

## **US Census Bureau Releases 2010 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates.**

Today the Census Bureau released detailed social, economic, housing and demographic characteristic data collected by the American Community Survey (ACS). The data are available for the state of Colorado as well as counties and cities with populations greater than 65,000 and represent the average characteristics of these areas from 2010.

This data is best used for comparisons of characteristics across geographies; for example, to compare the Median Household Income in Denver to the Median Household Income in Colorado Springs. It can also be used for comparison against Census 2000 data, to see the changes in characteristics within our communities over the last 10 years. The 2010 ACS data is benchmarked to the new 2010 Census and earlier ACS releases were benchmarked to annual population estimates. Therefore comparisons between results from previous ACS releases and 2010 ACS should be made with caution. A significant change could be the result of the new benchmark or due to an actual change.

Some initial findings from the 2010 ACS indicate that education attainment continues to increase continuing a long term trend. Between 2000 and 2010 the percent of those 25 and older who completed high school increased from 86.9 percent to 89.7 percent and the percent with at least a bachelor's degree increased from 32.7 percent to 36.4 percent.

In 2010 in the US, the percent of individuals 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree ranged from 17.5 percent in West Virginia to 39.0 percent in Massachusetts. In six states more than one-third of those 25 and over had a bachelor's degree, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Virginia. In the District of Columbia 50.1 percent of adults 25 and over have at least a bachelor's degree.

Real median household income in the United States fell between the 2009 ACS and the 2010 ACS decreasing by 2.2 percent from \$51,190 to \$50,046. In Colorado real median household income fell between 2009 and 2010 from \$56,340 to \$54,046 or 2.5%. Since 2000 Colorado's real median household income has fallen 12 percent from \$61,767 to \$54,046. For the US as a whole, it has fallen 8% from \$54,928 to \$50,046. Colorado's median household income ranks 15<sup>th</sup> highest in the US, falling from 10<sup>th</sup> in 2000.

Health insurance coverage was added to the American Community Survey in 2008. Data from the ACS 2010 indicates that the percentage of Coloradans without health insurance has dropped slightly between 2008 and 2010 from 16.7 to 15.9 percent and remained unchanged from 2009. The percentage of children without insurance dropped from 13.8% to 10.1% since 2008 but again no real change from 2009.

For more information on how to access ACS data, please visit [www.colorado.gov/demography](http://www.colorado.gov/demography) and click on "Training Opportunities" on the right side of the page.