

2/26/2014

## **American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 Content Review**

Jim Treat, Chief, American Community Survey Office, provided an update to the National Advisory Committee on the ACS Content Review at the December 2013 meetings. A further update will be provided at the March 2014 meetings.

In order to ensure that the American Community Survey (ACS) includes only those questions federal agencies need to accomplish their missions, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) has tasked the Census Bureau to better understand the mandatory and programmatic uses for the information collected by each question on the survey by way of undertaking a Content Review beginning this year. The ultimate objective of this review is to minimize the reporting burden on the 3.5 million U.S. households required to respond to the survey each year. This effort builds on an earlier initiative in 2012 whereby the Office of Management and Budget directed Federal agencies and subagencies to collect and share their uses of ACS data. The attached document represents the results of that activity, reflecting the compilation of the information received following this memo, sorted by Federal agency and subagency. The attachment also includes:

- a plain language description of each use,
- a relevant legal citation,
- the associated ACS topic(s),
- the frequency of use,
- the required geographic level(s), and
- whether the usage is mandatory, required or programmatic (as defined on page 48).

Beginning on page 49 of the attachment, a crosswalk lists each ACS topic mapped to the associated 2013 ACS questionnaire question(s), followed by a copy of the originating memorandum. The Census Bureau will build on this foundation to accomplish a more detailed understanding of the uses of ACS information by Federal agencies and subagencies during the Content Review.

NAC members expressed interest in participating in the Content Review at the December meetings. We look forward to the formation of a Content Review Working Group as a subsequent step following the March meetings.