Use of Computer

Source 1. American Community Survey (2021)

![Image](Figure 14: Household devices available in 2021 ACS questionnaire (source))

Source 2. National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) (2017)

![Image](Figure 15: Household technology use frequency question in 2021 NHTS questionnaire (source))

Comparison

Both ACS and NHTS ask about respondents' usage of electronic devices in four nearly identical categories: desktop/laptop computer, smartphone, tablet, and other devices. However, ACS simply asks whether or not respondents own or use such devices while NHTS asks how frequently they are used. Additionally, the ACS question is asked at the household level while the NHTS question is targeted towards individuals, but could be adapted for households.
Recommendation

Because both questions ask about usage of the same categories of the same types of devices, the main decision in recommending a question is what level of detail is appropriate: binary knowledge of device usage or information on how frequently each device is used? Because the focus of our report is on household-level demographics, we recommend using the ACS question of Figure 14. Individuals completing the questionnaire may not be able to accurately answer how frequently each device type is used across their entire household, so the NHTS question appears overly detailed. If frequency of device usage is of particular interest for a survey, then we recommend using the NHTS question, but grouping it with individual socio-demographic questions that were not the focus of our group’s report.

Number of Vehicles

Source 1. American Community Survey (2021)

Public data is available for ACS from 1996 to present. We checked all the way back, and the questionnaire had the exact same question for all years from 1996 until 2021, with the only exception being that in 1996 it asked for the answer in a textbox, whereas in all the next surveys it was a multiple choice question.

Figure 16: Number of household vehicles in 2021 ACS questionnaire (source)