How does the American Community Survey (ACS) differ from the 2020 Census?

The 2000 Census was the last Census in which the long form was used. In that census one in six households received the longform that covered everything from marital status to place of work, education level and more.

WHAT IS IT?

ACS
The American Community Survey is data released in two sample types: 1-year and 5-year data. Areas with at least 65,000 residents receive 1-year data estimates each year, while all locations receive the 5-year data estimate for a wide variety of populations, housing, and socio-economic characteristics data; such as median household income, or rate of poverty.

The ACS for will go to only one percent of households each year and asks a variety of questions.

CENSUS
The census is a count of all persons living in the United States that is conducted every 10 years by the federal government and is required by the U.S. Constitution. It is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, how federal and state legislative districts are redrawn and the appropriation of federally funded programs.

The census will include 10 questions and take about 10 minutes to complete and is given to every household.

WHAT’S ON IT?

ACS
Name, race, phone number, age, sex, hispanic origin, number of residents, relationship to owner, whether the person stays or lives somewhere else.

CENSUS
Population: Marital status, citizenship, education, etc.
Housing: Year structure built, year moved in, plumbing and kitchen facilitates, etc.
Socio-Economic: Monthly rent, place of work, work force status, etc.

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