

## American Community Survey (ACS)

### Why We Ask: Place of Birth, Citizenship and Year of Entry

We ask about place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry to provide statistics about citizens and the foreign-born population. These statistics are essential for agencies and policy makers setting and evaluating immigration policies and laws, understanding how different immigrant groups are assimilated, and monitoring against discrimination. These statistics are also used to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

**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 question 10a

Yes, born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Northern Marianas

Yes, born abroad of U.S. citizen parent or parents

Yes, U.S. citizen by naturalization – Print year of naturalization  
\_\_\_\_\_

No, not a U.S. citizen

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

Year  
\_\_\_\_\_

The questions as they appear on the 2016 ACS paper questionnaire. A question about “foreigners not naturalized” was first included in the Census of 1820, while a question on place of birth originated in 1850, and a year of entry question originated in 1900. These questions were transferred to the ACS when it replaced the Decennial Census long-form in 2005.

#### Examples of Federal Uses

- Required in the enforcement responsibilities under the Voting Rights Act's bilingual requirements, to determine eligible voting populations for analysis and for presentation in federal litigation.
- Required to enforce against discrimination in education, employment, voting, financial assistance, and housing.
- Used in many reporting and research tasks to investigate whether there are differences for citizens and foreign-born individuals in education, employment, home ownership, health, income and many other areas of interest to policymakers.

#### Examples of Other Uses

State and local agencies use these statistics to understand the needs of all the groups in their communities over time. Some social, economic, or housing trends may have different impacts for different groups; understanding these changes may highlight future social and economic challenges. Researchers and advocacy groups use these statistics to examine the size and characteristics of native and foreign-born populations over time.