

American Community Survey

Connecticut Fact Sheet

What is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) will replace the decennial census long form in future censuses. It asks essentially the same demographic, social, and economic questions as the census long form, but the data collection will be spread throughout the decade, rather than at a single point in time, which provides information on a continuous basis. No household will receive the survey more often than once in five years. Responding to the survey is mandatory.

Why is the survey needed?

Decennial sample data are out-of-date soon after they are published, about two years after the census is taken. Their usefulness declines every year thereafter.

The goals of the ACS are to:

- ◆ Provide federal, state, local, and tribal governments an information base for the administration and evaluation of their programs.
- ◆ Improve the 2010 Census.
- ◆ Provide data users with timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data updated every year that can be compared across states, communities, and population groups.

How is the survey being implemented?

The ACS demonstration period began in 1996 in four sites. In 1999, the number of sites in the sample increased to 31 comparison sites. The purpose of the comparison sites was to give a good tract-by-tract comparison between the 1999-2001 ACS cumulated estimates and the Census 2000 long-form estimates, and to use these comparisons to validate the ACS. Full implementation nationwide began in 2004. In September 2005 the ACS website contained data (including Connecticut) for 2000-2004. About 5,500 Connecticut residents are surveyed annually for the ACS.

The Census Bureau will implement the ACS in every county of the United States with an annual sample of three million housing units. ACS data will be available every year for areas and population groups of 65,000 or more. For small areas and population groups of 20,000 or less, it will take five years to accumulate a large enough sample to provide estimates with accuracy similar to the decennial census.

Links

For CT ACS Facts on the web, see www.dph.state.ct.us

Go directly to the ACS website, at www.census.gov/acs

This fact sheet brought to you by



Keeping Connecticut Healthy

J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Public Health
Health Care Quality, Statistics, Analysis & Reporting
410 Capitol Ave, MS #11 HCQ
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134

Survey Items

Population

Gender
 Age and data of birth
 Relationship
 Marital status
 Hispanic/Latino
 Race
 Place of birth
 Citizenship
 Year of entry
 School enrollment
 Educational attainment
 Ancestry
 Language spoken at home
 Residence one year ago
 Disability
 Children born past 12 months
 Grandparents as caregivers
 Veteran status
 Period of service
 Length of service
 Labor force
 Place of work
 Journey to work
 Work status last week
 Class of worker
 Industry
 Occupation
 Income

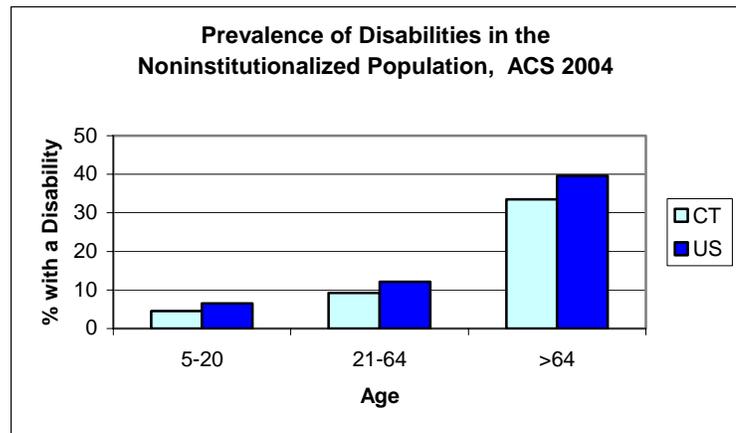
Housing

Units in structure
 Year structure built
 Year householder moved in
 Acreage
 Agricultural sales
 Business or medical office on property
 Number of rooms
 Bedrooms
 Plumbing
 Kitchen
 Telephone
 Vehicles
 Heating fuel
 Cost of utilities
 Food stamps
 Condominium
 Tenure
 Rent
 Value
 Real estate taxes
 Insurance
 Mortgage
 Second mortgage
 Mobile home costs
 Seasonal residence

CT Health Statistics

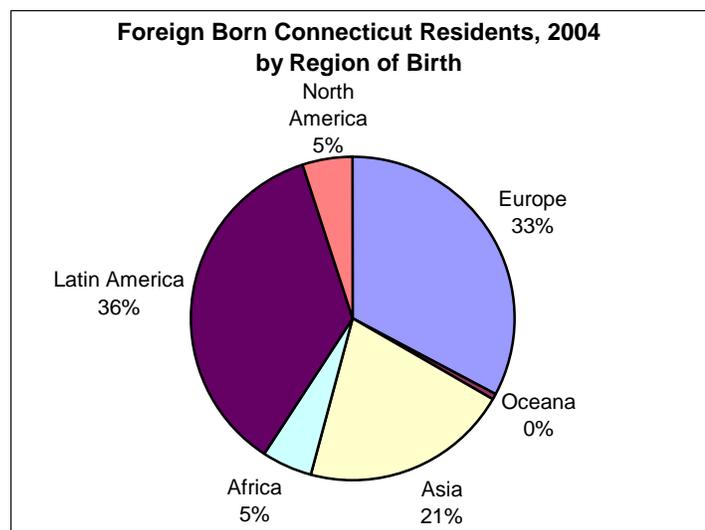
Disabilities

Disability statistics provide an example of the kind of state-specific information available through the ACS. The ACS asks six questions to define disability due to blindness, deafness, long-lasting physical or mental impairment, and activity limitations of self-care, go-outside-the-home, and employment. In 2004, among the non-institutionalized population, Connecticut ranked lowest (#51) among all states and the District of Columbia for the percentage of the population aged 5-20 with a disability (CT 4.5%, US 6.5%). For ages 21-64 (CT 9.2%, US 12.1%) and for ages 65 and older (CT 33.5%, US 39.6%), Connecticut ranked next to lowest (#50). The ACS will include a sample of institutionalized persons beginning with 2006 data.



Foreign-Born CT Residents

Based on the ACS survey, in 2004 there were an estimated 394,651 people of foreign birth among the 3,389,483 people living in Connecticut. The world regions of birth of foreign born residents were: Europe 32.9%, Asia 21.0%, Africa 4.8%, Oceania 0.4%, Latin America 36.0%, and North America 4.9%.



The ACS questionnaire and results are available for all above variables as PDF files at www.census.gov/acs