

## 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.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup>

### 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

database.<sup>13</sup> 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

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Data.census.gov, <<https://data.census.gov>>.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, data.census.gov Resources, <[www.census.gov/content/census/en/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html](http://www.census.gov/content/census/en/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html)>.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <[www.census.gov/mycd/](http://www.census.gov/mycd/)>.



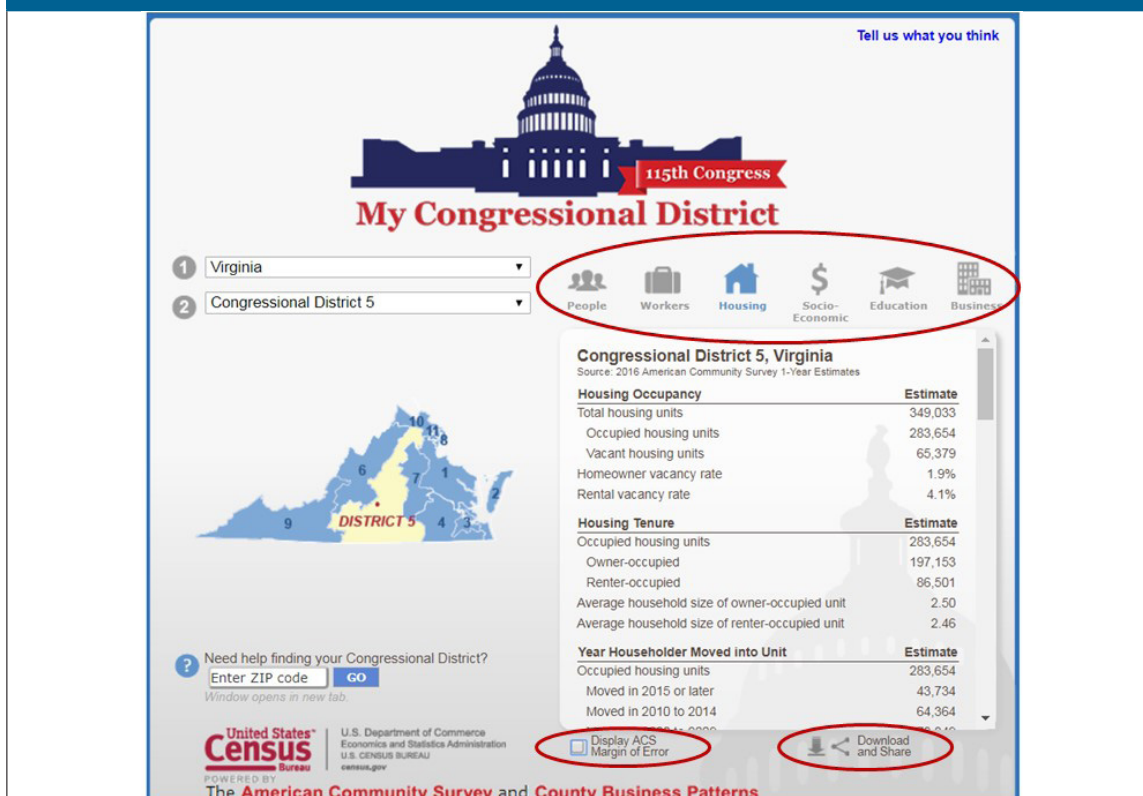
option to identify a congressional district by entering a ZIP code.

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*.<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/handbooks/general.html)>.

Figure 2.2. Selecting a Topical Area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <[www.census.gov/mycd/](http://www.census.gov/mycd/)>.

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.

Figure 2.3. Downloading and Sharing Data



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, My Congressional District, <[www.census.gov/mycd/](http://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 congressional districts.
It combines ACS data on population, housing, education, 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 comparisons or selections of multiple congressional districts.