

Transcript 2015-2019 ACS 5-Year Presentation

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in a listen-only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference. At that time you may press star 1 on your phone to ask a question.

I would like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to Leslie Malone. Thank you. You may begin.

Leslie Malone: Thank you, operator. Good afternoon and welcome to the American Community Survey webinar. Today's webinar is focused on helping you prepare for the release of the 2015 - 2019 ACF 5-year data products.

If you would like to access the slides to follow along or to use as a reference after the webinar, they are posted on the ACS Web page and the URL is available on the screen.

Today's webinar is being recorded and materials will be available through Census Academy and the recorded webinar sections.

Before I proceed, I would like to say a special thank you to our American Community survey respondents for their participation in the survey. Without them we would not have these data, which are so important for America's communities.

Welcome to the pre-release webinar for the 2015 to 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. This is Leslie Malone, a public affairs specialist with the Census Bureau's Public Information Office.

This webinar is designed to help you prepare for the release of the 2019 ACS 5-year data products. Our first presenter today is Charles Gamble, a supervisory survey statistician with the American Community Survey Office.

At the end of his presentation, we'll open up the line for questions. After a brief question period, Tyson Weister will give a demonstration of data.census.gov.

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Tyson is a program analyst in the Center for Enterprise Dissemination. There will be an opportunity for news media and others to ask questions after his demonstration.

Before we get started, I want to quickly outline what will be covered today. First I'll cover next week's American Community Survey data release and our upcoming releases in early 2021.

Then I'll turn it over to Charles, who will give a brief overview of the American Community Survey and cover what's changed since last year.

He'll also walk through various tools used to access our products and where on our Web site you can find much of the information covered in today's webinar.

After a question and answer session, Tyson will demonstrate how to access block group level data in our data dissemination platforms, data.census.gov.

Please note that for the question and answer session, we will give priority for questions to journalists who are preparing news stories for this release. We ask that others who ask questions hold them until the second round of Q&A, which will follow the data.census.gov block group demonstration.

Next Tuesday the 2015 to 2019 ACS 5-year data will be available for early access in embargo ahead of the public release next Thursday. These estimates cover the 2015 - 2019 time period for all geographic areas regardless of population size.

Our media embargo will be available Tuesday, December the 8th, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. Also available through our embargo site for approved media will be products on data.census.gov.

Please visit the press kit link provided on this slide to find the 5-year data products available for media.

Our public release will be Thursday, December 10 at 12:01 Eastern Standard Time. This will include all 5-year products such as the comparison profiles, subject tables, publications and visualizations.

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Also released on the 10th will be our narrative profiles that are available through the ACS Web site. Existing tools, like the API, QuickFacts and My Tribal Area will be updated with the new 5-year data.

Specific for this 5-year release we have products that highlight a few of the more than 40 social, economic, housing and demographic topics, including education, income, poverty, gross rent and language characteristics, with a focus on comparison of three sets of non-overlapping years, which are 2005 - 2009, 2010 - 2014 and 2015 - 2019. Topics will include income, poverty, education and home ownership.

To highlight 5-year trends, we will have several interactive visualization tools that will show data at the county level. Please note the visualization on the screen is from the 2019 1-year ACS release since we cannot yet reveal 5-year data.

While the focus right now is on our 5-year release, I want to take the opportunity to promote several products that will be coming out soon that are also part of this data release event.

The 2015 - 2019 ACS 5-year public use microdata samples, or PUMs, in various replicate estimate tables will be available on January the 14th, 2021.

The ACS PUM files are a set of untabulated records about individual people or housing units. PUMs data are made available to data users at the nations, regions, states and public use microdata areas, referred to as PUMDAs, geographic levels.

PUMDAs are non-overlapping geographies which contain at least 100,000 people. These files allow data users to create custom tables that are not available through pre-tabulated ACS data products.

Some data can be found on the Census Bureau's file transfer protocol for FTP server or through the microdata tool available on data.census.gov.

Finally the variance replicate estimate tables allow data users to calculate margins of error, which include the co-variance terms when combining ACS estimates within a table or between geographies.

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Now let me turn it over to Charles who will tell you more about the American Community Survey and next week's release on December the 10th. Over to you, Charles.

Charles Gamble: Thank you, Leslie. As stated, my name is Charles Gamble and I work in the American Community Survey Office's - Outreach and Education Branch.

So before we dive into information on the release coming next week on December 10, I first want to go over some basics about the American Community Survey for maybe some of those who aren't as familiar with the survey itself.

And I also want to point out that while I am speaking, if you have any questions, the chat feature is open and please put any of your chat questions in the chat box and we have staff standing by to help you with any questions you may have.

All right. So first, the American Community Survey is the nation's most current, reliable and accessible data source for local statistics on critical playing topics. The survey samples approximately 3.5 million addresses. And these data are collected continuously throughout the year to produce annual social, economic, housing and demographic estimates.

The data collected by the ACS is also used to distribute more than \$675 billion of federal government spending each year as well as countless non-federal uses.

The estimates derived from the ACS cover more than 40 topics, which include veterans, community, education, income and much more. And I'll be actually covering more ACS topics on the next slide.

We also release three different estimates each year in the form of 1-year estimates for geographic areas with a larger population of 65,000 or more or 1-year supplement estimates for geographic areas of the population of 20,000 or more and our 5-year estimates for geographic areas of all sizes, including small population groups.

Now the content collected by the American Community Survey can be grouped into four main type of characteristics. So we have our social, our demographic, economic and housing. So let's take a quick look and dive into these categories.

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Under social characteristics, we have topics which include disability status, education, language spoken at home and others. The American Community Survey also collects basic demographics characteristics such as sex, age, race and Hispanic origin.

Economic characteristics include such topics such as commuting to work, employment status, income and others.

And housing characteristics include topics such as computer Internet use, housing costs, vehicles available and more.

Now these topics are used to produce more than 1,000 tables each year and they power countless news stories every day. And we do want to send a special thank you to our media partners who use ACS data to power their stories every day as well.

So in addition to the 40 plus topics that ACS collects data on, another strength of the ACS is the number of geographies available. The ACS provides data from a national level all the way to your local community.

Our survey provides data for more geographies on an annual basis than any other household survey. Now the 5-year data release includes more than 579,000 geographic areas.

And these geographic areas even go as granular to the census tract and block group levels. And there are 87 different summary levels available for the 5-year estimates.

Now unlike the 1-year ACS releases, geographies in the 5-year release do not have a particular population threshold in order to be published. So geographies included in the 5-year release consist of the nation, all states, which include DC and Puerto Rico, all metropolitan areas, all Congressional Districts within the 116th Congress, all counties and places, all tract and block groups.

And I will say block groups are the smallest level of geography produced by the American Community Survey.

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Now let's go over some guidance specifically for the 5-year estimates. So first it's important to understand the concept of period estimates because all ACS estimates are in fact just that, period estimates.

So period estimates describe the characteristics of an area over a specific time period, not a single point in time like the decennial census.

In the case of the ACS 1-year estimates, the period is 12 months. The estimates in the 5-year release are pulled together across 60 months to create 5-year data. And 5-year estimates are not an average of the 1-year ACS estimates.

Now the release of the 5-year data is next week will describe the population and housing characteristics from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019.

After the data are pooled together, they are updated with geographic boundaries of the last year of the period, which in our case with this year's 5-year release will be 2019 and then assign the appropriate weights to produce population and housing estimates.

Weights are adjusted using population and housing total controls for age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, which are derived from the Census Bureau's population estimates program.

Also income and dollar estimates are then adjusted for inflation based on the most recent year of the period. Meaning The latest 5-year estimates releasing next week are adjusted to 2019 dollars.

Now a question you may be asking is when should I be using 5-year estimates? That's a great question. So you want to use 5-year estimates when no 1-year or 1-year supplement estimate is available.

So please remember 1-year estimates cover geographic areas with a population greater than or equal to 65,000 or there are supplemental tables available for populations of 20,000 or more.

But if you're seeking a geography that does not meet these population thresholds, you would then need to rely on the 5-year estimates.

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Another instance when you will want to use the 5-year estimates is when the margins of error for the annual estimates are larger than desired. So a margin of error is a measure of sampling variability that is presented along with all ACS estimates.

So for example 5-year estimates are helpful when analyzing small population groups because the higher margins of error are associated with them.

Also if you are comparing several geographies and one or more of those geographies do not receive 1-year estimates, let's say due to the small population size, you will have to use 5-year estimates to compare those geographies.

Now another area I like to point out is comparing 5-year estimates. So if you're actually interested in comparing 5-year data, we encourage you to make comparisons only with non-overlapping data.

So this year you can compare the 2015 - 2019 5-year data with 2010 - 2014 5-year data. So these non-overlapping data sets will allow you to compare unique data.

Also only compare estimates of the same dataset. So, for example, compare 1-year with 1-year and 5-year with other 5-year non-overlapping data. So please do not compare 1-year estimates with 5-year estimates.

As stated on the previous slide, 5-year estimates are helpful when comparing across geographies because all geographies are represented in the 5-year estimates as opposed to the 1-year where there's a population threshold of at least 65,000 on geographies.

For example, all counties are available in the 5-year regardless of the population size. And this cannot be said for the 1-year estimates.

Similarly 5-year estimates are also great for making comparisons across sub-populations, such as ancestry and language groups.

I'd also like to point out, and toot our own horn so to speak, that with the 5-year release next week, the ACS has reached the milestone of releasing three non-overlapping 5-year datasets.

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So we now have the 2005 - 2009, the 2010 - 2014 and the 2015 - 2019 5-year datasets. So this allows for clean trend data for small groups and small geographies.

So next week on our release date, the Census Bureau will publish an ACS America Counts story highlighting this very achievement.

And one more note, when making comparisons percent estimates are often more reliable than the count estimates they are based on. When a population estimate or program estimate is available, such as the total population or number of females in a county, the population estimates program estimate is the official value and preferred.

However, ACS count estimates may also be compared if the needs of the data user requires it.

So that wraps up the basics of the American Community Survey and the 5-year estimates.

So let's look at what's been updated for this new 5-year release coming next week.

So before we discuss the set of tables, data users should know that there were two major changes to content that impacted data products.

So first we have the question for relationship to household was updated based on the results from the 2016 American Community Survey content test. The content test itself periodically reviews the content of the ACS to ensure the survey stays relevant as society changes and federal agency data needs evolve.

The ACS now collects specific information about whether a household member is the opposite sex spouse, opposite sex unmarried partner, same sex spouse or same sex unmarried partner of the householder.

Collection of this detailed information addresses no data quality issues and improves the measurement of same sex couple households.

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In addition to the new detailed information regarding spouse and unmarried partner households, the ACS no longer includes the roomer/border category. As a result, tables for this topic have been updated to reflect this change.

All tables that include relationship to householder have been similarly updated. Data users may refer to the link at the bottom of the slide for the full list of modified tables.

And the data user should refer to the user note titled “Revisions to the relationship to household item” for more details. And you can actually find the user note at the bottom link on this slide.

Second, multiple categories for means of transportation were updated in 2019 as shown on this slide. Consequently the vast majority of the tables that were modified under Topic 08 were modified so that row labels now use the updated categories.

To learn more about changes for this topic, please refer to the user note titled “Changes to the means of transportation question.” And you can find the user note at the link on the bottom of this slide as well.

Subsequent slides about specific new, modified and deleted tables will cover greater details about products impacted by the means of transportation and relationship to householder updates.

Now that we've covered content changes, let's discuss changes to specific data products.

So this year we have the four new detailed tables covering household and families, the foreign-born population and quality measures. We also have one new subject table for health insurance.

With the household and families Table B11008 provides information about cohabiting couples that reside with children under 18 and never married, consisting of biological children, stepchildren or adopted children of the householder.

B11012 shows the presence of relatives and own children under 18 years by the following types of households, married couple, cohabiting couple, female householder and no spouse or partner present and male householder, no spouse or partner present.

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For the foreign born population, Table B05015 provides data for the year of entry among the foreign born population for the nine largest country of birth groups.

This table shows data for year of entry 2010 or later and for year of entry before 2010.

And for quality measures, we've added a new quality of measures table, Table B98003, Unweighted Total Population Sample. This is a new table available for nation, states, counties and places.

So if you are interested in the information provided on each of these slides, please use the Web address below to access these tables.

In addition to new tables for this year's release we also have modifications that cover a wide variety of topics.

So first regarding quality measures, improved disclosure avoidance has also been applied to Tables B98001 and B98002.

For the foreign-born population, five additional country of birth groups were added to Table B05006 and their row label was updated from Macedonia to North Macedonia.

Now regarding educational attainment, Subject Table S1501 now includes the estimates for high school graduate or higher and bachelor's degree or higher for the total, male and female population 25 years and older.

So earlier we noted that multiple categories for means of transportation were updated in 2019. As a result most of the tables beginning with IDs listed here had rows modified to reflect the new categories.

For example Detailed Table B08006 now shows updated categories such as long distance train or commuter rail and work from home.

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The full list of modified tables is too numerous to show on the slide, but data users can refer to the table and geography changes page link at the bottom of the slide for the full list of affected tables.

Now there were a number of tables that were also modified to incorporate the new data collected from the updated relationship to householder question. Some tables had changes to family and non-family lines.

Rows in Detail Table B09005 for family and non-family households were eliminated. A row for cohabiting couple household was added.

Detail Tables B09019 and B09020 were modified to no longer differentiate between people living in family and non-family households.

Other tables had changes to spouse and partner lines. Rows were added to B09019, B11009 and B12504 to provide more detailed data for spouse and partner estimates.

Table B13004 was modified to focus on the presence of a spouse or partner in the household rather than on a marital status.

On the previous slide, we noted that the title for B11009 had been updated. The next two slides show the full list of tables that had changes to titles in 2019 by topic and table ID for households and families, fertility and journey to work. And as you can see, Journey to work titles were modified to remove “leaving home” and “from home”.

And for our last update on content, we have four tables that will no longer be available starting this year. So B00001 and B00002 have been deleted for this year.

Data users can use B98003 and B98001 as alternatives. For more information about these changes, refer to the user note titled Discontinuation of Tables B00001 and B00002 and K200001 and K200002.

Now Detail Tables B09008 has also been deleted and Table B09021 is available as an alternate for that table.

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Now most of the table modifications this year were related to the updates to the relationship to householder as well as changes and means of transportation. You can access the full list of the 5-year table changes on our Web site by finding the link provided on the bottom of this slide.

All right. So let's move into what data products are available for next week's release and how to actually access the 2015 to 2019 5-year data.

Before we specifically dive into how to access the data, let's first go over the products that will be made available for the 5-year release. So on the slide the number in parenthesis that's next to the product name is the number of products available in this release.

The data profile shows those estimates and percentages for a particular geography on a variety of topics in one table.

There are four profiles for social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics and a social characteristic profile for Puerto Rico. So that will give us five data profiles.

Comparison profiles, which are identical to data profiles but offer comparisons of data profile estimates across different ACS years, provide side-by-side data from two different 5-year periods so for example comparing 2015 - 2019 versus 2010 - 2014. This product allows you to compare estimates over time.

Subject tables, also like data profiles, but these tables include more detailed ACS data classified by topic. So these tables are topic specific.

And detailed tables, which contain estimates and margins of errors are only organized by topic and are the most detailed tables in the products package.

All the products I just covered will be made available through data.census.gov. Other products such as the narrative profiles can be found on the actual ACS Web site at census.gov/acs and will be made available on Thursday, December 10.

Also on December 10, data tools like the Census API, QuickFacts and My Tribal Area will contain 2015 - 2019 5-year ACS data.

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The Census Business Builder Tool will also be refreshed with the 5-year ACS data in early January.

Now as you all may know, data.census.gov is the primary platform to access data from the Census Bureau. So it will actually include data for the next week's release coming up on December 10.

And data.census.gov will contain most of the data products and data that you seek. So later in today's webinar, Tyson Weister will demonstrate how to access the 2019 5-year data using data.census.gov as well as show you how to find the more granular levels of geography such as block groups available in the 5-year data.

You can also visit the link at the bottom of the slide to find resources on data.census.gov such as FAQs, how to materials, video tutorials and much more.

And then this Web page, that's a great resource for learning how to use data.census.gov and the other tools associated with it like the microdata tool.

As you may recall just two slides ago I did mention the narrative profiles. So I want to point out that this product will be available on release day. But the difference is narrative profiles are not made available in data.census.gov. However these profiles are made available on the ACS Web site.

So to provide some context, the 5-year narrative profiles is one of our more popular products. And it is a pre-generated report that describes a geographic area by providing text as well as graphics for roughly 15 different ACS topics.

So if wanted, a user can choose to produce a report on all 15 topics or simply subset topics for their reflected geographies.

Narrative profiles help novice users to interpret the data they actually find. And on this slide are some topic examples of what can be found in narrative profiles.

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And you may notice that these images have the 2014 - 2018 5-year data. But On Thursday, December 10, the narrative profiles will be updated to the 2015 - 2019 5-year data. And also a link to where narrative profiles can be found is provided here at the bottom of the slide.

So we mentioned about the 5-year summary file being available next week during our embargo period, but the summary file is a tool that is available to all users on the official release day of December 10.

So the summary file includes estimates and margins of error from all the detailed tables and geographies that are published for the ACS in a downloadable format.

The summary file contains all ACS detail tables and comma delimited text files. And tables are stored in what we call sequences, which are basically series of files that have been merged together to construct one complete table.

You can access the data as well as supporting documentation for the summary file by visiting our Web site at the link provided on the slide.

And if you try to access the summary files during the embargo period, which is for approved media only, you will need to access it through the press kit link that was actually provided earlier when Leslie was talking and it was provided on Slide 4.

Another tool available to access ACS data is the API, which stands for the application programming interface. So this tool presents data in a standardized way. And by standardizing the API query language across multiple datasets, the learning curve for developers is reduced.

So researchers and developers from both inside and outside Census actually use the API because of its simple format and use the API to access Census Bureau data within programs and applications.

So with the API you can select any variable and multiple datasets and place in a raw format for the format of your choice.

Now the API includes many Census Bureau datasets including the ACS 1-year and 5-year datasets as well as the ACS and migration flows and supplemental data.

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To learn more about the API, you can view our webinar titled, Using the Census API with the American Community Survey on the ACS Web site. And that can actually be found at the bottom link on the slide as well.

Now earlier I mentioned several of our data tools will also be updated with the 2015 - 2019 ACS 5-year data. So QuickFacts and My Tribal Area are scheduled to be updated on Thursday, December 10.

So QuickFacts is a quick, which hence the name, and easy-to-use application that shows tables, maps and charts of our most frequently requested information for more than 10 census surveys and programs.

And QuickFacts does provide data for geographic areas with populations of 5,000 or more.

My Tribal Area has a similar look and feel of My Congressional District for those of you who have used that tool. But My Tribal Area gives 5-year ACS characteristic estimates for tribal areas across the U.S.

So if you're looking for data on areas such as tribal reservations, trust land, et cetera, this is a good tool to use to find information quickly.

Also in January we will have the 2015 - 2019 ACS data implemented into the Census Business Builder.

And actually let me explain the Census Business Builder a little bit more. The Business Builder is actually a mapping tool geared towards users needing data to help start or grow a business or to better understand areas of a businesses landscape.

So there are two editions of Census Business Builder. We have a small edition as well as a regional analyst edition.

You can actually access these tools and more by visiting [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) and then clicking on explore data and then click data tools and apps. And we did provide that link for you at the bottom of the slide.

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All right. So now we've discussed the products for this release and where you can find them, I would also like to show you where you can find some helpful information and documentation about the ACS.

The best place to find information on the ACS is from the ACS Web site at census.gov/acs. The tabs at the left of the home page as shown on the slide will help guide you through the many different sections of the Web site. And this includes news and updates, data, guidance for data users, technical documentation and so on.

Speaking of the ACS Web site, I do want to take a moment to highlight a few useful pages for the actual data release.

So the data releases section under news and updates provides a variety of information specific for this release all in one place, such as the release schedule and the table changes that we covered a bit earlier. And we also point out what's new and notable for each release in the section as well.

Another notable section on the ACS Web site is the section containing the ACS Handbooks.

Handbooks are provided in PDF format and are downloadable. Each handbook is directed towards a specific audience and contains how to instructions for using data in different ways or for different reasons.

And each handbook also contains case studies showing actual instances of the American Community Survey data and how it was used by specific audiences that are specified in the handbook.

I would like to note that the staff had recently worked very diligently to update the handbooks. And all handbooks but one have been updated. And the remaining handbook, which is the American Indian Alaska Native, is nearing completion as well.

We also have a number of training presentations. And each presentation contains a video of a training along with a copy of the PowerPoint slides and a transcript of the presentation.

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So the training presentations are a great way to train yourself or others on specific topics as they relate to the American Community Survey.

Our training presentations cover a variety of topics, including the introduction to the ACS, using the Census API with the ACS. And you can also view our 2019 1-year prerelease webinar that was performed back in September for the 2019 1-year release.

Next is our technical documentation page. In the left navigation bar there is a list of important documentation that will help you better understand the ACS data, including code lists, definitions and accuracy.

This page contains details codes and definitions for variables, statistical testing and an explanation of sample design, methodology and accuracy of the survey.

We also have a table on geography changes. And this page covers changes to tables and geography for each data release.

And we also have a table shells and table list. Now this allows you to view the layout of ACS tables with estimates of margins of errors filled in as well as a list of containing information about each table, such as the table IDs, table titles, the table universe and so on.

Now since the ACS questions and content do change over time, if you are interested in making comparisons, please refer to the comparison guidance documentation on the ACS Web site.

Comparisons over time become tricky because of the questionnaire changes and different universe definitions. So when trying to make comparisons, it is important to reference this page first to make sure the data you are interested in should actually be compared.

For example, the definitions for urban and rural change every 10 years. So they are different in 2011 to 2015 than they were in the 2006 to 2010 data. Now it is suggested that you use caution when making past year comparisons.

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On that note, when you are using ACS data and making comparisons between years or between geographies, we also want you to know that certain estimates are statistically different from one another. With that said, we provide the statistical testing tool to help you out.

So the tool can be found under the guidance for data users section then by selecting the statistical testing tool on the left navigation.

For media, a link will actually be provided in the press kit. And once again the press kit link is on Slide 4. And now I'll turn it back over to Leslie for our first round of questions.

Leslie Malone: Thanks, Charles. Before we take questions, I want to let you know that today's presentation will be available very shortly through the press kit section of the newsroom on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov/newsroom).

An archived version of this webinar and transcript will also be posted within the next few days.

Now we're going to pause and take questions before we move onto our next topic on how to access block group data on data.census.gov.

First, we'll take calls from media. We ask that you state your name and media affiliation when you ask your question. We want to give all media an opportunity. Therefore we will allow one question with one follow-up.

And with that, operator, let's open the line for questions.

Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin the question...

Leslie Malone: Sorry, operator.

Coordinator: We will now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1, unmute your phone and record your name clearly. Your name is required to introduce your question.

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If you need to withdraw your question, press star 2. Again to ask a question, please press star 1.

Leslie Malone: While we wait for questions, we invite you to stay in touch by telling us how you use data from the American Community Survey.

For example, have you or your organization used the ACS to make an important decision, help your community or expand a business?

Please visit the link at the bottom to share your story and explore how data enthusiasts across the country are using ACS data in creative ways.

Recently we highlighted how the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation in Indiana uses ACS data to identify populations in need to better allocate their grant funding. Your stories highlight the value of the American Community Survey.

We also want to let you know about the ACS Data Users Group. The ACS Data Users Group is a great way to learn from your peers about how to use ACS data for all kinds of applications.

Membership is free and open to all interested data users. There are currently more than 2,700 group members. Also you can learn more about the ACS Data Users Group Conference scheduled for May 19 through 20, 2021.

Please visit the Data Group Users Web site at acsdatacommunity.prb.org for more information. The deadline for submitting abstracts is coming up on Monday, December the 14th.

As we begin our question and answer session, please remember to speak clearly. Since we are completely virtual, we ask that you try your best to limit background noise.

Operator, are there any questions queued at this time?

Coordinator: Yes. Our first question comes from Jordan Bailey, freelance reporter. Your line is now open.

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Jordan Bailey: Hello. Thank you. I was curious if the new 5-year dataset will be available to use through the microdata custom table tool? And I also was curious if - you might not be able to go into this right now but for any guidance on how to determine margin of error using that tool. Thanks.

Tyson Weister: Hi. This is Tyson Weister. I work on the communications team for data.census.gov as well as the microdata access on data.census.gov\mdat. With this 5-year release, the focus of today is on the aggregate tables. The microdata is coming up in a future release that will be included in that.

Currently on MDAT we don't have the ability to calculate margins of error on the site. But you can use the raw files from the STP site that the ACS puts out and calculate the margins of error using your own statistical software.

Jordan Bailey: Thanks.

Leslie Malone: Operator, do we have additional questions?

Coordinator: I'm showing no further questions at this time.

Leslie Malone: Thank you. And please remember you can also use the chat box to ask any questions.

We'll have another Q&A session at the end of today's webinar. But now let's move into our next section, using data.census.gov.

Presenting this section and providing the walkthrough of data.census.gov as well as resources for this tool is Tyson Weister from the Center for Enterprise Dissemination. Over to you, Tyson.

Tyson Weister: Great. Thank you. And thank you all so much for sticking around for the demo on data.census.gov. We're going to show today how to access data at the block group level using our site.

And specifically we're going to pull up some data for King County, have a good look at sex by age for all block groups in King County, Washington. But before we get there just in case a block group or census tract is new to you, to kind of supplement what we've kind of talked about already, of course, it

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is the lowest level of geography from American Community Survey and the closest equivalent to getting data at the neighborhood level.

But to help visualize that, we've handpicked a couple of those geographies from King County. If you've ever visited the Space Needle, you've actually been in the census tract and block group that's shown on the screen here.

So on the left-hand side, you're looking at Census Tract 71. Based on population they have about 1,200 to 8,000 people in a particular census tract. And then each census tract is subdivided into one or more block groups.

In this case you're looking at Census Tract 71 having Block Group 1. And Block Group 2, Block Group 2 being stated on the screen here.

Those block groups having generally speaking between 600 to 3,000 people. Another way of looking at this is through the equation on the right-hand side, where you can see that the population of Block Group 1 and Block Group 2 total to the population of the census tract.

So let's go ahead and show you some tips on how you can access this on data.census.gov. On the live site here, we are going to pull up - you'll put in your URL, data.census.gov, and press center.

And we do recommend using Google Chrome. Before I get started, just a couple of notes. We do have block group data on the site from the 2009 to 2013 ACS 5-year vintage and future releases.

I do have a step by step slide that goes through the process that is working. You will have that as a resource to look at. And then we'll be using data from the 2018 for this demonstration, but the 2019 data have not been released just yet.

So if you want to look at sex by age for all block groups in King County, the first steps to downloading is to find your data table and then you'll add your geography and download the data.

My favorite place to start this process is to click on the advance search link. And then this will take you to our page on the left-hand side. You can use these filters to start your search process and add in criteria to help find the table it is that you're looking for.

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You're always looking for a check box as a final selection. Any words and phrases without check boxes give you more detailed options to choose from. And if you want that block group data, you want to go ahead and specify the American Community Survey to help narrow your results.

You can click on survey on the left-hand side and look for ACS 5-year estimate detailed tables. The detailed tables are the only ACS table types that are available at the block group level.

So narrowing that down right up front helps get you where you need to go. You will check the box and see it has been added to the bottom of your screen as a selected filter.

Next you can go ahead and specify your year to make sure you're getting the most recent data. Just click years on the left. I'm going to choose 2018 for this demonstration. Of course, you will choose 2019 next week.

And then we can add in a topic. I wanted age and sex data. So we'll click on topics. I see populations and people. And then I see a check box for age and sex.

Coordinator: Bear with us. I think we may be having some technical difficulties.

Tyson Weister: All right. I am back on. I'm so sorry about that. The call dropped for whatever reason so let me get my screen share back on as well.

Okay. So I had left off with selecting these three different search criteria. It's at the bottom of my screen as selected filters. And once you're happy with what you have, again, right now we're just trying to find the data table. We click search in the lower right and then tables in the upper left.

And then once you've gotten here, you get different results you can look through. You can click through the different table titles to show what data that has to offer.

In this case the very first table title, sex by age, has what it is we're looking for, total population as well as the total number of males, and there is breakout as well as females and their age breakout.

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Now we haven't specific a geography so we'll get data for the United States to start, but we can add in our block groups for King County. You just click on the filter button on the left-hand side and you will see a filter for geography.

So we'll go ahead and click that. We want data for block groups in King County so we choose block groups. And then we fill out the prompts. Choose our State of Washington. Choose King County Washington. And then you'll see the check box, all block groups within King County, Washington.

Check the box. And as I mark that, the background tables are being updated. So we go ahead and click the chevron in the upper right that says done once we're done selecting our geography.

Now the reason that we waited until the end to select the geography, in this case the table is too large to display on screen due to the number of geographies that we've selected but it gives us the option to download.

Now we already know this table has information we're interested in. So the process to download is very straightforward. Click download table. Confirm the year 2018 and then choose download.

You'll want to let the progress bar load up to 100% and click on download now. And, of course, you'll be using Google Chrome so you'll have this ZIP file in the lower left of your browser and you'll just click on that once to open up that ZIP file.

And then from here you just want to open up the file that has data with overlays in the naming convention. I'll double click it to open it up. And you'll get a file that looks like this.

Each geography has its own row. And as you follow across the row, we can see data for that geography for a total, the margin of error. And all of the other nice estimates that you saw on the table display of data.census.gov are here in a raw format without any special formatting or indentation.

This is a great file format if you want to map or source the data off of the site.

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So with that, let's go ahead and talk about some final notes before we open it back up for questions. One thing you may have noticed on the site there is a check box that seems to allow you to check all the block groups in a state, as you can see all block groups in Washington.

We are still working on the technical aspect to enable that for ACS data tables. Right now it works for 2010 decennial tables only. If you try to use it for ACS, what this means is that you will get a download failed error message.

But the workaround is pretty easy. You just use the lower level county based selections. So you can see in the middle of my screen, I have a selection filled out for all block groups within Washington's 39 counties.

And even better yet, we put together an FAQ. If you visit the link at the bottom, you can just click on that link and you'll have a quick link to your state with all of the block groups in each county for your state already filled in for you. That will take you to the advanced search page.

Another item of note for block groups, you can search for a block group associated with a particular address. And an easy-to-use tool is the Census Bureau's geocoder. The link at the bottom also has an FAQ that walks through this process step by step in case you need assistance finding your block group.

What we show today is the official way to access data. We're only continuing to make it better and better based on your feedback. So please let us know how we can improve by emailing us at cedsci.feedback@census.gov.

And what we showed today was a very focused demonstration on accessing ACS data at the block group level.

For more educational materials, visit the link in the upper left for a comprehensively set of resources in a variety of formats that walk through how to use the site.

And with that, we'll go ahead and transition back over to Leslie.

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Leslie Malone: Thank you, Tyson. We have a few more minutes for questions. We'd also like to open up the line for non-media questions at this time. When you ask your question, we ask that you state your name and affiliation for (outlet).

Because we want to give everybody an opportunity, we will allow just one question and one follow-up per caller. As a reminder, please remember to speak clearly and limit background noise if possible.

Operator, please start queueing the calls.

Coordinator: Thank you. And as a reminder, please press star 1, unmute your phone and record your name if you have a question. And if you need to withdraw, press star 2.

Our first question comes from Mitsuko Herrera. Your line is now open.

Mitsuko Herrera: Thank you. I am with Montgomery County, Maryland. I think that were responses to my question put into the chat.

But just generally looking at the broadband and Internet data at the census block group level, what we're trying to do is to be able to correlate the number - so if we have the dataset, the number of households that don't have broadband at home or the projection.

What we're looking to do is to drill down and determine by census block group in that block group what percentage of those respondents who don't have broadband are Latino, Black or have children under 18, are over 64 or low income?

And what we're looking to do is to figure out how do we - is there a way to access that data so that - we've been using it in mapping to sort of target where we're adding more public wi-fi in libraries that are serving those block groups.

So what we're trying to do is to find ways to drill down into that data.

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Gretchen: Hi. Thank you for your question. This is Gretchen from the American Community Survey Office. I think it would be best if we could connect you with one of our subject matter experts offline.

And I'll put our email address in the chat. It's acso.users.support@census.gov. And we can connect you with our subject matter folks who work on the broadband Internet.

Mitsuko Herrera: Great. Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Ping Lu). Your line is now open. Our next question comes from Anthony DeLucia from East Tennessee State University. Your line is now open.

Anthony DeLucia: Thank you. Can you hear me?

Tyson Weister: Yes.

Anthony DeLucia: Okay. I'm kind of on the learning curve with geography. And I will download some of these tables. And there are so many columns in them that when I add them to my maps that I've downloaded from (prior) files, I won't be able to do a join and relate with all the columns. And I was wondering if there were any universal style templates that get rid of the MOEs.

Because that's so many columns and it takes me a lot of time to have to go wipe those out. Now there may be some people who know how to do that with macros, but it seems like something Census could be doing because there's so many tables just with a push of a button to get rid of that stuff when you're making the downloads.

Tyson Weister: Hi. This is Tyson. So from the perspective of data.census.gov and the downloads that you get, we currently don't have the functionality on the site that allows for customizations to carryover in the download output.

There is another file format that allows for customizations. And that's the export but that will give you output similar to what you see onscreen. So I would recommend checking out the export functionality. Otherwise, it's great feedback and a good example of things that we like to have submitted to us at cedsci.feedback@census.gov.

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Anthony DeLucia: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Francisco Valle with Valle Consulting. Your line is now open.

Francisco Valle: Thank you. Thank you for this wonderful presentation as well as the information that you provide.

My question is can I use these tables directly that can be produced through all of these different Web sites into a book? And how do I provide the credits?

Gretchen: Hi, Francisco. This is Gretchen. Thank you for your question and thank you for using our data. You can use our information in your book. I think everything is open and available. And we do appreciate if you can source - I think we do have a slide - if you can source the dataset that you're using.

So if this one, you would say 2015 to 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimate. But whatever type of format you're using, if you can at least give credit to the Census Bureau, we would greatly appreciate that.

Francisco Valle: Okay. So nothing has changed then from before, right, pretty much.

Gretchen: In terms of being able to use our work in your books?

Francisco Valle: Yes.

Gretchen: Yes. I think that's always been a standard that you can use our data in your publications.

Francisco Valle: Thank you very much.

Gretchen: Thank you.

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Francisco Valle: And happy holidays.

Tyson Weister: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Kia McDermick) from the County of Riverside. Your line is now open.

(Kia McDermick): Thank you. I have one question is how can I download all the places within the County of Riverside rather than go through before - I tried. I can only download, we think, California, but I want to query one more deeper level. How can I do that?

Tyson Weister: Thank you for your question. This is Tyson from the data.census.gov team. We do not have the functionality on the site for you to get that information specifically at the county level. You would have to download data for all places in California and then pull out the places that you actually need.

Again, another great suggestion that can be submitted to cedsci.feedback@census.gov for future consideration and improvement.

(Kia McDermick): Thank you.

Coordinator: I'm showing no further questions at this time.

Leslie Malone: Thank you, operator. We want to make sure that you know about our information resources around the country. We have a network of data specialists who can arrange free training or provide data assistance.

Members of the media may contact our public information office for more information.

Non-media may use the phone number or email address on this slide. We also have a network of state data centers in every state who can help you understand local census data and Census Information Centers, a network of nonprofit, national and community groups that help populations access the data.

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You can find these on our Web site at census.gov/sdc.

If you have additional questions following today's webinar, please contact us using the information on this slide. You can also connect with us by subscribing to our email alerts where we share important information about our data releases, visiting our Web site at census.gov/acs.

Media, please check to make sure your embargo password has not expired. The embargo data will be posted at 10:00 a.m. next Tuesday, December the 8th. Contact PIO for questions related to the embargo.

If you have additional questions or wish to arrange interviews on the topics covered in today's news conference, don't hesitate to call the Census Bureau's Public Information Office at the number or reach us at the email listed onscreen.

Also don't forget to source us in your articles so readers know that your stories are powered by ACS data. You can see how to source us on the screen.

You can also visit census.gov to sign up for email alerts about upcoming product releases. Additional information about the American Community Survey and this release can be found in our press kit. Please see census.gov and click on latest news.

And finally we ask that you please fill out the evaluation form. We want to ensure that these sessions are helpful for you. Please check the webinar chat box to easily access the links. If you don't see the chat box, you can find the evaluation linked on this slide.

As we conclude, we'll leave this last slide up so you'll have the necessary information to complete the evaluation.

And this wraps up today's webinar. Thanks to everyone who joined us today and a special thank you to Charles and Tyson and the whole ACS team behind the scenes.

As a reminder, the data we discussed today are embargoed beginning December the 8th until Thursday, December the 10th. We look forward to next week's release and we look forward to your use of ACS data.

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I'm Leslie Malone and thanks again for joining us.

END