Finding Disability Data at the Local Level from the American Community Survey (ACS)
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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to help guide people through the process of retrieving local level disability data from the US Census Bureau (http://www.census.gov/). These instructions should be helpful whether you need a quick introduction to how to find data, or whether you need step-by-step instructions. This document can also be used as a reference for steps to accomplish specific data retrieval.

In this document, you will find out about the disability data available from the US Census Bureau, the American Community Survey, and the American FactFinder website. You will also find guidance for whether to use 1, 3, or 5 year estimates for local data, how to find specific disability data tables, how to decipher the table numbering system, and how to create maps of data.
Disability Data from the Bureau of the Census

The Census Bureau collects the following data on the following schedules:

- **Population & Housing Census** - every 10 years
- **Economic Census** - every 5 years
- **Census of Governments** - every 5 years
- **American Community Survey** - annually
- **Other surveys** -- Demographic & Economic
- **Economic Indicators**

The Census Bureau collects **disability data** annually through the American Community Survey (ACS) which gives the most current estimates at any point in time. In this document, we will focus on the American Community Survey (ACS).

Where to Find Disability Data from the ACS:
The American Fact Finder Web Site

American Fact Finder (AFF) is a web site used for distributing and accessing data collected by the Census Bureau about United States, Puerto Rico. Previously data was distributed in printed volumes. The following data are available on AFF:

- American Community Survey
- American Housing Survey
- Annual Economic Surveys
- Annual Surveys of Governments
- Census of Governments
- Decennial Census
- Economic Census
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation
- Population Estimates Program
- Puerto Rico Community Survey

The AFF can be accessed by going to [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml)

What is the American Community Survey (ACS)?

The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides data every year. The ACS survey sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis. Information generated from the survey results give communities the current information they need to plan investments and services and help determine how federal and state funds are distributed each year.
To help communities, state governments, and federal programs, the ACS asks about:

- age
- sex
- race
- family and relationships
- income and benefits
- health insurance
- education
- veteran status
- disabilities
- where you work and how you get there
- where you live and how much you pay for some essentials

Estimates from the ACS contribute to providing an important picture of America.

**When to Use 1-Year, 3–Year or 5-Year Estimates**

The ACS datasets are available as 1-year, 3–year or 5-year estimates. Which estimate you use depends on many factors such as population size of the area for which data is available, how accurate you want the data and how current you want the data to be.

The first 5 year ACS estimates (2005-2009) were released in 2010; however the questions relating to disability significantly changed in 2008. Therefore, the five year estimates for disability start with the 2008-2012 period. Because of the change in the disability definition, disability data starting in 2008 should not be compared with previous years’ data.

Multiyear estimates and single year estimates have different statistical properties and it is important to understand these.

The ACS provides single-year estimates of demographic, housing, social, and economic characteristics for states and communities with at least 65,000 residents. Statistically, if the community has any less than 65,000 residents, these 1 year estimates are unreliable. Therefore, for areas with fewer residents, ACS combines individual years to provide more reliable 3 and 5 year estimates.

Depending on the population size of the geography you are interested in, you may have a choice of:

- 1, 3 and 5 year estimates (population of 65,000 and over)
- 3 and 5 year estimates only (population of 20,000 to 64,999)
- 5 year estimate only (population of 1 to 19,999)

When searching for estimates, you will usually see 1, 3, and 5 year estimates. If your search turns up no 1 year estimate tables then this will be because the geographic area you are searching has **less than 65,000 residents**. You will need to use 3 year estimates, or if those are not available, 5 year estimates for the geographic area. For example the only ACS estimates available for Loving County, Texas (population approximately 90) will be 5 year estimates.
If the population size of the geography you are interested is **65,000 and over**, you can choose any of the yearly estimates, however you need to be aware of the following when choosing which estimate to use:

- 1 year estimates are more current than 3 year estimates which in turn are more current than 5 year estimates.
- 5 year estimates are more accurate than 3 year estimates which in turn are more accurate than 1 year estimates.

Table 1 below summarizes the attributes of 1, 3, and 5 year estimates for reliability and currency of the estimate, along with a summary of the circumstances when each is best to use.

**Table 1. Attributes of One, Three & Five Year Estimates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-year estimates</th>
<th>3-year estimates</th>
<th>5-year estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Populations of area for which data is available</strong></td>
<td>65,000+</td>
<td>20,000+</td>
<td>Any</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample size</strong></td>
<td>Smallest</td>
<td>Larger than 1-year</td>
<td>Largest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reliability of data</strong></td>
<td>Least reliable</td>
<td>More reliable than 1-yr.; less reliable than 5-yr.</td>
<td>Most reliable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How current is the data?</strong></td>
<td>Most current</td>
<td>Less current than 1-yr. estimates; more current than 5-yr.</td>
<td>Least current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best used when</strong></td>
<td>Currency is more important than precision; Analyzing large populations</td>
<td>Needs for precision and currency are similar; Analyzing smaller populations; Examining smaller geographies (1-yr. estimates are not available)</td>
<td>Precision is more important than currency; Analyzing very small populations; Examining tracts and other smaller geographies (1-yr. estimates are not available)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When looking for trends by making comparisons between different yearly estimates be aware than trends may be difficult to discern in cases where the multiyear estimates overlap. For example if you are interested in a region for which the population is less than 20,000 only 5 year estimates are available, if you compare adjacent 5 year estimates such as 2008-2012 and 2009-2013 then you are unlikely to see much change as both estimates overlap by 4 years. The Census Bureau suggests not comparing periods that overlap, for example comparing 2008-12 with 2013-2017 which means having to wait longer to identify trends.
How Disability is Measured

A “disability” is defined as,

A long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

All major Bureau of Census surveys use this definition of disability.

In the 2008-2012 American Community Survey, disability concepts were asked in questions 17 through 19. Question 17 had two subparts and was asked of all persons regardless of age. Question 18 had three subparts and was asked of people age 5 years and older. Question 19 was asked of people age 15 years and older. The questions used to collect disability were:

17.a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
   Yes    No

17.b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?
   Yes    No

18.a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
   Yes    No

18.b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
   Yes    No

18.c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
   Yes    No

19. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?
   Yes    No


The Bureau of the Census describes how the disability estimates are derived from these questions in the following summaries:
“Hearing difficulty was derived from question 17a... Vision difficulty was derived from question 17b... Cognitive difficulty was derived from question 18a... Ambulatory difficulty was derived from question 18b... Self-care difficulty was derived from question 18c... Independent living difficulty was derived from question 19. Disability status is determined from the answers from these six types of difficulty. For children under 5 years old, hearing and vision difficulty are used to determine disability status. For children between the ages of 5 and 14, disability status is determined from hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, and self-care difficulties. For people aged 15 years and older, they are considered to have a disability if they have difficulty with any one of the six difficulty types.”

How to Retrieve Disability Data From the ACS

To start a new search for disability data, go to the American Fact Finder home page: http://factfinder2.census.gov/

The American Fact Finder provides two search methods for accessing data, a guided search and an advanced search. The guided search helps you narrow down your search by dataset, topic, geography etc. The advanced search allows you to search by keyword or table name in addition to narrowing your search down by dataset, topic, geography etc.

Guided Search

The guided search leads you step by step to help find the data you are looking for.

- From any Fact Finder page select Guided Search

- On the guided search page you will see the steps that you will be guided through to retrieve your desired data. These steps include, what dataset you wish to use, the topics you are interested in, the geographic locations (e.g. state, county or city) and the race/ethnic groups that you want to include.
1 Start

Start allows you to specify what kind of information you are looking for or where you want to look for information (e.g. in a particular dataset). There are always multiple paths to finding the same data, for example if you were looking for disability information from the ACS dataset, you could select:

- People (Start) > disability (Topic) > all states (Geography) > ACS dataset (dataset) = Search Results

or alternatively you could select:

- ACS dataset (Start) > disability (Topic) > all states (Geography) = Search Results

In this example we will first select the dataset first.

2 Dataset

Dataset allows you to select a particular dataset. From the program menu select the “American Community Survey”
Once you have selected “American Community Survey” an additional menu will appear, from which you can select the latest ACS 5-year estimate, which in this instance is 2012. Refer to table 1 to help you decide whether you want 1, 3 or 5 year estimates.

The topic screen allows you to select which topic you are interested in. Drill down and select “Disability”.

Select the topic(s) you're interested in. Click Next.
During this selection process the “Your Selections” panel on the right hand side allows you to view your current selections. It also displays how many tables match your selection.

Geographies allow you to select a particular geographic area for your data. You have many choices, such as state, county, places etc. You can either enter a single region or use the lower pull down menu to select multiple regions.

As an example, to access county level data under “Select a geographic type” select “County”.

You will notice that some choices under “select a geographic type” such as “census track” and “Zipcode” are unavailable; these choices are only available in the “advanced search”. After selecting a county the next screen gives you the option of selecting an:

- Individual county
- All counties within a specific state
- All US counties
If you select a particular state the following screen gives you the option of selecting an:

- Individual county
- All counties within that state
Enter a state, county, city, town or zip code:

--- or ---

Add one or more geographic areas (states, cities, towns, etc.) to Your Selections

The guided search allows you to select from the most requested geographies. To select from other geographies, use the Advanced Search.

Select a geographic type:

   ..... County

Select a state:

   North Dakota

Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

All Counties within North Dakota
Adams County, North Dakota
Barnes County, North Dakota
Benson County, North Dakota
Billings County, North Dakota
Bottineau County, North Dakota
Bowman County, North Dakota
Burke County, North Dakota
Burleigh County, North Dakota
Cass County, North Dakota

ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS

If you selected a state you have the option to choose all counties within that state or a single county.

You can add multiple counties by repeating the process of selecting a county and clicking on “ADD TO YOUR SELECTION”
Race/Ethnic group allows you to select one or more race or ethnic group, ancestry group, tribal group and country of birth. Collectively these groups are known as population groups. You have two options, “Select From Basic Groups” or “Select From Detailed Groups”. If you are not interested in race or ethnic groups, you can skip this step.

**Basic Groups**

“Select From Basic Groups” provides general information and you can choose one or more of the race or ethnic groups as shown below.
Detailed Groups

“Select From Detailed Groups” provides access to detailed race, ancestry, or tribal data as shown below.

Race and Ethnic Group data is not available for all combinations of topics and datasets and if you see the following dialog after selecting “Race and Ethnic Groups” trying changing your selected topics.

There are no race or ethnic groups available based upon the contents of 'Your Selections'. Click Next to continue.

Industry codes are not available in the guided search for disability data and this selection option will be skipped automatically.
Even though a guided search may find many tables or documents for you, only the top ten results will be displayed.

Select the table title to view the data. To see all possible tables matching your search, you need click on the “Advanced Search” link at the bottom of the page.

The results table includes a table ID column, it is useful to understand this Id for the advanced search.

## Understanding ACS Table IDs

Since the release of the 2005 ACS data, detailed tables, as well as other tables and maps, use the same identification (ID) numbering scheme.

An ACS ID consists of up to five elements:

1. The initial character(s) is always a letter (or more than one letter), designating the “product type” (or table format):
   - A “B” is used for base tables. These tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies.
A "C" is used for a collapsed version of a "B" table. A "C" table is very similar to a "B" table with the same number (e.g., C07001 and B07001), but two or more lines from the "B" table have been collapsed to a single line in the "C" table. For example, the lines "75 to 79 years", "80 to 84 years" and "85 years and over" from a "B" table may be collapsed to a single line of "75 years and over" in a "C" table. Not every "B" table has a collapsed version.

A “DP” is used for Data Profiles and “NP” for Narrative Profiles (1- and 3-year estimates only)

A “GCT” is used for Geographic Comparison Tables

A “R” is used for Ranking Tables (1-year estimates only, down to State level only)

An “S” is used for Selected Population Profiles (1- and 3-year estimates only) and Subject Tables (a collection of one or more data elements that are classified into some logical structure either as dimensions or data points).

2. The next two characters identify the subject of the table.

01 = Age and Sex
02 = Race
03 = Hispanic or Latino Origin
04 = Ancestry
05 = Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year or Entry; Nativity
06 = Place of Birth
07 = Residence 1 Year Ago; Migration
08 = Journey to Work; Workers’ Characteristics; Commuting
09 = Children; Household Relationship
10 = Grandparents; Grandchildren
11 = Household Type; Family Type; Subfamilies
12 = Marital Status and History
13 = Fertility
14 = School Enrollment
15 = Educational Attainment
16 = Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English
17 = Poverty
18 = Disability
19 = Income (Households and Families)
20 = Earnings (Individuals)
21 = Veteran Status
22 = Food Stamps
23 = Employment Status; Work Experience; Labor Force
24 = Industry; Occupation; Class of Worker
25 = Housing Characteristics
26 = Group Quarters
27 = Health Insurance
98 = Quality Measures
99 = Imputation table for any subject

3. The next 3 digits are a sequential number, such as 001 or 002, to uniquely identify the table within a given subject.
4. For selected tables, an alphabetic suffix follows to indicate that a table is repeated for the nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups:

A = White Alone  
B = Black or African American Alone  
C = American Indian and Alaska Native Alone  
D = Asian Alone  
E = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone  
F = Some Other Race Alone  
G = Two or More Races  
H = White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino  
I = Hispanic or Latino

5. For selected tables, a final alphabetic suffix "PR" follows to indicate a table used for Puerto Rico geographies only. These Puerto Rico-specific tables exist because for some geography-based subjects, the wording of the Puerto Rico Community Survey questionnaire differs slightly but significantly from the American Community Survey questionnaire. The matching table used for United States geographies has the same ID but without the trailing "PR" (e.g., B06014 and B06014PR).

Using this information we can deconstruct some of ID’s in the above table.

**Example 1. S1810**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table, File or Document Title</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Dataset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td>S1810</td>
<td>2012 ACS 5-year estimates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The initial letter “S” indicates that this is a subject table (a collection of one or more data elements).

The next two characters are numbers (“18” in the example) designating the table topic, in this case, Disability.

**Example 2. B18101C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table, File or Document Title</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Dataset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)</td>
<td>B18101C</td>
<td>2012 ACS 5-year estimates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The initial letter “B” indicates that this is a base table (base tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies). The next two characters are numbers (“18” in the example) designating the table topic, in this case, Disability. The next three characters are numbers (“101” in the example) provide a unique identifier for the table. The following suffix (“C” in the example above) indicates that a table is repeated for the nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups. “C” denotes American Indian and Alaska Native.
What Tables Should I Look At?

With so many tables available, often the best table to look at first is the subject table (S1810 for disabilities). This table gives you a sample of data taken from multiple base tables (base tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies. A “B” is used to denote base tables.)

In the table below the left column displays the subjects found in table S1810 with the right column displaying the associated base tables where you would find more detailed data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s1810 Subject</th>
<th>Related “Base” tables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population under 5 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hearing difficulty</td>
<td>B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a vision difficulty</td>
<td>B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 5 to 17 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hearing difficulty</td>
<td>B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a vision difficulty</td>
<td>B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a cognitive difficulty</td>
<td>B18104 (sex by age by cognitive difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an ambulatory difficulty</td>
<td>B18105 (sex by age by ambulatory difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a self-care difficulty</td>
<td>B18106 (sex by age by self-care difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 18 to 64 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hearing difficulty</td>
<td>B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a vision difficulty</td>
<td>B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a cognitive difficulty</td>
<td>B18104 (sex by age by cognitive difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an ambulatory difficulty</td>
<td>B18105 (sex by age by ambulatory difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a self-care difficulty</td>
<td>B18106 (sex by age by self-care difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>B18107 (sex by age by independent living difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 65 years and over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hearing difficulty</td>
<td>B18102 (sex by age by hearing difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a vision difficulty</td>
<td>B18103 (sex by age by vision difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a cognitive difficulty</td>
<td>B18104 (sex by age by cognitive difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an ambulatory difficulty</td>
<td>B18105 (sex by age by ambulatory difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a self-care difficulty</td>
<td>B18106 (sex by age by self-care difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>B18107 (sex by age by independent living difficulty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>B18101 (SEX BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>B18101 (SEX BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and Hispanic or Latino origin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>B18101A (age by disability status -white alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American alone</td>
<td>B18101B (age by disability status - black or African American alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</td>
<td>B18101C (age by disability status - American Indian and Alaska native alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race Category</td>
<td>Age by Disability Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
<td>B18101D (age by disability status - Asian alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
<td>B18101E (age by disability status (native Hawaiian and other pacific - islander alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race alone</td>
<td>B18101F (age by disability status - some other race alone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>B18101G (age by disability status - two or more races)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone, not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>B18101H (age by disability status - white alone, not Hispanic or Latino)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>B18101I (age by disability status - Hispanic or Latino)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Search

Differences between Guided and Advanced

The main differences between the guided search and the advanced search are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded to include: “Governments”, “Years”, “Product Type” and “Program”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Expanded to include additional geographic types such as “Census tracks”, “Zip codes”, “Addresses” and “Zoom-able selectable maps”.
| Search Results  |
| Results can be further filtered by keywords. |

It is recommended that you always select a geographic region (state, county, address etc) otherwise your results will return data based on a default location which is often the whole of the US.

One of the useful features about searching by table ID is that you can use wildcards in the search. Earlier we mentioned that the 2nd and 3rd numbers of the table Id represented the table subject, so if we enter as a table ID *18* the search will return all tables relating to disability.

Click “Go” to review the resulting tables.
To narrow down the search results use the search options on the right hand side, which include, topic, geography and race/ethnic groups.
Table Templates

To see what variables are included in a particular table in your search results (guided or advanced), click on the “i” button in the far right column.

Clicking the about “i” provides an empty table, complete with table notes as shown below:

Example:

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.
Downloading and Modifying Data Tables

Downloading Single Tables

To save your data and download it to your local computer, you need to be viewing the table which you wish to download and then click the download button at the top.

You will be asked how you want your data formatted. Select csv (comma separated values) or Excel if you wish to process or manipulate the data mathematically. If you want to have a layout or change the layout, choose pdf or rich text format.
Downloading Multiple Tables

You can download multiple tables by selecting the check box to the left of the table names and then selecting download. When you download multiple tables they are downloaded in csv format.

When dealing with hundreds or even thousands of tables, the “clear all” checked boxes is a useful feature.

Modifying Tables

It is possible to modify tables before download. Options available are:

- Rearranging the order of the column and rows
- Collapsing rows
- Hiding rows and columns
- Transpose rows and columns
- Filter rows
Filter rows is particularly helpful if your table has many columns and do not wish to display every column. For example you can add a filter such that it only displays the “estimate” and “percent” values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HC01</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC02</td>
<td>Margin of Error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC03</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC04</td>
<td>Percent Margin of Error</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applying this filter gives:
Example: Finding Data for a Particular County

In this example we walk you through the process of finding disability data for a particular county. From table S1810 (see above) let us suppose that the data we are looking for is “Populations aged 18 and over, with an independent living difficulty”. From table S1810 we see that this subject has a base table whose id is B18107 (as mentioned above in “Understanding ACS Table Ids”, base tables provide the most detailed estimates on all topics and for all geographies).

You can search by table Id using both the “Guided” and “Advanced” searches.

For Guided the steps are:

1. I want to search for a table number or a table title. **Enter B18107**

2. Under “Geographies”, even if you know the name of the county it is often best to select “County” (for a particular state) from the pull down menu as county names are not unique.
across the US. Once you have selected your county click the “Add to your selections” button.

- There will be no Race/Ethnic Group options related to your current selections so click “Next” to continue.
- Depending on the population size of the county you selected the results table will display estimates relating to 1, 3 and 5 year estimates, 3 and 5 year estimates or 5 year estimates only. You should review above section title, “1-Year, 3–Year and 5-Year Estimates” to help you decide which estimates you should use.
Selecting the first table (2012 ACS 1-year estimates) gives the number of people in Adams County, Illinois aged 18 and over, with an independent living difficulty as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Margin of Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50,730</td>
<td>+/-543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>24,413</td>
<td>+/-409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34 years:</td>
<td>6,617</td>
<td>+/-273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>+/-205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>6,379</td>
<td>+/-345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 64 years:</td>
<td>12,769</td>
<td>+/-343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>+/-409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>12,025</td>
<td>+/-556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years:</td>
<td>2,674</td>
<td>+/-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>+/-107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>2,503</td>
<td>+/-132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years and over:</td>
<td>2,353</td>
<td>+/-122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>+/-273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>1,833</td>
<td>+/-284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>26,317</td>
<td>+/-454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 34 years:</td>
<td>6,932</td>
<td>+/-198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>+/-275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>6,654</td>
<td>+/-323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 64 years:</td>
<td>13,160</td>
<td>+/-284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>+/-350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>12,264</td>
<td>+/-441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years:</td>
<td>3,157</td>
<td>+/-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>+/-319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>2,620</td>
<td>+/-325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years and over:</td>
<td>3,068</td>
<td>+/-458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With an independent living difficulty</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>+/-224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No independent living difficulty</td>
<td>2,704</td>
<td>+/-462</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey
**Example: Creating a County Level Data Map**

If you wish to view the data graphically, Fact Finder provides a way to represent the data visually. In this example we will create a map at the county level for the percentage of people aged 5-17 with a disability. Start a new advanced search and search by table id for “S18*” (S stands for summary table and 18 stands for the subject, disability) and select “Go”. From the Geography option on your left select a geographic type of “county” and on the following screen select “All counties within United States”. From the results of this search, view one of the S1810 tables. Note the availability of data for specific geographies will vary between the 1-year, 3-year and 5-year estimates. In this example we will use the 2012, 5-year estimate.

Note: You will only be able to create a county level map if you have selected at least two counties.

Select, “create a map” and then select the data cell you wish to visualize. In this example we will select “percentage population aged 5 to 17, with a disability”.

Note: The “create a map” button will be grayed out if multiple counties have not been selected. To enable the button, return to “add geographies” and make sure you have at least two counties selected.
First click, ‘Create a Map’

Second, select the data cell you wish to map

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>With a disability</th>
<th>Percent with a disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total civilian noninstitutional pop.</td>
<td>188,192</td>
<td>30,147</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population under 5 years</td>
<td>10,771</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a hearing difficulty</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a visual difficulty</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 5s to 17 yrs</td>
<td>31,657</td>
<td>2,241</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The map may take some time to render but once it does you can use the “pan” and “zoom” feature to examine particular regions.
Sources

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about_the_survey/american_community_survey/

https://ask.census.gov/faq.php?id=5000&faqId=6481


