MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The Census Bureau uses this information to ensure response accuracy and completeness, and for contacting respondents with incomplete or missing information.
American Community Survey
Population: Question on Relationship

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

How is this person related to Person 1? 
Mark (X) ONE box.

- Husband or wife
- Biological son or daughter
- Adopted son or daughter
- Stepson or stepdaughter
- Brother or sister
- Father or mother
- Grandchild
- Parent-in-law
- Son-in-law or daughter-in-law
- Other relative
- Roomer or boarder
- Housemate or roommate
- Unmarried partner
- Foster child
- Other nonrelative

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The census subject about relationship is essential for classifying the population into families and other groups. Information about changes in the composition of the American family, from the number of people living alone to the number of children living with only one parent, is essential for planning and carrying out a number of federal programs. In federally funded nutrition and education programs, how the money is spent hinges, at least partially, on decennial census program data about relationship.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Government
Federal agencies use data about relationship for a variety of programmatic purposes.

Education
Data about relationship are used to allocate funds to states and counties to improve the education of children in low-income families.

Housing
Data about families in poverty are used to distribute funds for housing to local governments.

Social Services
Local health agencies plan and administer programs promoting the well-being of families and children using information on relationship.

www.census.gov

United States: Census 2010
Helping You Make Informed Decisions
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Census data about sex are critical because so many federal programs must differentiate between males and females. The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services are required by statute to use these data to fund, implement, and evaluate various social and welfare programs, such as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Laws to promote equal employment opportunity for women also require census data on sex. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs must use census data to develop its state projections of veterans’ facilities and benefits.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Planning
State and local planners analyze social and economic characteristics of males and females to predict future needs for housing, education, childcare, health care, transportation, and employment.

Employment
Data about sex are used to evaluate employment practices under the Civil Rights Act.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, using data about sex, establishes and evaluates guidelines dealing with equal employment opportunity.

Education
Data about sex are used to allocate funds to institutions of higher learning that increase participation, particularly of minority women, in scientific and engineering programs under the Higher Education Act.

Social Services
At the state and county levels, data about sex are used to allocate funds for food, health care services, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

Housing
Data about sex are used to evaluate housing policies and practices under the Civil Rights Act.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Age is central for any number of federal programs that target funds or services to children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. The U.S. Department of Education uses census age data in its formula for allotment to states. Under the Voting Rights Act, these data on population of voting age are required for legislative redistricting. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs uses age to develop its mandated state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, domiciliary services, and other benefits for veterans.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Education
Counties and school districts are allotted funds based on age data. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children and children with disabilities.
Locations where new schools are needed, as well as the required grade levels (elementary, middle, or high school) are identified using data about age.

Government
Data presenting the voting-age population are used by states to meet legislative redistricting requirements.
Planners at all levels of government forecast the need for highways, hospitals, health services, and retirement homes by using age data.

Employment
Data about age are used to target veterans for job training programs.
Equal employment opportunities are enforced using data about age.

Social Services
Age data are used to forecast the number of people eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits.
Under the Older Americans Act, age data are part of the formula used to allocate funds for services to seniors with low incomes.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Hispanic origin is used in numerous programs and is vital in making policy decisions. These data are needed to determine compliance with provisions of antidiscrimination in employment and minority recruitment legislation. Under the Voting Rights Act, data about Hispanic origin are essential to ensure enforcement of bilingual election rules. Hispanic origin classifications used by the Census Bureau and other federal agencies meet the requirements of standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity). These standards set forth guidance for statistical collection and reporting on race and ethnicity used by all federal agencies.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
Under the Public Health Service Act, Hispanic origin is one of the factors used in identifying segments of the population who may not be getting needed medical services.

Employment
Data about Hispanic origin are used to monitor and enforce equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act.

Government
The Voting Rights Act ensures equality in voting. Compliance of local jurisdictions is monitored using counts of the voting-age population by national origin.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Race is key to implementing any number of federal laws and is a critical factor in the basic research behind numerous policies. Race data are required by federal programs promoting equal employment opportunity and are needed to assess racial disparities in health and access to care, among other uses. Racial classifications used by the Census Bureau and other federal agencies meet the requirements of standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 (Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity). These standards set forth guidance for statistical collection and reporting on race and ethnicity used by all federal agencies.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**Education**

Under Title 20, race is used as part of the formula to fund programs that foster equal opportunity through postsecondary education for African Americans. This is achieved by funding programs at historically Black colleges and universities in professional and academic areas where African Americans are underrepresented in society.

**Employment**

Race, under the Civil Rights Act, is used to assess fairness of employment practices.

**Social Services**

For the Public Health Service Act, race is a key factor in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

**Government**

States require data about the racial makeup of the voting-age population to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

Data about race are needed to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act by local jurisdictions.
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

These questions provide essential data for setting and evaluating immigration policies and laws. Knowing the characteristics of immigrants helps legislators and others understand how different immigrant groups are assimilated. Federal agencies require these data to develop programs for refugees and other foreign-born individuals. Vital information on lifetime migration among states also comes from the place of birth question.
American Community Survey
Population: Question on Place of Birth
Question on Citizenship
Question on Year of Entry

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Education
Data are used to allocate funds to public and private nonprofit organizations to provide employment resources aimed at making the foreign-born economically self-sufficient.

Social Services
These data are used, in conjunction with the Public Health Service Act, to assist states and local agencies with developing health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the foreign-born.

Government
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security uses citizenship data to project staffing and other resource needs to complete the naturalization process for noncitizens. Under the Voting Rights Act, these data are required to evaluate voting practices of governmental subdivisions (e.g., states, counties, and school districts).

Employment
Data about place of birth and citizenship are used to evaluate the effectiveness of equal employment opportunity policies and programs under the Civil Rights Act.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Educational attainment and school enrollment data are needed for use in assessing the socioeconomic condition of school-age children. Government agencies also require these data for funding allocations and program planning and implementation. These data are needed to determine the extent of illiteracy rates of citizens in language minorities in order to meet statutory requirements under the Voting Rights Act.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**Education**
Based on data about educational attainment, school districts are allocated funds to provide classes in basic skills to adults who have not completed high school.

The U.S. Department of Education uses school enrollment data to develop adult education and literacy programs based on the number of individuals with limited English proficiency.

**Government**
The U.S. Department of Justice uses school enrollment data in the enforcement work against discrimination in education.

**Employment**
Employers use information about the educational attainment levels of the labor force to locate new jobs and stimulate economic growth.

www.census.gov
American Community Survey
Population: Question on Field of Degree

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

12 This question focuses on this person’s BACHELOR’S DEGREE. Please print below the specific major(s) of any BACHELOR’S DEGREES this person has received. (For example: chemical engineering, elementary teacher education, organizational psychology)

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Field of Degree (FOD) data are needed for use in assessing the qualifications of the U.S. college-educated workforce. Government agencies will use these data to examine the supply of highly-skilled workers in a variety of fields, the need to encourage greater participation in certain fields, and the representation of different demographic groups in various fields of study.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Education
College administrators, educators, students, parents and professional societies use these data to assess how graduates in various fields are faring in the job market as well as informing them about the kinds of training graduates should be receiving to be prepared for the jobs that are likely to be available. It provides timely information for prospective students and their parents about employment possibilities for those majoring in a particular field in college.

Government
The National Science Foundation (NSF) uses these data to draw a sample for a large workforce survey, the National Survey of College Graduates, which gathers important information about the education, employment and characteristics of scientists and engineers. NSF and other agencies use the data to analyze the types of jobs that graduates in a particular field hold, their earnings and how these outcomes vary within and across fields by race/ethnicity, gender, and citizenship.

Employment
Employers use information about the field of degree of college graduates to assess the supply of potential employees, nationally and in specific areas.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Ancestry identifies the ethnic origins of the population. Federal agencies regard this information as essential for fulfilling many important needs. Ancestry is required to enforce provisions under the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, and national origin. More generally, these data are needed to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
Data about ancestry assist states and local agencies to develop health care and other services tailored to meet the language and cultural diversity of the elderly in these groups.

Under the Public Health Service Act, ancestry is one of the factors used in identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

Employment
Data about ancestry are used to evaluate the effectiveness of equal employment opportunity policies and programs for different ethnic groups under the Civil Rights Act.

www.census.gov
American Community Survey
Population: Question on Language Spoken at Home

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

14. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?
   - Yes
   - No ➔ SKIP to question 15a

b. What is this language?
   (For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese)

c. How well does this person speak English?
   - Very well
   - Well
   - Not well
   - Not at all

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Government agencies use information on language spoken at home for their programs that serve the needs of the foreign-born and specifically those who have difficulty with English. Under the Voting Rights Act, language is needed to meet statutory requirements for making voting materials available in minority languages. Specifically, the Census Bureau is directed, using data about language spoken at home and the ability to speak English, to identify minority groups that speak a language other than English and to assess their English-speaking ability. The U.S. Department of Education uses these data to prepare a report to Congress on the social and economic status of children served by different local school districts.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**Education**

Data on language are used to allocate grants to school districts for children with limited English language proficiency. State and local educational agencies receive grants for programs to improve educational skills, complete secondary schooling, and provide job training and placement for adults based on data about language.

**Social Services**

State and local agencies concerned with aging develop health care and other services tailored to the language and cultural diversity of the elderly under the Older Americans Act.

**Government**

Under the Voting Rights Act, these data are needed to assess the fairness of voting practices in governmental subdivisions.

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
### American Community Survey
**Population: Question on Residence 1 Year Ago**

#### Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 a.</strong> Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Person is under 1 year old ➔ SKIP to question 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Yes, this house ➔ SKIP to question 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ No, outside the United States and Puerto Rico – Print name of foreign country, or U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to question 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ No, different house in the United States or Puerto Rico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 b.</strong> Where did this person live 1 year ago?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address (Number and street name)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of city, town, or post office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of U.S. county or municipio in Puerto Rico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of U.S. state or Puerto Rico</td>
<td>ZIP Code</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

### MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Residence 1 year ago is used to assess the residential stability and the effects of migration in both urban and rural areas. This item provides information on the mobility of our population. Knowing the number and characteristics of movers is essential for federal programs dealing with employment, housing, education, and the elderly. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs develops its mandated projections of the need for hospitals and other veteran benefits for each state with migration data about veterans. The Census Bureau develops state age and sex estimates and small-area population projections based on data about residence 1 year ago.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
State and local agencies concerned with aging develop health care and other services for the elderly using information on where people lived 1 year ago. These data indicate changes in the location of seniors that may affect the need for future services in specific areas.
Local governments use data about migration to forecast the demand for new public facilities such as schools, hospitals, libraries, and fire and police stations.

Government
Planners and policy makers use data about the number of persons moving into, or out of, an area to estimate state and county population growth.
Research, based on data about migration, shows changes in the socioeconomic profiles of areas. These data are used by many government agencies for program planning, especially for rural parts of the country.

www.census.gov
**MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS**

This question was added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies to more accurately distribute resources and better understand state and local health insurance needs.

Planning and implementing many federal health programs requires accurate state and local information on health insurance status. Obtaining data on the uninsured rate among Americans is of great importance to policy makers at federal, state, and local levels.
American Community Survey
Population: Question on Health Insurance Coverage

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
One of the nation’s important sources of insurance data, the Current Population Survey, has annual sample sizes that are too small for many states. Adding a health insurance question to the ACS offers an improved data source to smaller states and communities. State and localities will use the statistically reliable county-level data on the uninsured to more efficiently target outreach and enrollment efforts to those who are eligible for Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, but are not enrolled, thereby facilitating increased insurance coverage.

Public Health
Measuring health insurance status helps agencies target public health grant resources to locations where need is great.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Information on disability is used by a number of federal agencies to distribute funds and develop programs for people with disabilities. For example, data about the size, distribution, and needs of the disabled population are essential for developing disability employment policy. For the Americans with Disabilities Act, data about functional limitations are important to ensure that comparable public transportation services are available for all segments of the population. Federal grants are awarded, under the Older Americans Act, based on the number of elderly people with physical and mental disabilities.
Transportation
Disability data are used to allocate funds for mass transit systems to provide handicapped facilities.
Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, local transit authorities use these data on the number of individuals with functional limitations in order to ensure public transportation services are comparable to those for individuals without disabilities.

Employment
Data about people with disabilities are used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans.

Social Services
Under the Older Americans Act, these data assist state and local agencies concerned with aging to develop health care and other services tailored to the disabilities of the elderly.
Disability data are used by state and county agencies to plan for eligible recipients under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
American Community Survey
Population: Question on Marital Status

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

20. What is this person’s marital status?

- [ ] Now married
- [ ] Widowed
- [ ] Divorced
- [ ] Separated
- [ ] Never married ➔ SKIP to

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Planning and implementing many government programs calls for accurate information on marital status, such as the number of married women in the labor force, elderly widowed individuals, or young single people who soon may establish homes of their own. For the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, data about marital status help define qualifying census tracts for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and the Mortgage Revenue Bonds Programs.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
Data about marital status are used for budget and resource planning to identify the number of children needing special services (e.g., children in single-parent households).

Communities use census data about marital status to pinpoint areas with large numbers of single-parent families and identify needs for childcare, medical care, and other social services.

Housing
Local governments use data about marital status in assessing needs for housing and other community development services.

Employment
Community organizations use data about marital status to identify needs for job training and housing for displaced homemakers.

www.census.gov
Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

21 In the PAST 12 MONTHS did this person get –
   a. Married? □ □
   b. Widowed? □ □
   c. Divorced? □ □

22 How many times has this person been married?
   □ Once
   □ Two times
   □ Three or more times

23 In what year did this person last get married?
   Year

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Marital history data enables multiple agencies to more accurately measure the effects of federal and state policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families. Adding measures of marital transitions to the American Community Survey will provide estimates of marriage and divorce rates and duration, as well as flows into and out of marriage. This information is critical for more refined analyses of eligibility for program services and benefits, and of changes resulting from federal policies and programs.

Marriage and divorce data will be used at the national, state, and sub-state level to plan for and assess state and community activities designed to influence marital and divorce behavior. Equally important are tax and entitlement forecasting functions in a variety of federal programs including Medicare and Medicaid.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
Data will be used for formulation and assessment of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies and programs at both the federal and state level.

Data will be used to plan for and assess the success of grantees funded under the new Healthy Marriage grant program.

Rates of marriage and divorce data are used to track and forecast changes in areas with large numbers of single-parent families, and thus identify needs for childcare, child support, and other social services.

Government
Marital history will permit analyses and projections of tax policies that can create or mitigate “marriage penalties”—increased taxes for a married couple compared with what the same couple would pay if filing as unmarried individuals.

Local governments use data about marital history in assessing needs for housing and other community development services under the Community Development Block Grant Evaluation.

www.census.gov
Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

Has this person given birth to any children in the past 12 months?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

The number of children born in the past 12 months is a measure of fertility that is used to project the future size of the population, a basic planning tool for agencies of the government. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to carry out various programs required by statute, including determining the need for family planning services within the Indian Health Service, investigating matters on child welfare in the Children’s Bureau, and conducting research for voluntary family planning programs.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services

Data about fertility are used to predict the number of children who will need adoptive homes under the Child Welfare Act.

The Indian Health Service uses data about the number of babies born to determine the need for family planning services for its service-eligible population.

Information about children born in the past 12 months is used in research on the family size of female adolescents and their actual birth rates in later life.

The National Center for Health Statistics computes vital statistics for subnational areas using data about children born in the past 12 months.
Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

25 a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?
   - Yes
   - No ➔ SKIP to question 26

b. Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchild(ren) under the age of 18 who live(s) in this house or apartment?
   - Yes
   - No ➔ SKIP to question 26

c. How long has this grandparent been responsible for the(se) grandchild(ren)?
   If the grandparent is financially responsible for more than one grandchild, answer the question for the grandchild for whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time.
   - Less than 6 months
   - 6 to 11 months
   - 1 or 2 years
   - 3 or 4 years
   - 5 or more years

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

This question was added to the American Community Survey in 1999 to comply with legislation passed in the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census program obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to distinguish households in which a grandparent has primary responsibility for a child or children and also uses these data for the High Performance Bonus Awards Program under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Business
Daycare centers and other businesses use these data to develop new products and services for their communities.

Government
State and local governments, faith-based and other nonprofit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

www.census.gov
American Community Survey
Population: Questions on Veteran Status and Period of Military Service

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

26 Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard? Active duty does not include training for the Reserves or National Guard, but DOES include activation, for example, for the Persian Gulf War.

- Yes, now on active duty
- Yes, on active duty during the last 12 months, but not now
- Yes, on active duty in the past, but not during the last 12 months
- No, training for Reserves or National Guard only \( \rightarrow \) SKIP to question 28a
- No, never served in the military \( \rightarrow \) SKIP to question 28a

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

27 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)
- September 1980 to July 1990
- May 1975 to August 1980
- Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- March 1961 to July 1964
- February 1955 to February 1961
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- January 1947 to June 1950
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- November 1941 or earlier

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Veteran status, including period of military service, is used primarily by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veterans’ programs dealing with education, employment, and health care. These data are needed to conduct policy analysis, program planning, and budgeting for federal veterans’ programs and for reports to Congress on state projections of veterans’ facilities and services.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Social Services
At state and county levels, veteran status is used for budgeting and program planning for medical services and nursing home care for veterans.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs needs data about veteran status in planning the locations and sizes of veterans’ cemeteries.

For the Public Health Service Act, veteran status is used as one factor to determine the segments of the population who may not be receiving needed medical services.

Employment
Data about veteran status are used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability rating was added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to measure a veteran’s service-connected disability compensation entitlement status. This information will improve the VA’s ability to accurately anticipate the need for VA care and its associated cost.

VA is required to provide an annual report to Congress that determines whether VA health care appropriations for the coming fiscal year are sufficient to cover expenditures associated with the expected demand for VA health care services. Adding the proposed service-connected disability status measure to the ACS will enable VA to make county-level estimates of veterans classified by income, service-connected status, and several other characteristics that are needed to classify enrollment priorities.

This information will fundamentally improve VA’s capability to describe the total veteran population in terms of age, priority, and market area and to more accurately estimate the demand for VA care.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**Health**

VA medical centers and their associated outpatient clinics would use these data to measure key determinants of the demand for VA care.

Data on service-connected disability ratings would allow VA medical centers (and their regional networks) to engage in meaningful local area planning that accounts for expectations of the future demand for VA care.

www.census.gov
Labor force status is key to understanding work and unemployment patterns and the availability of workers. Based on labor market areas and unemployment levels, the U.S. Department of Labor identifies service delivery areas and determines amounts to be allocated to each for job training. The impact of immigration on the economy and job markets is determined partially by labor force data, and this information is included in required reports to Congress. The Office of Management and Budget, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, uses data about employed workers as part of the criteria for defining metropolitan areas. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information, in conjunction with other data, to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas and eligibility criteria of many federal programs such as Medicaid.
For local areas with substantial unemployment, labor force data are used to allocate funds and identify programs that create new jobs. Data are used to target state and local areas with a labor force surplus for programs that promote business opportunities.

Within the U.S. Department of Labor, data about the labor force are needed to evaluate job complaints reported on the basis of disability.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Basic knowledge about commuting patterns and the characteristics of commuter travel come from responses to these questions. The commuting data are essential for planning highway improvements and developing public transportation services, as well as for designing programs to ease traffic problems during peak periods, conserve energy, reduce pollution, and estimate and project the demand for alternative-fueled vehicles. These data are required to develop standards for reducing work-related vehicle trips and increasing passenger occupancy during peak periods of travel. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) plans to use county-level data in computing gross commuting flows to develop place-of-residence earnings estimates from place-of-work estimates by industry. In addition, BEA also plans to use these data for state personal income estimates for determining federal fund allocations.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Transportation
These data form the database used by state departments of transportation and the more than 350 metropolitan planning organizations responsible for comprehensive transportation planning activities.
Metropolitan planning organizations use these data to manage traffic congestion and develop strategies to mitigate congestion, such as carpooling programs and flexible work schedules.
Public transit agencies use these data to plan for transit investments, identify areas needing better transit service, determine the most efficient routes, and plan for services for disabled persons.

Emergency Preparedness
Police and fire departments use data about where people work to plan emergency services in areas of high concentrations of employment.

Employment
Data are used to identify patterns of discrimination in hiring among minorities and other population groups within labor markets.

Banking
Financial institutions use data about commuting patterns and occupation to define market areas for describing lending practices and the effects of bank mergers.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

To comply with provisions of the Civil Rights Act, the U.S. Department of Justice uses these data to determine the availability of individuals for work. Government agencies, in considering the programmatic and policy aspects of providing federal assistance to areas, have emphasized the requirements for reliable data to determine the employment resources available. Data about the number of weeks and hours worked last year are essential because these data allow the characterization of workers by full-time/part-time and full-year/part-year status. Data about working last year are also necessary for collecting accurate income data by defining the universe of persons who should have earnings as part of their total income.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**Employment**

Under the Older Americans Act, these data are used to plan employment programs for the elderly.

Researchers use these data to analyze differences between men and women or among various race or ethnic groups for individuals with similar weeks or hours worked.

Companies use data on work status last year to make decisions on where to place new plants or offices.

Data on work status last year are used for legal cases on discrimination under the Civil Rights Act.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

These questions describe the work activity and occupational experience of the American labor force. Data are used to formulate policy and programs for employment, career development and training, and to measure compliance with antidiscrimination policies. Mandated reports for Congress on the labor force rely on the analysis of these characteristics. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information, in conjunction with other data, to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas or for eligibility criteria in many federal programs such as Medicaid and plans to use the county-level information to develop its county and state per capita income estimates.
Employment

Information about industry, occupation, and class of worker is important for creating jobs as companies use these data to decide where to locate new plants, stores, or offices. Agencies use these data to plan job-training programs for seniors.

Federal agencies use these data in litigation where employment discrimination is alleged.

Social Services

Data are used to estimate the demand for staff in health care occupations and their geographic distribution based on these data.

www.census.gov
MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Income is a vital measure of general economic circumstances. Income data are used to determine poverty status, to measure economic well-being, and to assess the need for assistance. These data are included in federal allocation formulas for many government programs.
**Social Services**
Under the Older Americans Act, funds for food, health care, and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on data about elderly people with low incomes.
Data about income at the state and county levels are used to allocate funds for food, health care, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

**Employment**
Income data are used to identify local areas eligible for grants to stimulate economic recovery, run job-training programs, and define areas such as empowerment or enterprise zones.

**Housing**
Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, income data are used to allocate funds to areas for home energy aid.
Under the Community Development Block Grant Program, funding for housing assistance and other community development is based on income and other decennial census data.

**Education**
Data about poor children are used to allocate funds to counties and school districts. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children.

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