

American Community Survey (ACS)

Why We Ask: Vehicles

We ask about the vehicles available to people to produce statistics about vehicles. These statistics along with the place of work and journey to work questions, provide information about commuting, road congestion, and access to transportation in emergencies.

11 How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?

☐ None

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

☐ 6 or more

The questions as they appear on the 2016 ACS paper questionnaire. This topic was introduced on the Decennial Census long-form questionnaire in 1960. This topic was 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 to determine disparities in voter participation rates for analysis and for presentation in federal litigation.
- Required in mass transportation and metropolitan planning to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act and implementing regulations, particularly with respect to coordination and conformity.
- Used to summarize the conditions and performance of the nation's highways, bridges, and transit.

Examples of Other Uses

State and local agencies use these statistics to estimate clearance times for regional evacuations. Local transportation planning agencies also use these statistics to determine which modes of transportation people are dependent on; i.e. do people bike or take public transportation by choice?