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**Report of Cognitive Research on the Residence Rules  
and Seasonality Questions on  
the American Community Survey (ACS)**

Theresa J. DeMaio and Kristen A. Hughes

Statistical Research Division  
U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Washington D.C. 20233

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Prepared by Theresa J. DeMaio and Kristen A. Hughes

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## INTRODUCTION

The introduction of the American Community Survey (ACS) as the source of long form data presents some challenges in terms of adapting the census residence rules to a situation where the reference period is not one standard date, but rather a series of consecutive months. One particular aspect of this problem involves people who have multiple residences, and thus multiple chances of being sampled for the survey at either the same or different times.

As part of an effort to improve the ability of the ACS to accurately identify and assign seasonal residents to housing units, new formulations of the residence rules were developed by an ACS working group and questions were developed that identify households in which all residents have multiple residences and determine the reasons for being at the sampled address and how many months a year residents spend at the sampled address. CSMR staff were requested to conduct cognitive research on these newly-developed questions, focusing on respondents who have multiple residences.

This report contains the results of that research. First we present a description of the methodology that was used to conduct the interviews. Next we present results that pertain to the questions that are central to this research as well as recommendations for revision. Then we present observations about other respondents' reactions to items in the housing and population sections. Finally, we present conclusions based on this research.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data collection for this project was conducted between July and September, 2001. The focus of the research was on the following four types of respondents: 1) persons with multiple residences; 2) persons with seasonal residences; 3) college students; and 4) commuter workers. In addition, the questions must not have negative effects on persons without multiple residences, so persons with only one residence were also included in the research.

A total of 31 respondents were interviewed by CSMR staff and under contract. Interviewing took place across a diverse geographic area: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The breakdown of respondents was as follows:

13 seasonal residents, including 7 interviewed at their primary residence and 6 interviewed at their vacation residence

7 seasonal workers, including 3 carnival workers and 4 seasonal beach workers

2 commuter workers

4 college students targets, including 2 college students living off-campus and 2 parents of college students

5 residents with a single residence

There was some diversity in the demographic characteristics of the respondents, but the main objective was to achieve a good mix in terms of the content situations. The following breakdowns were observed:

gender: 22 females, 9 males

age: 9 aged 25 or less, 3 aged 26-45, 11 aged 46-65, 8 aged 66 or older

race: 2 African-Americans, 1 Hispanic, 28 Whites

Interviews were conducted at respondents' seasonal or permanent homes, places of work or study, or offices of community organizations. All interviews were tape-recorded and were conducted using concurrent think-aloud interviewing techniques. A copy of the questionnaire that was used in this research is included as Attachment 1.

## RESULTS

### Front Page

The "Start Here" section of the form collects four pieces of information: the name and telephone number of the respondents, the date, and the person count question.

#### ***What is your name?***

Respondents did not have any problems completing their name or telephone number. However, several seemed confused when they got to the point where they were instructed to enter the date. Some hesitated, not because they were unsure of the date, but because they were unsure which date was being requested. Two respondents actually entered their birth dates.

Although "today's date" is specifically mentioned in the instructions for this section, respondents either don't read it or they just skip over the "fine print." They only read "What is your name?" Then begin filling the blanks. Thus, some reinforcement of the specific piece of information requested is suggested.

***Recommendation(s):*** We recommend including the word "today" above the response spaces.

Suggested Wording:

*Today's Date (Month/Date/Year)*

[ ][ ] [ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ]

***How many people are living or staying at this address?***

We observed two major problems with this question. First, respondents were unsure about whom they should include in this number. After respondents read this question, seven of the respondents immediately asked the interviewer whom they should be including in this count. However, the root of confusion was not the same for all respondents and seemed to differ based on their individual living situations. The specific living situations that caused problems are discussed in greater detail below.

Seasonal Workers: Four seasonal workers were interviewed. These are people who, at the time of the interview, were living at the beach, working a seasonal job. They held these jobs during the summer season and then worked or went to school somewhere else the rest of the year. Respondents typically defined the summer season as "between Memorial Day and Labor Day." Three of the four seasonal workers interviewed were unsure about whom to include in the number on the front page. In family-owned houses or apartments, guests and family members are frequently coming and going to and from the residence all summer long, some staying for longer periods. In other circumstances, where groups of people are renting an apartment or house, it is not atypical to have different roommates moving in and out throughout the summer.

Carnival Workers: We interviewed three carnival workers, who travel with the show for nine months a year and stay somewhere else during the off-season. It is unclear at which place of residence the respondent should be filling out the form. This question asks specifically for "at this address." However, unless their mail is forwarded to the carnival site from another address, they do not receive mail. All three of the carnival workers we interviewed interpreted this question differently as follows: "How many people were living or staying . . .

at the *whole carnival?*"  
in her *room in the bunkhouse?*"  
at his *other residence?*"

These differences in interpretations have implications for the accuracy of the data collected in this question.

The second major problem we observed with this question is that there could be a difference between the meaning of "living or staying at this address" on the front page and "living or staying here" on page 2. This mainly seems problematic for people who live in basement apartments or apartments within houses

where they share one address. Respondents do not know whether to include only the people living in the separate apartment or all the people living in the house. This was not a focus of our research, and we only interviewed only one respondent who lived in a basement apartment. She included all four residents of her house (that is, her address) on the front page. However, when she turned to the next page and read the residence rules, she only listed herself and her roommate on the "List of Residents." While we only encountered this situation once, it seems this could be confusing for many addresses.

***Recommendation(s):*** We do not recommend any changes to this question.

#### Instruction for List of Residents

#### ***WE NEED YOU TO LIST EVERYONE WHO IS CURRENTLY LIVING OR STAYING HERE.***

To see if respondents understood this initial instruction, we did three things. First, we asked what they thought the question meant; second, we probed about the definitions of "currently living" and "currently staying"; and third we asked the respondents to tell us if they thought these two phrases meant the same thing or if they meant something different.

All of the respondents understood, in a general sense, what the instruction meant. A common response was that the instruction meant "who is living here." When asked about the meanings of the two phrases, most respondents clearly communicated that "currently living" meant something similar to "living here right now." Fourteen of the respondents thought that "currently living here" meant "at this time," "as of today," "at the present," or "now." Five of the respondents thought that "currently living here" meant that we were asking about their "permanent address."

Twenty of the respondents thought that "living" and "staying" meant different things in this instruction, while eleven thought the two phrases meant something different. Two respondents thought the two phrases meant the same thing when probed at the beginning of the questionnaire, but then contradicted themselves later in the interview. Even though there are differences in the way respondents are interpreting these phrases, they do understand the instruction and in most cases are filling in the matrix properly.

One problem that persisted, even though the respondents understood the general meaning of the instructions, was that respondents were not including themselves when filling out the "List of Residents." At this point in the questionnaire, respondents have already filled out information about themselves on the front page. When asked to list everyone living or staying here, respondents feel that either it is not necessary or that they are not required to list themselves again. When we probed respondents about why they did not include themselves, a common response was - "because I'm already listed on the front."

**Recommendation(s):** We recommend that the wording be revised to specifically state that the respondent should include him/herself. This can easily be accomplished, by adding the phrase "including yourself" at the end of the instruction.

Suggested Wording:

**WE NEED YOU TO LIST EVERYONE WHO IS CURRENTLY LIVING OR STAYING HERE, INCLUDING YOURSELF.**

#### Residence Rules

- *Is someone away for a short period of time (2 months or less)? Please still include that person.*

This instruction was problematic for respondents because respondents were interpreting the reference period of "two months or less" in two different ways. First, people read "short period of time" and immediately develop their own definition of the reference period. In some cases this was less than two months, but in other cases it was not. For example, one respondent mentioned her husband working in Florida for three months. Second, people were somehow answering in terms of the opposite of the rule's intent – that is, it only included people who were away for more than two months. An example of this was a respondent who said that she should include her college-aged children because they spend three months at home during the summer, even though they spend nine months away during the rest of the year. These misinterpretations surfaced during our probing about what "short period of time" meant in this instruction, as well as in respondents' improper inclusion of residents.

The second misinterpretation is exacerbated by the fact that, although the opposite meaning of this question would be to NOT include someone who is away for longer than 3 months, we do not communicate this to the respondents. We tell the respondents who to include, but do not provide tangible information about who not to include. Respondents are not deducing this information based on the rules provided and so it seems necessary to do so for them.

**Recommendation(s):** We recommend making this instruction two separate instructions that specifically state who to include and who not to include. Simplify the first question by taking out the parenthetical phrase, "two months or less." This eliminates the opportunity for respondents to create their own definition of "a short period of time" and they are more likely to adhere to the two-month reference period.

The second instruction, which is actually the "flip-side" of the first question, should instruct the respondent to NOT include anyone who is away for more than two months.

There are two other general recommendations that we are suggesting for all of the residence rules. First, the question format of the rules confuses some respondents. A few even thought that they were supposed to provide an answer for each of them and either verbally answered the "questions" or provided a written response in the space beside the instruction. To prevent this, it is recommended that the rules be put into statement format.

Second, the word "someone" implies that the rule is referring to or asking about one individual, where in many cases, the rule(s) could apply to multiple persons in a residence. We recommend changing the word "someone" to "anyone."

Suggested Wording:

**Please INCLUDE anyone who is away for two months or less.**

**DO NOT INCLUDE anyone who is away for more than 2 months.**

- *Is someone here for more than 2 months, but you think they really live somewhere else? Please still include that person.*

Respondents did not seem to have a problem understanding this instruction. Twenty-eight respondents correctly interpreted this instruction and gave good examples of who might belong in this category. These examples were geared toward their own living situation. Respondents mentioned situations such as "a sister visiting for the summer or doing an internship for six months," "a college student home for the summer who would consider themselves to be a resident where they go to school," and "a granddaughter who stayed more for more than two months when (the respondent's) grandson was sick."

Only one respondent seemed confused as to what information this instruction provided. Two others said that the instruction was too "vague" and that it depended on the individual situation as to whether they would include the person or not.

**Recommendation(s):** We do not have any specific changes to address problems with this residence rule. However, for the reasons noted above and for the sake of consistency, we recommend that the rules be put into statement format and that the word "someone" be changed to "anyone."

Suggested Wording:

**INCLUDE anyone who is here for more than two months, but you think they really live somewhere else.**

- *Is someone staying here temporarily who has no other place to live? Please still include that person.*

Respondents did not seem to have a problem understanding this instruction. Almost all of the thirty respondents correctly interpreted this instruction and gave good examples of who might belong in this category. These examples were geared toward two different situations, someone who has either lost their home or is in between homes, and "homeless people." One respondent, a carnival worker, was confused by this instruction. However, it seemed that it was her specific living situation that made the instruction confusing because it did not apply to her.

**Recommendation(s):** We do not have any specific changes to address problems with this residence rule. However, for the reasons noted above and for the sake of consistency, we recommended that the rules be put into statement format and that the word "someone" be changed to "anyone."

Suggested Wording:

**INCLUDE anyone who is staying here temporarily, but who has no other place to live.**

#### List of Residents

In six interviews, the number on the front did not match the number of people on the "List of Residents." This occurred for two reasons. The first reason was discussed earlier in the report, but is important enough to include in this section as well. People are not including themselves. Since the respondents have already filled out information about themselves on the front page, they feel that it is not necessary or that they are not required to do so again. When we probed respondents about why they did not include themselves on the list, a common response was - "because I'm already listed on the front."

Second, people are adding "Extra People" once they read the rules. Although both the question on the front page and the instruction to list people on page 2 are intended to mean the same thing, respondents are interpreting them differently. Respondents are interpreting the question on the front page to mean "now," "currently," or "at this time," but once they get to the rules, they realize that their initial interpretation of the question was too narrow. For example, the daughter of a commuter worker included only herself on the front page and then (correctly) included the worker on the list. However, one of the seasonal workers included himself and his roommate on the front page and then (incorrectly) included three other people who had stayed there earlier in the summer. The number of respondents who added people is small and there is no trend as to whether respondents make positive or negative



contributions to the roster.

It should be noted that comparing the number on the front with the number of people on the list will not catch all inconsistencies. We had one respondent who excluded a household member from the initial count and then included her on the list of residents. She also included herself in the initial count, but did not include herself on the list of residents. Thus, although her counts matched, the form was not filled out properly. This mistake would not be detected during editing.

***Recommendation(s):*** We do not recommend any changes to format in which respondents report their list of residents, but we have previously recommended a change to the residence rules to encourage respondents to include themselves.

### Questions about Multiple Residences

#### ***Q28a. Do you or any member of this household live or stay at this address year round?***

The purpose of this question is to identify addresses at which at least one household member lives permanently or conversely, which is a seasonal address. This question was not a problem for the single-residence respondents. They recognized the purpose of the question, and all answered correctly.

This was not the case with the seasonal residents, however. They had some confusion with the phrase “live or stay.” This is because these two terms did not necessarily mean the same thing, and they mix up notions of physical presence and permanent residence. People can live at an address year round even though they do not stay there year round, if it is their permanent residence. All of the respondents knew where their permanent residence was, even though they spent portions of the year in different places. Some of them felt they “lived” at their permanent address, and this made the “live” and “stay” refer to two different places. This caused problems in interpreting this question. Some people answered it incorrectly because of this confusion.

The concept of “year round” was pretty clear to respondents. They understood it to refer to people who stayed at a residence 12 months out of the year. They do not necessarily think of it as a year extending from January 1 to January 1, but rather following the pattern of their travels. It might begin in April or June or October. People interviewed at seasonal or vacation residences sometimes verbalized a distinction between whether you owned or rented the place in connection with their interpretation of “year round.” This could reflect the fact that they were staying in rented places for the summer. Owners live at the address year round, but renters just come for vacations, summer jobs, etc. None of these respondents answered the question incorrectly.

Several respondents answered “yes” to this question, but missed the skip instruction and continued through the question series.

***Recommendation(s):*** We considered alternative wording to eliminate confusion for multi-residential respondents. The best way to do this would be to delete the word “live” from the question and have respondents focus on whether they stay at the address year round. However, we do not feel this would be satisfactory for the majority of people who answer this question, that is, people who have only one residence. This group normally thinks of themselves as “living” at a residence and asking only about staying at an address may introduce misinterpretations and unintended negative consequences. Thus, we suggest that more testing be conducted to arrive at revised wording.

***Q28b. How many months a year do members of this household stay at this address?***

Seasonal respondents answered this question in terms of general patterns they had established over a series of years. One respondent, interviewed at his primary residence, said he is at this address for seven months a year because he and his wife go to Arizona from October to February. Another person, interviewed at his vacation residence, answered three months because he and his wife generally arrive June 1<sup>st</sup> and generally leave September 1<sup>st</sup>. He thought this was a “fair answer” even though this year they arrived at the address two weeks later than usual.

Respondents reported making trips back to their first residence, or even to a third residence, during the time they were at the interview address. For example, respondents who go south for the winter go back north for the Christmas holidays. People staying at their vacation place in Wisconsin go back to their “permanent” residence in the city during the summer for work or for family events. Respondents did not subtract the time on these trips from the amount of time they reported in this question. They considered that they were “staying” at the interview address during the time they made these usually brief trips.

There was a slight hint of sensitivity in this question. One respondent debated whether he should answer it truthfully. He spends 7 months a year in Wisconsin and 5 months in Florida. He thought the IRS might see the form and wonder why he pays Florida state taxes if he lives most of the year in Wisconsin. He said he might not answer this question if he got the questionnaire in the mail, or he might throw the questionnaire away. Although this only happened with one respondent, it is something that should probably be kept in mind by analysts.

There were a couple of cases in which different household members stayed at the address for different amounts of time. These situations came to light because respondents missed the skip instruction for “yes” responses in Q28a. However, they could also happen for people who correctly follow the skip pattern. In one case, a commuter worker stays at the address only two days a week while the other resident stays at the address year round (although she subtracted out her vacation time and time away on business trips and answered 9 months). In the other case, the mother of a daughter in college who was included on the household roster said the daughter was at the address only 3 months. These examples suggest that asking these questions on a person basis may produce different and probably

better data than asking them on a household basis.

**Recommendation(s):** We do not recommend any changes to this question.

***Q28c. What is the main reason members of this household are staying at this address?***

Respondents did not seem to have a problem understanding this question. People who were interviewed at their permanent address gave "this is their permanent address" as their answer; people who were interviewed at a seasonal address gave "this is their seasonal or vacation address" as their answer. Young people who were working at summer jobs, either at the beach or near family vacation homes, reported "this is their seasonal or vacation address" rather than "to be close to work" in response to this question. This suggests that these respondents viewed the summer more as a vacation than as an opportunity to earn money.

Only one respondent considered the "to be close to work" category. She was a carnival worker who completed the form as if it arrived at her bunkhouse. But she would not fully commit to this category: she gave her response as "other—seasonal yet close to work."

Only one of the college students completed this question series. She is from Brazil and attends college in the U.S., returning to Brazil for winter break and summer vacation. She debated about how to answer the question, and finally answered "to attend school or college." She said that this was appropriate since she plans to return to Brazil eventually, but if she was planning to stay in the U.S. and look for jobs near her university, she would answer "this is their permanent address."

Everyone understood the term "permanent address," although many used different terminology earlier in the interview. Examples included "primary residence," "primary domicile," and "home base." Respondents gave many indicators of permanent addresses. They said permanent addresses are where you vote, pay taxes, register cars, have drivers licenses, have mail delivered or forwarded from, and where your legal residence is.

**Recommendation(s):** We do not recommend any changes to this question.

***Q28d. Do members of this household have another address where they live or stay most of the time?***

Some of our respondents had two residences and others had three. The phrase "most of the time" had different meanings for these two groups of people. For people who had two residences (and also for people with one residence who answered this question in error), "most of the time" meant more than six months. For people who had three residences, "most of the time" was more than they spent at any

other place.

The question was problematic for people who stayed for six months at each of two residences, because they didn't have a place where they stay most of the time. There were 3 respondents who fell into this category. Two regularly split the year equally, and both were confused. They both said they live or stay at the non-interview address most of the time. In one case this represented the permanent address, and in the other case it represented the vacation address. A third respondent spent equal amounts of time this year, but usually the split is closer to 7 and 5. Since the phrase "most of the time" didn't apply to him, he reinterpreted the question to ask about "a significant chunk of time." People who have a 6/6 split are likely to have a problem this question no matter what. This is something that should be recognized, but there were no patterns in the way our respondents answered the question that would suggest any improvements to the question.

For the most part, respondents were consistent in their answers to Q28b (how many months a year do people stay at this address?) and Q28d (do people have another address where they live or stay most of the time?). One respondent was clearly inconsistent. She was a carnival worker who completed the questionnaire for her on-the-road address. Her response to Q28b was 9 months, which is the length of time she is on the road. Her response to Q28d was yes, there is another place she lives or stays most of the time. This was her parents' address, which she considers to be her permanent address.

Responses to these two questions may also appear inconsistent if a respondent has more than two residences. The pattern of responses would depend on which address was sampled, but the interpretation of "most of the time" for these people as "more time at one place than any other place" could result in a seemingly inconsistent pattern. This could occur if an edit or an analyst looked at these responses from the perspective that "most of the time" is 6 months or more. However, we did not observe this in our interviews.

Another set of responses that might seem inconsistent is for people who spend exactly six months at each of two residences. One of our respondents answered "yes" to Q28d even though she spends 6 months in Florida and 6 months in Pennsylvania, because she wanted to emphasize that her Pennsylvania address was her permanent address. (However, since she was interviewed at her Pennsylvania address, her "yes" response had just the opposite effect. She made a mistake in answering the question.)

**Recommendation(s):** We do not recommend any changes to this question.

***Q28e. Is everyone in this household here for 2 months or less?***

This question worked well when everyone in the household shared the same pattern of going back and forth to other residences. However, when various household members stayed for different lengths of

time, the question was more difficult. We had 2 such cases—in one case, a husband and wife stayed at the address for six months and their daughter stayed for two months; in the other case, some of the roommates in a summer lease stayed for three months and others stayed for two months. In both of these cases the respondents were confused. They had to reread

the question several times before ultimately answering correctly. This is another indication that person-based questions would be easier than household-based questions.

**Recommendation(s):** We do not recommend any changes to this question.

### Housing Questions

Our test questionnaire included all the housing questions. Although we did not focus on these questions during our cognitive interviews, we note in this section where housing questions seemed to be problematic for a number of respondents.

**Q3** *When did PERSON 1 (listed in the List of Residents on page 2) move into this house, apartment, or mobile home?  
month year  
[ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ]*

There seem to be two potentially serious problems in this question, even though the number of respondents who had these difficulties was small. The first is an issue with recall. Respondents had a difficult time coming up with the exact month when they moved into the residence. Some respondents decided to leave the month blank, while others came up with an educated guess.

The second issue is that for seasonal residents, whether they have a seasonal home or they are seasonal workers, the intent of the question is not clear. Two of our respondents seemed to have this difficulty. One respondent lived at the beach during the summer months and somewhere else the rest of the year. She lived at the same seasonal address last summer as well. She was unsure whether she should put in the date she moved in last year or the date that she moved into the apartment this summer. After much debate, she decided put in the past year's date. Another respondent who had a seasonal residence had a similar problem. This respondent had owned the home where the interview took place for 3 years. He said that his wife and mother had been coming to this address for three years during the summer, but he (Person 1) had only visited the address for short periods of time until this year. He answered that he had moved in May 2001. It is not clear how seasonal respondents should report these temporary stays in a question originally intended to measure length of permanent residence.

***Q14 series - Utility Costs***

There were two problems with this series of questions. First, seasonal workers do not know this type of information. Most of these people rent houses or apartments and don't know the cost of the fuels used, because the landlord takes care of the bills. Even though the landlord pays the bills, respondents do not consider these utilities as "included in rent." All four of the seasonal workers left at least one part of question 14 blank, because they did not know the answer to the question.

The second problem was that respondents were overlooking the "no charge" boxes. Respondents were entering zeros if they did not use a particular type of fuel, when they should have marked the "no charge or fuel not used" boxes. One respondent incorrectly marked the "included in rent" box for 14d, just because she didn't receive a separate bill for those fuels. Instead, she should have marked "no charge or these fuels not used," since she did not use any oil, coal, kerosene or wood.

***Q16 At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did anyone in the household receive Food Stamps?***

*Yes* → ***What was the value of the Food Stamps?***

*Past 12 months' value - Dollars*

*No*

Of the two respondents who reported that they received food stamps, both reported the monthly value of food stamps, rather than the yearly value that the question asks for. In addition to reporting for one month only, one respondent did not report any of the food stamps that her sister received. She only reported for herself, even though the question asks about Food Stamps that anyone in the household received.

***Q17 Is this house, apartment, or mobile home part of a condominium?***

*Yes* → ***What is the monthly condominium fee? For renters, answer only if you pay the condominium fee in addition to your rent; otherwise, mark the "None" box.***

*Monthly amount - Dollars*

**or**

*None*

*No*

Seven respondents had difficulty with this question. There were a variety of problems, which range from not knowing the monthly amount to incorrectly interpreting the question. For two respondents, the problem seemed to be the format of the question. These respondents checked the "none" box to indicate that they did not belong to a condominium. However, their responses actually indicated that they belonged to a condominium, but that they did not pay a monthly condominium fee. One respondent read the word condominium as "combination" and answered the "none" box under monthly condominium fee, rather than the "no" box, to report that his mobile home is not part of a condominium. The second respondent could not read the word condominium and marked the "none" box for the monthly fee rather than the "no" box to indicate that she does not live in a condominium.

Three respondents did not interpret the question correctly. Of these respondents, the first interpreted this question as asking how much the owner paid for the apartment. The second respondent simply did not know what a condominium was. The third respondent marked the "none" box to indicate that her apartment was not part of a condominium. She never saw the "What is the monthly condo fee?" question, but saw the instruction about renters and marked the "none" box. She thought this told her that if she rented, she was part of a condominium.

Finally, respondents lacked the appropriate knowledge to answer this question. Two respondents knew that they belonged to a condominium, but did not know the monthly amounts. One respondent marked "yes," but did not know the dollar amount and left that blank. The second respondent said that he paid annually, not monthly and wrote in "per year" after he entered the amount.

***Q18 Is this house, apartment, or mobile home -***

***[ ] Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?***

***[ ] Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear  
(without a mortgage or loan)?***

***[ ] Rented for cash rent?***

***[ ] Occupied without payment of cash rent? – Skip to question 22.***

Five of the thirty-one respondents had some difficulty with this question. Two of the respondents were confused by the phrase "rented for cash rent." One respondent left this question blank because she said that they paid their rent by money order instead of cash.

Three other respondents all had different comprehension problems with this question. One respondent marked "owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan" and "rented for cash rent" because one person in the household owned the property, while the other two paid her rent to live there. There is no instructions in this question that states or implies, that the respondent must choose one answer category. Another respondent said that he didn't own the home, but that he contributed money for the expenses. However, he didn't consider his contribution to expenses as "paying rent."

Ultimately he decided to leave the question blank, because none of the answer categories fit his situation.

The third respondent answered "owned with a mortgage or loan" because she had a home equity loan (she has no mortgage payment). She reported the home equity loan payment first as rent (but then erased it), and then as a mortgage payment, and then as a home equity loan. She never did erase the entry in the mortgage payment, so her monthly costs were double-counted.

**Q20 a. Is the rent on this house, apartment, or mobile home reduced because the Federal state, or local government is paying part of the cost?**

Yes

No - Skip to question 21

**b. What government program provides this reduced rent?**

The "Section 8" program

Some other government program

Not sure

We interviewed two low-income residents. Both had reduced rent, but neither one knew for sure whether the reason for their rent reduction was because the federal, state, or local government pays part of the rent. One answered "yes" to question 20a and one answered "no." Both had problems with question 20b. The respondent who answered "no" to question 20a missed the skip instruction and went on to question 20b. When she read this question, she interpreted it as a knowledge question. She knew that Section 8 is a government program that provides reduced rent, so she checked that box. But she did not intend to say she lives in Section 8 housing, since she had previously reported "no" in question 20a. And she definitely knew that she does not live in Section 8 housing.

### Skip Instructions

In the process of administering this self-administered form, we noticed some problems with respondents following the skip instructions. Although this was not part of our research focus, we made a note of them and report them here in the interest of completeness. Our questionnaire contained the matrix, the housing questions, and the first page of questions for person 1. It did not include person questions 17+ for person 1 or any questions for persons 2-5.

### ***Relationship Question in the Person Matrix***

The response section of the relationship question for person 1 contains an X'd box to indicate that this



is person 1 as well as the instruction for who should be listed in person 1. This occurs after the respondent has already had to make a decision about who to list in person 1.

A total of 7 respondents had problems with the relationship question. Several were not sure who to list in person 1. They listed a person and proceeded across the row. When they got over to Q3, the instruction generally served to verify that they had made the right decision. Even though the majority of the respondents entered the right person as person 1, many of them mentioned that the instruction should appear before person 1 is listed.

However, two respondents made errors in listing person 1, and the instruction did not help them realize this. It was only in debriefing after the roster was completed that one person decided that her father, a commuter worker whose name is on the lease, should be listed as person 1, rather than herself, a full-time resident of the apartment. Similarly, a resident at a family summer home listed all the persons who were staying there or had stayed there over a period of time, and listed her mother, the homeowner, as person 5. Only later did she realize that her mother should have been listed as person 1. In neither case did the respondent go back and fill out the form so that the relationships were in reference to person 1.

### ***Beginning of the Housing Section***

In all cases, respondents started the housing section by reading the bolded instruction under the Housing title, which instructs respondents to answer the following questions about the address listed on the mailing label. After reading this, many respondents proceeded to move to the right, and read Skip Instruction A in the second column. This pattern of going across from left to right had been established on the previous page, where most respondents completed the matrix by going across the rows for each person, rather than going down the columns for each question. For the most part, respondents recovered from this error, seeing Q1 in column 1 and returning to it. However, one respondent continued down column 2 and totally missed the first three housing questions.

### ***Q10a for Person 1***

Q10a (At any time in the last 3 months, has this person attended regular school or college?) contains a skip instruction buried in the middle of the column after the first response category. Persons who have not attended school in the last three months are directed to skip to question 11. The placement of this instruction seemed to have rendered it unnoticed to many of our respondents, who went on to read Q10b. Only after they decided that something was not right did they go back up, reread the response categories, notice the skip instruction, and proceed to Q11.

### ***Q13 for Person 1***

Q13a asks whether this person lived at the sampled house or apartment 1 year ago. The first response category says that the person is under 1 year old. Most respondents questioned this response category when they read it aloud. They wondered how person 1 could be under 1 year old. This response category led to an error in one case. A respondent read the question and expected the first response category to be “yes, this house.” Without even looking, she marked the first box. She reported herself as being less than 1 year old.

Another problem with Q13a was noted for seasonal residents. They correctly reported that they lived in this same house or apartment 1 year ago, but this does not capture the fact that they lived at some other residence during the months in between this time and the same time 1 year ago.

The formatting of this item to span two columns was problematic. Some respondents who correctly skipped out of 13a. answered 13c. at the top of the third column. They answered it with respect to their current residence.

### ***Skip Instruction F for Person 1***

Skip Instruction F is the screener that skips persons under 5 years old out of the rest of the person questions. The wording of this instruction was quite confusing to respondents. Some people had to reread it several times, but eventually got its meaning. Others interpreted it incorrectly and thought they should skip out if they were over 5 years old, rather than under 5 years old. This might have happened because the format of this instruction is different from all the lettered instructions respondents have encountered to that point. Instead of stating “Answer questions ... only if (some conditions holds),” this instruction begins with “If (some condition holds), skip to ... .”

### ***Q16c. and d. for Person 1***

Q16c. and d. are the disability questions that are only asked of persons 16 years of age or older. The skip instructions caused respondents to lose track of the stub of the question, and as a result they were not necessarily answering the intended question. Some respondents answered whether they worked at a job or business; others answered whether they had trouble working because of the disabling conditions; and retired persons didn’t know how to answer these questions.

## CONCLUSION

This research on the American Community Survey focused on the situation of persons with multiple residences, and specifically on their reactions to questions about residence rules and time spent at multiple residences. The interviews identified a number of issues that face “seasonal” residents in determining their household rosters and where they live or stay most of the time. In addition to the target questions, the research identified other substantive questions that may be problematic for seasonal residents, such as the migration question and when person 1 moved into the household.

Other findings are relevant to all types of respondents. For example, the research showed that instructions for the respondent to include him/herself are necessary, because the identification of the respondent on the front page tends to suggest that he/she doesn’t need to be listed on the inside. Formatting issues related to skip instructions were observed. Misinterpretations of housing questions were noted.

The prevalence of formatting problems for all types of respondents suggests that additional pretesting of the ACS self-administered form would be beneficial.

# THE American Community SURVEY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

People are our most important resource. This Census Bureau survey collects information about education, employment, income, and housing—information your



community uses to plan and fund programs. Your response is important, and we keep your answers confidential.



If you need help or have questions about completing this form, please call 1-800-354-7271. The telephone call is free.

**Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD):**  
Call 1-800-582-8330. The telephone call is free.

**¿NECESITA AYUDA?** Si usted habla español y necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario, llame sin cargo alguno al 1-800-354-7271.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our web site at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

FORM **S-699**  
(5-15-2001)

OMB No. 0607-0725  
Approval Expires 09/30/2004

## Start Here

### This form asks for three types of information:

- basic information about the people who are living or staying at the address on the mailing label above
- specific information about this house, apartment, or mobile home
- more detailed information about each person living or staying here

**What is your name?** Please PRINT the name of the person who is filling out this form. Include the telephone number so we can contact you if there is a question, and today's date.

Last Name

First Name  MI

Area Code + Number

Date (Month/Day/Year)

**How many people are living or staying at this address?**  
Number of people

**Please turn to the next page to continue.**

# List of Residents

**READ THIS FIRST**

**WE NEED YOU TO LIST EVERYONE WHO IS CURRENTLY LIVING OR STAYING HERE.**

- Is someone away for a short period of time (2 months or less)? Please still include that person.
- Is someone here for more than 2 months, but you think they really live somewhere else? Please still include that person.
- Is someone staying here temporarily who has no other place to live? Please include that person.

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHOM TO LIST, CALL 1-800-354-7271.

➔ If there are more than five people, list them here. We may call you for more information about them.

➔ After you've created the List of Residents, answer the questions across the top of the page for the first five people on the list.

## Person 1

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Male  
 Female

**2** What is this person's date of birth and what is this person's age? Print numbers in boxes.

Month Day Year of birth

Age (in years)

**3** How is this person related to Person 1?

Person 1

(Person 1 is the person living or staying here in whose name this house or apartment is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person, start with the name of any adult living or staying here.)

## Person 2

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Male  
 Female

Relationship of Person 2 to Person 1.

Husband or wife  
 Son or daughter  
 Brother or sister  
 Father or mother  
 Grandchild  
 In-law  
 Other relative

## Person 3

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Male  
 Female

Relationship of Person 3 to Person 1.

Husband or wife  
 Son or daughter  
 Brother or sister  
 Father or mother  
 Grandchild  
 In-law  
 Other relative

## Person 4

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Male  
 Female

Relationship of Person 4 to Person 1.

Husband or wife  
 Son or daughter  
 Brother or sister  
 Father or mother  
 Grandchild  
 In-law  
 Other relative

## Person 5

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Male  
 Female

Relationship of Person 5 to Person 1.

Husband or wife  
 Son or daughter  
 Brother or sister  
 Father or mother  
 Grandchild  
 In-law  
 Other relative

## Person 6

Last Name (Please print)

First Name

MI

Last Name

First Name

MI

## Person 7

Last Name

First Name

MI

## Person 8

Last Name

First Name

MI

**4** What is this person's marital status?

- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married

**5** Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

Mark (X) the "No" box if not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian — Print race

- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race below
- Some other race — Print race below

- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian — Print race

- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race below
- Some other race — Print race below

- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian — Print race

- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race below
- Some other race — Print race below

- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian — Print race

- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race below
- Some other race — Print race below

- Now married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated
- Never married

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group

- White
- Black, African Am., or Negro
- American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.

- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian — Print race

- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander — Print race below
- Some other race — Print race below

**Person 9**

Last Name

First Name

MI

**Person 10**

Last Name

First Name

MI

**Person 11**

Last Name

First Name

MI

**Person 12**

Last Name

First Name

MI

# Housing



Housing information helps your community plan for police and fire protection.

**2** Please answer the following questions about the house, apartment, or mobile home at the address on the mailing label.

- 1** Which best describes this building? Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant.
- A mobile home
  - A one-family house detached from any other house
  - A one-family house attached to one or more houses
  - A building with 2 apartments
  - A building with 3 or 4 apartments
  - A building with 5 to 9 apartments
  - A building with 10 to 19 apartments
  - A building with 20 to 49 apartments
  - A building with 50 or more apartments
  - Boat, RV, van, etc.

- 2** About when was this building first built?
- 1999 or later
  - 1995 to 1998
  - 1990 to 1994
  - 1980 to 1989
  - 1970 to 1979
  - 1960 to 1969
  - 1950 to 1959
  - 1940 to 1949
  - 1939 or earlier

**3** When did PERSON 1 (listed in the List of Residents on page 2) move into this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Month

Year

**A** Answer questions 4-6 ONLY, if this is a one-family house or a mobile home; otherwise, SKIP to question 7.

- 4** How many acres is this house or mobile home on?
- Less than 1 acre → SKIP to question 6
  - 1 to 9.9 acres
  - 10 or more acres

- 5** IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?
- None
  - \$1 to \$999
  - \$1,000 to \$2,499
  - \$2,500 to \$4,999
  - \$5,000 to \$9,999
  - \$10,000 or more

- 6** Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property?
- Yes
  - No

- 7** How many rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home? Do NOT count bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or half-rooms.
- 1 room
  - 2 rooms
  - 3 rooms
  - 4 rooms
  - 5 rooms
  - 6 rooms
  - 7 rooms
  - 8 rooms
  - 9 or more rooms

- 8** How many bedrooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home; that is, how many bedrooms would you list if this house, apartment, or mobile home were on the market for sale or rent?
- No bedroom
  - 1 bedroom
  - 2 bedrooms
  - 3 bedrooms
  - 4 bedrooms
  - 5 or more bedrooms

- 9** Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have COMPLETE plumbing facilities; that is, 1) hot and cold piped water, 2) a flush toilet, and 3) a bathtub or shower?
- Yes, has all three facilities
  - No

- 10** Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have COMPLETE kitchen facilities; that is, 1) a sink with piped water, 2) a stove or range, and 3) a refrigerator?
- Yes, has all three facilities
  - No

- 11** Is there telephone service available in this house, apartment, or mobile home from which you can both make and receive calls?
- Yes
  - No

- 12** How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?
- None
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6 or more

## Housing (continued)

**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

**14** a. LAST MONTH, what was the cost of electricity for this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Last month's cost - Dollars  
 \$

OR

- Included in rent or condominium fee  
 No charge or electricity not used

b. LAST MONTH, what was the cost of gas for this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Last month's cost - Dollars  
 \$

OR

- Included in rent or condominium fee entered above  
 No charge or gas not used

c. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what was the cost of water and sewer for this house, apartment, or mobile home? If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost.

Past 12 months' cost - Dollars  
 \$

OR

- Included in rent or condominium fee  
 No charge

d. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what was the cost of oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc., for this house, apartment, or mobile home? If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost.

Past 12 months' cost - Dollars  
 \$

OR

- Included in rent or condominium fee  
 No charge or these fuels not used

**15** At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, were you or any member of this household enrolled in or receiving benefits from:

a. free or reduced-price meals at school through the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program?  
 Yes  
 No

b. the Federal home heating and cooling assistance program?  
 Yes  
 No

**16** At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did anyone in this household receive Food Stamps?

Yes → What was the value of the Food Stamps?  
 Past 12 months' value - Dollars  
 \$

No

**17** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home part of a condominium?

Yes → What is the monthly condominium fee? For renters, answer only if you pay the condominium fee in addition to your rent; otherwise, mark the "None" box.  
 Monthly amount - Dollars  
 \$

OR

None  
 No

**18** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home -

- Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?  
 Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?  
 Rented for cash rent?  
 Occupied without payment of cash rent? → Skip to question 21

**B** Answer questions 19a-21 ONLY IF you PAY RENT for this house, apartment, or mobile home. Otherwise, SKIP to question 22.

**19** a. What is the monthly rent for this house, apartment, or mobile home?

Monthly amount - Dollars  
 \$

b. Does the monthly rent include any meals?  
 Yes  
 No

**20** a. Is the rent on this house, apartment, or mobile home reduced because the Federal, state, or local government is paying part of the cost?  
 Yes  
 No → Skip to question 21

b. What government program provides this reduced rent?  
 The "Section 8" program  
 Some other government program  
 Not sure

**21** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home in a public housing project; that is, is it part of a government housing project for persons with low income?  
 Yes  
 No



## Housing (continued)

**C** Answer questions 22–26 ONLY IF you or someone else in this household OWNS or IS BUYING this house, apartment, or mobile home. Otherwise, SKIP to **E**

**22** What is the value of this property; that is, how much do you think this house and lot, apartment, or mobile home and lot, would sell for if it were for sale?

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$14,999
- \$15,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$69,999
- \$70,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$89,999
- \$90,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$124,999
- \$125,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$174,999
- \$175,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 to \$249,999
- \$250,000 or more – Specify

Monthly amount – Dollars \$

**23** What are the annual real estate taxes on THIS property?

Annual amount – Dollars

\$

OR

None

**24** What is the annual payment for fire, hazard, and flood insurance on THIS property?

Annual amount – Dollars

\$

OR

None

**25** a. Do you or any member of this household have a mortgage, deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt on THIS property?

- Yes, mortgage, deed of trust, or similar debt
- Yes, contract to purchase
- No → SKIP to question 26a

**b.** How much is the regular monthly mortgage payment on THIS property? Include payments only on FIRST mortgage or contract to purchase.

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$

OR

- No regular payment required → SKIP to question 26a

**c.** Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for real estate taxes on THIS property?

- Yes, taxes included in mortgage payment
- No, taxes paid separately or taxes not required

**d.** Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for fire, hazard, or flood insurance on THIS property?

- Yes, insurance included in mortgage payment
- No, insurance paid separately or no insurance

**a.** Do you or any member of this household have a second mortgage or a home equity loan on THIS property?

- Yes, home equity loan
- Yes, second mortgage
- Yes, second mortgage and home equity loan
- No → SKIP to **D**

**b.** How much is the regular monthly payment on all second or junior mortgages and all home equity loans on THIS property?

Monthly amount – Dollars

\$

OR

- No regular payment required

**D** Answer questions 27a and b ONLY IF this is a MOBILE HOME. Otherwise, SKIP to **E**

**27** a. Do you or any member of this household have an installment loan or contract on THIS mobile home?

- Yes
- No

**b.** What are the total annual costs for installment loan payments, personal property taxes, site rent, registration fees, and license fees on THIS mobile home and its site? Exclude real estate taxes.

Annual costs – Dollars

\$

**a.** Do you or any member of this household live or stay at this address year round?

- Yes → SKIP to the questions about Person 1 on the next page.
- No

**b.** How many months a year do members of this household stay at this address?

Months

**c.** What is the main reason members of this household are staying at this address?

- This is their permanent address
- This is their seasonal or vacation address
- To be close to work
- To attend school or college
- Looking for permanent housing
- Other reason – Specify

**d.** Do members of this household have another address where they live or stay most of the time?

- Yes
- No → SKIP to the questions about Person 1 on the next page.

**e.** Is everyone in this household here for 2 months or less?

- Yes → STOP HERE and return the form. We do not need more information. Thank you for your time.
- No → CONTINUE with the questions about Person 1 on the next page.

# Person 1

8 Please copy the name of Person 1 from the List of Residents on page 2, then continue answering questions below.

Last Name

First Name

MI

7 Where was this person born?

In the United States - Print name of state.

Outside the United States - Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc.

8 Is this person a CITIZEN of the United States?

- Yes, born in the United States → Skip to 10a
- Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas
- Yes, born abroad of American parent or parents
- Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization
- No, not a citizen of the United States

9 When did this person come to live in the United States? Print numbers in boxes.

Year

10 a. At any time IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS, has this person attended regular school or college? Include only nursery or preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or a college degree.

- No, has not attended in the last 3 months → SKIP to question 11
- Yes, public school, public college
- Yes, private school, private college

b. What grade or level was this person attending? Mark (X) ONE box.

- Nursery school, preschool
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1 to grade 4
- Grade 5 to grade 8
- Grade 9 to grade 12
- College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)
- Graduate or professional school (for example: medical, dental, or law school)

11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has COMPLETED? Mark (X) ONE box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

- No schooling completed
- Nursery school to 4th grade
- 5th grade or 6th grade
- 7th grade or 8th grade
- 9th grade
- 10th grade
- 11th grade
- 12th grade - NO DIPLOMA
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE - high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)
- Some college credit, but less than 1 year
- 1 or more years of college, no degree
- Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)
- Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)
- Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)
- Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)
- Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

13 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

- Person is under 1 year old → SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 10.
- Yes, this house → SKIP to F in the next column
- No, outside the United States - Print name of foreign country, or Puerto Rico, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to F in next column.

b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

No, different house in the United States

Name of city, town, or post office

# Your answers are important! Every person in the American Community Survey counts.

c. Did this person live inside the limits of the city or town?

- Yes
- No, outside the city/town limits

Name of county

Name of state

ZIP Code

F If this person is UNDER 5 years of age, SKIP to the questions for PERSON 2 on page 10. Otherwise, continue with question 14.

14 a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?

- Yes
- No → SKIP to question 15

b. What is this language?

For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese

c. How well does this person speak English?

- Very well
- Not well
- Well
- Not at all

15 Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions:

- a. Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment? Yes  No
- b. A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying? Yes  No

16 Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

- a. Learning, remembering, or concentrating? Yes  No
- b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around (inside the home)? Yes  No
- c. (Answer if this person is 16 YEARS OLD OR OVER.) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office? Yes  No
- d. (Answer if this person is 16 YEARS OLD OR OVER.) Working at a job or business? Yes  No