Understanding the American Community Survey (ACS)

April 3, 2019
AGENDA

- American Community Survey (ACS) Basics
- ACS Data Tools
- Questions
- On line Demo
- Introduce CEDSCI
- Census Academy
American Community Survey is Foundational

- The nation’s most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment
- Surveys about 3.5 million addresses and informs $675 billion of Federal government spending each year
- Designed to produce critical information on small areas and small population groups previously collected on the decennial long form
- Covers 35+ topics, supports over 300 evidence-based Federal government uses, and produces 11 billion estimates each year
- Three key annual data releases:
  - 1-year estimates (12 months of data)
  - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (12 months of data)
  - 5-year estimates (60 months of data)
Decennial Census and the American Community Survey

1790-1930 Census
one form to all households

1940-2000 Census
short form & long form

1996-2004 ACS
demonstration period

2005-present ACS
annual estimates for all geographies

2010 Census and future
short form only
# How is the ACS Different from a Census?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACS</th>
<th>2010 and 2020 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Sample estimates</td>
<td>Official counts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Produces</strong></td>
<td>Population characteristics</td>
<td>Population totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Data Every</strong></td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Reflect</strong></td>
<td>Period of time</td>
<td>Point in time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collects</strong></td>
<td>Information previously on the census “long form”</td>
<td>“Short form” information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Availability of ACS Data Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65,000 or more</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 to 64,999</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Date</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>October 2019</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACS Characteristics

Social
- Household Type
- Marital Status
- Education
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Health Insurance
- Citizenship
- Language

Demographic
- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Hispanic Origin

Economic
- Income
- Benefits
- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work
- Place of Work

Housing
- Tenure
- Housing Value
- Occupancy
- Taxes & Insurance
- Household Size
- Utilities
Summary Levels - Geography

- Nation
  - Regions
    - ZIP Codes
    - ZIP Code Tabulation Areas
  - Divisions
    - School Districts
    - Congressional Districts
    - Economic Places
    - Voting Districts
    - Traffic Analysis Zones
    - County Subdivisions
    - County Subdivisions
  - States
    - States
    - Urban Areas
    - Metropolitan Areas
    - Public Use Microdata Areas
    - State Legislative Districts
    - Alaska Native Regional Areas
    - Places
  - Census Tracts
    - Subbarsios
    - Block Groups
    - Blocks
  - Tribal Census Tracts
  - Tribal Block Groups
  - Tribal Subdivisions
  - American Indian Areas / Alaska Native Areas / Hawaiian Home Lands
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When Many College Students Live Off Campus, Poverty Rate Goes Up

Census research shows that a large college student population that lives off campus can result in higher poverty rates in both small and large counties.
Find Data Tools on Census.gov

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU ECONOMIC INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Wholesale Inventories</td>
<td>$444.6 B</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers’ Goods</td>
<td>$515.3 B</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Trade: Goods &amp; Services</td>
<td>$54.0 B</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Spending</td>
<td>$1,329.5 B</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Census research shows that a large college student population that lives off campus can result in higher poverty rates in both small and large counties.
Data Tools and Apps

Find information using interactive applications to get statistics from multiple surveys.

Access Tools at Other Sites: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series
iPUMS USA collects, preserves and harmonizes U.S. Census Bureau microdata and provides easy access to this data with enhanced documentation.

American FactFinder
This interactive application provides statistics from the Economic Census, the American Community Survey, and the 2010 Census, among others.

American Housing Survey Table Creator
The AHS Table Creator gives you the ability to create customized tables from the American Housing Survey without having to use the Public Use File (microdata).

Business Dynamics Statistics
This tool shows tabulations on establishments, firms, and employment with unique information on firm age and firm size.

CPS Table Creator
The CPS Table Creator gives you the ability to create customized tables from the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Census 2000 EEO Data Tool
Select levels of geography based on residence or workplace. The estimates present information for various occupation groupings by race and ethnicity and sex.

Census Business Builder
Census Business Builder offers small business owners selected Census Bureau & other statistics to guide their research for opening or expanding their business.
Selected Ways to Access Data

- QuickFacts
- My Congressional District
- My Tribal Area
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
- Census Business Builder
- American FactFinder
- Data.census.gov – CEDSCI
- DataFerrett
- TIGER/Line Shapefiles w/ Selected Demographic Data
- Application Programming Interface (API)

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/data-tools-chart.html]
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Questions?
On line demonstration

Provide you with information on how to get data using the American FactFinder
Development Depends on Your Feedback

- data.census.gov

- Provide comments at cedsci.feedback@census.gov
Webinar on Using data.census.gov

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
Time: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (EST)
Dial-In: 877-918-2311
Passcode: 1638093
Instructor: Tyson Weister

WebEx Login
Census Academy

Your Virtual Hub for Learning Data Skills

United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Courses
Data Gems
Webinars

Join the Community
Thank you!

Evaluation

Kindly complete an evaluation at

http://questionweb.com/59212/

Lead Census Facilitator: Ana-Maria Garcia
Regional Location: Select New York
Date: 04/03/2019
Ana-Maria Garcia, J.D.
Data Dissemination Specialist
ana.maria.garcia@census.gov
860 424-6762