recent data available for the selected congressional district.



Figure 3.6. Downloading and Sharing Data for Congressional District	
Download and Share	×
Share 356 Tweet 76	^
 Download CSV (Could take up to 30 seconds to download.) Congressional District 49 All districts in California 	
K Embed Widget	
My Congressional District	
People Workers Housing Socio Economic Education Business	1
My Congressional District gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bure au through the American Community Survey (ACS) and County Business Patterns (CBP). The ACS provides detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing	

Data displayed in the application are for the most recent year available. Details on exact year and data source, as well as any important notes, can be found by scrolling to the bottom of each data table.

ACS estimates for other geographic areas can be found in data.census.gov, the Census Bureau's primary tool for accessing population, housing, and economic data from the ACS, the Puerto Rico Community Survey, the decennial census, and many other Census Bureau data sets.¹⁷ Data.census.gov provides comprehensive access to ACS tables for a wide range of geographic areas, including states, congressional districts, cities, counties, census tracts, and block groups.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, Data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov>.

Case Study #2: Finding Selected Housing Characteristics for a Congressional District

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced
Subject: Housing
Type of Analysis: Analyzing housing characteristics within a congressional district
Tool Used: Data.census.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau's My Congressional District tool offers a quick and easy solution for finding the latest American Community Survey (ACS) data on population and housing characteristics in a congressional district.¹⁸ What if a congressional staffer needs more detailed information? For example, suppose they need to find information about the distribution of rental cost burden within his or her district to assess the potential demand for a rental assistance program.

To answer this question, go to the data.census.gov Web site at <https://data.census.gov/>. Choose Advanced Search under the search bar that says, "I'm looking for ..." This brings you to the Advanced Search window (see Figures 3.7 and 3.8).



¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <www.census.gov/mycd/>.

Figure 3.8. Using Advanced Searc	ch in Data.census.gov		
	Q Search		
// Search / Advanced Search			
Advanced Sear	ch		
Table ID (e.g., DP05)		_	
Narrow search with filters			
FIND A FILTER			
e.g. 336111 - Automobile Manufacturi	ng C	2	
BROWSE FILTERS			
Topics Geography			
Years			
Surveys			
Codes			
	Please select	t a filter to narrow your search.	
Selected Filters:		CLEAR FILTERS SEARC	н
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.censu	us.gov, <https: data.census.gov<="" td=""><td>)v>.</td><td></td></https:>)v>.	

To find information on a congressional district, start with the "Geography" filter and click "Congressional District." Congressional districts are nested within states, so first select your state. Then select your district number, making sure to select the correct legislative session (for example, 115th Congress). Ensure that a check mark appears next to the district you have selected and that the geography shows as a selected filter at the bottom of the screen (see Figure 3.9).

TIP: If you also add the year to your selections under the "Years" filter (for example, Years>2017), you do not have to worry about selecting the wrong legislative session as the congressional district will default to the corresponding session.

Figure 3.9. Selectir	ng a Congressional Dis	trict in Data.census.	s.gov
	Q Search		
// Search / Advanced Search Advanced S Table ID (e.g., DP05) Narrow search with f FIND A FILTER	Search		
e.g. 336111 - Automobile M	lanufacturing	Q	
BROWSE FILTERS Topics Geography Years Surveys Codes	GEOGRAPHY Show Summary Levels Tract Block Group Block Zip Code Tabulation Area (Five-Digit) Elementary School District Secondary School District Unified School District Unified School District (Upper Chamber) State Legislative District (Lower Chamber) Public Lise Microdata Area	WITHIN STATE Dates All Congressional Districts for 116th Congress in United States Alabama Alaska American Samoa Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia	Q COLORADO Q Image: Show geographic components Congressional District 1 Image: Ima
Selected Filters: Congressiona	Il District 2 (115th Congress), Colorado		CLEAR FILTERS SEARCH
Source: U.S. Census Bu	reau, data.census.gov, <https< td=""><td>://data.census.gov>.</td><td></td></https<>	://data.census.gov>.	

After selecting the congressional district, you can choose the data product of interest. In this example, we are interested in a table called DP04: "Selected Housing Characteristics," which is a data profile that includes frequently requested housing data. To select this table, click on "Surveys" to display a list of available data products. Then select "ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles" (see Figure 3.10) and click "Search" in the bottom right corner.

Figure 3.10. Select	ting a Data Product ii	n Data.census.gov		
	Q Search			
// Search / Advanced Search				
Advanced	Search			
Table ID (e.g., DP05)				
Narrow search with	filters			
e.g. 336111 - Automobile M	Vanufacturing	9		
BROWSE FILTERS Topics Geography Years Codes	SURVEYS ACS 1-Vear Estimates Comparison Profiles ACS 1-Vear Estimates Data ACS 1-Vear Estimates Detailed Tables ACS 1-Vear Estimates Selected Population Profiles ACS 1-Vear Estimates Subject Tables ACS 5-Vear Estimates Comparison Profiles ACS 5-Vear Estimates Data Profiles			
Selected Filters: Congression	al District 2 (115th Congress), Colorado	ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles 🛞	CLEAR FILTERS	SEARCH
Source: U.S. Census B	ureau, data.census.gov, <ht< td=""><td>:ps://data.census.gov>.</td><td></td><td></td></ht<>	:ps://data.census.gov>.		

Clicking "Search" with your selected filters brings you to the All Results page. This page has a quick statistic at the top of the page relevant to your search. Underneath, there is a list of the three most relevant tables. To view the full list of available data profiles, select "View All Tables" (see Figure 3.11).

igure 3.11. Navigati	ng the All Results Page	
	Q search	
ALL TABLES MAPS PAGES		
About 764 results Filter		
EXPLORE DATA		
799,734 +/- 6,345 Total F	Population in Congressional District 2 (115th Congress),	
Colorado	Neu 1 Vez Estimates	
https://www.census.gov/programs-sur	veys/acs/	
ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSIN Survey/Program: American Community Years: 2017,2016 Table: DP05	IG ESTIMATES Survey	
SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERIS	STICS IN THE UNITED STATES	
Survey/Program: American Community Years: 2017,2016 Table: DP02	Survey	
SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACT	ERISTICS	
Survey/Program: American Community Years: 2017,2016 Table: DP03	Survey	
	VIEW ALL TABLES (4)	
ource: U.S. Census Bure	au, data.census.gov, <https: data.census.gov="">.</https:>	

Selecting the option to view all tables brings you to the Table Results page with a full list of relevant tables in the left pane and a preview of each selected table in the right pane. Click on "Selected Housing Characteristics" to preview the table, and select "Customize Table" in the upper right corner to view the table with all download and customization options (see Figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12. Selectin	g the Table Fror	m the Tables Pa	ne			
	Q, Search					
ALL TABLES MAPS PAGES 4 Results Filter Download	SELECTED HOUSING CHARA Survey/Program: American Communi TableID: DP04	CTERISTICS ty Survey	Product: 2017: ACS 1-Vear Estimates Data Profiles			
ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING	^		Congressional District 2 (115	th Congress), Colorado		
ESTIMATES		Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	
Survey/Program: American Community Survey Years: 2017,2016	V HOUSING OCCUPANCY					
Table: DP05	✓ Total housing units	381,482	+/-3,953	381,482	(X)	
	Occupied housing units	315,832	+/-4,108	82.8%	+/-0.9	
THE UNITED STATES	Vacant housing units	65,650	+/-3,644	17.2%	+/-0.9	
Survey/Program: American Community Survey	Homeowner vacancy rate	0.7	+/-0.3	(X)	(X	
Table: DP02	Rental vacancy rate	4.3	+/-1.1	(X)	(X	
	V UNITS IN STRUCTURE					
SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	✓ Total housing units	381,482	+/-3,953	381,482	(X	
Years: 2017;2016	1-unit, detached	238,941	+/-4,832	62.6%	+/-1.1	
Table: DP03	1-unit, attached	26,189	+/-2,183	6.9%	+/-0.0	
SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS	2 units	7,410	+/-1,378	1.9%	+/-0.4	
Survey/Program: American Community Survey	3 or 4 units	12,595	+/-2,138	3.3%	+/-0.6	
Table: DP04	5 to 9 units	21,906	+/-2,472	5.7%	+/-0.	
	10 to 19 units	22,518	+/-2,313	5.9%	+/-0.	
Accessibility	20 or more units	40,119	+/-2,919	10.5%	+/-0.1	
Information Quality	Mobile home	11,717	+/-1,855	3.1%	+/-0.5	
FOIA	Boat, RV, van, etc.	87	+/-107	0.0%	+/-0.1	
Data Protection and Privacy Policy	V YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT					

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov>.

Now you can view the table with customization and download options displayed at the top (see Figure 3.13). You can scroll through the table for information, and you have the option to collapse sections by clicking on the down arrow next to each category. You also have the option to transpose the table, show and hide margins of error using the "Margin of Error" button, and move and/or lock different columns by dragging and dropping the column headers.

	Q, Search			
// Search / Tables / DP04 ELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTIC urvey/Program: American Community Survey Tabl	S IelD: DP04 Product: 2017: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles	· •		
Data Notes Selections Decapaphy Yes	ars Topic 1 Survey Code Hide Filter Sort	transpose Table ★ Margin of Error Restore Layou	t Download Print Share More Data Map	
		Congressional District 2 (1	15th Congress), Colorado	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
V HOUSING OCCUPANCY				
\checkmark Total housing units	381,482	+/-3,953	381,482	(Χ
Occupied housing units	315,832	+/-4,108	82.8%	+/-0.
Vacant housing units	65,650	+/-3,644	17.2%	+/-0.
Homeowner vacancy rate	0.7	+/-0.3	(X)	(X
Rental vacancy rate	4.3	+/-1.1	(X)	(X
V UNITS IN STRUCTURE				
✓ Total housing units	381,482	+/-3,953	381,482	(X
1-unit, detached	238,941	+/-4,832	62.6%	+/-1.
1-unit, attached	26,189	+/-2,183	6.9%	+/-0.
2 units	7,410	+/-1,378	1.9%	+/-0.
3 or 4 units	12,595	+/-2,138	3.3%	+/-0.
5 to 9 units	21,906	+/-2,472	5.7%	+/-0.
10 to 19 units	22,518	+/-2,313	5.9%	+/-0.

To view information about rental cost burden, scroll down to the very bottom of the table to a section titled "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income (GRAPI)" (see Figure 3.14). This section includes a distribution of rental cost as a percentage of household income, so you can use cost burden limits proposed or set by the program to determine which categories you would like to include in your reporting.

Cens				Q, Sea	rch									
/ Search / Tab ELECTED H rvey/Program:	iles / DP04 OUSING CHAF American Commu	RACTERIST inity Survey	TableID: D	P04 Produc	t: 2017: ACS 1	-Year Esti	mates Data Profiles	~						
Data Notes	Selections) 1 Geography	Years	Topic 1 Sur	l <u>123</u> vey Code	95 Hide	Filter Sort	ad Transpose Table	+∕_ Margin of Error	≂ Restore Layout	Downle	oad Print Share More Data	😤 Map	
										Congressional Di	strict 2 (1	15th Congress), Colorado		
							Esti	mate		Margin of Error		Percent		Percent Margin of Error
\$2,000	to \$2,499							9,338		+/-1,:	220	9.	5%	+/-1.2
\$2,500	to \$2,999							3,394		+/-1,	039	3.	4%	+/-1.0
\$3,000	or more							3,937		+/-1,	009	4.	0%	+/-1.0
Media	n (dollars)							1,398		+/	-30		(X)	(X)
No rent j	aid							3,725		+/-1,	091		(X)	(X)
V GROSS RE	NT AS A PERCENT	AGE OF HOU	SEHOLD IN	ICOME (GRAP										
✓ Occupie	d units paying rent	t (excluding u	nits where	GRAPI cannot	t be computer	i)		97,049		+/-4,	203	97,0	49	(X)
Less th	an 15.0 percent							8,759		+/-1,	587	9.	0%	+/-1.6
15.0 to	19.9 percent							8,847		+/-1,	580	9.	1%	+/-1.6
20.0 to	24.9 percent							10,331		+/-1,	817	10.	6%	+/-1.8
25.0 to	29.9 percent							10,971		+/-1,:	596	11.	3%	+/-1.5
30.0 to	34.9 percent							11,153		+/-1,	785	11.	5%	+/-1.7
35.0 p	ercent or more							46,988		+/-3,	150	48.	4%	+/-2.6
Not com	puted							5,236		+/-1,:	283		(X)	(X)

20 Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data What Congress Needs to Know

If you would like to save this specific block of data from the table, the easiest way to do this is to highlight the section of interest, right click, and then select "Copy with headers." Your selection is then copied into your clipboard with the column headers as well as the geography name (in this case, the name of the congressional district) and can be pasted into another application (see Figure 3.15).

Figure 3.15. Cop	oying Selection	is of Interest			
	Q, Search				
// Search / Tables / DP04 SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERIS Survey/Program: American Community Survey	TICS TableID: DP04 Product: 2018: ACS 1-Year E	stimates Data Profiles 🗸			
Data Notes Selections 1 Geography	Years Topic 1 Survey Code His	b	Restore Layout Download Print Shar	More Data Map	
			Congressional District 2 (116th Con	gress), Colorado	
		Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
\$1,000 to \$1,499					
\$1,500 to \$1,999		29,628	+/-3,088	28.5%	+/-2.7
\$2,000 to \$2,499		10,384	+/-1,832	10.0%	+/-1.7
\$2,500 to \$2,999		4,312	+/-1,191	4.2%	+/-1.2
\$3,000 or more		2,000	+/-747	1.9%	+/-0.7
Median (dollars)		1,425	+/-35	(X)	(X)
No rent paid		3,257	+/-826	(X)	(X)
✓ GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOU	ISEHOLD INCOME (GRAPI)				
✓ Occupied units paying rent (excluding of a second se	units where GRAPI cannot be computed)	101,753	+/-4,068	101,753	(X)
Less than 15.0 percent		9,633	+/-1,707	9.5%	+/-1.6
15.0 to 19.9 percent		12,549	+/-2,539	12.3%	+/-2.3
20.0 to 24.9 percent		13,614	+/-1,835	13.4%	+/-1.8
25.0 to 29.9 percent		14,292	+/-2,102	14.0%	Convicells Ctri+C
30.0 to 34.9 percent		7,474	+/-1,562	7.3%	Coprwith headers
35.0 percent or more		44,191	+/-3,045	43.4%	Export Table
Not computed		5,290	+/-1,352	(X)	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <https://data.census.gov>.

If you would like to download the table in CSV format, click on "Download" in the tool bar at the top of the page (see Figure 3.16). You can then change the year or select multiple years. When you finish making your selections, click "Download" in the bottom right corner.

	م	Search					
h / Tables / DP04 TED HOUSING CHARACTERIS	STICS						
ogram: American Community Survey	TableID: DP04	Product: 2017: A	S 1-Year Estimates Data Profile	<u>a v</u>			
otes Selections 1 Geograph	y Years Topic	12 1 Survey Cor	e Hide Filter Sort	rranspose Table Margin of	Error Restore Layout Down	aload rint Share More Data Ma	a P
wnload Tables							
ect Table Vintages							
DB04	All 2	017 201	5				
1-Year							
Type			What You're	Getting			
CSV			 1.csv file 	us (metadata)			
PDF			 1 .csv file 	s (data)			
			 1 .txt files 	; (table title)			Uncompressed Estimated Size
							Down
ess than 15.0 percent				8,759	+/-1,587	9.0%	+/-
5.0 to 19.9 percent				8,847	+/-1,580	9.1%	+/-
0.0 to 24.9 percent				10,331	+/-1,817	10.6%	+/-
5.0 to 29.9 percent				10,971	+/-1,596	11.3%	+/-
0.0 to 34.9 percent				11,153	+/-1,785	11.5%	+/-
5.0 percent or more				46,988	+/-3,150	48.4%	+/-

Case Study #3: Poverty and Income Data for New Markets Tax Credit

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced Subject: Poverty Type of Analysis: Analyses of poverty estimates within a community Tool Used: Data.census.gov

New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) provide a way for certified Community Development Entities (CDEs) to provide below-market rate financing for qualified businesses in low-income communities. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury through a competitive application process. One of the qualifying criteria is that the business or development project must be in a low-income community. According to U.S. Code, low-income communities are census tracts where the poverty rate is at least 20 percent, or the median family income is less than 80 percent of the state or metropolitan statistical area median family income.¹⁹

Congressional staff can use the American Community Survey (ACS) to determine which census tracts within their districts qualify as "low income" and whether a potential project is in an eligible census tract. For example, assume you are a staff member in the office of Virginia's 6th District and want to determine whether four census tracts in the city of Roanoke would qualify as low-income communities under NMTC criteria.

Start by navigating to the data.census.gov Web site at <https://data.census.gov>. Click "Advanced Search" under the search bar. This will bring you to the Advanced Search page (see Figures 3.17 and 3.18).

Figure 3.17. Data.census.gov	
Explore Census Data The Census Bureau is the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy. Q I'm looking for	
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov, <https: data.census.gov="">.</https:>	

¹⁹ Legal Information Institute, 26 U.S. Code § 45D. New markets tax credit, <www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/26/45D>.

Figure 3.18. Using Advanced Se	arch in Data.census.gov	
	Q Search	
// Search / Advanced Search Advanced Search Table ID (e.g., DP05)	ch	
Narrow search with filters FIND A FILTER e.g. 336111 - Automobile Manufacturir	ıg Q	
BROWSE FILTERS Topics Geography Years Surveys Codes		
	Please select a filter	to narrow your search.
Selected Filters:		CLEAR FILTERS SEARCH
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, data.census	gov, <https: data.census.gov="">.</https:>	

To access information about census tracts in Roanoke, Virginia:

- Begin with the Geography filter. Select "Geography" in the navigation pane on the left side of the screen. This expands a list of all the available geographic levels.
- Move the white button to the right to show Summary Levels.
- Select "140 Census Tract."
- Then scroll to select "Virginia" from the "140 Census Tract (State)" filter.
- Next, scroll to select "Roanoke city, Virginia" from the "Virginia (County)" filter.
- Scroll to check the boxes of your desired tracts from the "Roanoke city, Virginia" filter. For this case study, check Census Tracts 9, 10, 24, and 25, of Roanoke city, Virginia (see Figure 3.19).
- Then click "Search" in the bottom right corner.

ensus	Q Search					
Search / Advanced Search Advanced able ID (e.g., DP05)	Search					
ND A FILTER g. 336111 - Automobile I	Manufacturing	٩.				
BROWSE FILTERS Topics Geography Years Surveys Codes	CEOGRAPHY Course - suster-country-country Subdivisor Place/Remainder: Census Tract-Block Group- Urban/Rural 001 - Block Group within Place/Remainder 100 - Block Within Census Tract 140 - Census Tract 140 - Diseling Country Tract- Anteria Aran Indian Aray Jasaka Nature Aran Isanalian Home Land (or part) 150 - Block Group within Census Tract	140 - CENSUS TRACT (STATE) Q Pennsylvania Puerto Rico Rhode Island South Carolina South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas United States Virgin Islands Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia	VIRGINIA (COUNTY) Pulaski County, Virginia Radford city, Virginia Rappahamock County, Virginia Richmond County, Virginia Roanoke County, Virginia Roanoke City, Virginia Rockindige County, Virginia Russell County, Virginia Salem city, Virginia Salem city, Virginia Schagadoka County, Virginia	ROANCKE CITY, VIRGINIA Census Tract 22, Roanoke city, Virginia Census Tract 23, Roanoke city, Virginia Census Tract 24, Roanoke rity, Virginia Census Tract 25, Roanoke city, Virginia Census Tract 26, Roanoke city, Virginia Census Tract 28, Roanoke city, Virginia Census Tract 28, Roanoke city, Virginia	Q .	

On the search results page, you can preview a list of available tables by selecting either "View All Tables" or by clicking on "Tables" at the top of the page (see Figure 3.20).

gure 3.20. Viewing Av	ailable Tables for Selec	ted Census Tracts		
	Q Search			
ALL TABLES MAPS P	AGES			
ut 2,680 results Filter				
bles				
ACE AND SEX				
Survey/Program: American Communit	y Survey			
fears: 2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,201	3,2012,2011,2010 Table: S0101			
	Total		Perc	ent
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	
✓ Total population	6,245	+/-779	(X)	
✓ AGE				
Under 5 years	571	+/-258	9.1%	
5 to 9 years	586	+/-269	9.4%	
10 to 14 years	558	+/-207	8.9%	
4		. / 407	10.70	Þ
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS C	IF THE TOTAL AND NATIVE POPULA	ITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES		40.76
CTERISTICS C rican Communit 5,2015,2014,201	IF THE TOTAL AND NATIVE POPULA y Survey 3,2012,2011,2010 Table: S0601	ITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES		
GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY BY SEL	ECTED CHARACTERISTICS IN THE U	JNITED STATES		
Survey/Program: American Communit fears: 2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,201	y Survey 3,2012,2011,2010 Table: S0701			
			VIEW ALL TABLES	5 (134
			VIEW ALL TABLES	S (134

On the left side of the page, you will see a list of available tables, while the right side of the page will display a preview of the selected table. To find your desired table, you can either use the scroll bar or enter an additional filter. Since the desired table is not shown on the first page, select "Filter." Select "Topics," and then use the filters to select "Income and Poverty," "Poverty," and "Poverty" again. To preview the available poverty tables, collapse the filter menu by clicking the chevron above "Hide" in the upper right corner of the filter window (see Figure 3.21).



Select "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months" to preview the table. For the purposes of this case study, we are using 2017 ACS 5-year estimates. You can select the desired survey year by clicking on the "Product" selection and then selecting "2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables." You can either view the table in data.census.gov or download the table to view the data in another format. For this example, we will view the table in data.census.gov (see Figure 3.22).

	Q Search							
ALL TABLES MAPS PAGES 5 Results Filter Download	POVERTY STA Survey/Program: A TableID: \$1701	TUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS merican Community Survey		Product	2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab 2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab	les		CUSTOMIZE TABLE
OVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12	Census Tract 9, Roano	ke city, Virginia			2016: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab	les		noke city, Virginia
ONTHS	Below povert	ty level	Percent below po	verty level	2015: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab	les		rrty level
rvey/Program: American Community Survey ars: 2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012	istimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	2014: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab 2013: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab	les		Margin of Error
Je: S1701	2,297	+/-639	38.9%	+/-9.2	2012: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tab	les		+/-198
VERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12								
INTHS OF FAMILIES	1,097	+/-521	53.9%	+/-17.9	610	+/-118	275	+/-105
vey/Program: American Community Survey ins:	428	+/-232	76.2%	+/-17.0	160	+/-66	56	+/-44
8,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010	669	+/-386	45.4%	+/-21.2	450	+/-109	219	+/-91
	1,097	+/-521	53.9%	+/-17.9	610	+/-118	275	+/-105
OOD STAMPS/SUPPLEMENTAL IUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	1,017	+/-224	31.6%	+/-7.0	1,558	+/-279	506	+/-118
	384	+/-152	30.0%	+/-10.8	585	+/-210	142	+/-79
vey/Program: American Community Survey	633	+/-191	32.6%	+/-8.2	973	+/-154	364	+/-86
rs: 8.2017.2016.2015.2014.2013.2012.2011.2010	300	+/-118	31.3%	+/-10.5	175	+/-47	52	+/-33
le: S2201	183	+/-84	28.2%	+/-12.8	108	+/-32	21	+/-20
TIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL IN								
E PAST 12 MONTHS BY NATIVITY OF	987	+/-264	35.9%	+/-9.6	1,082	+/-243	281	+/-99
ILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS IN FAMILIES D SUBFAMILIES BY LIVING	1,310	+/-454	41.5%	+/-11.0	1,194	+/-196	521	+/-151
RANGEMENTS AND NATIVITY OF								074
RENTS	439	4/-299	28.5%	+/-16.1	596	+/-164	168	+/-/1
rey/Program: American Community Survey	1,835	+/-567	45.6%	+/-10.5	1,315	+/-263	556	+/-185
8,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010 le: 805010	11	+/-19	28.9%	+/-52.7	0	+/-12	0	+/-12
	0	+/-17	0.0%	+/-18.1	5	+/-9	0	+/-12
ACE OF BIRTH BY POVERTY STATUS IN	0	+/-1/			D	+/-12	0	+/-12

Use the horizontal scroll bar to view all the tract-level estimates and their associated margins of error. In this example, all four tracts have poverty rates higher than 20 percent. To make sure that the lower bound of the confidence interval for each poverty rate estimate does not fall below 20 percent, subtract the margin of error from each poverty rate estimate. For example, the poverty rate for Census Tract 9 is 38.9 percent and the margin of error is 9.2 percent. The lower bound is 38.9 minus 9.2 or 29.7 percent. The lower bound remains above 20 percent for all four of these census tracts.²⁰

The second criteria for NMTC eligibility is a requirement that the median family income for a census tract not exceed 80 percent of the median family income for the metropolitan statistical area (if the tract is part of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area) or for the state (if the tract is not part of a metropolitan statistical area). Since we already know the table ID that contains these data, type "B19113" into the search bar at the top of the page. Then select "Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2017 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)" (see Figure 3.23).

Figure 3.23. Search	ing for a Table	
	<u>B19113</u>	X Search
ALL TABLES MAPS PAGES	B19113: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2017 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	
77 Results Filter Download	B19113A: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2017 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) (WHITE ALONE HOUSEHOLDER)	
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	B19113B: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2017 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE	
Years: 2017;2018;2015;2014;2013;2012 Table: \$1701	HOUSEHOLDER)	
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12	Advanced Search	
Source: U.S. Census Bure	eau. data.census.gov. <https: data.census.gov="">.</https:>	

Click on the "Product" selection and select "2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables." Since the table shows the United States as the default geography, you need to filter by geography to add the census tracts and metropolitan statistical area required for your analysis. Select "Geographies" (see Figure 3.24).

	Q B19113: MEDI	AN FAMI	LY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 201	8 INFLATION-	ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	×	Search
// Search / Tables / B19113 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MO	NTHS (IN 2017 INFI	ATION-A	DJUSTED DOLLARS)				
Survey/Program: American Community Survey Universe: For Data Notes Selections Geographies Years T	amilies TableID: B19113	Product: Mide F	2018: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2017: ACS 1-Year <u>Estimates Detailed</u> Tables	tore Layout	↓ 🖶 🖒 편 Download Print Share More Da	ata Map	
			2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables	United States			
			2016: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2016: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables		Margin of Err	or	
Median family income in the past 12 months (in 2017	inflation-adjusted		2015: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2015: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2014: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2014: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2013: ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables 2013: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables	350			+/-215

²⁰ Statistical testing would be needed to determine whether this poverty estimate is significantly different from 20 percent. For more information, see the section on "Understanding Error and Determining Statistical Significance" in the Census Bureau's handbook *Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know*, <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks /general.html>.

Add the four census tracts to your "Selected Filters." Because these four tracts are part of the Roanoke, VA Metro Area, add this area to your filters, as shown in Figure 3.25.

Figure 3.25. Adding	the Metropolitan Statistical Area Geography	
	Q B19113: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2018 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	× Search
// Search / Tables / B19113 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 I Survey/Program: American Community Survey Data Notes Selections 5 Geographies Yeat	MONTHS (IN 2017 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) e: Families Tablelb: B19113 Product: 2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables Tablelb: B19113 Product: 2017	
GEOGRAPHY Show Summary Levels 316 - Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Division- State-County 320 - Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area within State 321 - Principal City within Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area 322 - State-Metropolitan Statistical Area 323 - State-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan	320 - METROPOLITAN/MICROPO_Q VIRGINIA Q Oregon Micro Area (part); Virginia Micro Area; (part); Virginia Puerto Rico Jynchburg, VA Metro Area; Rhode Island Jynchburg, VA Metro Area; South Carolina Micro Area (Micro Area; Virginia Richmond, VA Metro Area; Tennessee Roanoke, VA Metro Area; Texas South Dakota Utah Southor Area; Virginia Vermont Virginia Bech-Norfolk- Virginia Sabilington West Virginia Washington- West Virginia Washington- Wisconsin Jwin Area; (part); Virginia Work (Parto Area; (part); Virginia Wisconsin Work (Parto Area; (part); Virginia Jwington-	1
Selected Geographies: Census Tract 9	Roanoke city, Virginia 😮 Census Tract 10, Roanoke city, Virginia 😵 MORE (3)	CLOSE
Source: U.S. Census Burea	au, data.census.gov, <https: data.census.gov="">.</https:>	

After closing the filter menu, make sure that the 2017 ACS 5-year estimates are selected. Then select "Download" from the menu at the top of the screen. Check that the default download specifications in the "Download Tables" window are correct and select "Download" again (see Figure 3.26).

Figure 3.26. Download	ing a Table With Mec	dian Family	/ Income ii	n Data.censi	us.gov	
	Q B19113: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN	N THE PAST 12 MON	THS (IN 2018 INFLAT	ION-ADJUSTED DOLLAF	rs) 🗙	(Search
// Search / Tables / B19113 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MO Survey/Program: American Community Survey Universe: Fo	NTHS (IN 2017 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DO amilies TableID: B19113 Product: 2017: ACS 5-Year	DLLARS) r Estimates Detailed Tables	<u>~</u>			
Data Notes Selections 5 Geographies Years	Topic Survey Code Hide Filter Sort	Transpose Table Marg		ayout Download Print	Share More Data Ma	p
Download Tables Select Table Vintages						ia 1 C
B19113	2018 2017 2016 2015	2014 2013	2012 2011	2010		
5-Year						
File Type © CSV PPDF	What You're Getting • 1.csv files (metadate • 1.csv files (data) • 1.txt files (table title)	a))			Uncompressed Estimate	ed Size: 439 B
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, o	data.census.gov, <https: d<="" td=""><td>ata.census.go</td><td>v>.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></https:>	ata.census.go	v>.			

Select "Download Now" after the file is prepared (see Figure 3.27).



From the compressed folder, open the file with "data_with_overlays" shown in the file name to analyze the data in a spreadsheet.

Divide median family income for each of the tracts by the median family income of the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area (\$66,334). The results suggest that none of the tracts have median family income values that exceed 80 percent of the median family income for the Roanoke Metropolitan Statistical Area. However, a statistical test would be needed to confirm that this is correct. For more information about statistical tests, see the section on "Understanding Error and Determining Statistical Significance" in the Census Bureau's handbook *Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know.*²¹

²¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know, <www.census.gov /programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html>.

4. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

U.S. Census Bureau, What Is the American Community Survey?

<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data:

What All Data Users Need to Know

<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Resources for Congress Flyer

<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/library/outreach-materials/flyers/acs-constituent-answers.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, Questions on the Form and Why We Ask

<www.census.gov/acs/www/about/why-we-ask-each-question/>.

U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Handbook of Questions and Current Federal Uses

<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/operations-and-administration/2014-content-review/federal-uses.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, Library, Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution

<www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2017/decennial/census-data-federal-funds.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Data Releases

<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, Geography and ACS

<www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Data Tables and Tools

<www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/>.

U.S. Census Bureau, Data.census.gov: Census Bureau's New Data Dissemination Platform Release Notes and Frequently Asked Questions

<https://data.census.gov/assets/releasenotes/faqs-release-notes.pdf>.

U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov Resources

<www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html>.

U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District

<www.census.gov/mycd/>.

U.S. Census Bureau, State Data Center (SDC) Program

<www.census.gov/about/partners/sdc.html>.

American Community Survey Online Community

https://acsdatacommunity.prb.org/>.