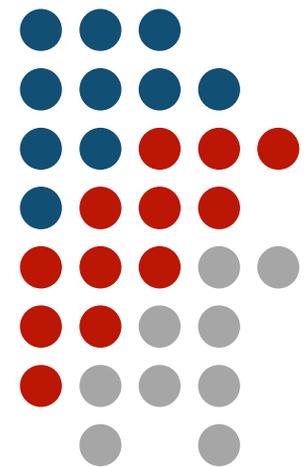


# Understanding Housing Needs in Your Community Using Data from the American Community Survey

February 13, 2015

Lisa Sturtevant, PhD  
Vice President of Research,  
National Housing Conference

Webinar series sponsored by

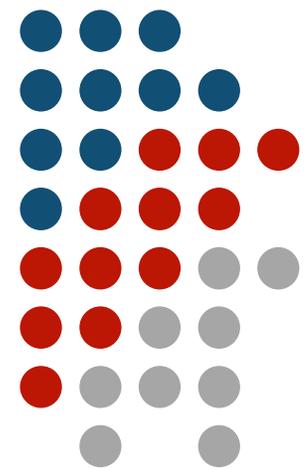


# Understanding Housing Needs in Your Community Using Data from the American Community Survey

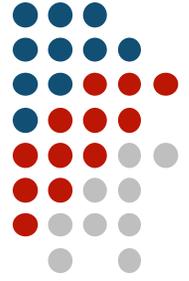
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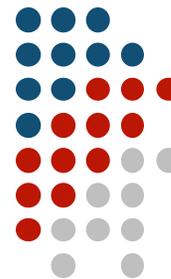


# Agenda

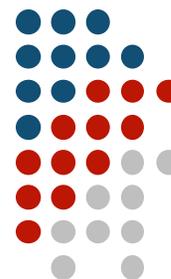


- Overview of the American Community Survey
- American FactFinder Basics
- Accessing Housing and Population Data for Your Local Community
  - Hands-on exercise
  - Troubleshooting
- Presenting ACS Data

# Objectives

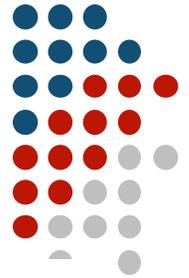


- Provide an **introduction** to the American Community Survey
- Offer easy “1-2-3” steps for finding data for your local place
- Discuss effective ways to present survey data to tell your story



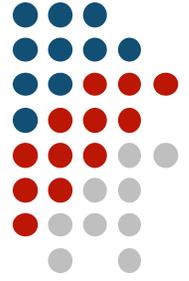
# Overview of the American Community Survey

# American Community Survey



- The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide **survey** that collects essentially the same information on people and housing that was collected on the long-form questionnaire used in Census 2000.
- The ACS is a continuous survey, in which each month a sample of housing unit addresses receives a questionnaire. About three million addresses are surveyed each year.
- The Census Bureau began testing the ACS in the 2001-2004 period and has been in operation since 2005.
- The ACS will provide detailed population and housing characteristics every year.

# American Community Survey (ACS)

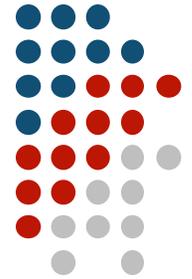


## Demographic Characteristics

- Sex
- Age
- Race
- Hispanic/Latino origin



Photo: U.S. Census Bureau



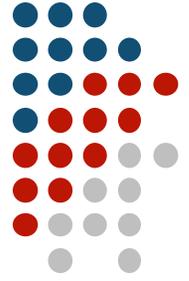
# American Community Survey (ACS)

## Social Characteristics

- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Language Spoken at Home
- Ancestry/Tribal Affiliation



Photo: U.S. Census Bureau



# American Community Survey (ACS)

## Economic Characteristics

- Income
- Benefits
- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work
- Place of Work

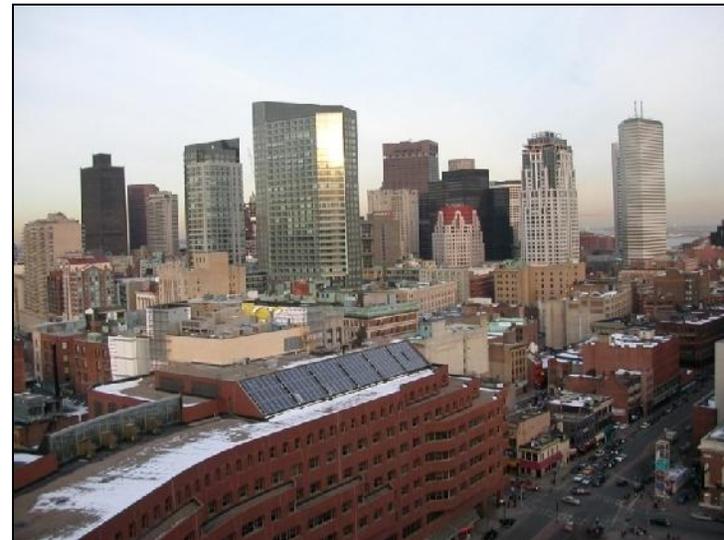
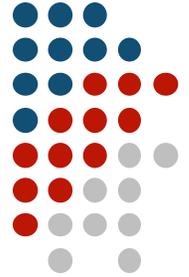


Photo: U.S. Census Bureau



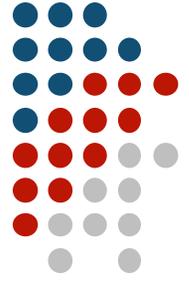
# American Community Survey (ACS)

## Housing Characteristics

- Tenure
- Occupancy & Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/Monthly Rent



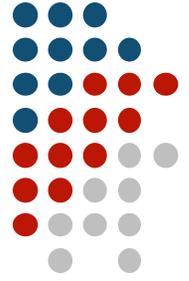
Photos: U.S. Census Bureau



# American Community Survey (ACS) Estimates

- ACS estimates are period estimates, describing the average characteristics over a specified period (e.g. 2012, 2010-2012, 2008-2012).
- In contrast, point-in-time estimates describe the characteristics of an area on a specific date (e.g. April 1, 2010).
- ACS 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates will be released for geographic areas that meet specific population thresholds.

# American Community Survey (ACS)



Three different kinds of ACS estimates:

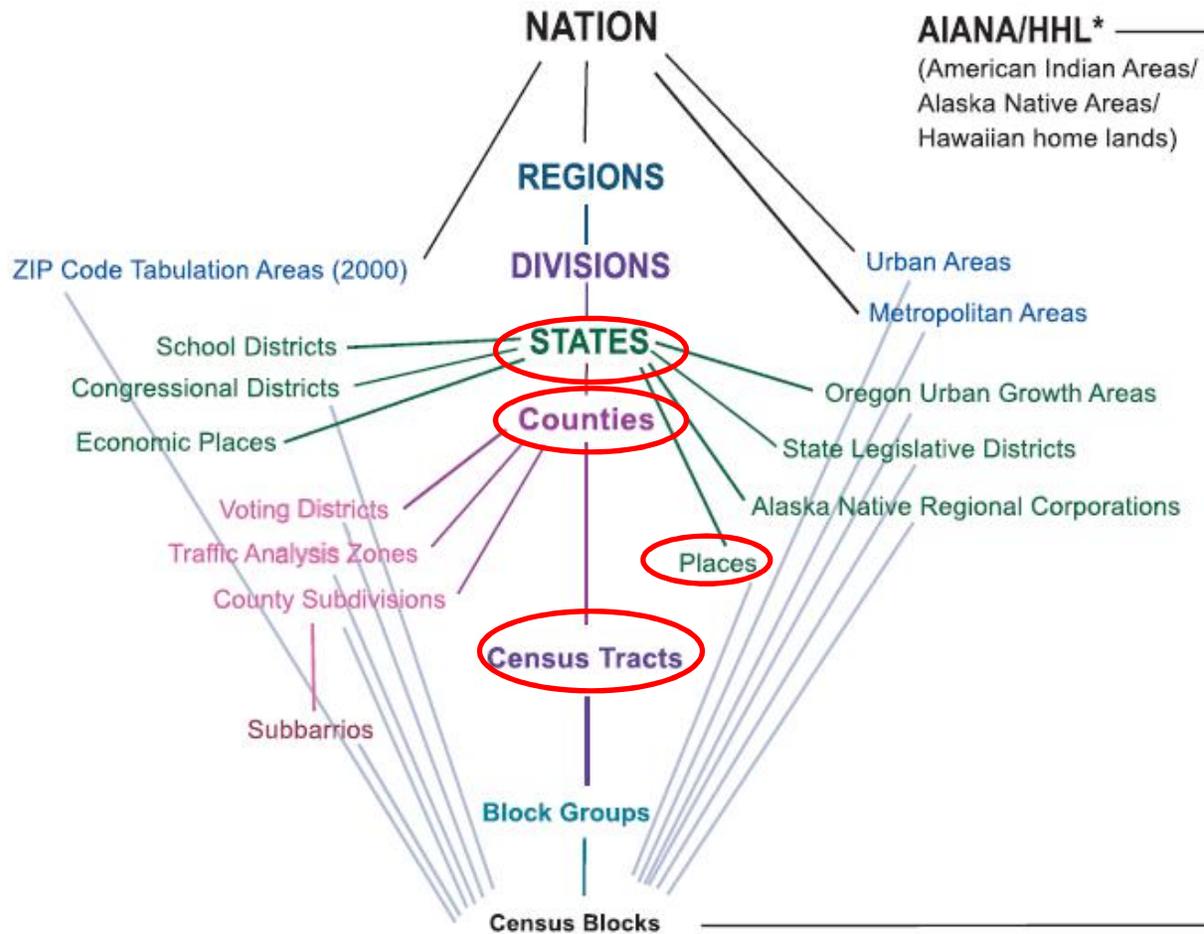
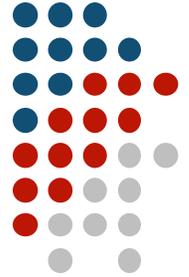
5-year estimates for all geographic areas (“small places”)

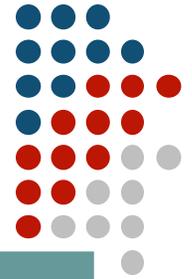
3-year estimates for areas with 20,000 or more (“medium places”)

1-year estimates for areas with 65,000 or more (“big places”)

Sample size (number of people surveyed) not large enough to obtain annual estimates for small areas.

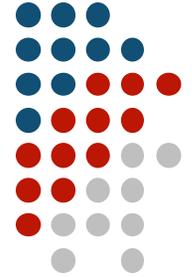
# American Community Survey (ACS) Geographies



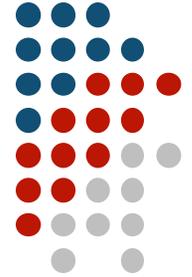


# Comparing the Census and the ACS

	2010 Census	American Community Survey
<b>Purpose</b>	To show the <i>number</i> of people who live in the U.S.	To show <i>characteristics</i> of people who live in the U.S.
<b>Questions</b>	10 questions	+/-69 questions
<b>Frequency</b>	April 1, 2010	On-going
<b>How to use it</b>	To obtain counts and basic demographic characteristics	To summarize detailed characteristics using percentages and averages
<b>Who is questioned</b>	The entire population (over 130 million households)	A sample of the population (about 3 million households each year)
<b>Type of data</b>	Counts	Estimates with margins of error
<b>Geographies available on AFF</b>	Down to the block group level	Down to the tract level



# Questions about the American Community Survey?



# American FactFinder Basics

Start at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)



- Topics: Population, Economy
- Geography: Maps, Geographic Data
- Library: Infographics, Publications
- Data: Tools, Developers
- About the Bureau: Research, Surveys
- Newsroom: News, Events, Blogs

### Data Tools and Apps

Find information using interactive applications to get statistics from multiple surveys.

- American FactFinder**
- Census Explorer
- Easy Stats
- Interactive Population Map
- My Congressional District
- Population Clock
- Quick Facts

- Data Tools and Apps
- Developers
- Mobile Apps
- Product Catalog
- Related Sites
- Software
- Training & Workshops
- Visualizations

### Office Employment

Explore job available in your state.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

#### World Population

7,219,773,012

Jan 23, 2015 17:50 UTC (Eastern+5) [Learn More >>](#)

Select a state to begin

#### U.S. Census Bureau Economic Indicators

New Residential Construction	1,089,000	↑
December 2014 Report	Housing starts	4.4%
Released 8:30 AM EST, 1/21/15		
Business Inventories	\$1,763.6 B	↑
November 2014 Report		0.2%
Released 10:00 AM EST, 1/14/15		
Advance Monthly Retail Sales	\$442.9 B	↑
View All * change not statistically significant / significance not reported / applicable		

### Latest News



**2014 Population Estimates available on American FactFinder**  
 January 22, 2015  
 2014 U.S. and State Population Estimates are now available on American FactFinder and Monthly Population Estimates to Jan. 1, 2015.



**FFF: Super Bowl XLIX: Feb. 1, 2015**  
 January 22, 2015  
 Super Bowl XLIX will be played Feb. 1 at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.



**FFF: Black (African-American) History Month: February 2015**  
 January 21, 2015  
 Each year, U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month. To commemorate, the Census Bureau presents the following statistics.



**Educational Attainment in the United States: 2014**  
 January 20, 2015  
 This table package provides statistics on academic achievement by demographic characteristics, such as age, sex and Hispanic origin.

### Stat of the Day

#### Construction

Roofing contractors reported \$6.1 billion in annual payroll and \$1.6 billion in total fringe benefits for employees in 2012.

[Read More](#)

[Learn more >>](#)

### The Week Ahead

<b>Fri</b> Jan 23	<b>Mon</b> Jan 26	<b>Tue</b> Jan 27	<b>Wed</b> Jan 28	<b>Thur</b> Jan 29
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Profile America Facts for Features and Graphic: Valentine's Day: Feb. 14, 2015

Tip Sheet: List and Description of Upcoming Census Bureau Releases and Products



### Community Facts

Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.

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

### Guided Search

### Advanced Search

### Download Center



American FactFinder provides access to data about the United States, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas. The data in American FactFinder come from several censuses and surveys. For more information see [Using FactFinder](#) and [What We Provide](#).

### Using American FactFinder

Learn about American FactFinder's [functions](#) and [features](#).

### What We Provide

The following data are available on American FactFinder:

- American Community Survey [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - American Housing Survey [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - Annual Economic Surveys [more »](#)
  - Annual Surveys of Governments [more »](#)
  - Census of Governments [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - Decennial Census [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - Economic Census [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - Population Estimates Program [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
  - Puerto Rico Community Survey [more »](#) | [get data »](#)
- [more »](#)

### Deep Linking Guide

A how-to guide for [Building Deep Links into American Factfinder \(PDF\)](#) is available.

### News and Notes



December 09, 2014

The final estimate tables for the 2012 Commodity Flow Survey were released on December 9th, 2014...



[view all news, release schedules, and more »](#)

### Address Search

Find Census data by entering a [street address](#).



### Reference Maps

Reference Maps show selected geographic boundaries for an area along with orienting features, such as roads.

United States

### Load Query

Use [Load Query](#) to restore a previously saved query.

American FactFinder

factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jstf/pages/index.xhtml

U.S. Department of Commerce  
**United States Census Bureau**

AMERICAN FactFinder

Feedback FAQs Glossary Help

MAIN COMMUNITY FACTS GUIDED SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH DOWNLOAD CENTER English Español

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[more »](#)

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**For basic data** →

**For more detailed data** →

**For block group data** →

▶ **Community Facts**

▶ **Guided Search**

▼ **Advanced Search**

Search all data in American FactFinder, with access to all geographic types and datasets.

SHOW ME ALL

▶ **Download Center**



American FactFinder provides access to data about the United States, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas. The data in American FactFinder come from several censuses and surveys. For more information see [Using FactFinder](#) and [What We Provide](#).

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- [more »](#)

**Deep Linking Guide**

A how-to guide for [Building Deep Links](#) into American

**News and Notes**

GET EMAIL UPDATES



December 04, 2014  
Results from the 2013 American Housing Survey (AHS) are now available ...



[view all news, release schedules, and more »](#)

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American FactFinder - Search

factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t

U.S. Department of Commerce  
**United States Census Bureau**

**AMERICAN FactFinder**

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

**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, ...)

**To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:**

- 1 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click **GO**

topic or table name 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

- 3 Select one or more Search Results and click **View**

**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:

1 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

Select Geographies

List **Name** Address Map

Enter a geography name or use the Geography Filter Options below:

Enter a geography name (Alabama, Marengo County, ...)   ?

- 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, ...)

**Your Geography Filters**  
"Your Geography Filters" is empty

Select geographies to add to Your Selections

Select from:  
 most requested summary levels  all summary levels  individual blocks

**Geography Filter Options**

- Geographic Type**
- Nation (1)
  - Region (22)
  - Division (9)
  - State (60)
  - County (10,046)
  - School District (29,305)
  - Congressional District (41,101)
  - State Legislative District (104)
  - City or Town (109,579)
  - Economic Place (16,689)
  - Township/Census County Division (61,299)
  - Census Tract (176,055)
  - Block Group (21,196)
  - Block (123,084)
  - Metro/Micro Area (2,763)
  - Urban Area (13,093)
  - ZIP Code/ZCTA (127,496)

- Include in results:
- All geographies ?
  - Individual geographies
  - Groups of geographies
- Show Geographic Components (e.g., urban, rural)

Search using FIPS code: ?

Select a geographic type:

**Geography Results: 1-25 of 734,133**

Selected:

Geography Name	Geography Type	About
<input type="checkbox"/> United States	United States	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> All States within United States and Puerto Rico	State	
<input type="checkbox"/> All States within United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas	State	
<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaska	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> California	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Delaware	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	State	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	State	<a href="#">?</a>

**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:

1 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

Select Topics [CLOSE X]

Select Topics to add to 'Your Selections' ?

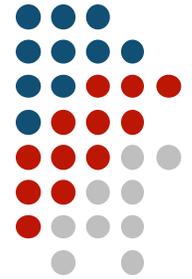
- + People
- + Housing
- + Business and Industry
- + Governments
- + Year
- + Product Type
- + Program
- + Dataset

Note: The Race & Ethnicity topic is available under the Race and Ethnic Groups button on the left.

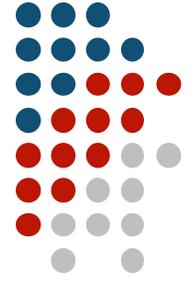
Include archived products in your search ?

- 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, ...)

3 Select one or more Search Results and click View

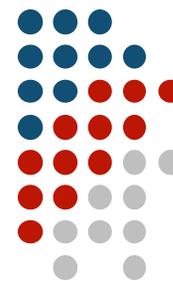


# Questions about the Basic Set up of American FactFinder?



# Accessing Housing and Population Data for Your Local Community

# ACS Data for a Neighborhood or Local Jurisdiction

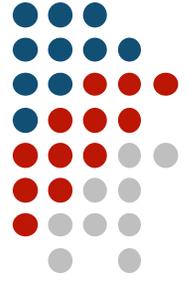


**\*Write answers down to help guide search\*\***

- What geographic **area(s)** do you want to know something about?
  - Use address lookup to find Census tracts, etc.
  - Determine available estimates (1-year, 3-year or 5-year). Small, medium or big place?
- What **information** do you want to know?
  - Info could be in Data Profiles or in detailed tables
- What **time period(s)** do you want information for?
  - Most recent ACS data are for 2013 (or 2011-2013 or 2009-2013)
  - Can usually compare relatively easily to 2000 Census

# Accessing ACS Data

## Step 1: Select Geography



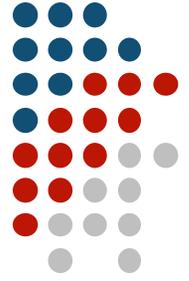
- Click on **Geographies**. Then you have the following options:
  - (Optional) Click on **Address** to type in an address and find the Census place, tract, block group, district, etc. associated with that address.
  - Click on **Name** and type the name of the place directly.

OR

- Click on **List** to use drop downs to find your place.
- Look for relevant geography in the list below (hopefully the first one.)
  - Click on the box next to it. Click on **Add**.
- Click on **Close**.

# Accessing ACS Data

## Step 2: Select ACS Dataset



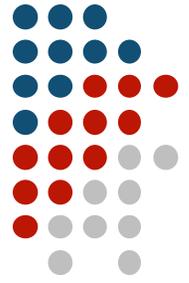
- Click on **Topics**.
  - Click on Datasets.
  - All of the most recent ACS data is at the top of the list. Click on the appropriate file (e.g. 2013 ACS 5-year estimates.)

For earlier data:

- 2010 SF1 100% Data (basic counts)
- 2000 SF1 100% Data (basic counts)
- 2000 SF3 Sample Data (detailed characteristics)

# Accessing ACS Data

## Step 3: Select Information/Characteristics

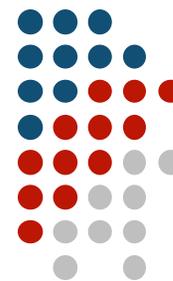


- Is the information you want in one of the 4 data profiles (tables start with the letter D)? Then stop here and click on **Close**.

Otherwise,

- Within **Topics**, click on either **People** or **Housing**.
  - Choose main topic of interest.
  - Choose data you want to “crosstab” with main topic of interest.
  - Click on **Close**.

# ACS Data for a Neighborhood or Local Jurisdiction



**\*Write answers down to help guide search\*\***

- What geographic **area(s)** do you want to know something about?

*Arlandria neighborhood in Alexandria, Virginia  
("small place")*

- What **information** do you want to know?

*No. of renters versus owners (tenure)*

*Rent burden by age of head of household*

What **time period(s)** do you want information for?

*Most recent data available (2009-2013)*

**Advanced Search** - Search all data in American FactFinder

1 **Advanced Search** 2 **Table Viewer**

Result 1 of 1 VIEW ALL AS PDF

B25072 AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER BY GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS  
 Universe: Renter-occupied housing units  
 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table View BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH

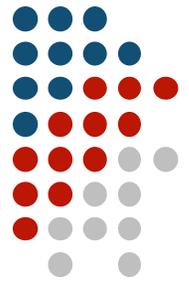
Actions: Modify Table Bookmark Print Download Create a Map

View Geography Notes View Table Notes

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.

		Census Tract 2012.03, Alexandria city, Virginia	
		Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:		1,972	+/-222
Householder 15 to 24 years:		191	+/-97
Less than 20.0 percent		0	+/-17
20.0 to 24.9 percent		0	+/-17
25.0 to 29.9 percent		55	+/-62
30.0 to 34.9 percent		36	+/-42
35.0 percent or more		100	+/-64
Not computed		0	+/-17
Householder 25 to 34 years:		955	+/-176
Less than 20.0 percent		191	+/-97
20.0 to 24.9 percent		62	+/-53
25.0 to 29.9 percent		133	+/-84
30.0 to 34.9 percent		88	+/-62
35.0 percent or more		458	+/-149
Not computed		23	+/-40
Householder 35 to 64 years:		715	+/-166
Less than 20.0 percent		239	+/-115
20.0 to 24.9 percent		53	+/-42
25.0 to 29.9 percent		113	+/-77
30.0 to 34.9 percent		72	+/-73
35.0 percent or more		238	+/-126
Not computed		0	+/-17
Householder 65 years and over:		111	+/-90
Less than 20.0 percent		0	+/-17
20.0 to 24.9 percent		0	+/-17
25.0 to 29.9 percent		23	+/-35
30.0 to 34.9 percent		0	+/-17
35.0 percent or more		88	+/-82
Not computed		0	+/-17

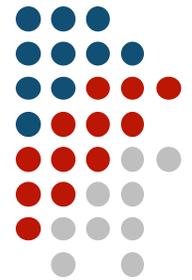
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey

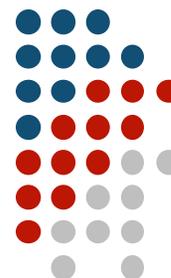


>>  
 ^ 1  
 -  
 29 of 29  
 >>

Census Tract 2012.03, Alexandria city, Virginia		
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	1,972	+/-222
Householder 15 to 24 years:	191	+/-97
Less than 20.0 percent	0	+/-17
20.0 to 24.9 percent	0	+/-17
25.0 to 29.9 percent	55	+/-62
30.0 to 34.9 percent	36	+/-42
35.0 percent or more	100	+/-64
Not computed	0	+/-17
Householder 25 to 34 years:	955	+/-176
Less than 20.0 percent	191	+/-97
20.0 to 24.9 percent	62	+/-53
25.0 to 29.9 percent	133	+/-84
30.0 to 34.9 percent	88	+/-62
35.0 percent or more	458	+/-149
Not computed	23	+/-40
Householder 35 to 64 years:	715	+/-166
Less than 20.0 percent	239	+/-115
20.0 to 24.9 percent	53	+/-42
25.0 to 29.9 percent	113	+/-77
30.0 to 34.9 percent	72	+/-73
35.0 percent or more	238	+/-126
Not computed	0	+/-17
Householder 65 years and over:	111	+/-90
Less than 20.0 percent	0	+/-17
20.0 to 24.9 percent	0	+/-17
25.0 to 29.9 percent	23	+/-35
30.0 to 34.9 percent	0	+/-17
35.0 percent or more	88	+/-82
Not computed	0	+/-17

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey





B25003

## TENURE

Universe: Occupied housing units   
2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year

Table View 

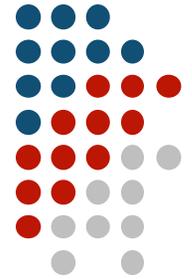
Actions:  [Modify Table](#) |  [Bookmark](#) |  [Print](#) |  [Download](#)

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates

3 of 3

Census Tract 2012.03, Alexandria city, Virginia		
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	2,346	+/-187
Owner occupied	374	+/-107
Renter occupied	1,972	+/-222

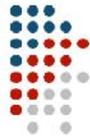
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey



**YOUR TURN!**

## ACS Data for a Neighborhood or Local Jurisdiction

**\*Write answers down to help guide search\*\***



- What geographic **area(s)** do you want to know something about?
  - Use address lookup to find Census tracts, etc.
  - Determine available estimates (1-year, 3-year or 5-year). Small, medium or big place?
- What **information** do you want to know?
  - Info could be in Data Profiles or in detailed tables
- What **time period(s)** do you want information for?
  - Most recent ACS data are for 2013 (or 2011-2013 or 2009-2013)
  - Can usually compare relatively easily to 2000 Census

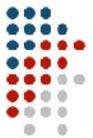
Tenure  
Rent burden  
by age

## Accessing ACS Data Step 2: Select ACS Dataset



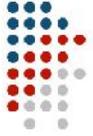
- Click on **Topics**.
    - Click on Datasets.
    - All of the most recent ACS data is at the top of the list. Click on the appropriate file (e.g. 2013 ACS 5-year estimates.)
- For earlier data:
- 2010 SF1 100% Data (basic counts)
  - 2000 SF1 100% Data (basic counts)
  - 2000 SF3 Sample Data (detailed characteristics)

## Accessing ACS Data Step 1: Select Geography

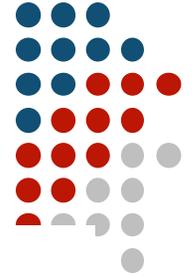


- Click on **Geographies**. Then you have the following options:
    - (Optional) Click on **Address** to type in an address and find the Census place, tract, block group, district, etc. associated with that address.
    - Click on **Name** and type the name of the place directly.
- OR
- Click on **List** to use drop downs to find your place.
  - Look for relevant geography in the list below (hopefully the first one.)
    - Click on the box next to it. Click on **Add**.
  - Click on **Close**.

## Accessing ACS Data Step 3: Select Information/Characteristics

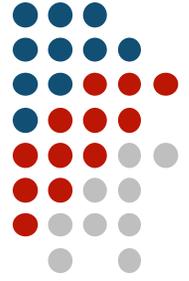


- Is the information you want in one of the 4 data profiles (tables start with the letter D)? Then stop here and click on **Close**.
- Otherwise,
- Within **Topics**, click on either **People** or **Housing**.
    - Choose main topic of interest.
    - Choose data you want to “crosstab” with main topic of interest.
    - Click on **Close**.



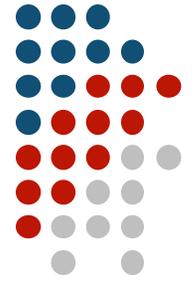
# Troubleshooting

- I can't find my geography.
  - Use the address look up feature.
  - Type the county into the Name box. Then look through all of the possible geographies in the box below.
  - Be sure there is not another geography or a dataset in the Selections box from a prior search.
- I can't select the ACS data I want for my chosen geography.
  - Select a larger geography. (No block group data in ACS.)
  - Select a multi-year ACS dataset.



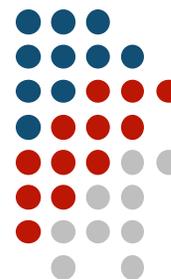
## Troubleshooting (cont.)

- After I select the information I want, there are no tables shown
  - Remove one of the (crosstab) topics then scan through the set of tables shown (esp. if less than 20 or so tables)
- I found good ACS data but I can't find the same data from the 2010 SF3.
  - Check out the ACS/2010 table comparison page:  
[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance\\_for\\_data\\_users/table\\_comparisons/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/table_comparisons/)
- The margins of error for the data I want are HUGE!
  - Use it with caveats or find another piece of information.

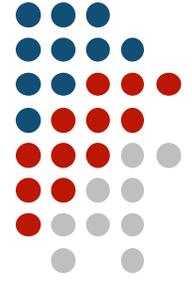


# Issues with ACS Estimates

- Margins of Error
  - Surveys have error and the ACS tables give you the margins of error for each estimate.
  - MOEs provide an indication of how reliable the data are.
    - Larger MOEs (less reliable data) for smaller places and for smaller populations/detailed crosstabulations.
- Making Comparisons Between Places and Over Times
  - Use the same period estimates (e.g. 5-year or 3-year) to compare two places.
  - Do not compare single-year to multi-year estimates.
  - Do not compare overlapping multi-year estimates.

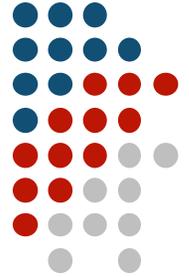


# Questions on Accessing ACS Data with American FactFinder?



# Presenting ACS Data

# Basic table from American FactFinder



B25072

AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER BY GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSE  
 Universe: Renter-occupied housing units ⓘ  
 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Table View

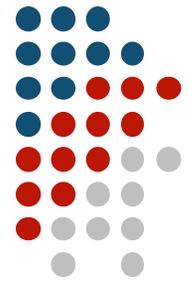
Actions: [Modify Table](#) | [Bookmark](#) | [Print](#) | [Download](#) | [Create a Map](#)

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and

		Alexandria city, Virginia	
		Estimate	Margin of Error
29 of 29	Total:	35,846	+/-2,274
	Householder 15 to 24 years:	1,452	+/-568
	Less than 20.0 percent	156	+/-259
	20.0 to 24.9 percent	78	+/-84
	25.0 to 29.9 percent	275	+/-230
	30.0 to 34.9 percent	50	+/-80
	35.0 percent or more	843	+/-431
	Not computed	50	+/-85
	Householder 25 to 34 years:	12,854	+/-1,654
	Less than 20.0 percent	3,940	+/-956
	20.0 to 24.9 percent	1,852	+/-571
	25.0 to 29.9 percent	1,754	+/-573
	30.0 to 34.9 percent	1,633	+/-828
	35.0 percent or more	3,241	+/-1,137
	Not computed	434	+/-299
	Householder 35 to 64 years:	18,932	+/-1,682
	Less than 20.0 percent	5,463	+/-982
	20.0 to 24.9 percent	2,324	+/-772
	25.0 to 29.9 percent	2,211	+/-926
	30.0 to 34.9 percent	1,478	+/-600
	35.0 percent or more	6,891	+/-1,545
	Not computed	565	+/-379
	Householder 65 years and over:	2,608	+/-779
	Less than 20.0 percent	240	+/-196
	20.0 to 24.9 percent	0	+/-198
	25.0 to 29.9 percent	631	+/-462
	30.0 to 34.9 percent	438	+/-363
	35.0 percent or more	811	+/-437
	Not computed	488	+/-360

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey

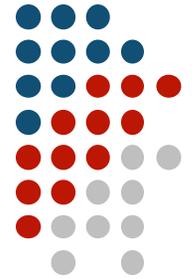
**Renters' Housing Cost Burden by Selected Household Characteristics: 2013**  
*Alexandria, Virginia*



	Total Households	Number of Households	Percent
<b>Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent</b>			
All Renters	35,846	15,385	42.9%
<b>Age of Household Head</b>			
15 to 24	1,452	893	61.5%
25 to 34	12,854	4,874	37.9%
35 to 64	18,932	8,369	44.2%
65+	2,608	1,249	47.9%
<b>Household Income</b>			
Less than \$20,000	4,523	2,887	63.8%
\$20,000 - 34,999	4,255	4,152	97.6%
\$35,000 - 49,999	4,086	3,802	93.0%
\$50,000 - 74,999	6,570	3,444	52.4%
\$75,000 - 99,000	6,979	921	13.2%
\$100,000 or more	9,433	179	1.9%

Source: American Community Survey, 2013 1-year file

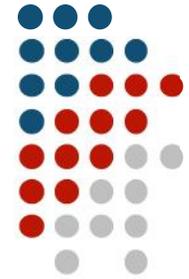
**Renters' Housing Cost Burden by Selected Household Characteristics:** \_\_\_\_\_



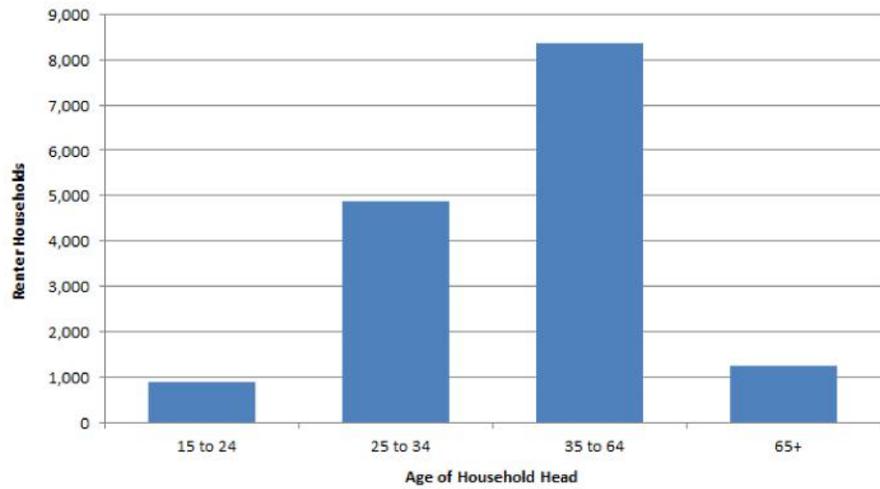
Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent

	Total Households	Number of Households	Percent
All Renters			
<b>Age of Household Head</b>			
15 to 24			
25 to 34			
35 to 64			
65+			
<b>Household Income</b>			
Less than \$20,000			
\$20,000 - 34,999			
\$35,000 - 49,999			
\$50,000 - 74,999			
\$75,000 - 99,000			
\$100,000 or more			

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

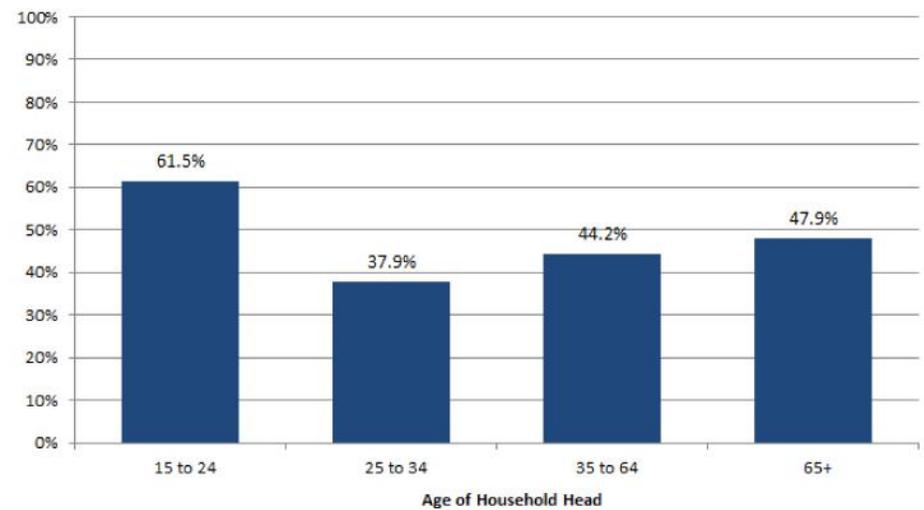


### No. of Renter Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent by Age: 2013

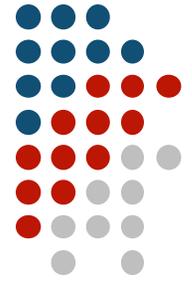


Source: American Community Survey, 2013 1-year file

### Percent of Renter Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent by Age: 2013

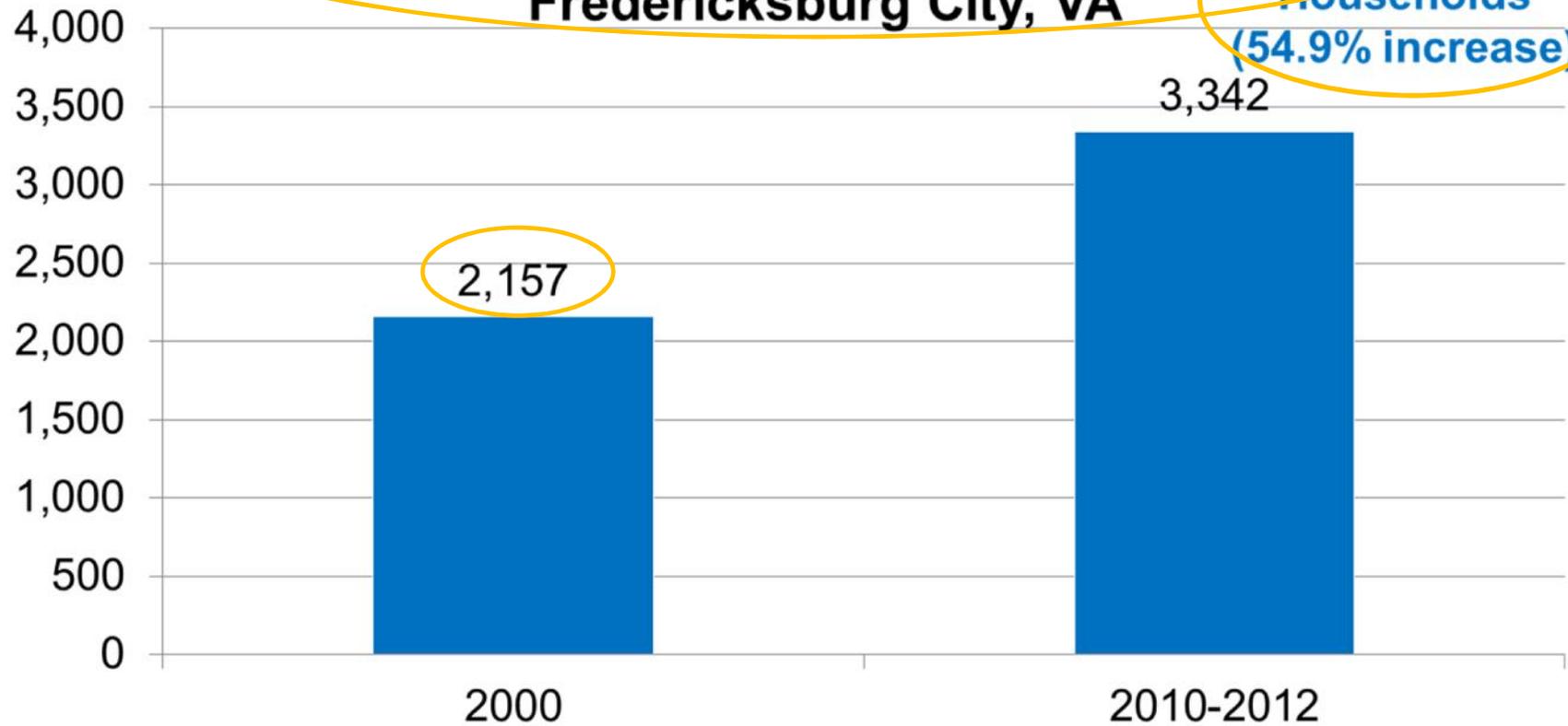


Source: American Community Survey, 2013 1-year file

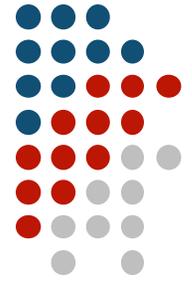


# Showing Change: Numbers

**Households Paying 30% or More of Income for Rent  
Fredericksburg City, VA**

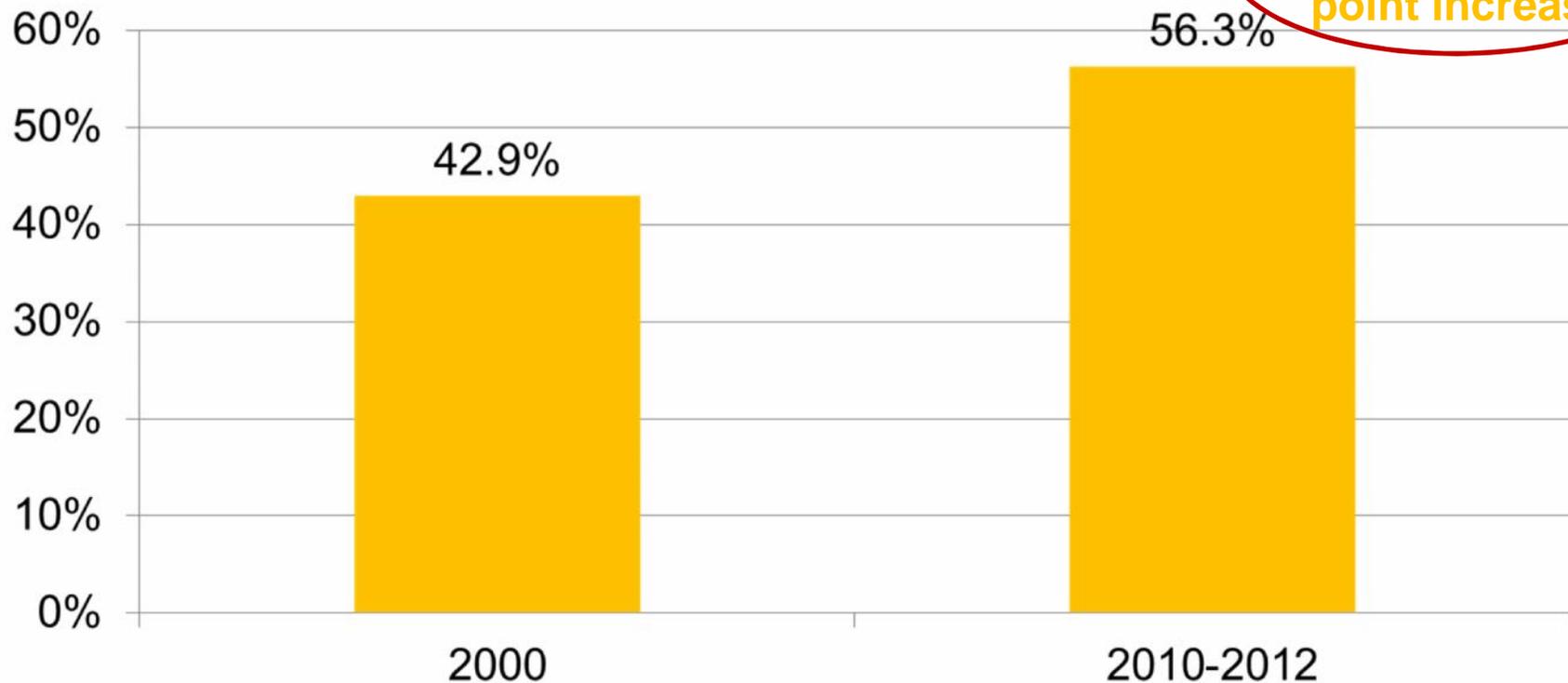


Source: 2000 Census Summary File 3; 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year file

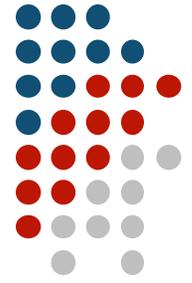


# Showing Change: Percentages

**Percent of Households Paying 30% or More of  
Income for Rent  
Fredericksburg City, VA**

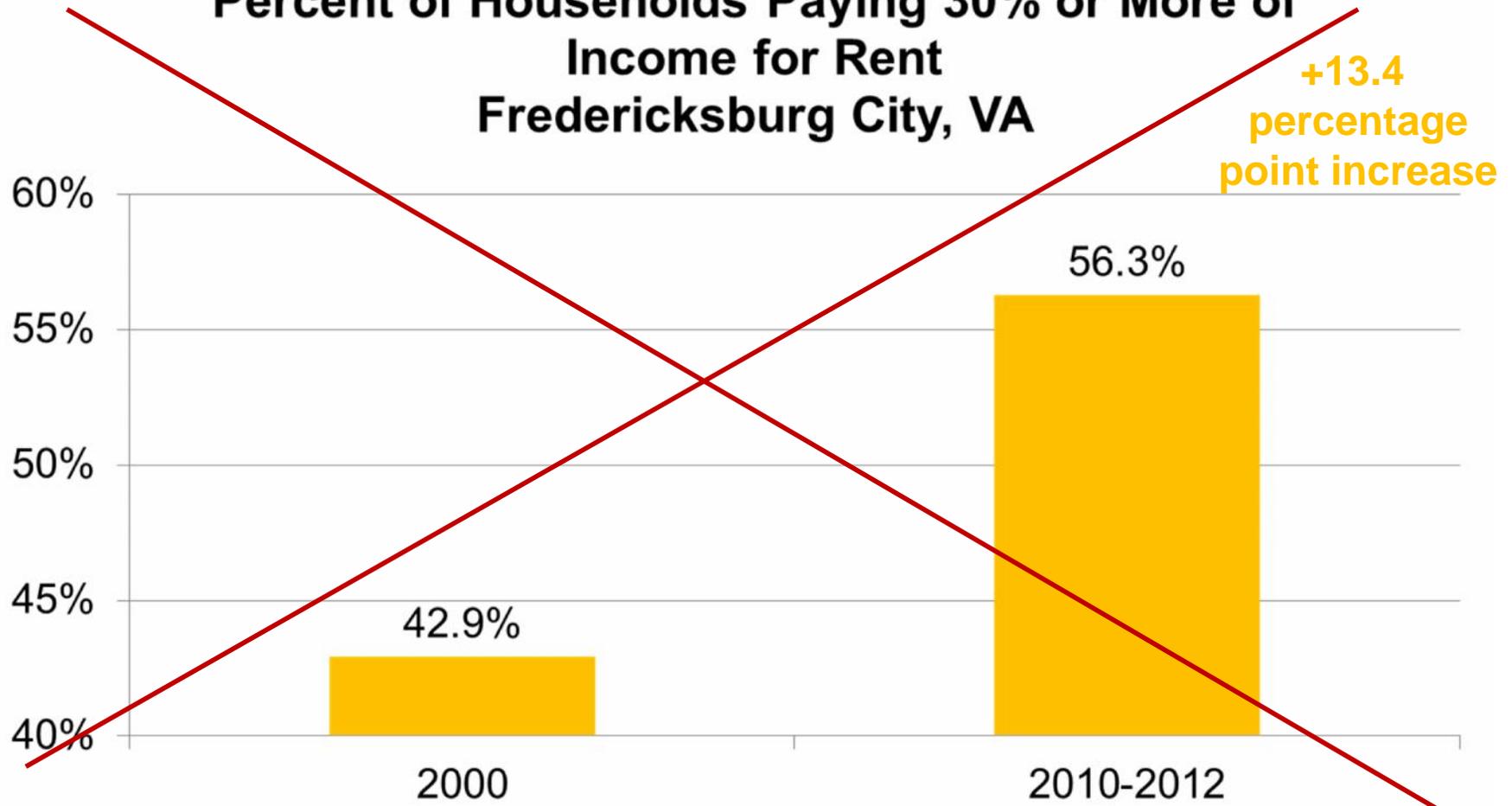


Source: 2000 Census Summary File 3; 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year file



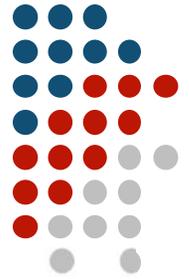
# Showing Change: Percentages

**Percent of Households Paying 30% or More of  
Income for Rent  
Fredericksburg City, VA**



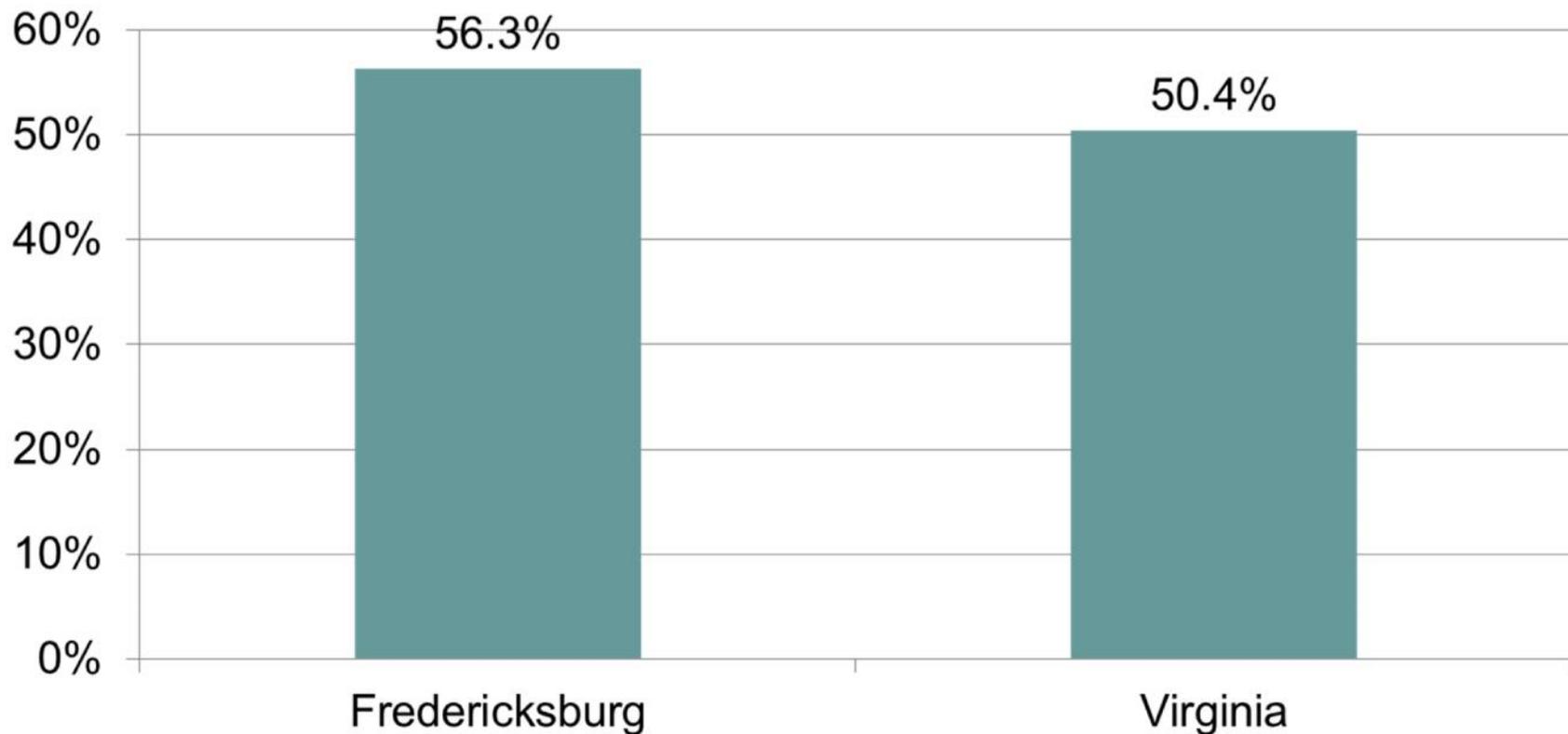
Source: 2000 Census Summary File 3; 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year file

# Showing Comparisons: Two Places



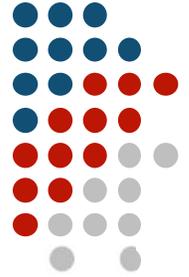
**Percent of Households Paying 30% or More of  
Income for Rent**

**Fredericksburg City, VA and Virginia**

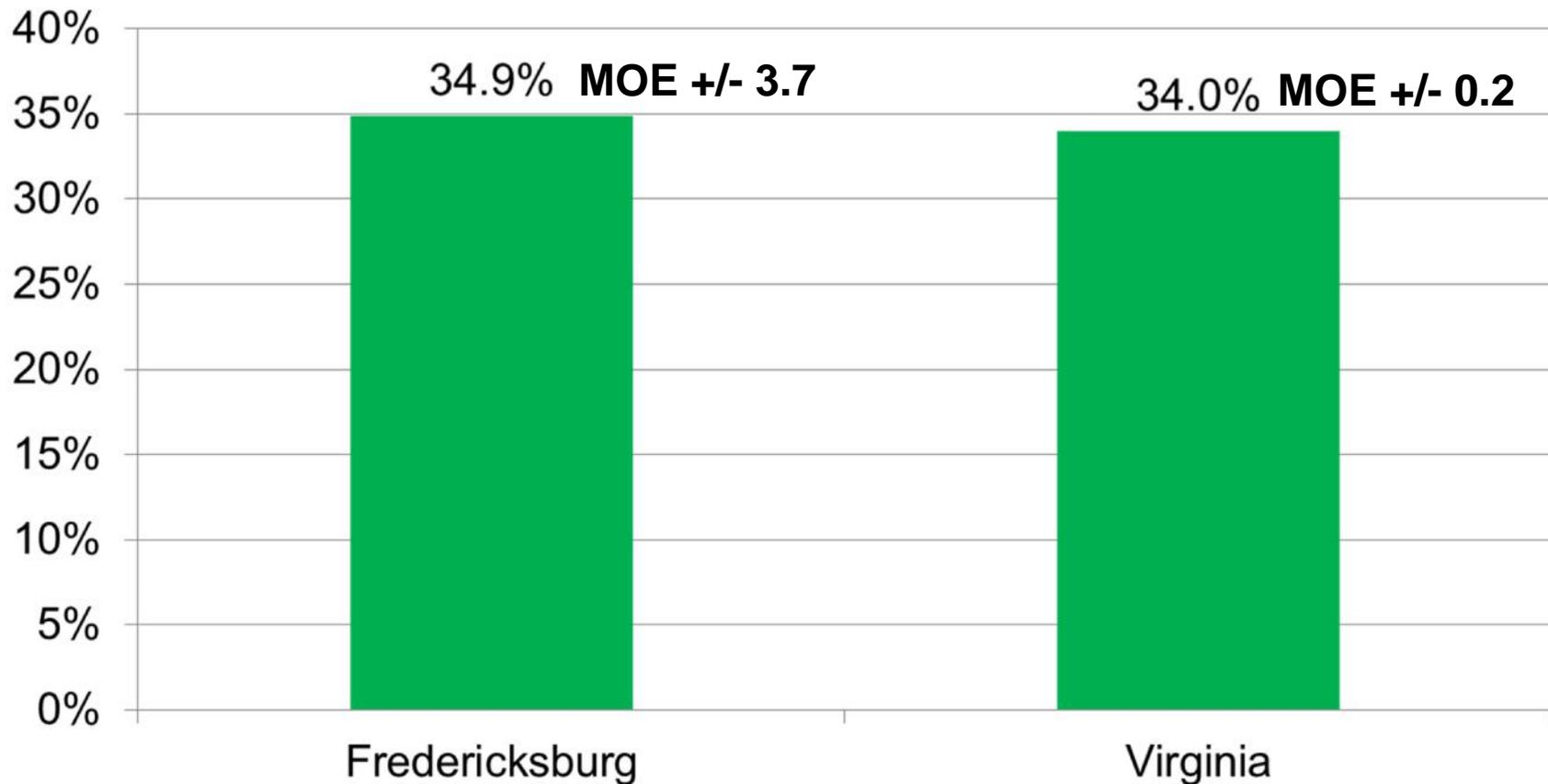


Source: 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year file

# Showing Comparisons: Two Places

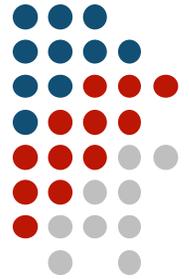


**Percent of Population with a Bachelor's Degree  
Fredericksburg City, VA and Virginia**



Source: 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year file

# Showing Comparisons: Two Places

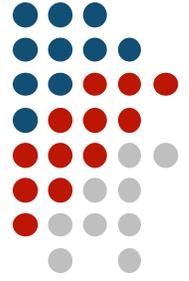


	Estimate	MOE	90% Confidence Interval
Fredericksburg	34.0%	3.7	30.3% – 37.7%
Virginia	34.9%	0.2	34.7% – 35.1%

Source: 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-year file

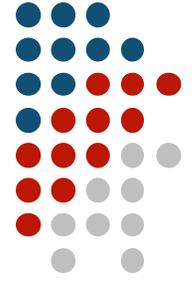


Because the confidence intervals overlap, we cannot say there is a “significant difference” in share of the population with a bachelor’s degree.

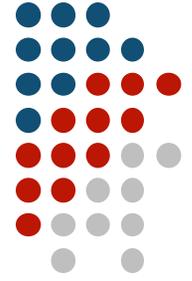


# Review

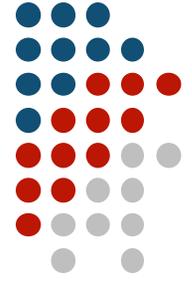
- Presenting data in tables and charts
  - Think about whether showing numbers or percentages is best
- Showing Change
  - Don't use overlapping years of ACS data
  - Start the left axis at zero (usually)
  - Numbers (and percent change)
  - Percentages (and percentage point change)
- Showing Comparisons
  - Use the same ACS period (smallest geography determines)



Questions on Presenting ACS Data?

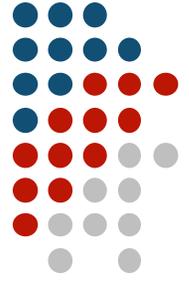


## Other Places to Find Local Data



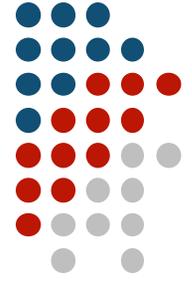
## Other Places to Find Data

- HUD CHAS (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) data:  
[http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/data\\_querytool\\_chas.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/cp/CHAS/data_querytool_chas.html)
- Households by % AMI
- Summary of cost burdened households by income & tenure
- Smallest area = places
- Most recent data = 2007-2011



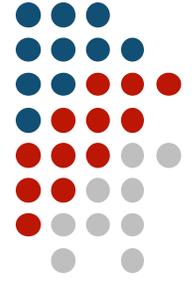
## Other Places to Find Data

- On The Map:  
<http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>
  - Census mapping tool that combines ACS with other survey and administrative data
  - Labor market profile, income/commuting of workers
  - Smallest area = tracts (can import your own unique geographies)
  - Most recent ACS data = 2007-2011



## Other Places to Find Data

- Urban Institute's Housing Assistance Matters Initiative:  
<http://www.urban.org/housingaffordability/>
- Uses ACS data to show the gap between housing demand and supply for extremely low income renters
- Smallest area = counties (cities)
- Most recent ACS data = 2008-2012



## Other Places to Find Data

- HUD & DOT Location Affordability Portal  
<http://www.locationaffordability.info/lai.aspx>
- Combines ACS and other data to show the combined housing and transportation costs for different household types
  - Also number of vehicles, vehicle miles traveled, transit trips
- Available at the block level

# Thank You!

Find Housing Data and Research from NHC

[www.nhc.org](http://www.nhc.org)

Lisa Sturtevant

[Lsturtevant@nhc.org](mailto:Lsturtevant@nhc.org)

