



Step-by-Step Directions

For State and Local Poverty, Income, and Health Insurance Data from the American Community Survey

*[Note: the 2009 data will be available starting Tuesday, September 28. If you want to try out these directions before then, click on **2008 – 1 year estimates**.]*

With all the following directions, start by going to www.census.gov

To Access State Poverty Data

[You'll note there are other ways to get this data, sometimes for multiple states or localities. But this shows you how to get at detailed information for your state. You can select other tables by choosing by subject or by keyword.]

For state poverty, click on **American Factfinder** (left side of Census homepage) –then click on **American Community Survey, get data** –then at ACS, select **2009 – 1 year estimates**, click on **detailed tables** (on right). For geographic type, pick **state**; then pick your state; click **add** and **next** –scroll to **B17001**–hit **add** and **show result**. If you would like to see how many in your state or locality live below 50 percent of the poverty line, or up to and beyond 500 percent of the poverty level, select **B17002**.

To Find Comparisons for 2009 to 2008 and 2009 to 2007 in a State's Poverty, Income, and other Economic Data

[These tables provide one- and two-year comparisons on many measures. The examples below provide access to economic data such as poverty, income, and employment. The Census Bureau provides asterisks when the change is statistically significant; that is, not just by chance.]

Click **American FactFinder**. Under **American Community Survey** (ACS) click **get data**. Select year (**2009 – 1 year estimates**) and on the right hand side select **Comparison Profiles**. From the drop down menu titled geographic type select **State**. Click on a state (for example, Ohio) and select **show results**. On this page underneath the State's name select "Economic" (under the five categories of profiles). Now you will be able to view 1- and 2-year comparisons of a state's economic data, with statistical significance indicated by asterisks for poverty, income, employment, use of food stamps and other public benefits, and related issues.

To find Economic Comparisons for 2009 to 2008 and 2009 to 2007 for a County, City, or Congressional District

[These tables provide one- and two-year comparisons on many measures. The examples below provide access to economic data such as poverty, income, and employment. The Census Bureau provides asterisks when the change is statistically significant; that is, not just by chance.]

Click **American FactFinder**. Under **American Community Survey** (ACS) click **get data**. Select year (**2009 –1-year estimate**) and on the right hand side select **Comparison Profiles**. From the drop-down menu titled geographic type select **County**. Select a **state** first (for example, Pennsylvania) and then choose a county from the next drop-down menu (say, Blair) and **show results**. On the page that appears, select **Economic** (under the five categories of profiles below the state's name). Do the same for Congressional District and City by selecting **Congressional District** and **Place** from the geographic type drop-down menu.

To find Ranking tables of all states by percentage of all people and children below the federal poverty line

[Ranking tables arrange the geographic area you select from highest to lowest poverty levels, or whatever other comparisons you seek.]

Click **American FactFinder**. Under **American Community Survey** (ACS) click **get data**. Select year (**2009 – 1-year estimate**) and on the right hand side select **Ranking Tables**. From the drop-down menu of **tables by subject** choose **poverty**. From there choose **R1701** for people below the poverty level and **R1704** for children below the poverty level.

To find poverty statistics for all states and Puerto Rico

[Geographic Comparison tables are a convenient way of getting data for all states. You can also get localities for each state, all on one table; see below. These tables list all states or localities alphabetically, unlike the ranking tables which list them in rank order.]

Click **American Fact Finder**. Under **American Community Survey** (ACS) click **get data**. Select year (**2009 – 1 year estimates**) and on the right hand side select **Geographic Comparison Table**. Select geographic type **Nation**. Click **United States- States and Puerto Rico**. Click **next**. Select a table from the drop-down menu. (**GCT1701** for percentage of all people below the poverty level; **GCT1704** for all children below the poverty level.) Click **show results**. You will see all states listed with the data you've selected. If you want to see all the counties in each state, select the following table format: **United States: County by State and for Puerto Rico**. Similarly, you can select table formats that provide all Congressional Districts for each state; if you want cities, select **United States: Place by State and for Puerto Rico**.

Health Insurance Data

You can follow the above procedures to get health insurance information about states and localities. The American Community Survey began including health insurance questions in 2008, so there are only two years for comparisons. **IMPORTANT:** if you want to compare over these two years, you must use ACS' **comparison profile** tables, rather than finding data from the 2008 release and comparing it to the new data coming out on September 28. The Census Bureau has noted that there are errors in the 2008 health insurance data that have been corrected in the comparison profile tables. Because 2009 will be the first year of such comparisons, you will have to wait till September 28 to see them.

To find 1-year comparisons of health insurance status for your state or locality

Click **American Factfinder**. Under **American Community Survey** (ACS) click **get data**. Select year (**2009 – 1 year estimates**) and on the right hand side select **Comparison profiles**. From the drop down menu titled geographic type select **State**. Click on a state (for example, California) and select **show results**. We don't know which profile will contain the health insurance data, and will send out an update as soon as we find out. If you haven't heard from us, just check the **social** and **economic** profiles – scroll down and look for health insurance data. You will then see the two-year comparisons, with asterisks to indicate when the change is statistically significant. Similarly, if you want to look at health insurance comparisons for **counties, places** (includes cities), or **congressional districts**, select one of those from the geographic drop-down menu. It will then ask you to select a state, and then to select the local area you wish to see from that state. Click **show result**.

Detailed Health Insurance Tables

[For more information for your state or locality]

Click on **American Factfinder** (left side of Census homepage) –then click on **American Community Survey, get data** –then at ACS, select **2009 – 1 year estimates**, click on **detailed tables** (on right). For geographic type, pick **state**; then pick your state; click **add** and **next** –scroll to **B27016**–hit **add** and **show result**. This will provide health insurance coverage status and type by ratio of income to poverty. You will note many other detailed tables related to health insurance which you may also wish to look at. You can also see findings for **localities** below the state level by changing the geography option.