

Population Data is Used to Identify the Needs of Communities

Key Takeaways

1. As the state and local governments try to prioritize their use of limited resources, population data collected from the Census and ACS create data tools that help identify the needs of residents.
2. Population data can be used to model future needs, influencing the development of housing, transportation, environmental protection, and the economy.
3. Policymakers can use population data to assess current conditions and to monitor if conditions change after a policy is implemented.
4. In the context of emergencies, such as natural disasters, population data gives insight to necessary evacuation coordination, damage assessments, and recovery plans.
5. Nationwide, the 2020 Census had high undercounts of people who are Black, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native, which can cloud the needs of these specific populations.

Want to Learn More?

To learn more about how **communities use population data**, explore the following resources:

- Read, “[How the 2020 Census helps Communities](#),” (2 minutes)
- Read, “[How State and Local Governments Use ACS Data](#),” (6 minutes)
- Read the section ‘Who Uses the ACS and Why?’ from “[American Community Survey Information Guide](#)” (3 minutes)

To learn about population data and **emergency management**, read: “[Census Data Crucial in Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Planning](#)” (5 minutes)

To learn about population data and **preparing for aging populations**, read: “[2020 Census Will Help Policymakers Prepare for the Incoming Wave of Aging Boomers](#)” (7 minutes)

To learn how to best utilize the **Census Bureau data tools**, watch “[Data for Congressional and State Legislative Districts](#)” (45 minutes)
