

Data Center FYIs

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
metropolitan chicago

This Data Center FYI seeks to provide a brief overview of data limitations, data estimates, and best practices for presenting data from the Data Center.

No Data Disaggregation

Data are not available by characteristics: geography, racial/ethnic identity, or gender.

Not Publicly Available

Data are collected, but not shared publicly - must be requested.

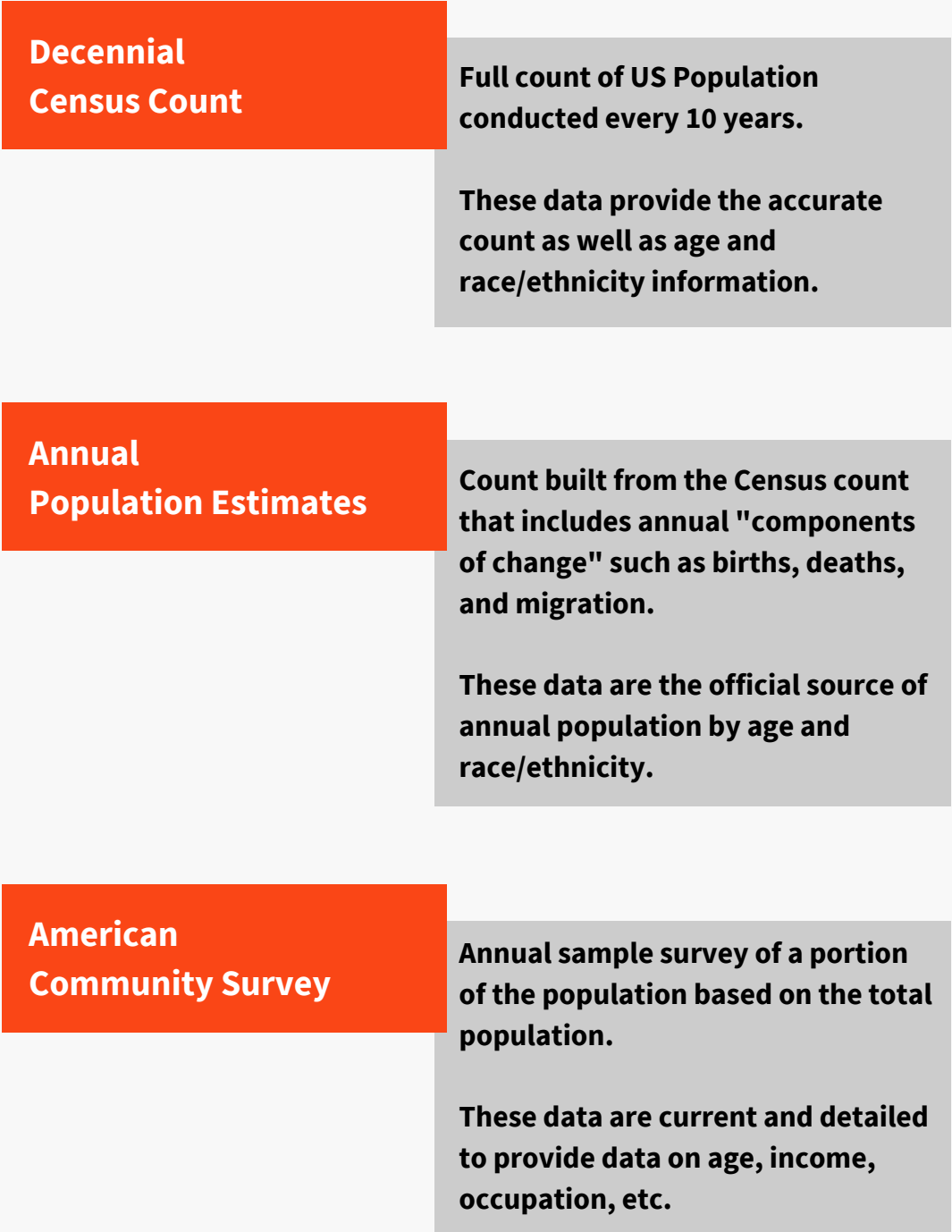
Data Not Collected

Data are not currently collected due to funding, staffing, hard-to-count population, or not prioritized.

Data Limitations: Data from the Data Center are provided by public data sources such as the US Census Bureau or state agencies in Illinois. Given data collection methods and capacity of agencies, sometimes data are not disaggregated by geographic location or by a characteristic such as racial/ethnic identity or gender. Other times data may be collected by an agency, but it is not shared publicly. For these situations, we can sometimes request this data from an agency through a data request process. Lastly, some data are just not currently collected, which can be due to lack of funding, lack of staff, difficulty collecting the data, or these data are not currently prioritized. Due to these limitations, the Data Center may be short of all data needed for every community by every characteristic, but if there is data you would like to see on the Data Center, please contact us [here](#) and we will work to update the Data Center to meet the community's need.

Data Estimates: Data from the American Community Survey (ACS) are used in many indicators on the Data Center. These estimates are produced by surveying only a sample of the US population rather than the whole population, as a result estimates may vary from the true population number. To provide the most credible data, ACS estimates are checked by YWCA Metropolitan Chicago for reliability.

How are ACS estimates created?



Suppressed Data: To suppress data means to not publish or reveal the data to avoid sharing an estimate that may be inaccurate and potentially misinterpreted. Data can be suppressed for confidentiality purposes. Other times, data are suppressed because they are unreliable. When we check data for reliability and the data are deemed not reliable, we will suppress data. Across the Data Center, you will see that suppressed data are represented by “NA.” To check for reliability of an estimate, we use the golden rule of any estimate with a relative standard error greater than 30% is suppressed. The standard error refers to the measure of how accurately the estimate represents the total population.

Children under 18 years old in households	Estimate	Margin of Error	Relative Standard Error
	2,849,148	+/- 784	0.016728

Standard Error Calculation

$$SE = ((MOE / 1.645) / \text{Estimate}) \times 100$$

Impact on Data: ACS estimates can be impacted by various events that cause changes in data and delays in the release of data. For example, it is important to note at the time of this publication we are in a global pandemic, and as a result there have been data delays and data availability issues. In addition, as public policies, economic conditions, and world conflicts—recessions, wars, or public health crises—continue to shift, there may be variation across data available. For example, at the time of this one-pager we are in a global pandemic, which has contributed to variations across data for 2020 and will likely impact future data. Please keep this in mind as you build out your data skills and consider domestic and global events when you display data.

