American Community Survey Program Updates

Texas Demographic Conference

May 29, 2024

Donna M. Daily
Chief, American Community Survey Office

United States® Census Bureau

The American Community Survey
Outline

- ACS Overview
- Changes for the 2024 ACS
- Potential Changes for the 2025 ACS and Beyond
- Engaging with Data Users
- Questions

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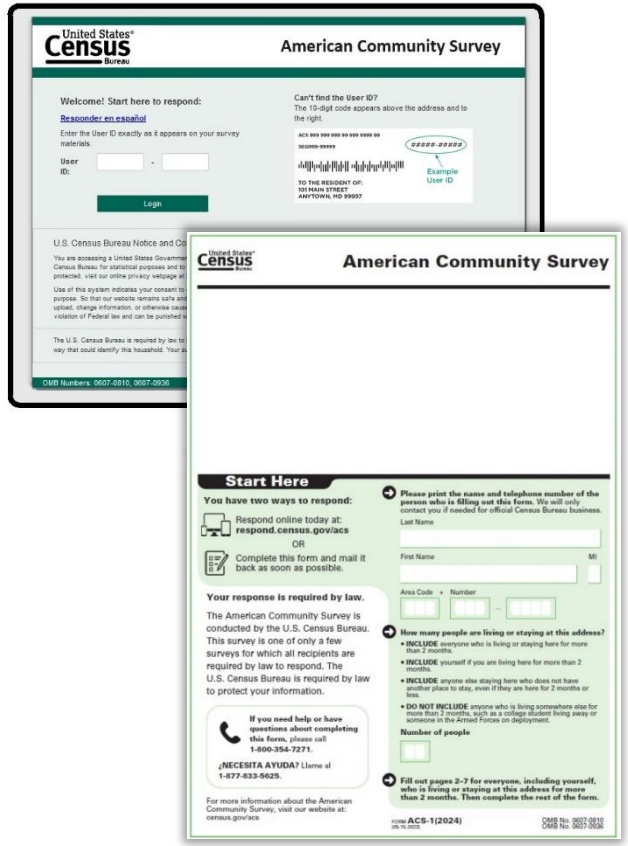
The American Community Survey

The Foundation

- The American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source of detailed information about the nation's people and housing.
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses to produce annual social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for communities throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico
- Covers **40+ topics** — Collects detailed information previously collected by the decennial census each decade
- Helps inform how trillions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year, supports over **300** evidence-based federal government uses
- Data released the year after collection as 1-year and 5-year estimates
- Officially started in 2005 (1-year estimates = 2005; 5-year 2005-2009)



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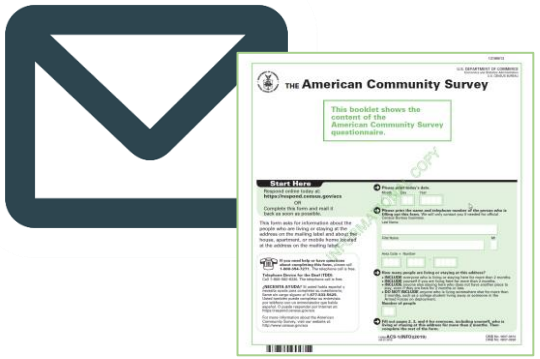
ACS Data Collection Process

Online Response

Paper Questionnaire



Computer-Assisted Interviewing

In-Person and Telephone

Self-Response

(about 8 weeks)

Nonresponse Follow-up

(about 4 weeks)

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Content Overview

POPULATION

SOCIAL
Ancestry
Citizenship
Citizen Voting Age Population
Disability
Educational Attainment
Fertility
Grandparents
Language
Marital Status
Migration
School Enrollment
Veterans

DEMOGRAPHIC
Age
Hispanic Origin
Race
Relationship
Sex

ECONOMIC
Class of Worker
Commuting
Employment Status
Food Stamps (SNAP)
Health Insurance
Income
Industry & Occupation
Weeks Worked

HOUSING

Computer & Internet Use
Costs (Mortgage, Rent, Taxes, Insurance)
Heating Fuel
Home Value
Occupancy
Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities
Structure
Tenure (Own/Rent)
Utilities
Vehicles
Year Built
Year Moved In

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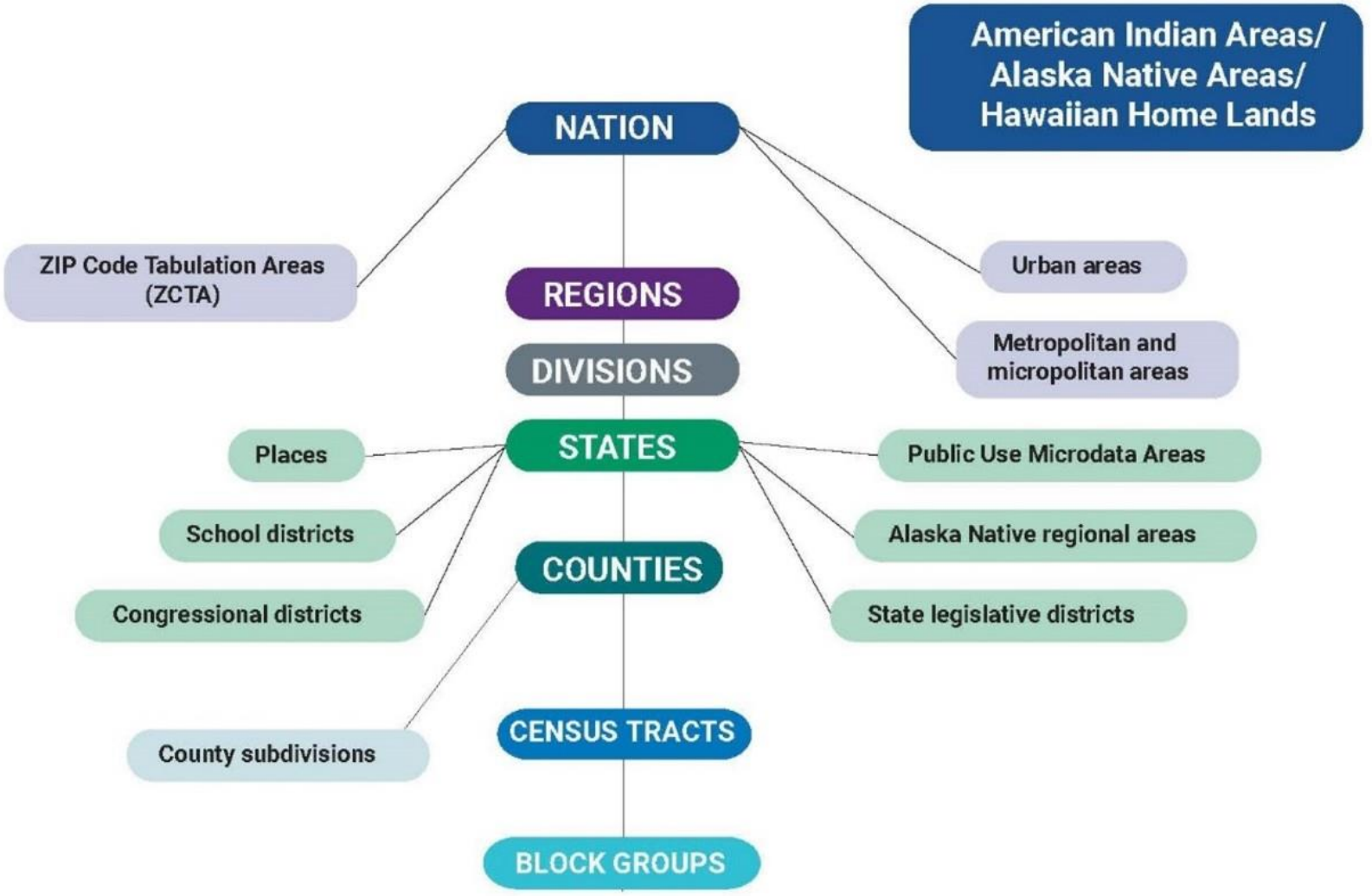
Selected Census Geographic Concepts



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2023 ACS Data Release Schedule

2023 ACS 1-Year Release	
Data Products	**Release**
1-Year Estimates Public Release	September 12, 2024
1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	October 17, 2024
1-Year Supplemental Estimates	October 17, 2024
2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Release	
Data Products	**Release**
5-Year Estimates Public Release	December 12, 2024
5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)	January 23, 2025
5-Year Variance Replicate Estimates	January 23, 2025

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www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2023/release-schedule.html

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Content Changes for the 2024 ACS

Updated wording for 4 questions:

- **Condo Fees** — Now includes homeowners association (HOA) fees
- **Home Heating Fuel** — Updated wording for natural gas and bottled gas categories
- **Journey-to-Work** — Updated Taxi category to include ride-sharing as a mode of transportation
- **Veterans Period of Service** — Adjusted date ranges and names for several periods of service

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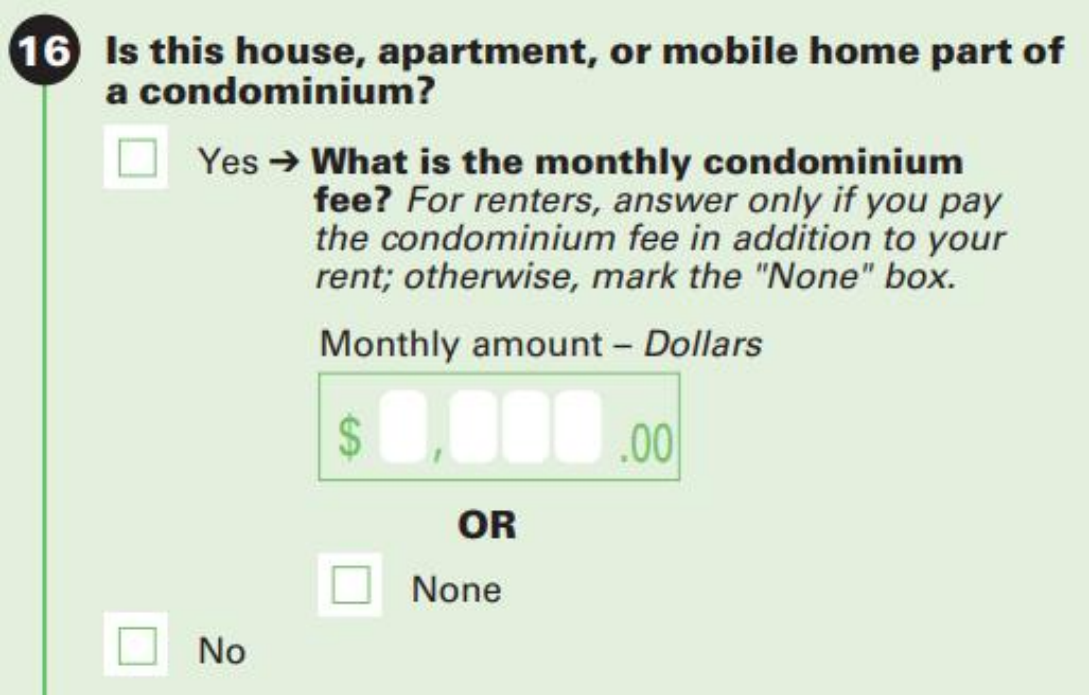
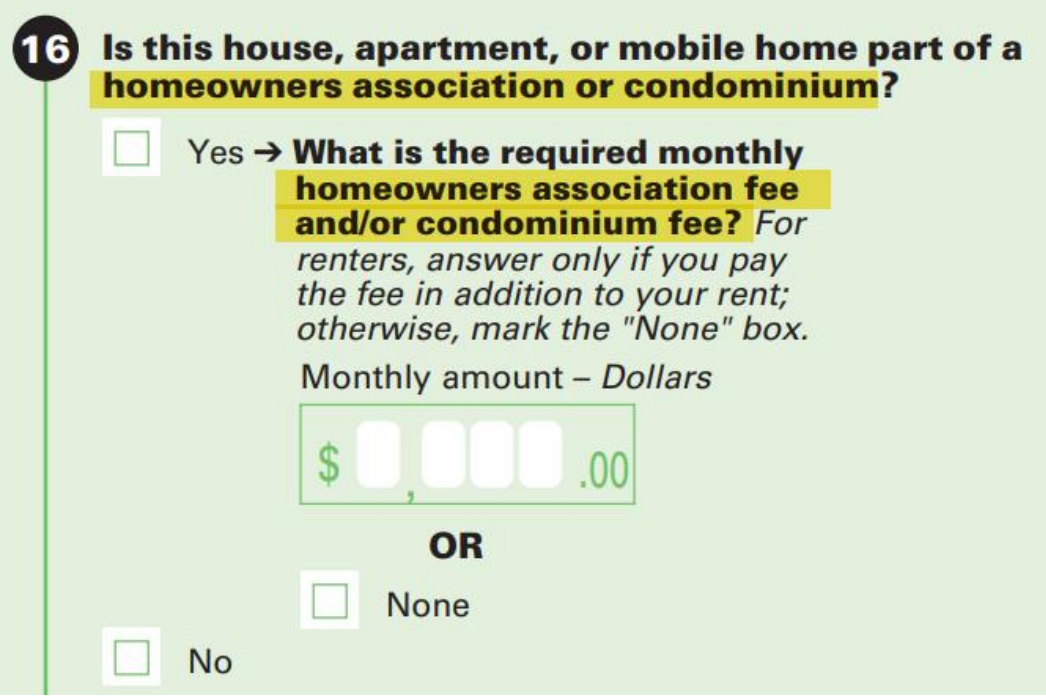
Changes to the Condominium Fees Question

2023 Question



2024 Question



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Changes to the Home Heating Fuel Question

2023 Question

13 Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?

- ☐ Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
- ☐ Gas: bottled, tank, or LP
- ☐ Electricity
- ☐ Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
- ☐ Coal or coke
- ☐ Wood
- ☐ Solar energy
- ☐ Other fuel
- ☐ No fuel used

2024 Question

13 Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home?
Mark (X) one box for the fuel used most.

- ☐ Gas: Natural gas from underground pipes serving the neighborhood
- ☐ Gas: Bottled or tank (propane, butane, etc.)
- ☐ Electricity
- ☐ Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.
- ☐ Coal or coke
- ☐ Wood
- ☐ Solar energy
- ☐ Other fuel
- ☐ No fuel used

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Changes to the Journey-to-Work Question

2023 Question

32 **How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK?** *Mark (X) ONE box for the method of transportation used for most of the distance.*

- ☐ Car, truck, or van
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Subway or elevated rail
- ☐ Long-distance train or commuter rail
- ☐ Light rail, streetcar, or trolley
- ☐ Ferryboat
- ☐ Taxicab
- ☐ Motorcycle
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Walked
- ☐ Worked from home → *SKIP to question 40a*
- ☐ Other method

2024 Question

32 **How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK?** *Mark (X) ONE box for the method of transportation used for most of the distance.*

- ☐ Car, truck, or van
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Subway or elevated rail
- ☐ Long-distance train or commuter rail
- ☐ Light rail, streetcar, or trolley
- ☐ Ferryboat
- ☐ Taxi or ride-hailing services
- ☐ Motorcycle
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Walked
- ☐ Worked from home → *SKIP to question 40a*
- ☐ Other method

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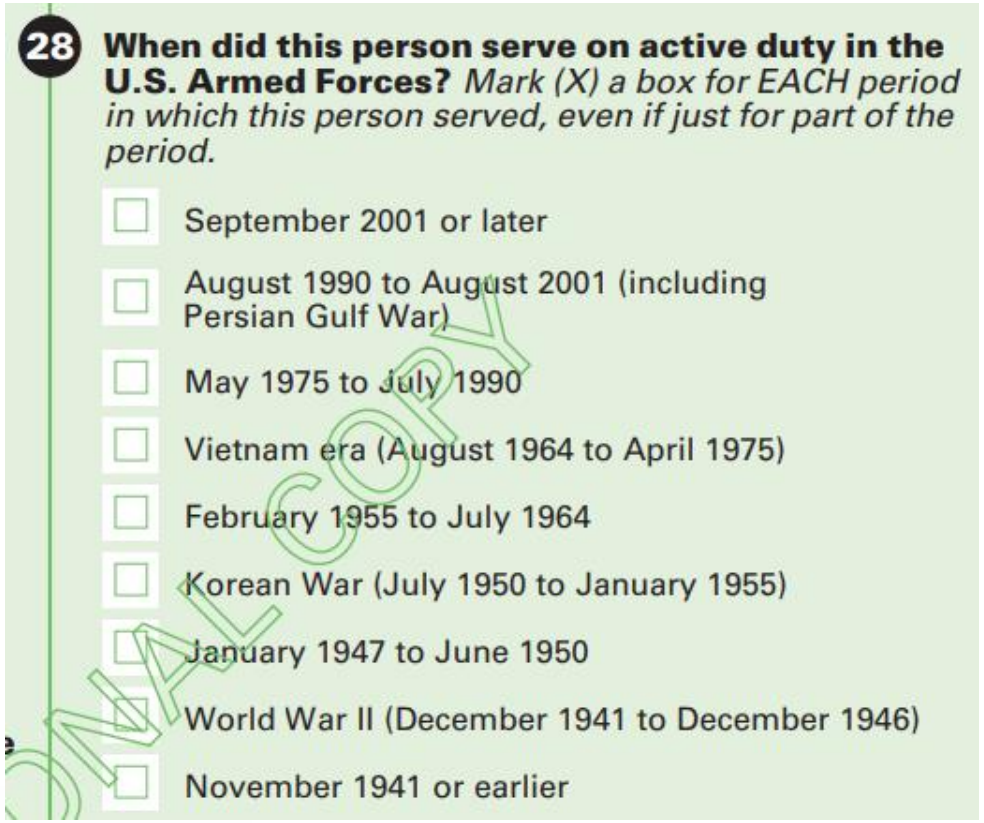
Changes to the Veterans Period of Service Question

2023 Question



28 **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)
- ☐ May 1975 to July 1990
- ☐ Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- ☐ February 1955 to July 1964
- ☐ Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- ☐ January 1947 to June 1950
- ☐ World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- ☐ November 1941 or earlier

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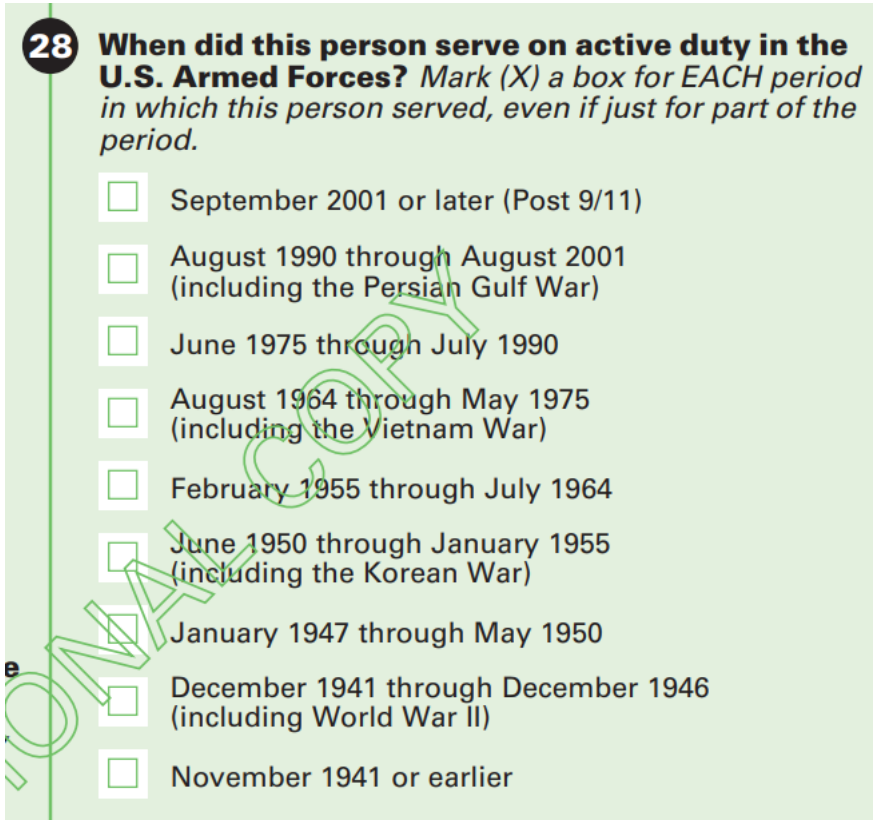
2024 Question



28 **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 (Post 9/11)
- ☐ August 1990 through August 2001 (including the Persian Gulf War)
- ☐ June 1975 through July 1990
- ☐ August 1964 through May 1975 (including the Vietnam War)
- ☐ February 1955 through July 1964
- ☐ June 1950 through January 1955 (including the Korean War)
- ☐ January 1947 through May 1950
- ☐ December 1941 through December 1946 (including World War II)
- ☐ November 1941 or earlier

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Data Collection Changes for the 2024 ACS

- **Internet data collection instrument available for select non-institutional group quarters**
  - e.g., college/university student housing, group homes, military barracks, etc.

- **Using administrative records for the acreage question**
  - Question still appears on the paper questionnaire
  - Question is skipped in Internet and nonresponse follow-up data collection instruments if we have an administrative record

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Potential Question Changes — 2022 ACS Content Test

This test is conducted approximately every five years to improve quality of existing questions or test the addition of new questions.

Person Level Topics

- Household Roster
- Educational Attainment
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Disability**
- Journey to Work*
- Income/Labor Force/SNAP

Housing Topics

- **Sewer**
- **Electric Vehicles**
- **Solar Panels**

} **New Topics**

- Condo Fees*
- Home Heating Fuel*

*Not included in the field test

**Tested but not a proposed change for 2025

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Disability Questions on the ACS

- Based on the 2022 Content Test, the Census Bureau proposed changing the ACS disability questions to a set of questions based on the Washington Group Short Set of disability questions.

- The Census Bureau invited public feedback on the proposed changes to the ACS and PRCS through two Federal Register notices in October 2023 and March 2024.

- The Census Bureau received over 12,000 comments regarding the proposed changes to the Disability questions.

- Based on that feedback, the Census Bureau plans to retain the current ACS disability questions for 2025.

- The Census Bureau wants to engage further with the public on the disability topic and is committed to engaging stakeholders and communities to better understand challenges with identifying and accessing data for the disability community.

- The Census Bureau is working with OMB, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Council on Disability, and the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities to plan a meeting this summer with federal agency disability stakeholders, disability community representatives, data users, researchers, and disability advocates.

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Potential Question Changes — Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Research

The ACS received an FY23 appropriation of $10 million to research adding questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) to the survey

The ACS SOGI test has two components:

Cognitive Testing

- Focuses on Spanish translation
- Began this year and reports are due at the end of 2024

Field Testing

- Focuses on assessing (within household) proxy reporting
- Exploring testing placement, question wording
- Plan to test self-response; hoping to also test Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)
- Currently soliciting public feedback through May 30
- If approved by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, the field test will start later this summer

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Changes to the Race Standards

- On March 28, 2024, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the results of its review of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) and issued updated standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting race/ethnicity data across federal agencies

- The revisions, the first since 1997, will improve the way race and ethnicity data are collected

- The updates:
  - Use one combined question for race and ethnicity, encouraging respondents to select as many options as applicable
  - Add Middle Eastern or North African as a new minimum category, separate and distinct from the White category
  - Require the collection of detailed data on race and ethnicity beyond the minimum race and ethnicity categories, unless an agency requests an exemption
  - Updated definitions, terminology, and guidance to agencies on the collection and presentation of data

- The Census Bureau is reviewing the updated SPD 15 and discussing them within our program areas. We will keep the public informed as we develop plans to implement the changes in our censuses and surveys

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Engaging with Data Users

Ways we communicate:

- ACS Data Users Group online community (5,000+ members)
- ACS Data Users Group Steering Committee (10-15 members selected every 3 years)
- ACS Data User Conferences (biennial)
- Public Webinars
- Presentations/exhibits at events across the country
- ACS website/data user resources
- Monthly e-mail updates to over 80,000 subscribers
- Social media marketing
- Ongoing support for respondents and data users via e-mail and phone calls
- Soliciting ACS data user stories and use cases

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New Data User Resources

ACS course – Discovering the American Community Survey

- Module 1 – Introduction to the ACS
- Module 2 – Geography and the ACS
- Module 3 – Mastering the Variety of ACS Data Products; Navigating Releases, Tables, and Profiles
- Module 4 – Guidance for ACS Data Users

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/events.html

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Stay Connected

Share Your ACS Data Story

JOIN THE ACS DATA USERS GROUP

Sign Up for Email Updates

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Thank you!

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What's New with Accessing the ACS on data.census.gov and the API?

ACS On The Road

Texas Demographic Conference

May 29, 2024

Tyson Weister
Center for Enterprise Dissemination
Dissemination Outreach Branch
U.S. Census Bureau

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Outline

- Latest Updates
- Brief Demo
- Future Enhancements
- Q&A

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Data User Feedback Cycle

STEP 1 - COLLECT
Receive and collect feedback.

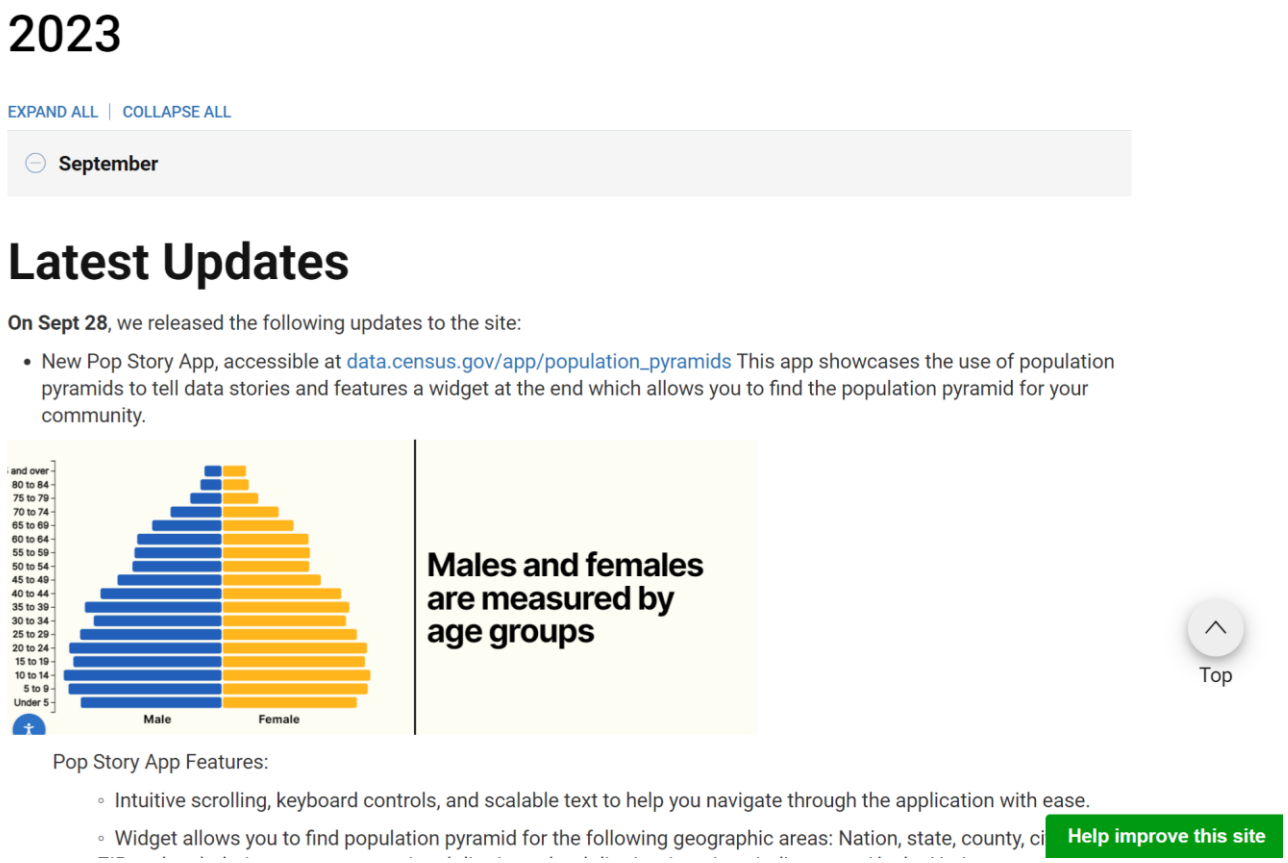
STEP 2 - PRIORITIZE
Distribute issues to prioritize and incorporate.

STEP 3 - DEVELOP
Issues are addressed by developers.

STEP 4 - TEST
Internal testing is conducted.

STEP 5 - RELEASE
Release to the public.

data.census.gov Developmental Updates (since May 2023)



2023

EXPAND ALL | COLLAPSE ALL

September

Latest Updates

On Sept 28, we released the following updates to the site:

- New Pop Story App, accessible at data.census.gov/app/population_pyramids This app showcases the use of population pyramids to tell data stories and features a widget at the end which allows you to find the population pyramid for your community.

Pop Story App Features:

- Intuitive scrolling, keyboard controls, and scalable text to help you navigate through the application with ease.
- Widget allows you to find population pyramid for the following geographic areas: Nation, state, county, ci

Top

Help improve this site

Highlights:

- Address Search
- Improved Maps
- Profiles and Apps Tab
- New Pop Pyramids App
- Cite and API Buttons
- Improved Download Output
- Filter Panel Redesign

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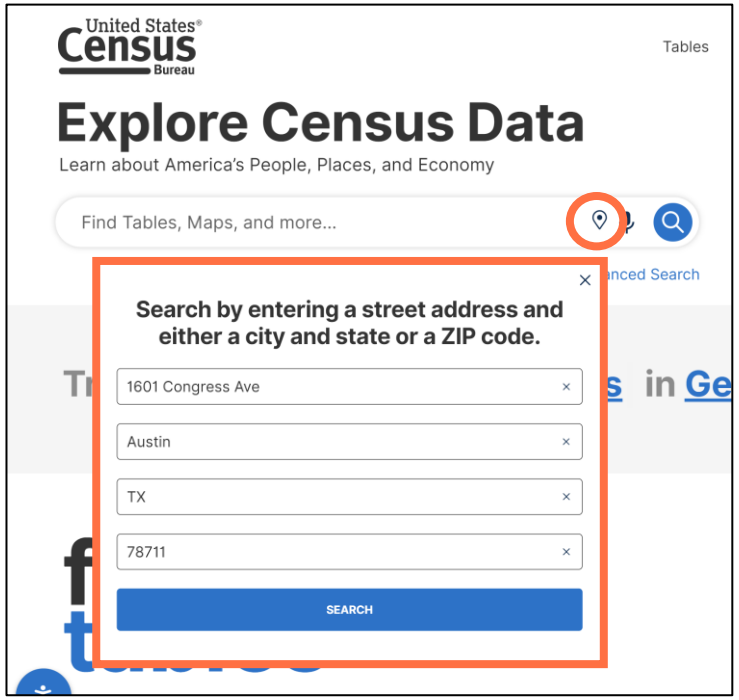
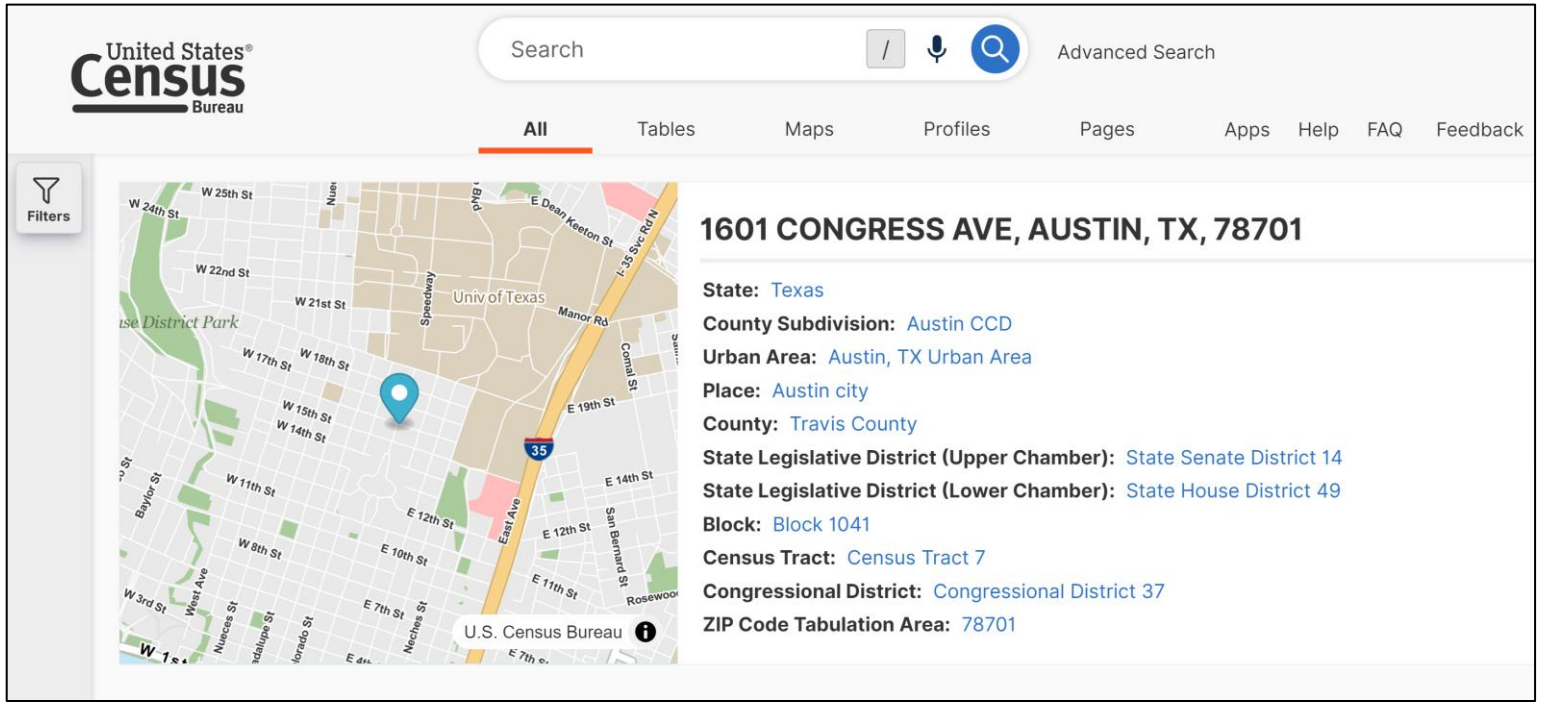
census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov/developmental-update.html

Address Search

- New address search provides a clickable list of Census Bureau geographies an address falls within





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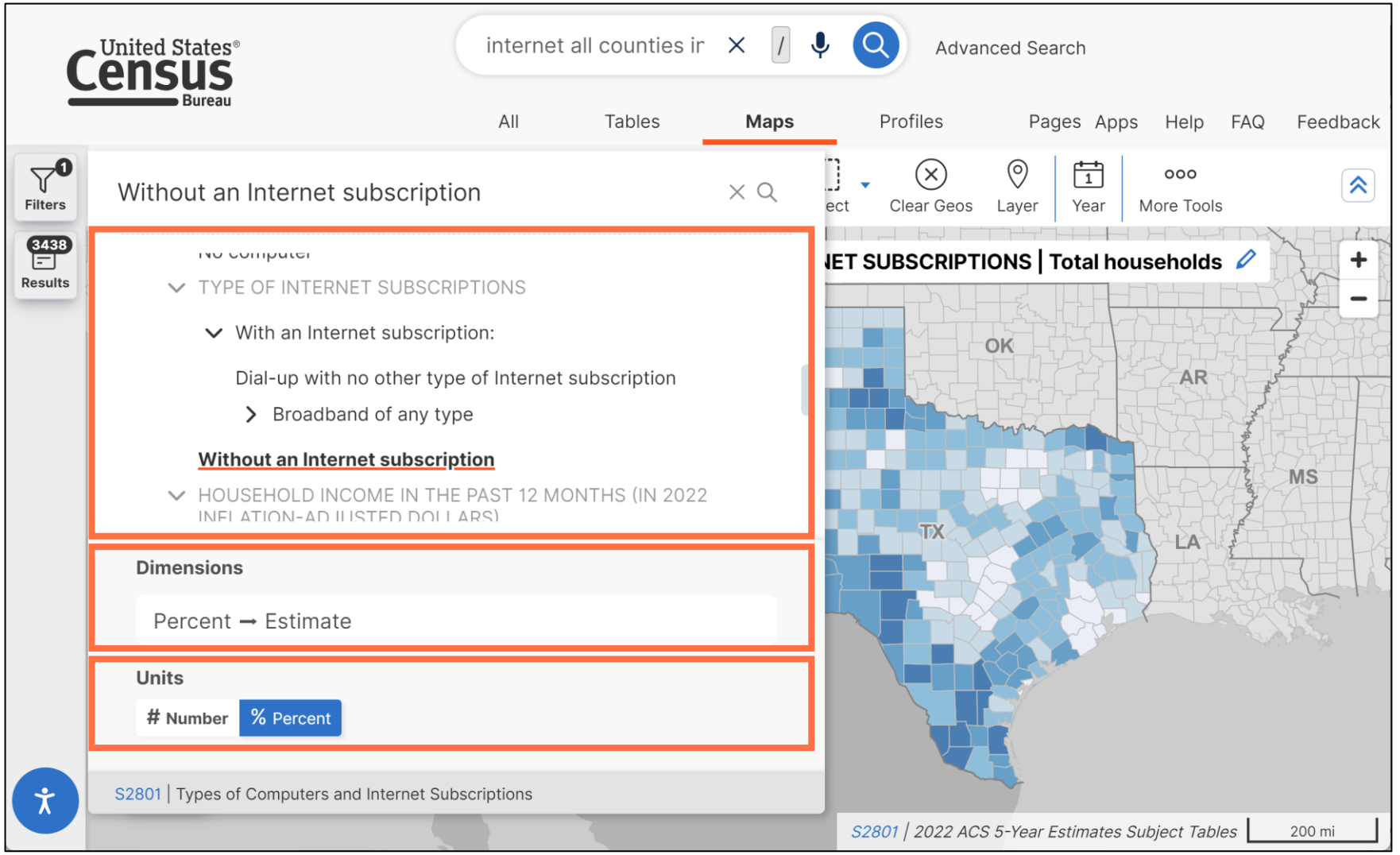
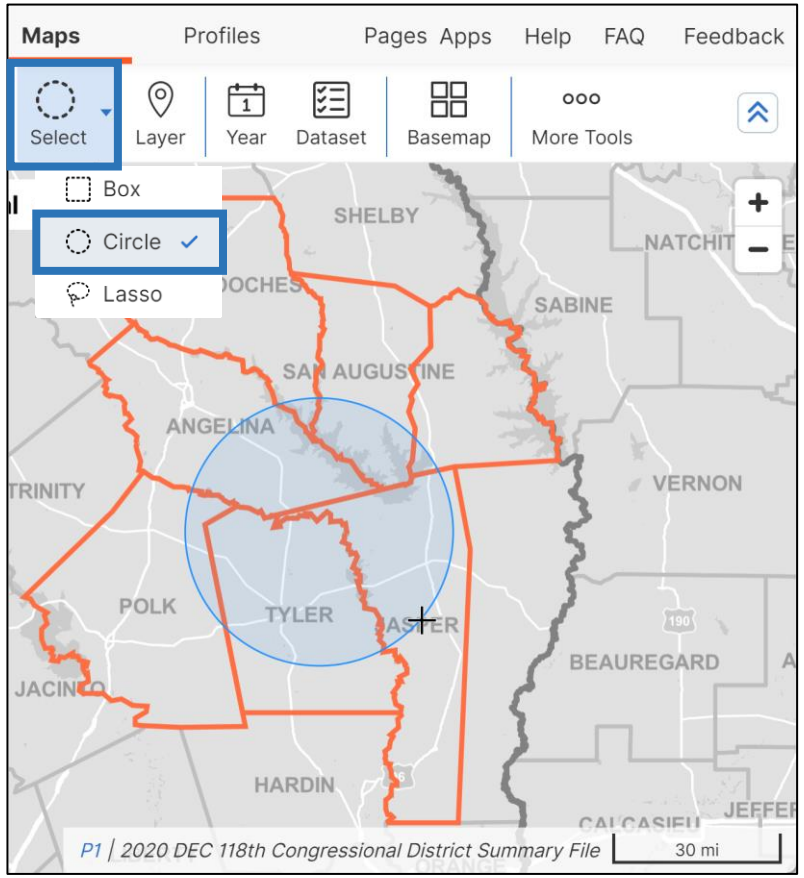
Improved Maps: Redesigned Variable Selection

- Variables now organized in a readable list
- <u>Dimensions</u>
  Allow you to map all columns of the corresponding table
- <u>Units</u>
  Default to percent when available

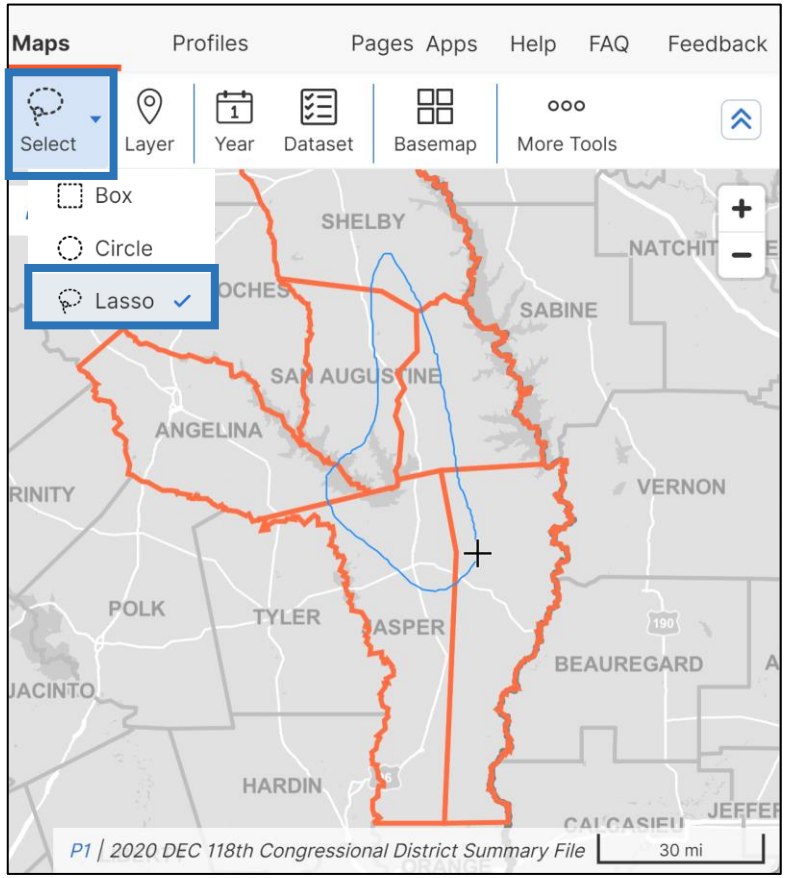


Improved Maps: New Selection Tools

Circle Selection Tool
Draw a circle to select geos



Lasso Selection Tool
Draw a custom shape to select geos



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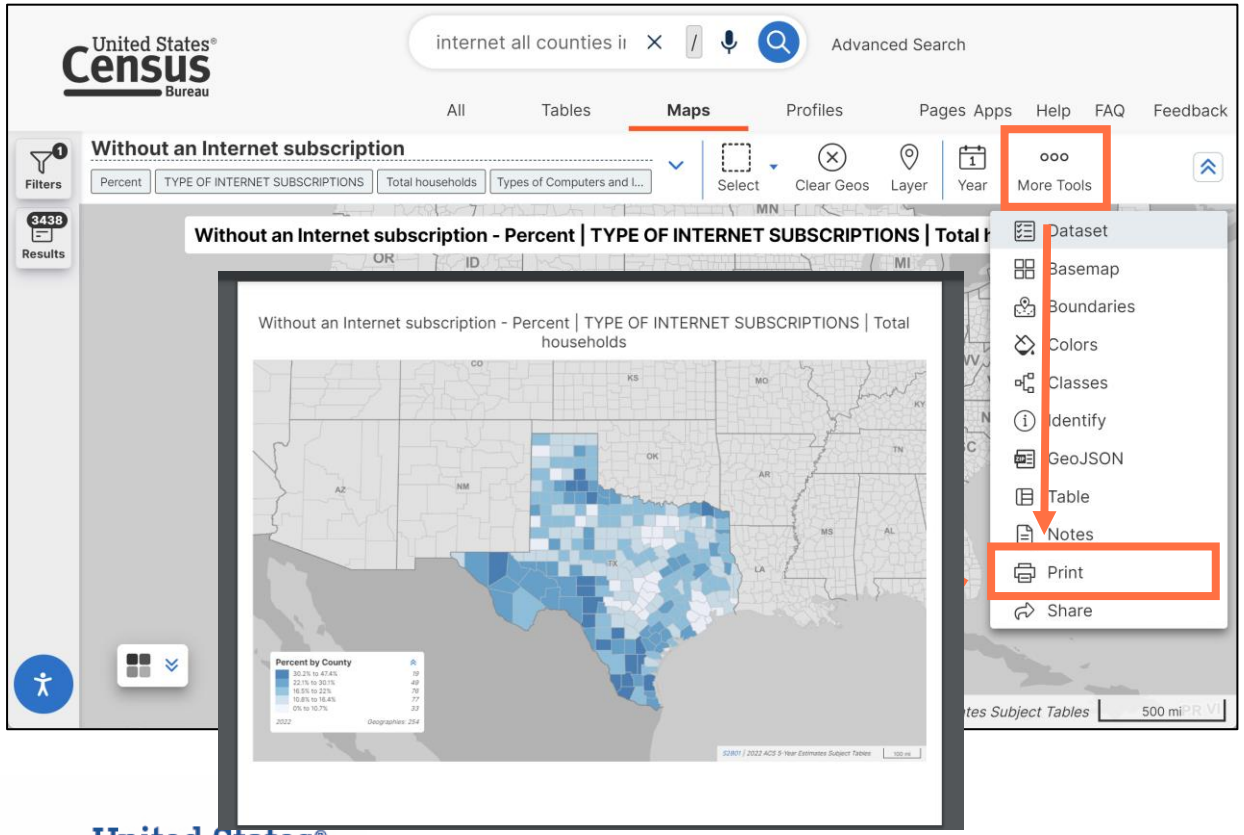
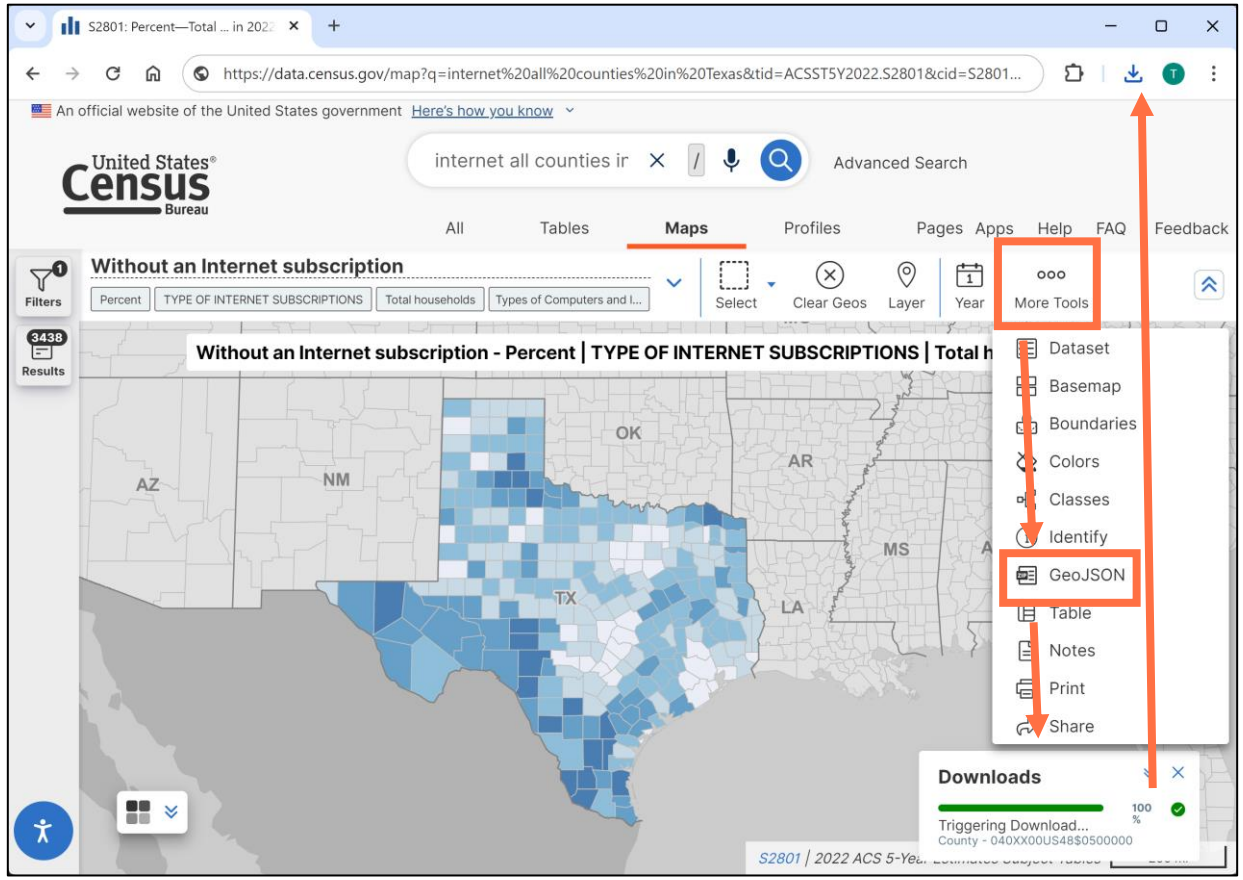
Improved Maps: New Print and GeoJSON Buttons

- **Print:** Provides PDF download of the map
- **GeoJSON:** Provides map boundaries in GeoJSON format

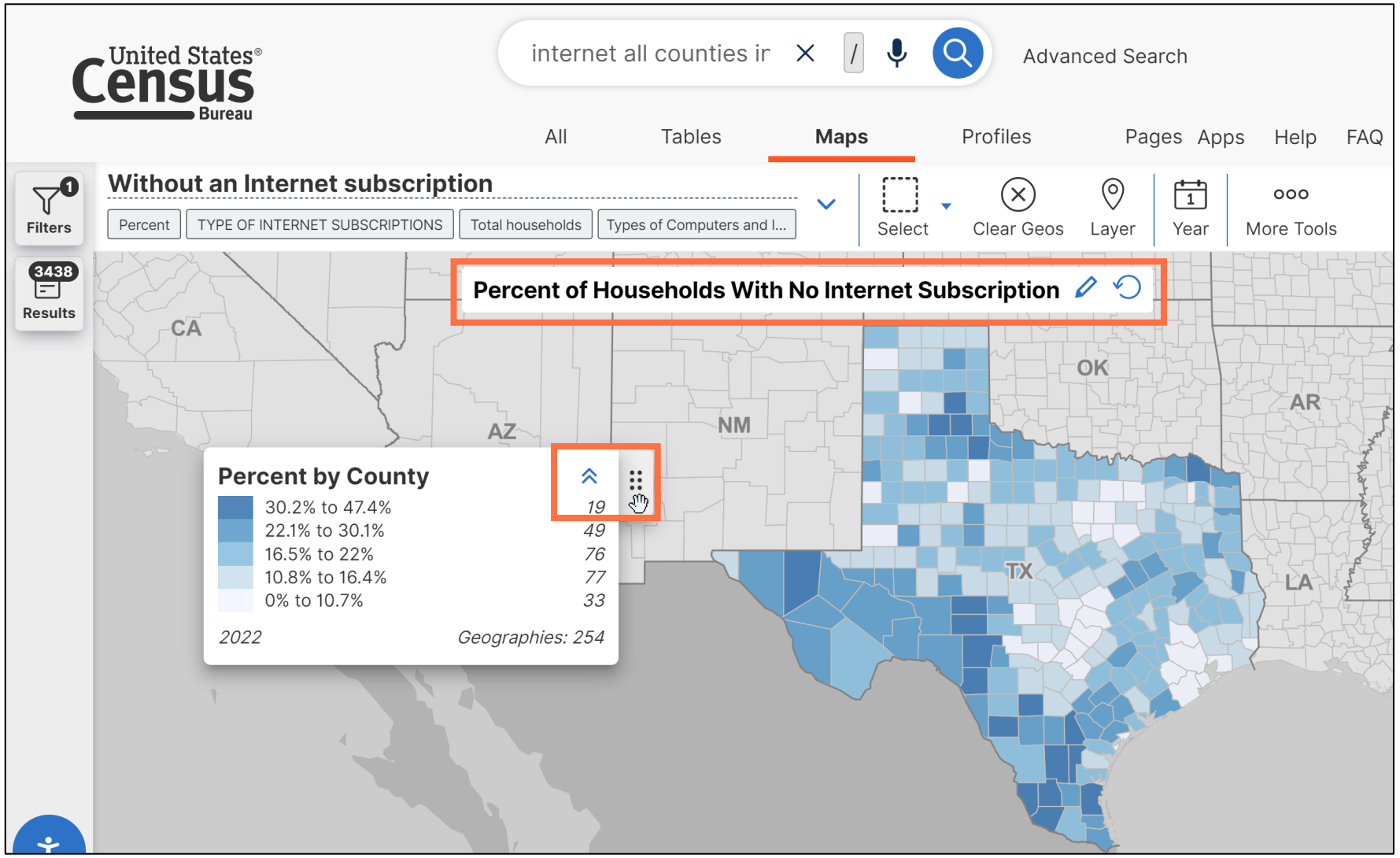




Improved Maps: Edit Map Title and Move/Collapse Map Legend

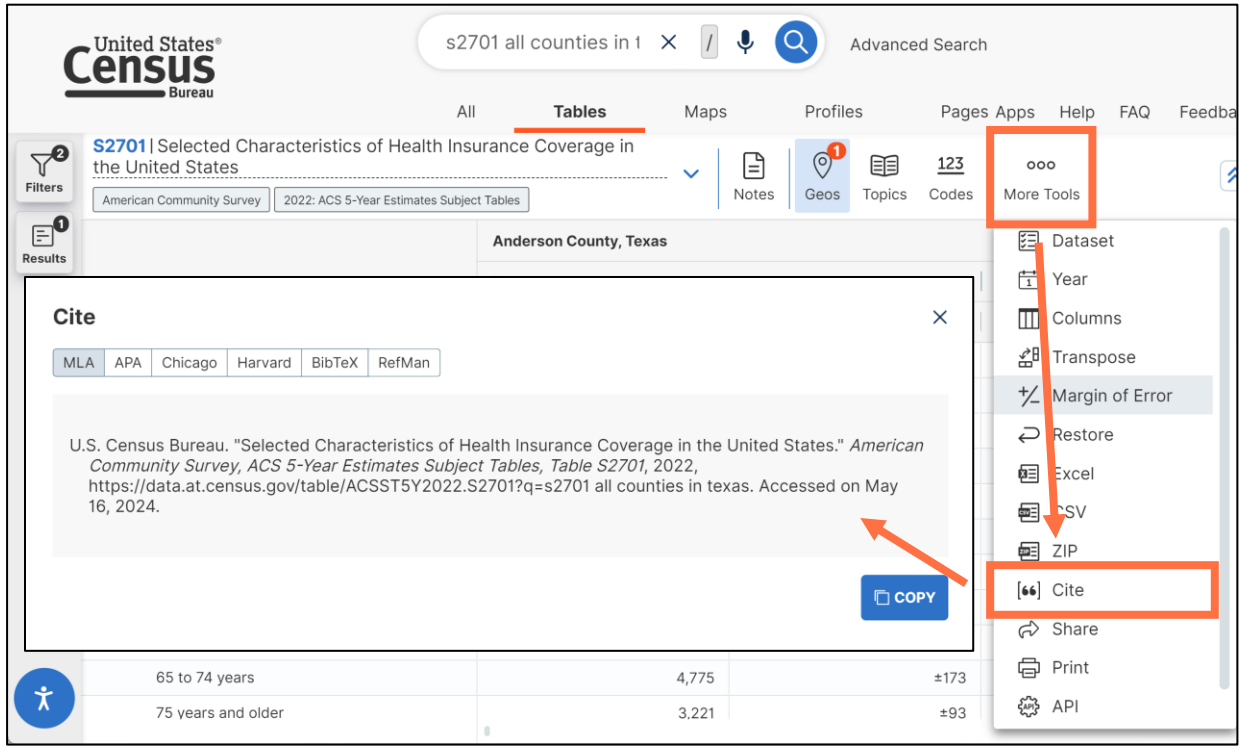
New controls to:

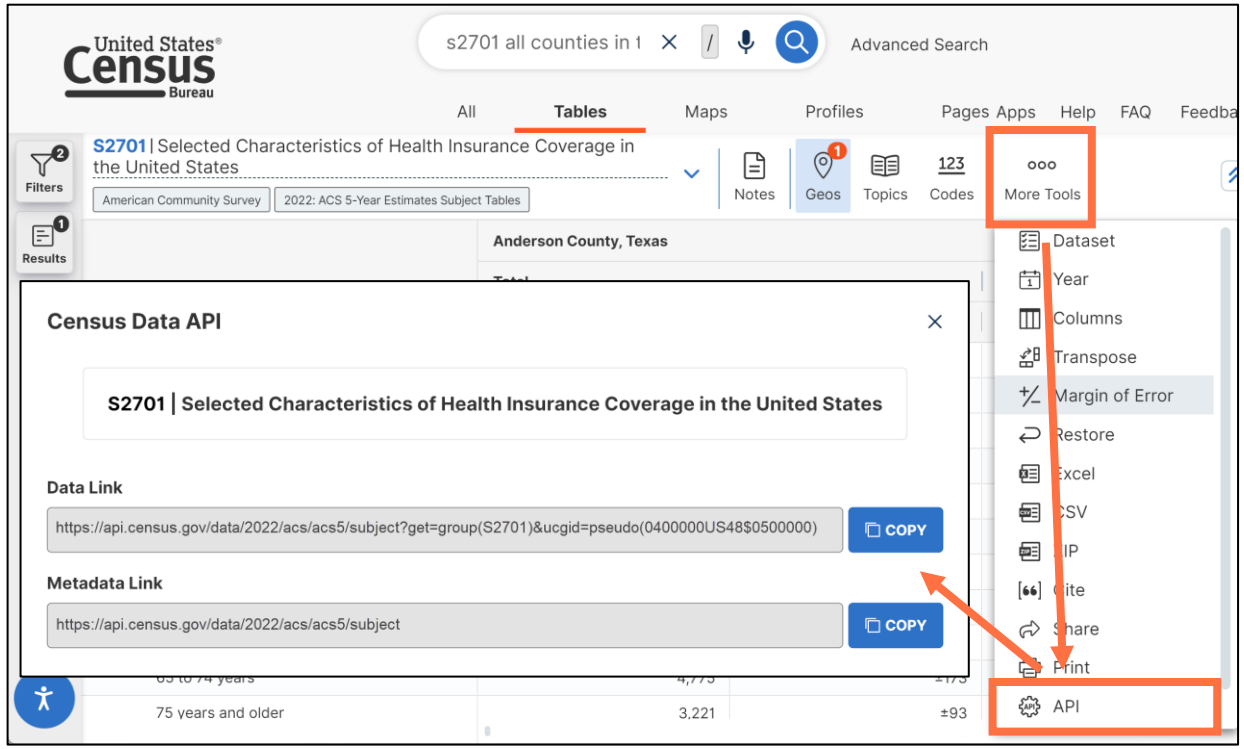
- Edit map title
- Move or collapse the map legend



New Cite and API Buttons

- **Cite:** Provides MLA, APA, Chicago, Harvard, BibTeX, and RefMan citations
- **API:** Provides links to table data and dataset metadata





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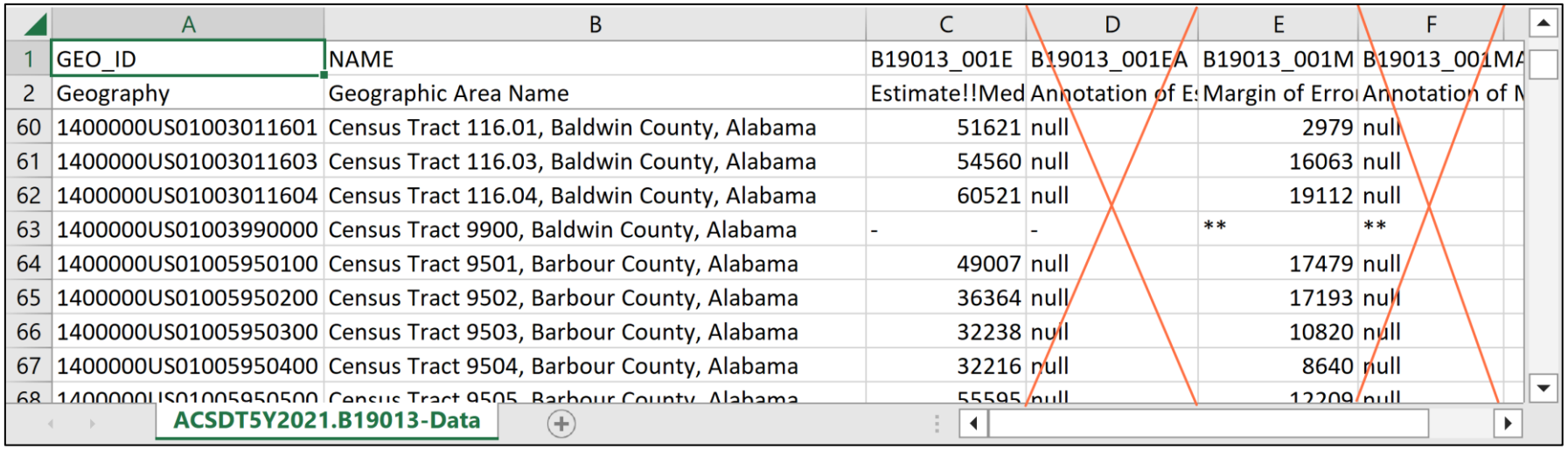
Improved Download Output

- Alternating annotation columns have been removed from ACS .zip downloads



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	GEO_ID	NAME	B19013_001E	B19013_001EA	B19013_001M	B19013_001MA
2	Geography	Geographic Area Name	Estimate!!Med	Annotation of E	Margin of Erro	Annotation of M
60	1400000US01003011601	Census Tract 116.01, Baldwin County, Alabama	51621	null	2979	null
61	1400000US01003011603	Census Tract 116.03, Baldwin County, Alabama	54560	null	16063	null
62	1400000US01003011604	Census Tract 116.04, Baldwin County, Alabama	60521	null	19112	null
63	1400000US01003990000	Census Tract 9900, Baldwin County, Alabama	-	-	**	**
64	1400000US01005950100	Census Tract 9501, Barbour County, Alabama	49007	null	17479	null
65	1400000US01005950200	Census Tract 9502, Barbour County, Alabama	36364	null	17193	null
66	1400000US01005950300	Census Tract 9503, Barbour County, Alabama	32238	null	10820	null
67	1400000US01005950400	Census Tract 9504, Barbour County, Alabama	32216	null	8640	null
68	1400000US01005950500	Census Tract 9505, Barbour County, Alabama	55595	null	12209	null

ACSDT5Y2021.B19013-Data

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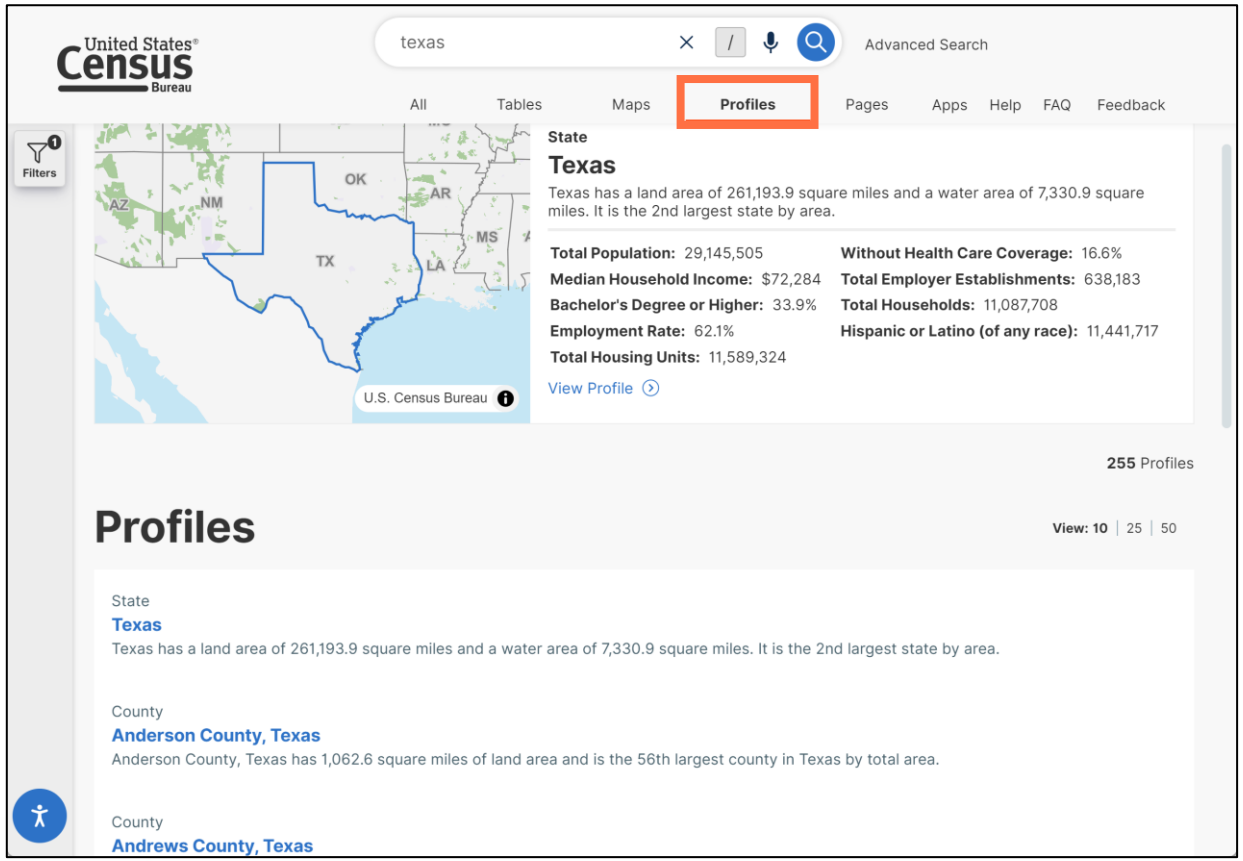
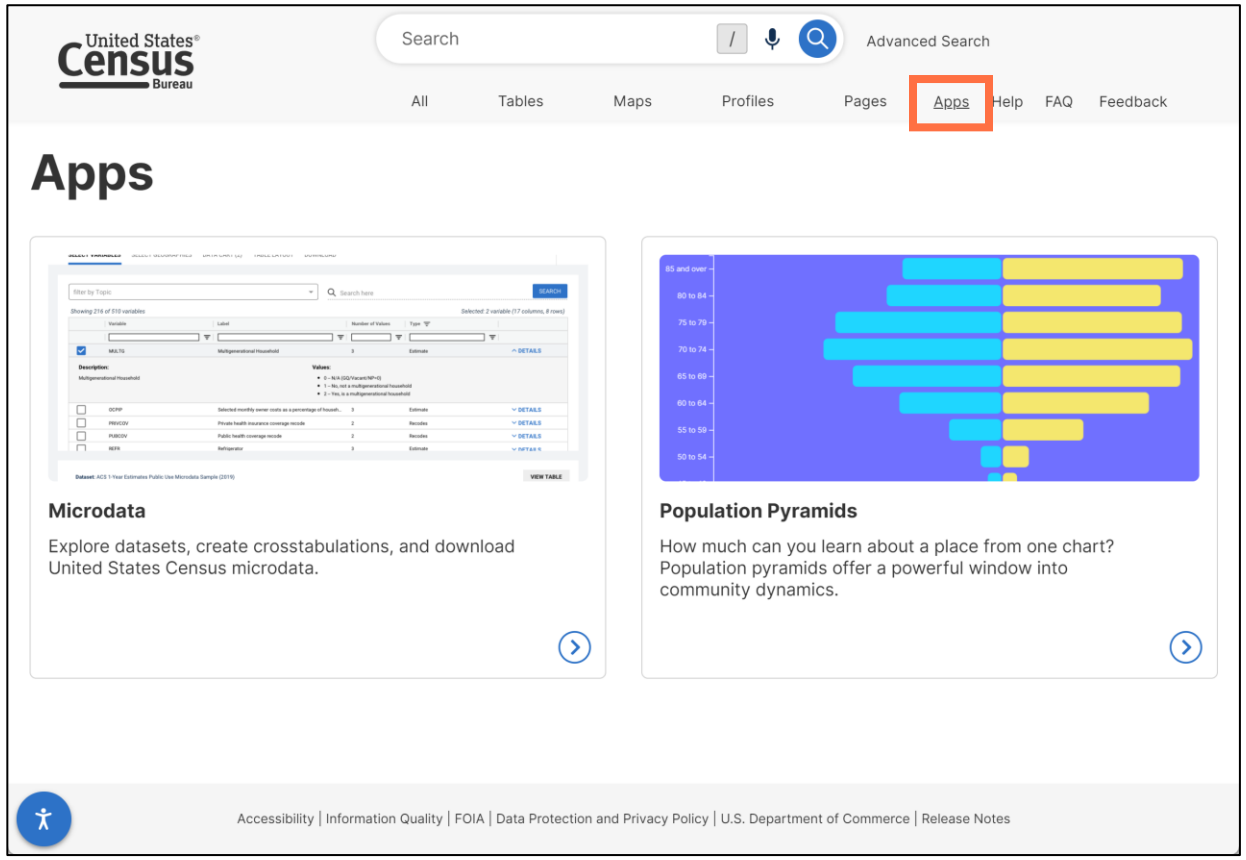
New Profiles and Apps Tabs

- **Profiles**: Provides a list of Geography Profiles most relevant to your search
- **Apps**: Provides quick links to data.census.gov applications





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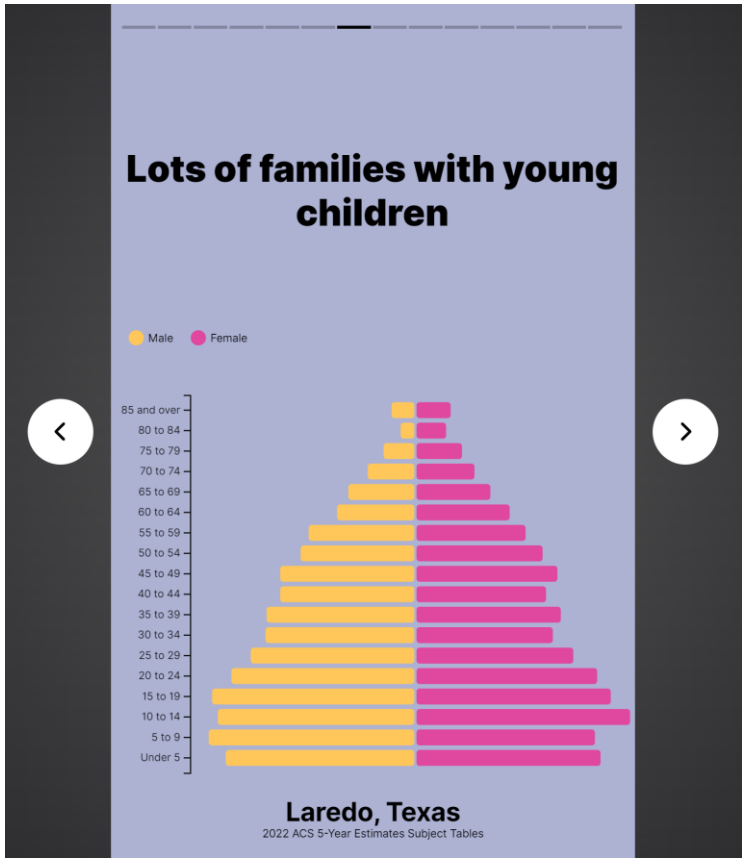
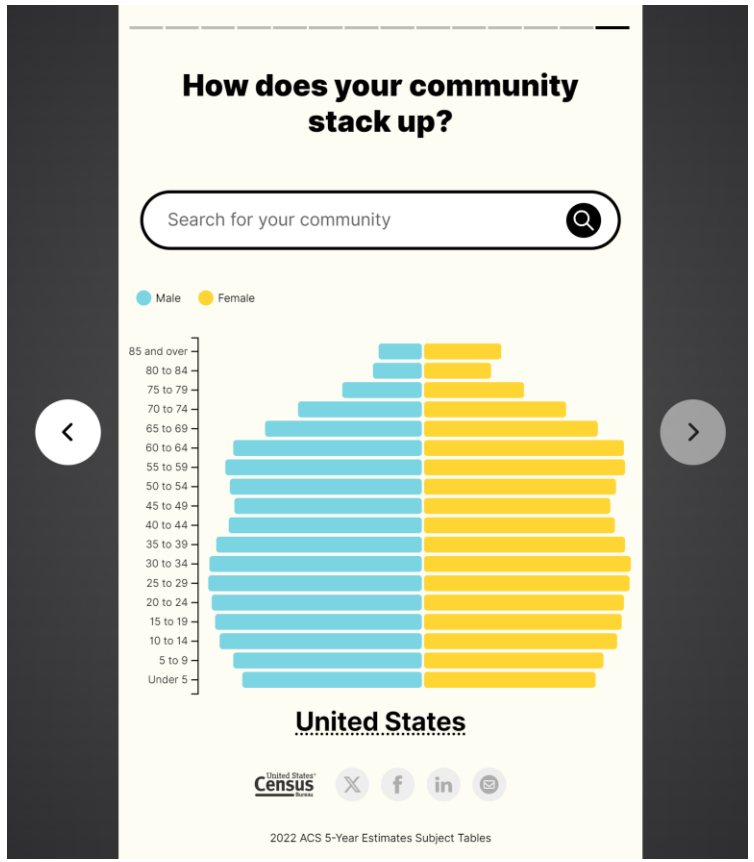
New Population Pyramids App

- Uses population pyramids to tell data stories
- Interactive widget allows you to explore the population pyramid for your community

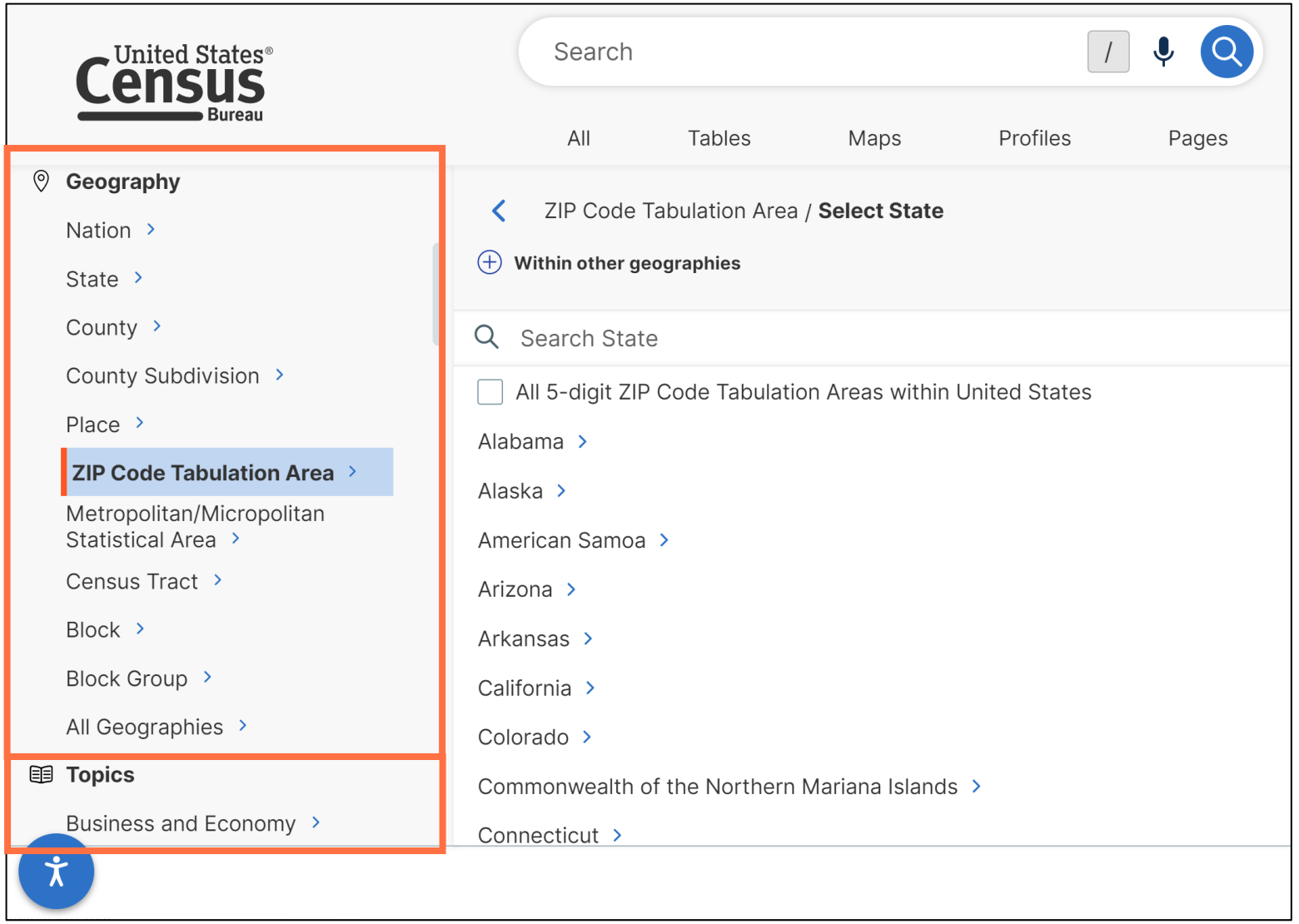




https://data.census.gov/app/population_pyramids

Redesigned Filter Side Panel

- Filter subcategories are shown by default
- Filters with chevrons provide more detailed options to choose from and filters with check boxes are final search selections



Demo

1. **Address Search**

   Example: Finding ACS data for the census tract that covers 1601 Congress Ave, Austin, TX, 78711

2. Population Pyramids App

   Example: Tour the Pop Story App and view a population pyramid for Austin, TX

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Demo

1. Address Search

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2. **Population Pyramids App**

   Example: Tour the Pop Story App and view a population pyramid for Austin, TX

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data.census.gov Email Updates

Sign up for email updates: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/15450

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Measuring America's People, Places, and Economy

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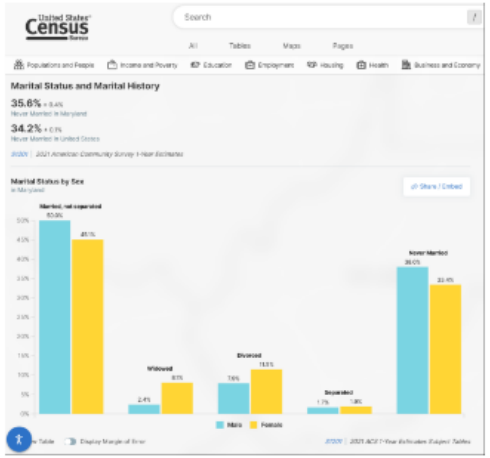
Data.census.gov Newsletter – May 2023



What's New?

In April, we released new updates to improve your experience on data.census.gov. With this release, you will now see:

- New bar charts added to the Marital Status and Marital History section of the Geography Profiles
- New buttons for "Dataset" and "Year"

COMING IN MAY:

Webinar

Accessing 2020 Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics Data Using data.census.gov

Date to Be Announced

For anyone who is interested in accessing the newly released 2020 Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics tables and Demographic Profile, we bring you this webinar. Join us for this session where we will take participants through data.census.gov to easily find 2020 Census demographic and housing characteristic data, including finding

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Upcoming Enhancements

We are working towards implementing:

- More User Feedback
- Additional Visualizations
- New Apps
- MDAT Design Updates

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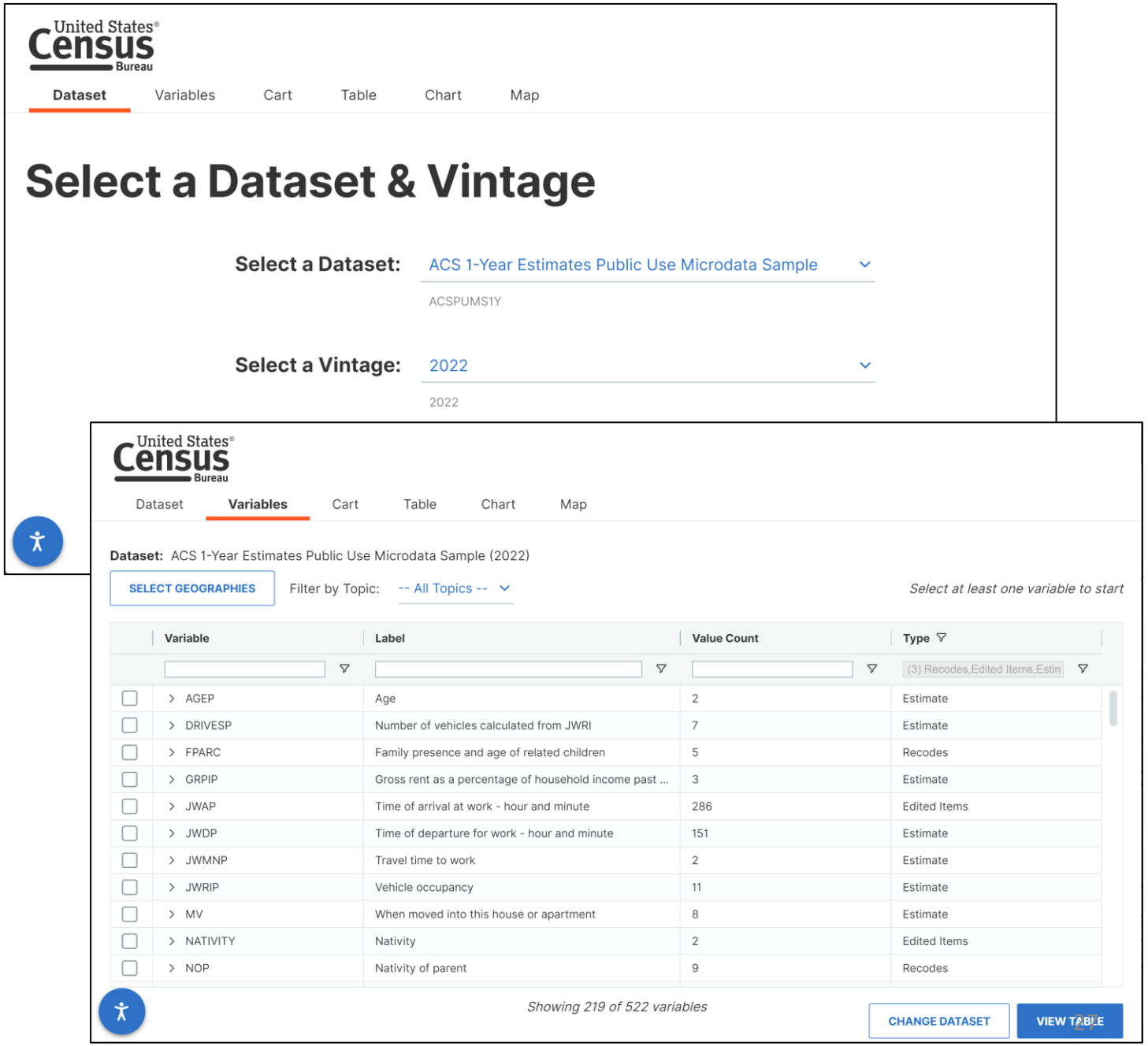
MDAT Design Updates

- MDAT design updates to provide consistent look and feel with the rest of data.census.gov



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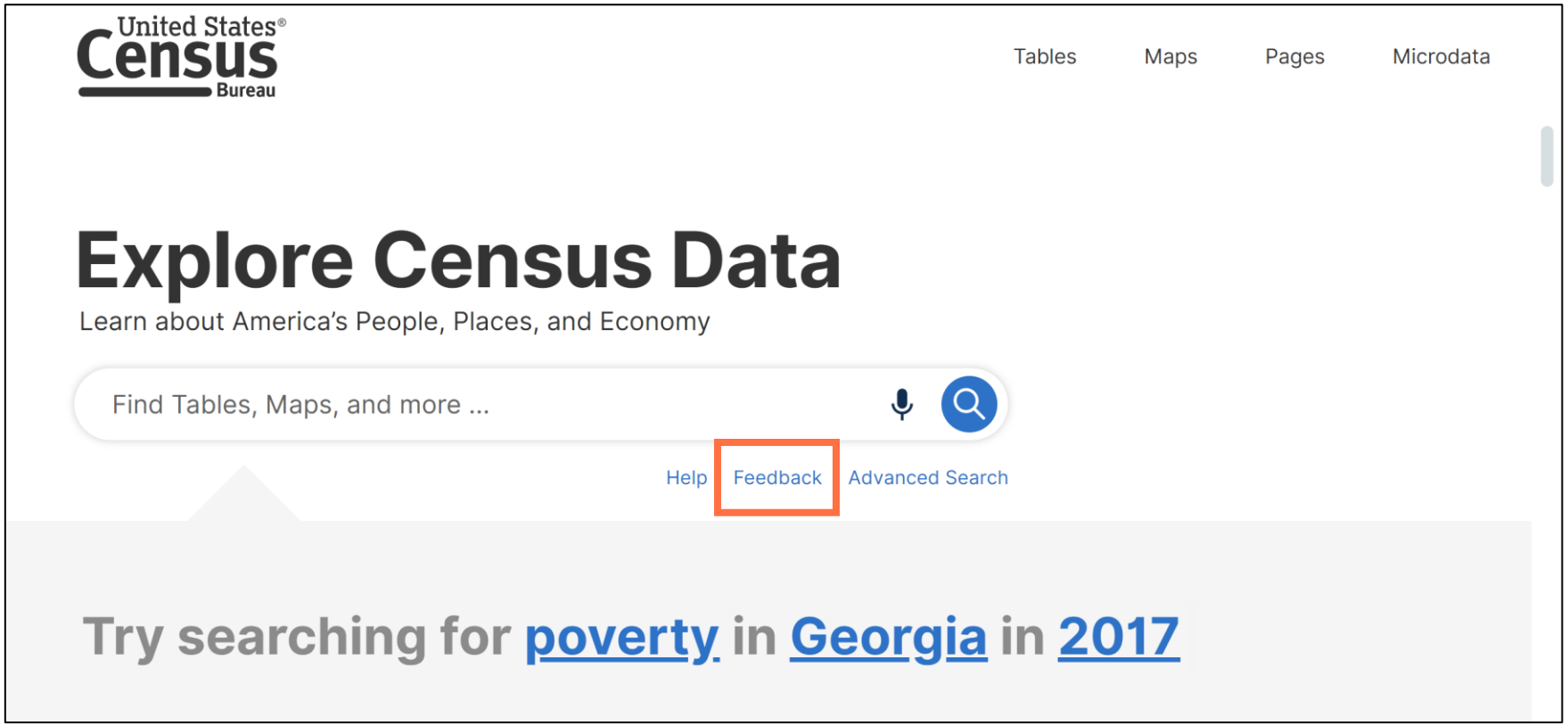
Our Development Depends on YOUR Feedback



Check out data.census.gov and provide comments at census.data@census.gov

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data.census.gov Resources Page:
census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html

Feedback: Email comments to
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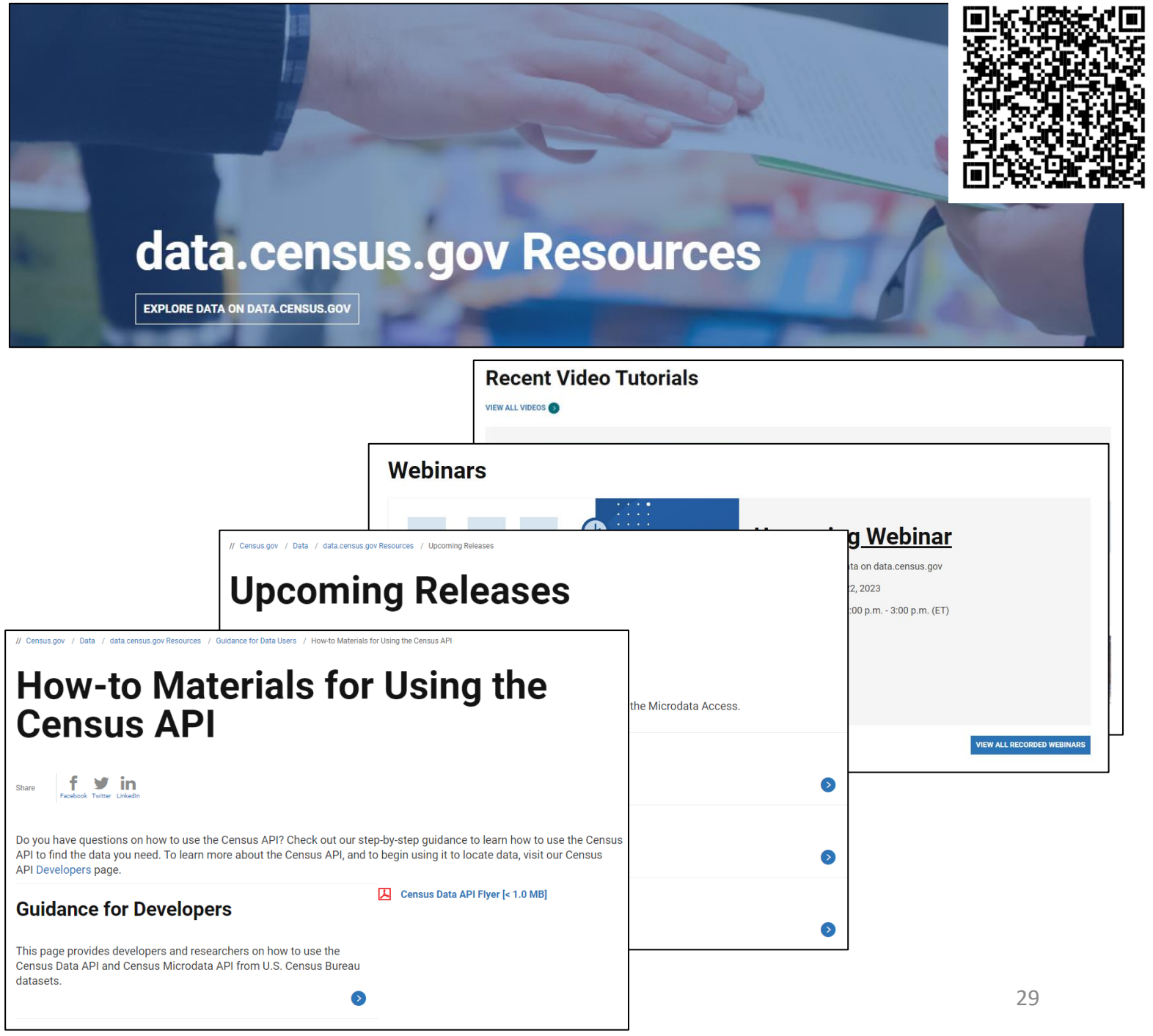

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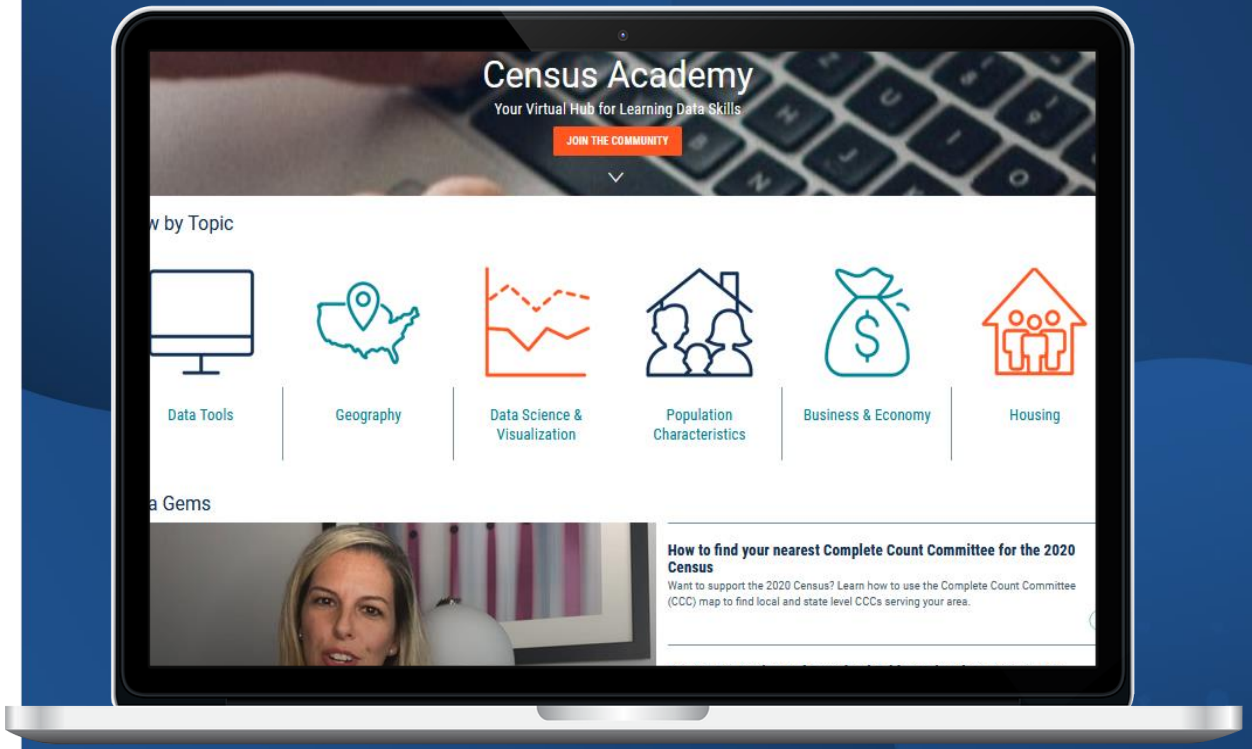

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Share your ideas and feedback at census.academy@census.gov