

Key Census Data Sources for State and Area Agencies on Aging

Data Source	Relevant Data Elements	Methodology	How to Access	Comments
2010 Decennial Census	Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity, Household Composition	“100%” sample of all occupied US housing units	Census Bureau American FactFinder (AFF), some data on AGID, possible special tabulation	Available now on AFF (requires some user effort to learn) but may not include all tabulations of interest; geography down to Census Tract level; Rural/urban figures will not be available until early 2013

American Community Survey (ACS)				
Annual ACS (2009, 2010, ...)	Income/Poverty, Disability (limited), Education, Household composition, age, sex, race, ethnicity, and more – based on the 2000 Census Long Form with a few revisions (especially for Disability questions starting in 2008)	Continuous nationwide sample	AFF but information on the 60+ is limited, some state level data on AoA’s AGID system, special tabulation of 2009 disability data to be conducted soon (should cover almost all PSAs + larger counties)	Very relevant data fields but access limited to larger geo units, 60+ data limited without a special tabulation
5 year ACS – 2005-2009 (incremented forward annually) Special Tabulation on Aging	Same as for annual ACS except that, due to revision of the Disability questions in 2008, we have to wait for the 2008-2012 5 year dataset for the Disability data for lower level geo units.	Continuous nationwide sample but data for five years of samples is combined to yield a more powerful sample	AFF but information on the 60+ is limited;	Switch from Decennial Long Form data to 5 year ACS will require a mind set change. The benefit will be annually updated data. Special Tabulation on Aging of the 2005-2009 ACS 5 year data will be released to SUAs/AAAs shortly and will be on AoA’s AGID system

Annual Population Estimates (2009, and future)	Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity only – age data available for the nation, states (+DC & PR), and counties	Based on last Decennial Census plus administrative records (births, deaths, MVA, and Medicare)	On Census Bureau web site, AGID system, AoA web site	Useful for many annual statistics but not available for PSAs which divide counties
2000 Census Special Tabulation on Aging	Income/Poverty, Disability (not comparable with 2008 and on), Education, Household composition, age, sex, race, ethnicity, etc.	Large sample taken as part of 2000 Decennial Census	AoA web site plus CD distributed to SUAs/AAAs in 2003	Still useful for rural as well as poverty (until 2005-2009 data is released)

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	AoA Data Portal:	Data.AoA.Gov
	AoA AGID System:	agidnet.org
	Census American FactFinder (older version - includes the ACS data):	factfinder.census.gov
	Census American FactFinder (new version - includes the 2010 Decennial Census data):	factfinder2.census.gov
	Census Annual Population Estimates:	www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html
	2000 Census Special Tabulation on Aging:	www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/Tab/specialtab.aspx
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