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# American Community Survey Design and Methodology (January 2014)

## Appendix: Glossary



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## Appendix: Glossary

| Term/Acronym       | Description  |
|--------------------|--|
| ACS                | American Community Survey  |
| Address Canvassing | A process for updating addresses and map databases to ensure they are accurate and current. Address canvassing operations require that address listing staff (address listers) travel to every census block to which they are assigned; identify every place where people live, stay, or could live or stay; and verify, correct, add, and delete address records as appropriate while also updating map features on an electronic map provided on a hand-held computer. |
| AFF                | American FactFinder  |
| AIANHH             | American Indian Areas/Alaska Native Areas/Hawaiian Home Lands  |
| AIANSA             | American Indian and Alaska Native Statistical Areas  |
| ALMI               | Automated Listing and Mapping Instrument   |
| Automated Coding   | A process of coding write-in responses using digital means. Written-in responses are keyed into digital data and then matched to a data dictionary. The data dictionary(ies) contain(s) a list of the most common responses, with a code attached to each. The coding program(s) attempt(s) to match the keyed response to an entry in the dictionary to assign a code.  |
| BLAISE             | An open-source scripting software language   |
| BLAISE Instrument  | A computer-assisted interviewing system and survey processing tool that supports interactive data review, editing, and other survey processing tasks   |
| BoP                | Bureau of Prisons  |
| BR                 | Base Rate  |
| BW                 | Base Weight  |
| CAPI               | Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing  |
| CATI               | Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing   |
| CAUS               | Community Address Updating System  |
| CDP                | Census Designated Places   |
| Clerical Coding    | A process of coding write-in responses by trained human coders.  |
| Coverage Error     | <b>See Overcoverage and Undercoverage.</b>   |
| CPS                | Current Population Survey  |
| CQR                | Count Question Resolution  |
| DAAL               | Demographic Area Address Listing   |
| DoD                | Department of Defense  |
| DSF                | Delivery Sequence File   |
| EDS                | Excluded from Delivery Statistics  |
| FAQs               | Frequently Asked Questions   |
| FEFU               | Failed-edit Follow-up  |
| FR                 | Field Representative   |
| FTP                | File Transfer Protocol   |

| <b>Term/Acronym</b>              | <b>Description</b>   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| GPS                              | Global Positioning System  |
| GQ                               | Group Quarters   |
| GQFQ                             | Group Quarters Facility Questionnaire  |
| GQMOS                            | Group Quarters Measure of Size   |
| GQPPSF                           | GQ Person Post-Stratification Factor   |
| GREG                             | Generalized Regression Estimation  |
| GWTF                             | GREG Weighting Factor  |
| HHF                              | Householder Factor   |
| HPF                              | Housing Unit Post-Stratification Factor  |
| HU                               | Housing Unit   |
| IVR                              | Interactive Voice Recognition  |
| KFI                              | Key-from-Image   |
| LACS                             | Locatable Address Conversion Service   |
| LUCA                             | Local Update of Census Addresses   |
| MAF                              | Master Address File  |
| MBF                              | Mode Bias Factor   |
| MCD                              | Minor Civil Divisions  |
| Methods Panel                    | An ongoing research program designed to improve the quality of the estimates, response to the survey, and contain data collection costs of the ACS. It is the vehicle for testing changes before we implement new methods in ACS production. The experimental testing includes proposed new or revised content and proposed enhancements to various data collection methods. |
| MOS                              | Measure of Size  |
| MTdb                             | MAF/TIGER database   |
| NHIS                             | National Health Interview Survey   |
| NIF1                             | HU First Noninterview Adjustment Factor  |
| NIF2                             | HU Second Noninterview Adjustment Factor   |
| NIFM                             | HU Mode Noninterview Adjustment Factor   |
| NPC                              | National Processing Center   |
| OMB                              | Office of Management and Budget  |
| OMR                              | Optical Mark Recognition   |
| Overcoverage                     | Errors that occur due to the inclusion in a sample of elements (for example, addresses) that should not be included  |
| PPSF                             | HU Person Post-Stratification Factor   |
| PRCS                             | Puerto Rico Community Survey   |
| PUMS                             | Public Use Microdata Sample  |
| RO                               | Regional Office  |
| SEMOS                            | Smallest Entity Measure of Size  |
| SIPP                             | Survey of Income and Program Participation   |
| SSF                              | CAPI Subsampling Factor  |
| TDD                              | Telephone Device for the Deaf  |
| ACS Test Counties/<br>Test Sites | Testing to demonstrate the feasibility of conducting the ACS took place from 1996 to 2001. The testing included 36 counties organized into 31 test sites. Most of these sites were single-county   |

| <b>Term/Acronym</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | sites; others consisted of multiple, contiguous counties (such as the ACS test site of Vilas and Oneida Counties, WI). |
| TIGER               | Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing   |
| TMOS                | Tract Measure of Size  |
| TQA                 | Telephone Questionnaire Assistance   |
| UAA                 | Undeliverable as Addressed'  |
| Undercoverage       | Inadequate representation of some elements (for example, members of a population group) in a sample                    |
| USDA                | U.S. Department of Agriculture   |
| USPS                | United States Postal Service   |
| VMS                 | HU Variation in Monthly Sample Factor  |
| WCTYCON             | GQ Weight after the County-level Constraint  |
| WGQPPSF             | GQ Weight after the GQ Person Post-Stratification Factor   |
| WGWTF               | HU Weight after the GREG Weighting Factor  |
| WHHF                | HU Weight after the Householder Factor   |
| WHPF                | HU Weight after the Housing Unit Post-Stratification Factor  |
| WMBF                | HU Weight after the Mode Bias Factor   |
| WNIF1               | HU Weight after the First Noninterview Adjustment  |
| WNIF2               | HU Weight after the Second Noninterview Adjustment   |
| WNIFM               | HU Weight after the Mode Noninterview Adjustment   |
| WPSSF               | HU Person Weight after the Person Post-Stratification Factor   |
| WSSF                | GQ Weight after the CAPI Subsampling Factor  |
| WSTCON              | GQ Weight after the State-level Constraint   |
| WTRCON              | GQ Weight after the Tract-level Constraint   |
| WVMS                | Weight after the Variation in Monthly Sample Factor  |