

**An OVERVIEW of CENSUS 2010  
and  
The AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)**

**Census**

- is a count of EVERYONE living in the United States every 10 years
- data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states
- useful in making decisions about what community services to provide
- helpful in distributing \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

**In Census 2000, the census used two forms:**

1. “Short Form” - asked for basic demographic and housing information, such as age, race, how many people lived in the housing unit.
2. “Long Form” - asked the same information as the short form but also collected more in-depth information such as income, education, language, etc.
  - Only a small portion of the population, called a sample, received the Long Form.

**New Approach in 2010:**

**Census - will focus on COUNTS the TOTAL U.S. population (sex and age, race, and household type) and TOTAL HOUSING UNITS (occupied and vacant) (Short Form only or DP-1).**

**The American Community Survey – will collect detailed information on social, economic, and housing characteristics of the population and households (Long Form or DP-2, DP-3, and DP-4).**

## The American Community Survey (ACS)

- a critical element in the Census Bureau's new approach to future censuses
- is a continuous nationwide survey that collects essentially the same information on people and housing that was collected on the Long Form used in Census 2000.
- Collects information on detailed social, economic, and housing data from a sample of 3 million addresses.
- Produces estimates for same broad set of geographic areas as the Census 2000 including *census tracts* and *block groups*.
- ACS estimates describe the average characteristic of an area over a specific time period.
- *Period estimates* (one calendar year) and *Multiyear estimates* covering 3 or 5 years are released on given schedules for specific size of area:

1-year estimates = for areas with population of 65,000+

3-year estimates = for areas with population of 20,000+

5-year estimates = for all areas

### Population Thresholds for ACS Estimates

	1-year Estimates	3-year Estimates	5-year Estimates
65,000 people	√	√	√
20,000 people		√	
Less than 20,000			√

For the SRPEDD regional coverage, the 5-year estimates will be the source of new population numbers and population characteristics.