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## Frequently Asked Questions

# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## American Community Survey

Si necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario,  
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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the American Community Survey?**

The American Community Survey collects information about population and housing characteristics for the nation, states, cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and communities on a continuous basis. Based on the American Community Survey, the U.S. Census Bureau can provide up-to-date data about our rapidly changing country more often than once every 10 years when the census is conducted.

### **How do I benefit by answering the American Community Survey?**

Communities need data about the well-being of children, families, and the older population to provide services to them. By responding to the American Community Survey questionnaire, you are helping your community to establish goals, identify problems and solutions, and measure the performance of programs.

The data also are used to decide where to locate new highways, schools, hospitals, and community centers; to show a large corporation that a town has the workforce the company needs; and in many other ways.

### **Do I have to answer the questions on the American Community Survey?**

Yes. Your response to this survey is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141, 193, and 221). Title 13, as changed by Title 18, imposes a penalty for not responding. We estimate this survey will take about 40 minutes to complete.

### **How will the Census Bureau use the information that I provide?**

By law, the Census Bureau can only use your responses to produce statistics. Your information will be used in combination with information from other households to produce data for your community. Similar data will be produced for communities across Puerto Rico and the United States.

We may combine your answers with information that you gave to other agencies to enhance the statistical uses of these data. This information will be given the same protections as your survey information. Based on the information that you provide, you may be asked to participate in other Census Bureau surveys that are voluntary.

### **Will the Census Bureau keep my information confidential?**

Yes. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

### **Where can I find more information about the American Community Survey or get assistance?**

You may visit our Web site at [census.gov/acs](https://www.census.gov/acs) or call 1-800-354-7271, if you need assistance or more information.