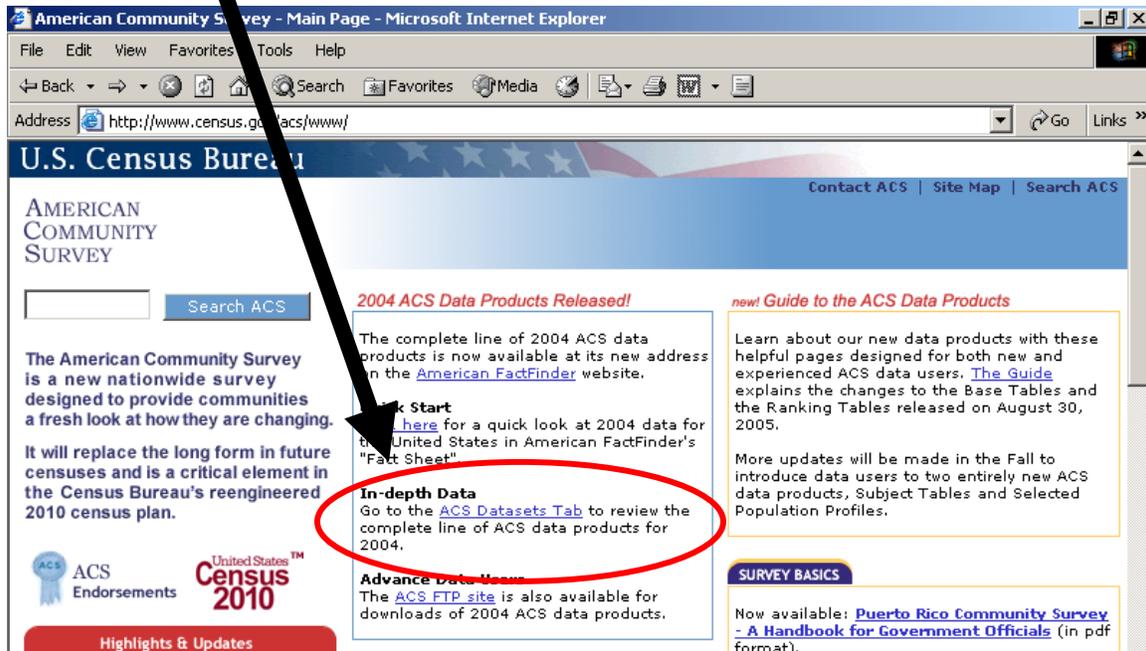


# Using the American Community Survey Data

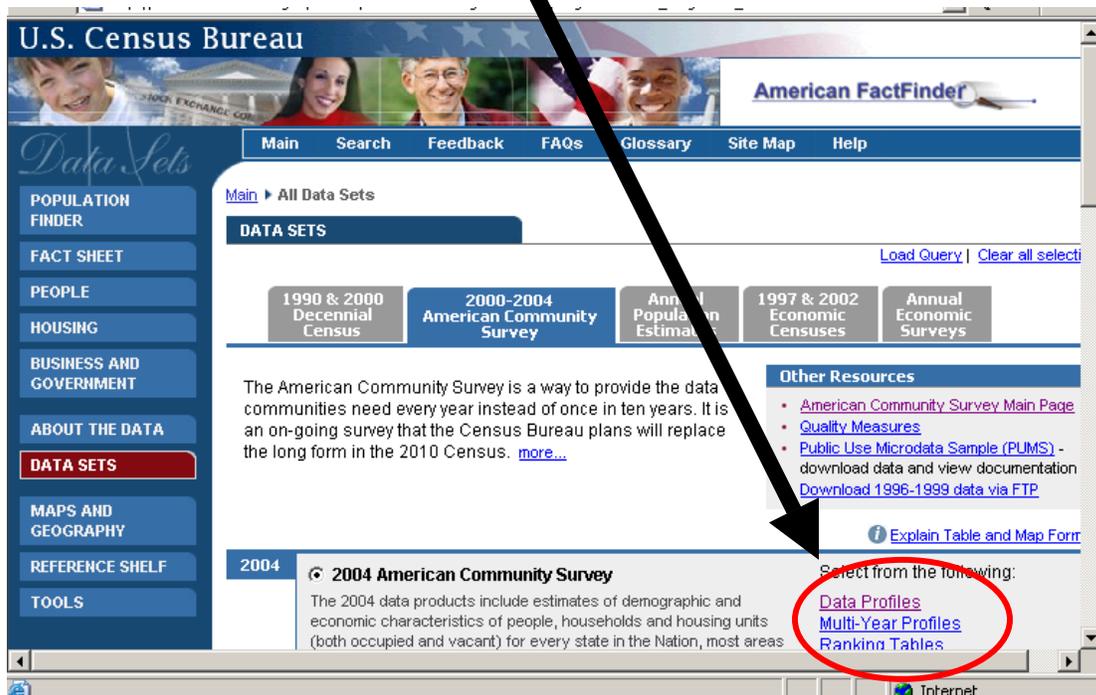
The ACS website is accessible from [www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs). In the middle of the screen choose

## In-depth Data

Go directly to the [ACS Datasets Tab](#)



The ACS Datasets Tab brings up the 2004 ACS survey as the default choice, and offers a choice of **Data Profiles**, **Multi-Year Profiles**, **Ranking Tables**, **Detailed Tables**, **Custom Tables**, **Reference Maps**, **Subject Tables**, **Thematic Tables**, and other choices. These options are discussed below.



- A. **Data Profiles** gives a choice of geographic level in a drop-down box: Nation, state, county, MSA, congressional district, etc.

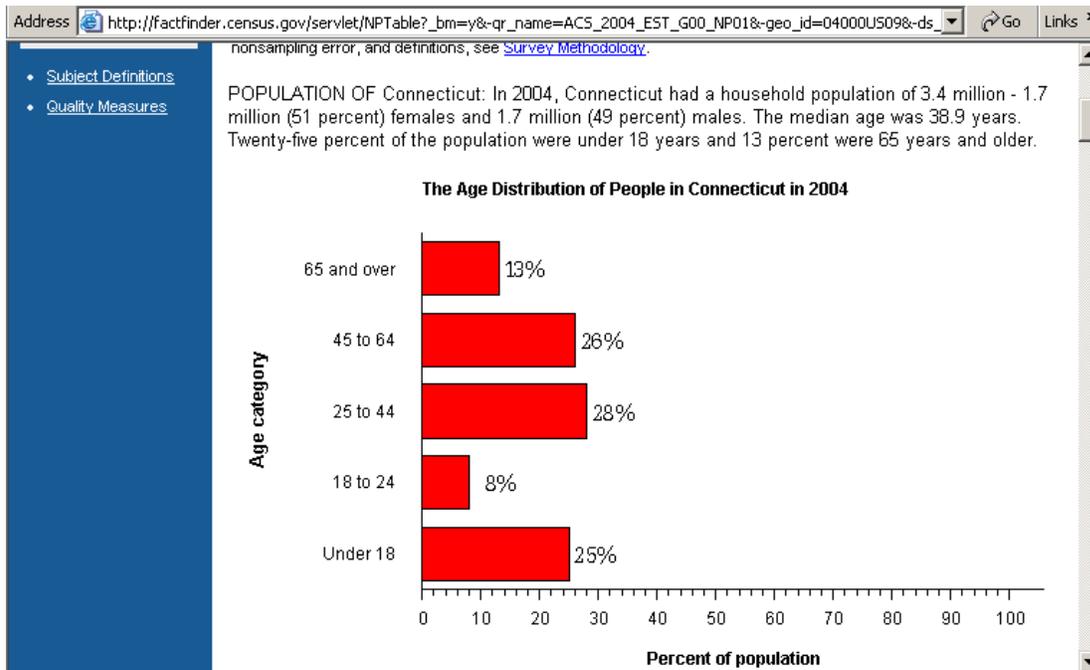
After choosing geographic type, one sees tabs for **Demographic**, **Social**, **Economic**, **Housing**, and **Narrative** (an example of Narrative is shown below). Under the **Demographic** tab, the Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin data are presented in fixed categories--they cannot be changed. Age is in 13 groups composed of seven 5-yr and five 10-yr categories plus age 85 and older. To find out the population other than in the 13 age groups, one would need to use **PUMS data**. Race lists population of one race, or of a race alone or in combination with other races. Hispanic Origin subdivides to Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban, while "Not Hispanic" subdivides to various races alone, or to two or more races. Detail extends to, e.g. at Congressional District 1 the American Indian single race 2003 population is 1,596 while the Am. Indian population is 6,161 for persons of one-or-more races, and it is 1,047 for Am. Indian non-Hispanic. However, to cross classify sex with age or race one must use **Detailed Tables** or create **Custom Tables**. Under the **Economic** tab, household and family income are each listed in 10 income groups, plus median and mean, and including retirement, food stamps, and cash assistance income. Also listed are per capita income, median income for full-time working males and females and in female households without a husband present, and percentage below poverty by age.

- B. **Multi-Year Profiles** differs from Data Profiles in that the Years 2000-2004 are displayed side by side, but upper and lower 90% confidence limits are not available, and the data are shown at the state or national level only. One could find here that the percentage of households in Connecticut with income and benefits less than \$10,000 in 2004 inflation-adjusted dollars was 5.6% in 2000, 5.5% in 2001, 5.6% in 2002, 5.9% in 2003, and 6.6% in 2004.
- C. **Ranking Tables** shows states, counties, and places, e.g. that in 2003 Connecticut was #5 in percentage of population age 85 and older, but was #12 in 2004.
- D. **Detailed Tables** shows more details, though again categories are fixed. One could find that the 2003 white male population under age 5 in the First CD was 16,691 (90% CI 14,009 to 19,373) and the per capita income for whites there was \$29,149 (range 28,203 to 30,095). The per capita income for American Indians in the 1<sup>st</sup> CD is not available, and that for the 2<sup>nd</sup> CD is \$9,033 with a large range (1,627 to 16,439). At the state level Sex by Age by Race counts are available for white, black, Asian and Hispanic, but not Am. Indian.
- E. **Custom Tables** allows various customizing, but the Age, Race, and Hispanic categories, while numerous, are fixed. An example for a created table is shown below. It is easy to use.

- F. **Reference Maps** brings up maps of the geographic regions chosen.
- G. **Subject Tables**, new in 2005, are predefined tables with frequently requested information for a geographic area. In September 2005 only one income and one poverty measure were available, and only for the nation, but other measures are to be added in November 2005.
- H. **Thematic Tables** for the nation display states in differing colors based on their levels for a measure. Clicking on the state in the map will reveal the state's exact number for the measure.
- I. **Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)** data, which have been edited to protect individual and household confidentiality, may be downloaded. PUMS data are useful at the state level. An example of a question that could be investigated is, what are the characteristics of unemployed homeowners?

### EXAMPLE OF ACS NARRATIVE PROFILE

When the state geographic level is chosen with the **Narrative** tab from **Data Profiles**, above, a series of seven graphs appear with text. The first graph, about age distribution, is shown below.

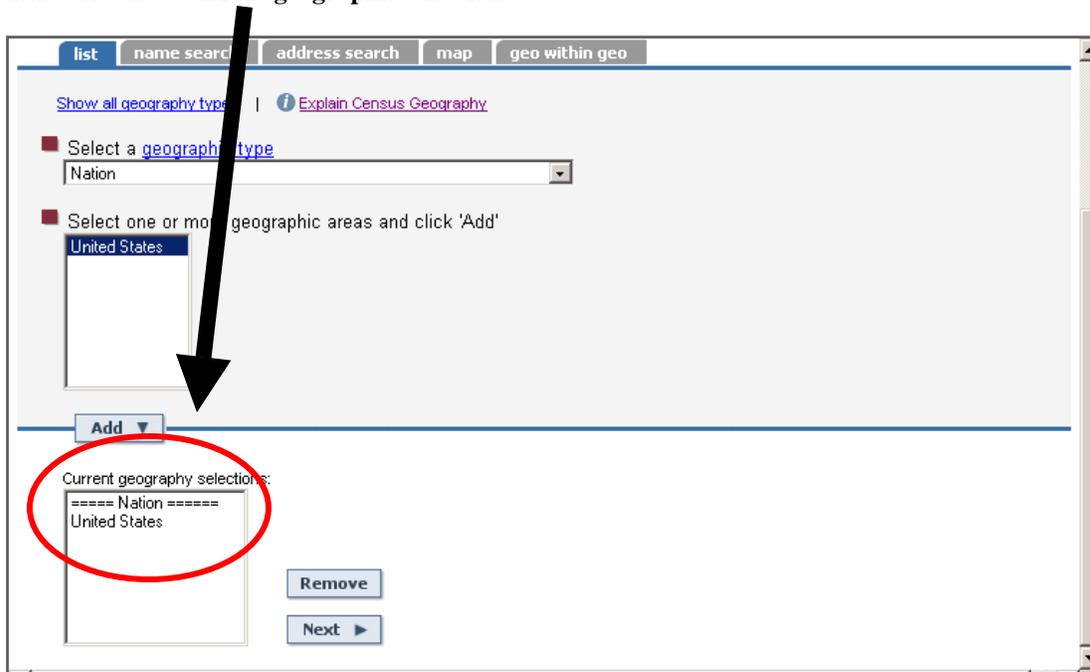


Successive graphs cover Types of Households, Geographic Mobility, Educational Attainment, Employment by Industry, Poverty Rates, Types of Housing Units, and Occupants with a Housing Cost Burden (Mortgage or Renting). Interspersed between the graphs are narratives about the graphs, plus Race, Nativity and Language, Disability, Travel to Work, and Income.

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ILLUSTRATED USE OF **Custom Table** OPTION.

Choosing the **Custom Table** tab leads to a series of boxes with selection options. The first says **select geographic type**; clicking on the box reveals a geographic hierarchy. Select **nation**. The next box shows one choice: **United States**. Click on it to highlight, then click the **Add** button; this puts the choice into the next box called **Current geographic selections**.



In this example, you will choose two options across three measures, making it much more complex than the simplest custom table. Return to the top box and choose **state**. The next box now shows 50 states plus DC. Choose **Connecticut**, click **Add**. The **current geographic selections** box now shows **Connecticut** and **United States**. Clicking the **Next** button brings a screen titled **Select Data Elements**. Above the first box are the instructions **Select a table and click 'Go'**. Scroll through the list. Highlight B20017H, “Median Earnings in 2004 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars for the Population 16+ with Earnings, White Alone, Not Hispanic.” Click on the **Go** button to the right of the box. The selection appears in the box below. Choose “Male, Worked Full Time” and “Female, worked Full Time” .

Select a table and click 'Go'

- B20017E. Median Earnings (In 2004 Inf-adj Dollars) by Sex by Work Exp. for the Pop. 16+ Yrs with Earnings (NHPI Alone)
- B20017F. Median Earnings (In 2004 Inf-adj Dollars) by Sex by Work Exp. for the Pop. 16+ Years with Earnings (SOR Alone)
- B20017G. Median Earnings (In 2004 Inf-adj Dollars) by Sex by Work Exp. for the Pop. 16+ Years with Earnings (2+ Races)
- B20017H. Median Earnings (In 2004 Inf-adj Dollars) by Sex by Work Exp. for the Pop. 16+ Yrs with Earnings (White Alone, Not Hisp)**
- B20017I. Median Earnings (In 2004 Inf-adj Dollars) by Sex by Work Exp. for the Pop. 16+ Yrs with Earnings (Hispanic or Latino)
- B21001. Sex By Age By Armed Forces Status By Veteran Status For The Population 18 Years and Over
- B22001. Receipt of Food Stamps in the past 12 Months by Presence of People 60 Years and over for Households
- B23001. Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and over
- B23007. Presence and Age Of Own Children By Family Type By Employment Status
- B23008. Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents

Select one or more data elements and click 'Add'

- Total:
  - Male --
  - Total
  - Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months
  - Other
- Female --
  - Total
  - Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months
  - Other

**Add**

Current data element selections:

Clicking **Add** causes it to appear in a box below the button called **current data element selections**. Return to the box called **select a table and click 'Go'**. Choose B20017I (Hispanic or Latino) and add as before. When finished with data element selections, click the button **Next**, then click **Show Result**.

**Custom Table**

You are here: [Main](#) | [All Data Sets](#) | [Data Sets with Custom Tables](#) | [Geography](#) | [Data Elements](#) | [Filters](#) | [Results](#)

Use the links above to change your results | [Options](#) | [Print / Download](#)

Data Set: [2004 American Community Survey](#)

Result contains 2 rows.

NOTE: Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

[show upper and lower bounds >](#)

	White Alone, Not Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	White Alone, Not Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months
	B20017H_5_EST	B20017H_9_EST	B20017I_5_EST	B20017I_9_EST
United States	45,573	32,678	26,749	24,030
Connecticut	56,198	43,051	33,221	31,490

The 2004 American Community Survey universe is limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate is represented through the use of a confidence interval. The confidence interval computed here is a 90 percent confidence interval and can be interpreted roughly as providing 90 percent certainty that the true number falls between the lower and upper bounds.

The above complicated table shows Income stratified in three ways: by geography (row labels), ethnicity (column labels), and sex (not identified, but 5=male, 9=female). This example shows that for full time workers, 2004 individual income was higher in Connecticut than the United States, higher for whites than Hispanics, and higher for males than females. When the table appears, click the blue text **Show upper and lower bounds** (shown by arrow).

### Custom Table

You are here: [Main](#) | [All Data Sets](#) | [Data Sets with Custom Tables](#) | [Geography](#) | [Data Elements](#) | [Filters](#) | [Results](#)

Use the links above to change your results

| [Options](#) | [Print / Download](#) |

Data Set: [2004 American Community Survey](#)

Result contains 2 rows.

NOTE: Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

	White Alone, Not Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	White Alone, Not Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	Hispanic Or Latino Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In The Past 12 Months: Total; Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months
	B20017H_5_EST B20017H_5_LB B20017H_5_UB	B20017H_9_EST B20017H_9_LB B20017H_9_UB	B20017I_5_EST B20017I_5_LB B20017I_5_UB
United States	45,573 45,493 45,737	32,678 32,477 32,873	26,749 26,525
Connecticut	56,198 54,817 57,579	43,051 41,689 44,413	33,221 29,365

The 2004 American Community Survey universes included to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate is represented through the use of a confidence interval. The confidence interval computed here is a 90 percent confidence interval and can be interpreted roughly as providing 90 percent certainty that the true number falls between the lower and upper bounds.

The 90% Confidence Intervals are shown with LB for Lower Bound and UB for Upper Bound. Not all the results are visible above, although they are visible by scrolling sideways.