



## United States

### Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2008

Data Set: 2008 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Survey: American Community Survey

NOTE. Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [Survey Methodology](#).

Selected Social Characteristics in the United States	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Margin of Error
<b>HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE</b>				
<b>Total households</b>	<b>113,101,329</b>	<b>+/-146,859</b>	<b>113,101,329</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Family households (families)	75,030,551	+/-141,041	66.3%	+/-0.1
With own children under 18 years	34,727,021	+/-85,821	30.7%	+/-0.1
Married-couple family	55,692,103	+/-160,524	49.2%	+/-0.1
With own children under 18 years	23,840,832	+/-94,124	21.1%	+/-0.1
Male householder, no wife present, family	5,167,377	+/-41,076	4.6%	+/-0.1
With own children under 18 years	2,551,208	+/-28,000	2.3%	+/-0.1
Female householder, no husband present, family	14,171,071	+/-54,365	12.5%	+/-0.1
With own children under 18 years	8,334,981	+/-46,148	7.4%	+/-0.1
Nonfamily households	38,070,778	+/-73,010	33.7%	+/-0.1
Householder living alone	31,406,497	+/-80,783	27.8%	+/-0.1
65 years and over	10,631,504	+/-39,262	9.4%	+/-0.1
Households with one or more people under 18 years	38,345,693	+/-81,548	33.9%	+/-0.1
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	26,962,020	+/-50,739	23.8%	+/-0.1
Average household size	2.62	+/-0.01	(X)	(X)
Average family size	3.22	+/-0.01	(X)	(X)
<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>				
<b>Population in households</b>	<b>295,812,890</b>	<b>*****</b>	<b>295,812,890</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Householder	113,101,329	+/-146,859	38.2%	+/-0.1
Spouse	55,636,224	+/-141,297	18.8%	+/-0.1
Child	90,830,538	+/-100,287	30.7%	+/-0.1
Other relatives	20,112,620	+/-126,193	6.8%	+/-0.1
Nonrelatives	16,132,179	+/-148,171	5.5%	+/-0.1
Unmarried partner	6,256,885	+/-40,710	2.1%	+/-0.1
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>				
<b>Males 15 years and over</b>	<b>118,573,007</b>	<b>+/-29,399</b>	<b>118,573,007</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Never married	41,011,718	+/-93,906	34.6%	+/-0.1
Now married, except separated	61,359,994	+/-138,821	51.7%	+/-0.1
Separated	2,112,572	+/-28,741	1.8%	+/-0.1
Widowed	2,975,187	+/-24,263	2.5%	+/-0.1
Divorced	11,113,536	+/-57,937	9.4%	+/-0.1
<b>Females 15 years and over</b>	<b>124,380,400</b>	<b>+/-27,664</b>	<b>124,380,400</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Never married	34,893,327	+/-81,141	28.1%	+/-0.1
Now married, except separated	59,480,501	+/-136,598	47.8%	+/-0.1
Separated	3,097,760	+/-36,294	2.5%	+/-0.1
Widowed	12,112,536	+/-41,140	9.7%	+/-0.1
Divorced	14,796,276	+/-65,054	11.9%	+/-0.1
<b>FERTILITY</b>				

<b>Selected Social Characteristics in the United States</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>
<b>Number of women 15 to 50 years old who had a birth in the past 12 months</b>	<b>4,436,577</b>	<b>+/-37,288</b>	<b>4,436,577</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Unmarried women (widowed, divorced, and never married)	1,521,094	+/-24,852	34.3%	+/-0.4
Per 1,000 unmarried women	38	+/-1	(X)	(X)
Per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old	58	+/-1	(X)	(X)
Per 1,000 women 15 to 19 years old	29	+/-1	(X)	(X)
Per 1,000 women 20 to 34 years old	108	+/-1	(X)	(X)
Per 1,000 women 35 to 50 years old	25	+/-1	(X)	(X)
<b>GRANDPARENTS</b>				
<b>Number of grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years</b>	<b>6,432,366</b>	<b>+/-59,293</b>	<b>6,432,366</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Responsible for grandchildren	2,617,580	+/-31,227	40.7%	+/-0.4
Years responsible for grandchildren				
Less than 1 year	608,577	+/-14,732	9.5%	+/-0.2
1 or 2 years	611,731	+/-16,752	9.5%	+/-0.3
3 or 4 years	420,532	+/-11,969	6.5%	+/-0.2
5 or more years	976,740	+/-18,807	15.2%	+/-0.3
<b>Number of grandparents responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years</b>	<b>2,617,580</b>	<b>+/-31,227</b>	<b>2,617,580</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Who are female	1,634,975	+/-20,668	62.5%	+/-0.3
Who are married	1,851,179	+/-27,980	70.7%	+/-0.5
<b>SCHOOL ENROLLMENT</b>				
<b>Population 3 years and over enrolled in school</b>	<b>79,854,557</b>	<b>+/-76,091</b>	<b>79,854,557</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Nursery school, preschool	5,098,849	+/-31,830	6.4%	+/-0.1
Kindergarten	4,059,469	+/-35,346	5.1%	+/-0.1
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	32,161,387	+/-52,514	40.3%	+/-0.1
High school (grades 9-12)	17,208,365	+/-44,904	21.5%	+/-0.1
College or graduate school	21,326,487	+/-68,885	26.7%	+/-0.1
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>				
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	<b>200,030,018</b>	<b>+/-72,891</b>	<b>200,030,018</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Less than 9th grade	12,740,250	+/-72,753	6.4%	+/-0.1
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	17,328,515	+/-76,989	8.7%	+/-0.1
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	57,032,214	+/-109,722	28.5%	+/-0.1
Some college, no degree	42,565,378	+/-106,109	21.3%	+/-0.1
Associate's degree	15,006,479	+/-60,390	7.5%	+/-0.1
Bachelor's degree	35,003,071	+/-110,772	17.5%	+/-0.1
Graduate or professional degree	20,354,111	+/-87,721	10.2%	+/-0.1
Percent high school graduate or higher	85.0%	+/-0.1	(X)	(X)
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	27.7%	+/-0.1	(X)	(X)
<b>VETERAN STATUS</b>				
<b>Civilian population 18 years and over</b>	<b>228,901,197</b>	<b>+/-34,693</b>	<b>228,901,197</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Civilian veterans	22,424,712	+/-67,194	9.8%	+/-0.1
<b>DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION</b>				
<b>Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population</b>	<b>298,574,528</b>	<b>+/-19,717</b>	<b>298,574,528</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability	36,071,802	+/-108,586	12.1%	+/-0.1
<b>Under 18 years</b>	<b>73,786,055</b>	<b>+/-31,254</b>	<b>73,786,055</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability	2,896,937	+/-30,189	3.9%	+/-0.1
<b>18 to 64 years</b>	<b>187,579,233</b>	<b>+/-35,025</b>	<b>187,579,233</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability	18,995,085	+/-73,956	10.1%	+/-0.1
<b>65 years and over</b>	<b>37,209,240</b>	<b>+/-21,280</b>	<b>37,209,240</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability	14,179,780	+/-47,006	38.1%	+/-0.1
<b>RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO</b>				
<b>Population 1 year and over</b>	<b>299,925,887</b>	<b>+/-30,818</b>	<b>299,925,887</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Same house	253,113,093	+/-252,753	84.4%	+/-0.1
Different house in the U.S.	44,917,691	+/-246,350	15.0%	+/-0.1
Same county	27,694,963	+/-186,842	9.2%	+/-0.1
Different county	17,222,728	+/-121,476	5.7%	+/-0.1
Same state	9,984,255	+/-90,657	3.3%	+/-0.1
Different state	7,238,473	+/-71,643	2.4%	+/-0.1
Abroad	1,895,103	+/-40,207	0.6%	+/-0.1
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>				

<b>Selected Social Characteristics in the United States</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>
	<b>304,059,728</b>	<b>*****</b>	<b>304,059,728</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Native	266,098,793	+/-122,962	87.5%	+/-0.1
Born in United States	262,067,990	+/-119,975	86.2%	+/-0.1
State of residence	179,132,918	+/-142,865	58.9%	+/-0.1
Different state	82,935,072	+/-142,801	27.3%	+/-0.1
Born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island areas, or born abroad to American parent(s)	4,030,803	+/-42,481	1.3%	+/-0.1
Foreign born	37,960,935	+/-122,968	12.5%	+/-0.1
<b>U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS</b>				
<b>Foreign-born population</b>	<b>37,960,935</b>	<b>+/-122,968</b>	<b>37,960,935</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Naturalized U.S. citizen	16,329,909	+/-68,667	43.0%	+/-0.2
Not a U.S. citizen	21,631,026	+/-118,223	57.0%	+/-0.2
<b>YEAR OF ENTRY</b>				
<b>Population born outside the United States</b>	<b>41,991,738</b>	<b>+/-119,980</b>	<b>41,991,738</b>	<b>(X)</b>
<b>Native</b>	<b>4,030,803</b>	<b>+/-42,481</b>	<b>4,030,803</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Entered 2000 or later	796,551	+/-23,466	19.8%	+/-0.5
Entered before 2000	3,234,252	+/-36,679	80.2%	+/-0.5
<b>Foreign born</b>	<b>37,960,935</b>	<b>+/-122,968</b>	<b>37,960,935</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Entered 2000 or later	11,212,889	+/-99,727	29.5%	+/-0.2
Entered before 2000	26,748,046	+/-90,653	70.5%	+/-0.2
<b>WORLD REGION OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN BORN</b>				
<b>Foreign-born population, excluding population born at sea</b>	<b>37,960,773</b>	<b>+/-122,987</b>	<b>37,960,773</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Europe	4,969,090	+/-42,281	13.1%	+/-0.1
Asia	10,355,577	+/-41,271	27.3%	+/-0.1
Africa	1,435,996	+/-31,982	3.8%	+/-0.1
Oceania	222,994	+/-10,689	0.6%	+/-0.1
Latin America	20,150,245	+/-95,704	53.1%	+/-0.2
Northern America	826,871	+/-15,928	2.2%	+/-0.1
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME</b>				
<b>Population 5 years and over</b>	<b>283,149,507</b>	<b>+/-17,858</b>	<b>283,149,507</b>	<b>(X)</b>
English only	227,365,509	+/-140,618	80.3%	+/-0.1
Language other than English	55,783,998	+/-135,063	19.7%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	24,439,242	+/-100,809	8.6%	+/-0.1
Spanish	34,559,894	+/-84,288	12.2%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	16,156,584	+/-71,142	5.7%	+/-0.1
Other Indo-European languages	10,508,347	+/-84,541	3.7%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	3,459,819	+/-45,773	1.2%	+/-0.1
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	8,391,422	+/-52,914	3.0%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	4,119,642	+/-37,711	1.5%	+/-0.1
Other languages	2,324,335	+/-41,161	0.8%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	703,197	+/-21,494	0.2%	+/-0.1
<b>ANCESTRY</b>				
<b>Total population</b>	<b>304,059,728</b>	<b>*****</b>	<b>304,059,728</b>	<b>(X)</b>
American	17,927,125	+/-88,284	5.9%	+/-0.1
Arab	1,549,725	+/-34,157	0.5%	+/-0.1
Czech	1,593,535	+/-28,437	0.5%	+/-0.1
Danish	1,458,787	+/-27,471	0.5%	+/-0.1
Dutch	4,928,607	+/-49,491	1.6%	+/-0.1
English	27,516,394	+/-100,654	9.0%	+/-0.1
French (except Basque)	9,446,760	+/-72,050	3.1%	+/-0.1
French Canadian	2,079,170	+/-28,380	0.7%	+/-0.1
German	50,271,790	+/-133,576	16.5%	+/-0.1
Greek	1,350,600	+/-29,913	0.4%	+/-0.1
Hungarian	1,538,824	+/-27,846	0.5%	+/-0.1
Irish	36,278,332	+/-122,852	11.9%	+/-0.1
Italian	17,748,513	+/-91,016	5.8%	+/-0.1
Lithuanian	712,165	+/-16,947	0.2%	+/-0.1
Norwegian	4,643,339	+/-38,527	1.5%	+/-0.1
Polish	9,887,099	+/-59,975	3.3%	+/-0.1
Portuguese	1,419,428	+/-27,716	0.5%	+/-0.1
Russian	3,129,738	+/-41,169	1.0%	+/-0.1
Scotch-Irish	3,538,444	+/-33,869	1.2%	+/-0.1
Scottish	5,827,046	+/-51,164	1.9%	+/-0.1
Slovak	808,191	+/-16,978	0.3%	+/-0.1

<b>Selected Social Characteristics in the United States</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>
	2,890,967	+/-50,453	1.0%	+/-0.1
Swedish	4,390,058	+/-42,406	1.4%	+/-0.1
Swiss	997,233	+/-18,999	0.3%	+/-0.1
Ukrainian	998,246	+/-21,756	0.3%	+/-0.1
Welsh	1,980,323	+/-28,002	0.7%	+/-0.1
West Indian (excluding Hispanic origin groups)	2,532,380	+/-47,749	0.8%	+/-0.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see [Accuracy of the Data](#)). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

#### Notes:

- Ancestry listed in this table refers to the total number of people who responded with a particular ancestry; for example, the estimate given for Russian represents the number of people who listed Russian as either their first or second ancestry. This table lists only the largest ancestry groups; see the Detailed Tables for more categories. Race and Hispanic origin groups are not included in this table because official data for those groups come from the Race and Hispanic origin questions rather than the ancestry question (see Demographic Table).
- Starting in 2008, the Scotch-Irish category does not include Irish-Scotch.
- The Census Bureau introduced a new set of disability questions in the 2008 ACS questionnaire. Accordingly, comparisons of disability data from 2008 or later with data from prior years are not recommended. For more information on these questions and their evaluation in the 2006 ACS Content Test, see the [Evaluation Report Covering Disability](#).
- Data for year of entry of the native population reflect the year of entry into the U.S. by people who were born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island Areas or born outside the U.S. to a U.S. citizen parent and who subsequently moved to the U.S.
- Due to a reduction in the Failed Edit Follow-up (FEFU) operation for 4-months in 2008, there was an increase in the amount of missing data and an increase in item allocation rates. For more information see the [ACS User Notes](#).
- While the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) data generally reflect the November 2007 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; in certain instances the names, codes, and boundaries of the principal cities shown in ACS tables may differ from the OMB definitions due to differences in the effective dates of the geographic entities. The 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) data generally reflect the November 2007 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; in certain instances the names, codes, and boundaries of the principal cities shown in PRCS tables may differ from the OMB definitions due to differences in the effective dates of the geographic entities.
- Estimates of urban and rural population, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on Census 2000 data. Boundaries for urban areas have not been updated since Census 2000. As a result, data for urban and rural areas from the ACS do not necessarily reflect the results of ongoing urbanization.

#### Explanation of Symbols:

1. An '\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An '-' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An '+' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An '\*\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
6. An '\*\*\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.
7. An 'N' entry in the estimate and margin of error columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
8. An '(X)' means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.

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