

## Census Bureau Five-Year Survey Provides Detailed Look at America's Communities

The U.S. Census Bureau has released findings from the American Community Survey for the five-year period of 2006-2010. The survey is the most relied-on source for detailed, up-to-date socio-economic statistics covering every community in the nation on more than 40 topics such as educational attainment, income, occupation, commuting to work, language spoken at home, nativity, ancestry and selected monthly homeowner costs.

"These estimates are ideal for public officials to use to make key decisions," Census Bureau Director Robert Groves said. "School boards will find them helpful in forecasting demand for classroom space, teachers and workforce training programs. Local governments will also find them useful in forecasting needs for services such as police and fire protection."

The survey included interviews with almost 2 million housing units each year from 2006 through 2010. By pooling several years of survey responses, the American Community Survey can generate more detailed statistics. Period estimates are in contrast with "point-in-time" data such as the 2010 U.S. Census data, which reflected population and housing characteristics as of April 1, 2010.

[David Porton](#), *Goodwill Industries International senior data and GIS specialist*, said that the November CNA databooks (to be released in January) will incorporate this new five-year data on topics such as education attainment, poverty by race or Hispanic Origin, foreign born population, and veterans.

Some of the findings:

- People living in poverty tend to be clustered in certain neighborhoods rather than being evenly distributed across geographic areas.
- About 67 million people in the U.S., or 23 percent of the population, lived in "poverty areas" — that is, census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more.
- Individuals residing in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more were less likely to have completed high school, to work year-round, full time and to own a home, and were more likely to be living in a female-householder family and to be receiving food stamps than individuals living in tracts with low poverty rates (poverty rates of less than 13.8 percent).

[Locate data on your specific community.](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml) (<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>)