

# The American Community Survey (ACS) Builds a Better Understanding of Floridians

## Key Takeaways

1. Replacing the Long-form Census, the ACS collects social, economic, and demographic data from monthly surveys to create 1-Year and 5-Year estimates that describe the current condition of the nation, states, and counties.
2. Many federal spending programs rely upon the ACS, either in whole or in part, when determining how to allocate funding to states.
3. The ACS helps identify the needs of communities, such as whether a new school needs to be built or where road systems need to be better developed.
4. The ACS helps identify opportunities within communities, helping businesses and entrepreneurs to learn about consumers, workforces, and opportunities for growth.
5. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACS experienced a steady fall in response rate, but in 2020, the response rate was so low that the data quality was not adequate enough to produce its standard 1-Year estimate for 2020.

## Want to Learn More?

To learn which **characteristics are collected** by the ACS, read ‘ACS Subjects and Data Products’ from “[American Community Survey Information Guide](#)” (2 minutes)

Click on a topic to learn about the **uses and challenges** of the ACS:

- [America’s Data Infrastructure](#) (4 minutes)
- [Planning and Economic Investment](#) (4 minutes)
- [State and Local Planners](#) (3 minutes)
- [Democracy](#) (7 minutes)
- [The Risks to the ACS Data Collection](#) (11 minutes)
- Read the full report at “[America’s Essential Data at Risk](#)” (1 hour)

To learn how to access ACS data through Census Bureau data tools, watch “[Introduction to the American Community Survey](#)” (50 minutes)

---