

# American Community Survey Program Updates

## New Jersey SDC Affiliate Meeting

October 9, 2024

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American Community Survey Office

# The American Community Survey

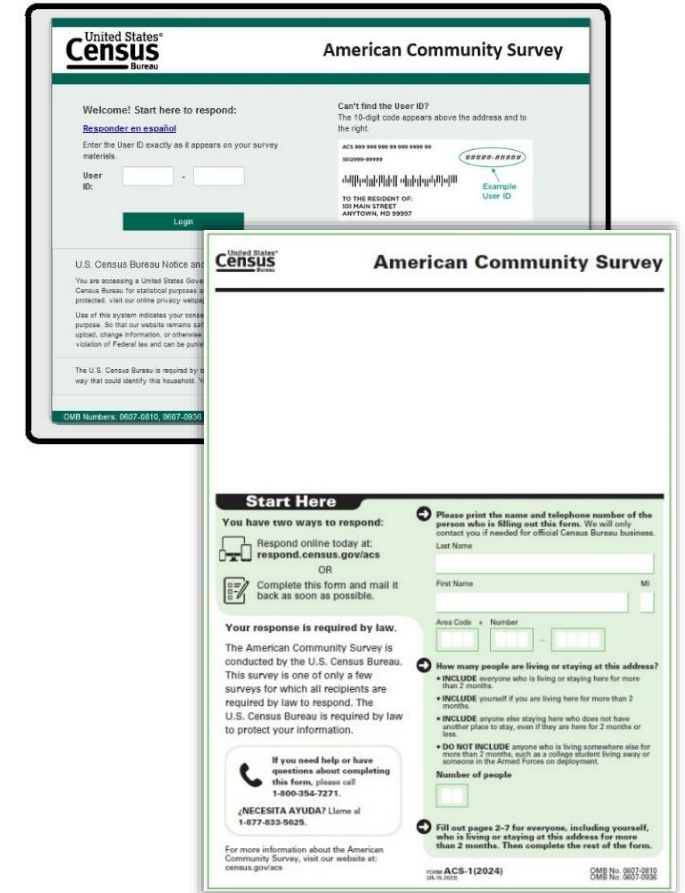
## Outline

- ACS Overview
- Changes for the 2024 ACS
- Potential Changes for the 2025 ACS and Beyond
- New Data User Resources
- Questions

# The American Community Survey

## The Foundation

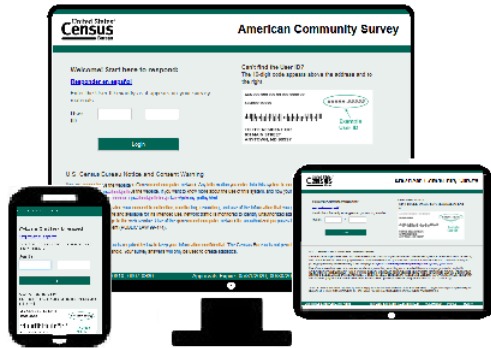
- The American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source of detailed information about the nation's people and housing.
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses to produce annual social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for communities throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico
- Covers **40+ topics** — Collects detailed information previously collected by the decennial census each decade
- Helps inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year, supports over **300** evidence-based federal government uses
- Data released the year after collection as 1-year and 5-year estimates
- Officially started in 2005 (1-year estimates = 2005; 5-year 2005-2009)



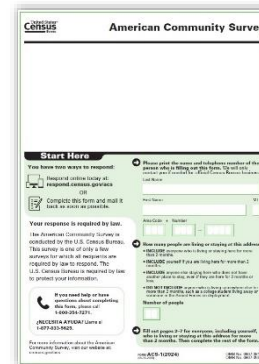
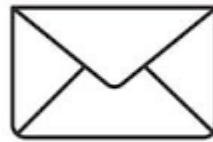
# The American Community Survey

## The ACS Data Collection Process

### Online Response



### Paper Questionnaire



### Computer-Assisted Interviewing In-Person and Telephone



**Self-Response**  
(about 8 weeks)

**Nonresponse Follow-up**  
(about 4 weeks)

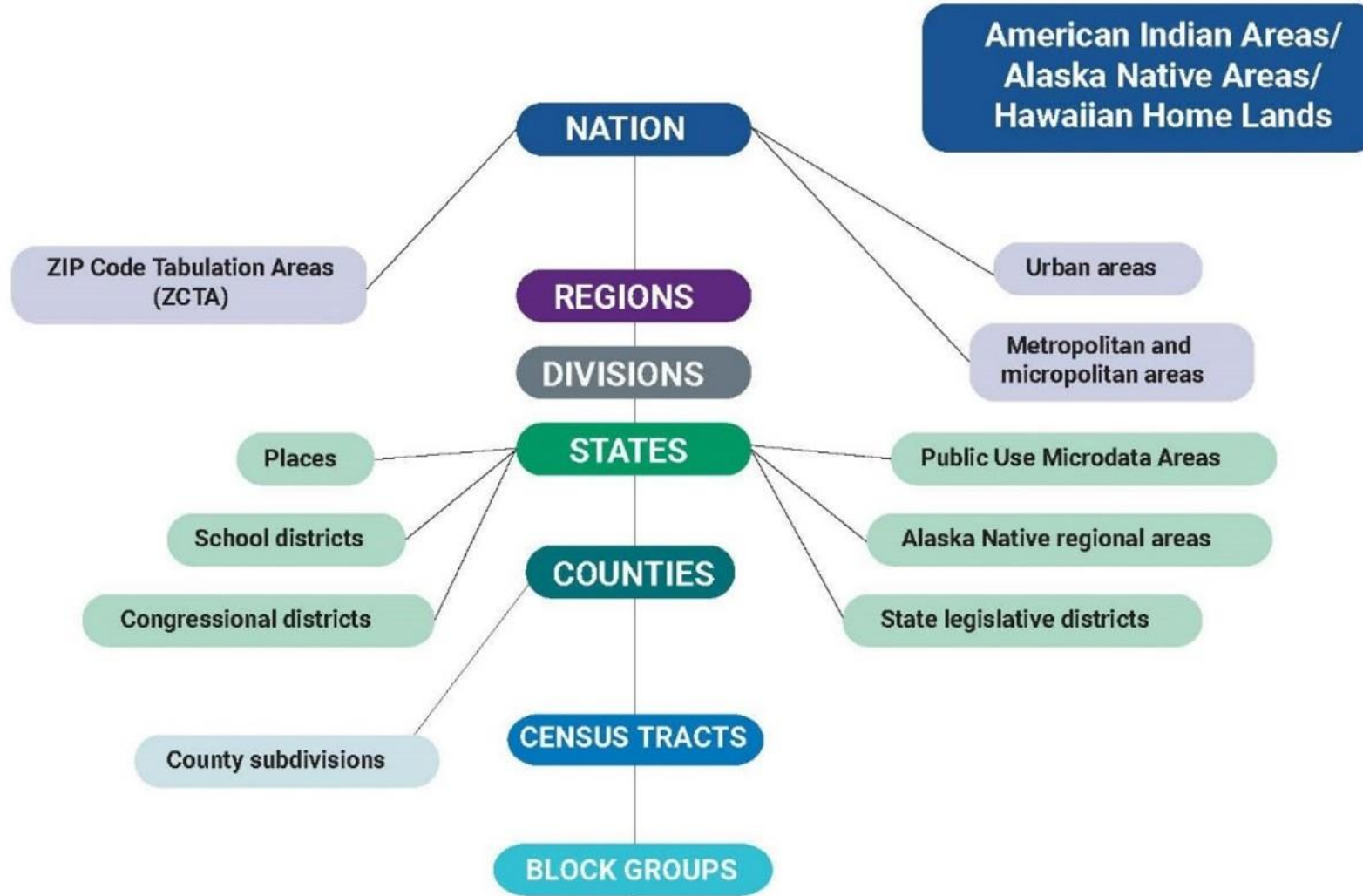
# The American Community Survey

## Content Overview

POPULATION		HOUSING
<b>SOCIAL</b> Ancestry Citizenship Citizen Voting Age Population Disability Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents Language Marital Status Migration School Enrollment Veterans	<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b> Age Hispanic Origin Race Relationship Sex	Computer & Internet Use Costs (Mortgage, Rent, Taxes, Insurance) Heating Fuel Home Value Occupancy Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities Structure Tenure (Own/Rent) Utilities Vehicles Year Built Year Moved In
	<b>ECONOMIC</b> Class of Worker Commuting Employment Status Food Stamps (SNAP) Health Insurance Income Industry & Occupation Weeks Worked	

# The American Community Survey

## Selected Census Geographic Concepts



# The American Community Survey

## 2023 ACS Data Release Schedule

2023 ACS 1-Year Release	
Data Products	Release
1-Year Estimates Public Release	September 12, 2024
1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	October 17, 2024
1-Year Supplemental Estimates	October 17, 2024
119th Congressional Districts (Data Profiles)	January 7, 2025
2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Release	
Data Products	Release
5-Year Estimates Public Release	December 12, 2024
5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	January 23, 2025
5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates	January 23, 2025

# The American Community Survey

## Ancestry and Race Demonstration Data Tables

- **Purpose:** Demonstrate how characteristics of ancestry populations would differ if identified using race data rather than ancestry data
- **Geographic Levels:** Nation, 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (53 Tables)
- **Groups Included:** 111 ancestry groups in each table
- **Product Layout:** Selected Population Profiles (S0201) with populations identified by the race and ancestry data side-by-side
- **Data Source:** 2022 ACS 1-year Microdata

The screenshot shows the United States Census Bureau website. The main navigation bar includes 'Partners', 'Researchers', 'Educators', 'Survey Respondents', 'News', 'NAICS Codes', 'Jobs', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', and 'Help'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Topics', 'Data & Maps', 'Surveys & Programs', and 'Resource Library'. A search bar is located on the right side of the secondary navigation bar. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: '// Census.gov / Topics / Population / Ancestry / Technical Documentation / Population Profiles Using Race and Ancestry'. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with links: 'Within Ancestry', 'About this Topic', 'Data', 'Guidance for Data Users', 'Library', 'News and Updates', 'Surveys/Programs', and 'Technical Documentation'. The main heading is 'Demonstration Data: Profiles of Selected Populations Based on Ancestry Data and Newly Collected Detailed Race Data from the 2022 American Community Survey'. Below the heading, the date 'September 26, 2024' is displayed. There is a 'Link to profile tables:' section with a link icon and the text '2022 ACS Ancestry and Race Demonstration Data'. To the right of this link are social media sharing icons for Facebook, X (Twitter), and LinkedIn. Below the link is an 'Introduction:' section with a paragraph of text: 'This set of tables shows social, economic, household, and demographic characteristics of more than 100 population groups produced using the American Community Survey (ACS) race and ancestry questions. The purpose of these tables is to demonstrate how the characteristics of selected ancestry populations would differ if they were identified using race data rather than ancestry data.'

# The American Community Survey

## Content Changes for the 2024 ACS

### Updated wording for 4 questions:

- **Condo Fees** — Now includes homeowners association (HOA) fees
- **Home Heating Fuel** — Updated wording for natural gas and bottled gas categories
- **Journey-to-Work** — Updated Taxi category to include ride-sharing as a mode of transportation
- **Veterans Period of Service** — Adjusted date ranges and names for several periods of service

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/forms-and-instructions.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about/forms-and-instructions.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Changes to the Condominium Fees Question

### 2023 Question

**16** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home part of a condominium?

Yes → **What is the monthly condominium fee?** For renters, answer only if you pay the condominium fee in addition to your rent; otherwise, mark the "None" box.

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$  ,    .00

**OR**

None

No

### 2024 Question

**16** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home part of a homeowners association or condominium?

Yes → **What is the required monthly homeowners association fee and/or condominium fee?** For renters, answer only if you pay the fee in addition to your rent; otherwise, mark the "None" box.

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$  ,    .00

**OR**

None

No

# The American Community Survey

## Changes to the Home Heating Fuel Question

### 2023 Question

**13** Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?

- Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
- Gas: bottled, tank, or LP
- Electricity
- Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
- Coal or coke
- Wood
- Solar energy
- Other fuel
- No fuel used

### 2024 Question

**13** Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?  
*Mark (X) one box for the fuel used most.*

- Gas: Natural gas from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
- Gas: Bottled or tank (propane, butane, etc.)
- Electricity
- Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
- Coal or coke
- Wood
- Solar energy
- Other fuel
- No fuel used

# The American Community Survey

## Changes to the Journey-to-Work Question

### 2023 Question

**32** How did this person usually get to work **LAST WEEK?** Mark (X) **ONE** box for the method of transportation used for most of the distance.

<input type="checkbox"/> Car, truck, or van	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxicab
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Subway or elevated rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-distance train or commuter rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Walked
<input type="checkbox"/> Light rail, streetcar, or trolley	<input type="checkbox"/> Worked from home → <i>SKIP to question 40a</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferryboat	<input type="checkbox"/> Other method

### 2024 Question

**32** How did this person usually get to work **LAST WEEK?** Mark (X) **ONE** box for the method of transportation used for most of the distance.

<input type="checkbox"/> Car, truck, or van	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi or ride-hailing services
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Subway or elevated rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-distance train or commuter rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Walked
<input type="checkbox"/> Light rail, streetcar, or trolley	<input type="checkbox"/> Worked from home → <i>SKIP to question 40a</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferryboat	<input type="checkbox"/> Other method

# The American Community Survey

## Changes to the Veterans Period of Service Question

### 2023 Question

**28** When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? Mark (X) a box for EACH period in which this person served, even if just for part of the period.

- September 2001 or later
- August 1990 to August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War)
- May 1975 to July 1990
- Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- February 1955 to July 1964
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- January 1947 to June 1950
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- November 1941 or earlier

### 2024 Question

**28** When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? Mark (X) a box for EACH period in which this person served, even if just for part of the period.

- September 2001 or later (Post 9/11)
- August 1990 through August 2001 (including the Persian Gulf War)
- June 1975 through July 1990
- August 1964 through May 1975 (including the Vietnam War)
- February 1955 through July 1964
- June 1950 through January 1955 (including the Korean War)
- January 1947 through May 1950
- December 1941 through December 1946 (including World War II)
- November 1941 or earlier

# The American Community Survey

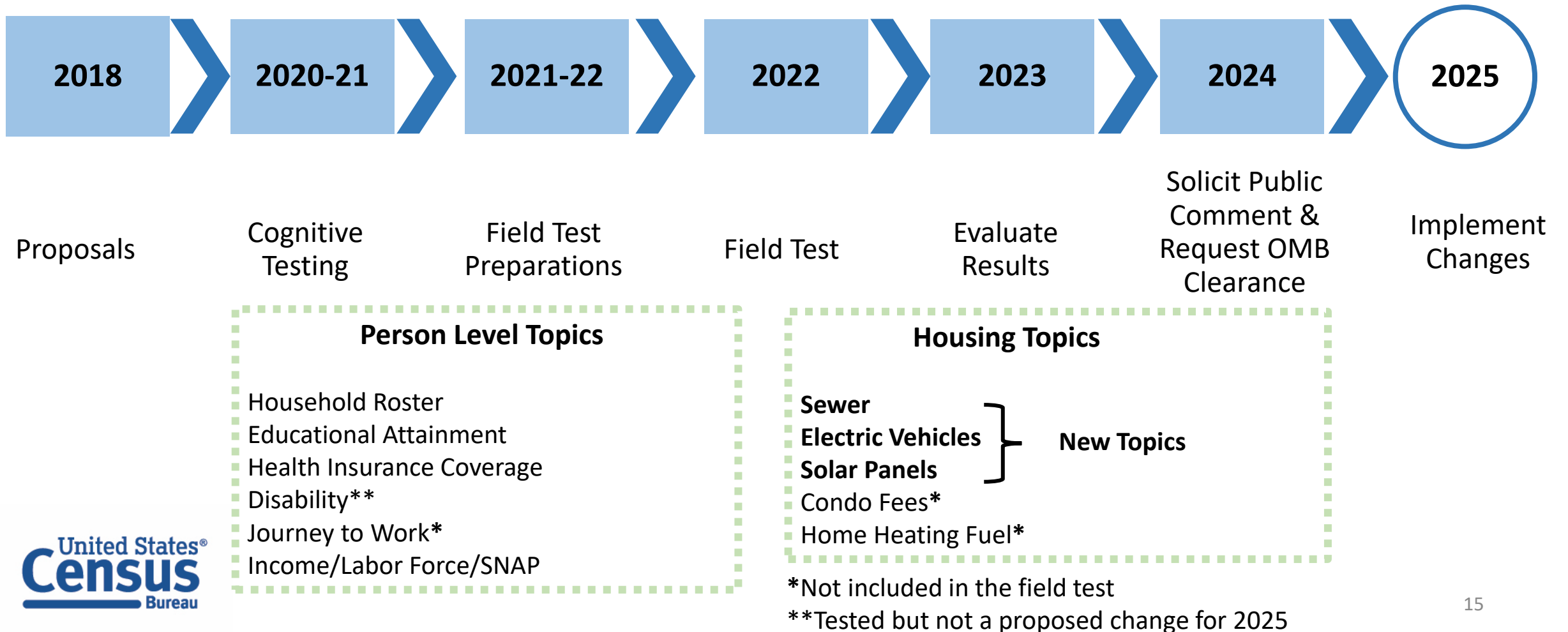
## Data Collection Changes for the 2024 ACS

- **Internet data collection instrument available for select non-institutional group quarters**
  - e.g., college/university student housing, group homes, military barracks, etc.
- **Using administrative records for the acreage question**
  - Question still appears on the paper questionnaire
  - Question is skipped in Internet and nonresponse follow-up data collection instruments if we have an administrative record

# The American Community Survey

## Potential Question Changes — 2022 ACS Content Test

Content Tests are conducted approximately every five years to improve quality of existing questions or test the addition of new questions.



# The American Community Survey

## Potential Question Changes — Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Research

The ACS received an FY23 appropriation of \$10 million to research adding questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) to the survey

The ACS is testing:

- The feasibility of collecting SOGI information when someone provides data for someone else (i.e., proxy reporting)
- Alternative wording for the questions, placement of the questions on the survey, and response categories

The ACS SOGI test has two components:

- A self-response test of questions in the field and cognitive testing of Spanish translations of the SOGI questions
- Cognitive testing of questions began this year and reports are due by the end of 2024
- The field test began this summer and is expected to end in late 2024

# The American Community Survey

## Changes to the Race Standards

- On March 28, 2024, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the results of its review of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) and issued updated standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting race/ethnicity data across federal agencies
- The revisions, the first since 1997, will improve the way race and ethnicity data are collected
- The updates:
  - Use one combined question for race and ethnicity, encouraging respondents to select as many options as applicable
  - Add Middle Eastern or North African as a new minimum category, separate and distinct from the White category
  - Require the collection of detailed data on race and ethnicity beyond the minimum race and ethnicity categories, unless an agency requests an exemption
  - Updated definitions, terminology, and guidance to agencies on the collection and presentation of data
- The Census Bureau is reviewing the updated SPD 15 and discussing them within our program areas. We will keep the public informed as we develop plans to implement the changes in our censuses and surveys

# The American Community Survey

## New Data User Resources

### ACS webinars

- January 17 – Best Practices When Using ACS Data
- February 28 – Comparing the ACS to the Household Pulse Survey
- March 13 – Comparing Health Insurance Data from the ACS and the SAHIE Program
- May 8 – Comparing Race and Ethnicity Data from the ACS and 2020 Census
- May 22 – Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Data and the ACS
- June 20 – Using Public Data to Make Decisions
- July 25 – Services in the U.S.
- August 28 – Introduction to the ACS

### ACS course – Discovering the American Community Survey

- Module 1 – Introduction to the ACS
- Module 2 – Geography and the ACS
- Module 3 – Mastering the Variety of ACS Data Products; Navigating Releases, Tables, and Profiles
- Module 4 – Guidance for ACS Data Users
- Module 5 – Unlocking the ACS Summary File and Public Use Microdata Sample Files



# The American Community Survey

## Stay Connected



Share Your ACS  
Data Story

[census.gov/acs-data-stories](https://census.gov/acs-data-stories)



JOIN THE  
ACS DATA  
USERS GROUP

[acsdatacommunity.prb.org](https://acsdatacommunity.prb.org)



Sign Up for  
Email Updates

[public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/12426](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/12426)

Thank you!

ACSO Customer Support:  
[acso.users.support@census.gov](mailto:acso.users.support@census.gov)