

Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC)
ACS GQ Working Group Recommendations

Many of the recommendations that the ACS GQ WG had are being implemented via the Group Quarters Working Group Charter.

No.	Recommendation	Source	Owner	Status	Action Plan Steps
1	Do not eliminate the ACS GQ operation	CSAC	Jim Treat	Closed	The GQ program is part of the base ACS program and is refelected in the annual budget. It's contingent upon funding and reevaluated every year based on the budget. Completed for FY13.
2	Senior management support is needed to ensure the work on improving the GQ data continues	CSAC	Jim Treat	Closed	Same as #1.
3	The GQ Forum should begin functioning as a working group	CSAC	Judy Belton	Closed	<p>The transition from GQ Forum to the Group Quarters Working Group (GQWG) took place June 2013. The charter was finalized and signed by division heads in September 2013. The following activities have taken place since the transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · College Dorm subgroup established. While we do not have the resources to conduct focus groups on the definitions, the subgroup meets regularly to discuss data collection issues surrounding this GQ type, and to establish guidelines and procedures that will support the college/university student housing definition. · The GQWG recently submitted a proposal and Customer Requirements Document to improve the Group Quarters Name field on the Master Address File (MAF). This field currently contains information that makes it difficult to determine the GQ in sample. Therefore, this cleanup will provide users and field staff with better information and reduce data collection cost. · GQ Listing and Mapping Application (LiMA) Subgroup. Subgroup established to provide advice to the LiMA stakeholders group as they build LiMA to collect GQ information. LiMA is a new geocoding process that will be fully launched in 2016 to provide automation and a more intuitive interface with data collection instruments.

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3a.	Review if the Inter-Agency Task Force has been helpful in improving ACS GQ Data	CSAC	Judy Belton	Action Required	ACSO ask OEE to ask Barbara Anderson what is the "Inter-Agency Task Force."
4	Updating of the Sampling Frame between Censuses is critical	CSAC	GQ Working Group	Work Beginning 9/2014	This recommendation is part of the charter. The GQ Updates to the MAF team (not under the GQWG umbrella) will begin providing GQ updates to the MAF September 2014.
4a.	Continue ACS cooperation with the Justice Department regarding federal prisons and encourage close cooperation with state prison agencies to improve the sampling frame	CSAC	GQ Working Group	Work Beginning 9/2014	Same response as #3. The GQ Updates to the MAF team (not under the GQWG umbrella) will begin providing GQ updates to the MAF September 2014.
4b.	Encourage cooperation with state agencies that monitor GQ facilities to improve the sampling frame	CSAC	GQ Working Group	Work in Progress	Same response as #3.
5	Information on change of GQ Type and on shifts between GQ/non-GQ status should be used to update the sampling frame · Analyses of changes in GQ Type and GQ/non-GQ shifts would be informative	CSAC	DSSD	Work in Progress	We update the GQ frame annually with type code corrections identified during ACS GQ data collection activities. We've been removing the HU/GQ conversions to remove them from the frame and now we are working on how to add them to the correct frame.
6	The PUMS file should have an imputation tag for an entire imputed GQ respondent and for specific imputed variables	CSAC	DSSD	Work in Progress	Currently there is no flag for the whole imputed records since the weighted estimates without the imputed records are not valid. In addition, by not distinguishing them, it helps augment our disclosure avoidance procedures for the GQ population.
6a.	There should be consideration of whether there is a maximum number of times a particular respondent is used for imputation	CSAC	DSSD	Work in Progress	DSSD regularly monitors the frequency of how often a donor is used in the imputation. This will allow us to assess if the frequency becomes high enough to bring data quality into question.
7	Weighting - Continue with the new imputation procedure for data when Census knows a GQ exists in the area	CSAC	DSSD	Work in Progress	We intend to continue the current procedure, given the many benefits it provides.

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8	The requirements for the two main ACS data users (small geographic areas and PUMS microdata) should be considered by the new ACS DUG	CSAC	ACS	Work in Progress	Anyone can join the online community at http://www.acsdatausers.org/ and there are various groups that anyone can join to see the dialogue among data users, including groups on "ACS Data for Small Geographic Areas and Population Subgroups" and "ACS Public Use Microdata Sample."
9	Consider having a shorter set of questions on the GQ questionnaire · Maybe only Age, Race and ethnicity should be collected and can these data be obtained from Admin sources	CSAC	Judy Belton	Work in Progress	Research continues. Also, there is a proposal to use administrative records for the 2020 Census. We will work closely with decennial staff on this topic and review lessons learned.
10	Research - Continue research in the areas of changes in GQ Type, between GQ and non-GQ status, and imputation methods, etc.	CSAC	DSSD	Work in Progress	We continue to research how we can provide quality estimates within our current budgetary constraints.