

ACS Content Review Decision Criteria

Values	Value Criteria	Description	Best Possible	Worst Possible	Scale
Benefit	Number of Uses at Block Group / Tract Level – Statutory *	<p>Number of uses at the block group/ tract level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for block groups or tracts.</p> <p>Statutory is defined as “federal law explicitly calls for use of Census Bureau, decennial census or ACS data on that variable”</p>	5 – Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a statutory requirement.	0 - Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a statutory requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>
	Number of Uses at Block Group / Tract Level – Required *	<p>Number of uses at the block group/ tract level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for block groups or tracts.</p> <p>Required is defined as “A federal law (or implementing regulation) explicitly requires the use of data and the decennial census or the ACS is the historical source; or the data are needed for case law requirements imposed by the U.S. federal court system.”</p>	5 - Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a regulatory requirement.	0 - Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a regulatory requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>
	Number of Uses at Block Group / Tract Level – Programmatic *	<p>Number of uses at the block group/ tract level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for block groups or tracts.</p> <p>Programmatic is defined as “the data are needed for program planning, implementation, or evaluation and there is no explicit mandatory or required requirement.”</p>	5 - Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a programmatic requirement.	0: Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a programmatic requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>

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Values	Value Criteria	Description	Best Possible	Worst Possible	Scale
Benefit	Number of Uses at Place/County/MSA Level – Statutory *	<p>Number of uses at the place level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for places, counties, and MSAs.</p> <p>Statutory is defined as “federal law explicitly calls for use of Census Bureau, decennial census or ACS data on that variable”</p>	5 – Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a statutory requirement.	0 - Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a statutory requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>
	Number of Uses at Place/County/MSA – Required *	<p>Number of uses at the place level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for places, counties, and MSAs.</p> <p>Required is defined as “A federal law (or implementing regulation) explicitly requires the use of data and the decennial census or the ACS is the historical source; or the data are needed for case law requirements imposed by the U.S. federal court system.”</p>	5 - Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a regulatory requirement.	0 - Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a regulatory requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>
	Number of Uses at Place/County/MSA Level – Programmatic *	<p>Number of uses at the place level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for places, counties, and MSAs.</p> <p>Programmatic is defined as “the data are needed for program planning, implementation, or evaluation and there is no explicit mandatory or required requirement.”</p>	5 - Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a programmatic requirement.	0: Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a programmatic requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>

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Values	Value Criteria	Description	Best Possible	Worst Possible	Scale
Benefit	Number of Uses at State/National Level – Statutory *	<p>Number of uses at the national level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for states and the nation.</p> <p>Statutory is defined as “federal law explicitly calls for use of Census Bureau, decennial census or ACS data on that variable”</p>	5 – Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a statutory requirement.	0 - Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a statutory requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>
	Number of Uses at State/National Level – Required *	<p>Number of uses at the national level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for the states and the nation.</p> <p>Required is defined as “A federal law (or implementing regulation) explicitly requires the use of data and the decennial census or the ACS is the historical source; or the data are needed for case law requirements imposed by the U.S. federal court system.”</p>	5 - Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a regulatory requirement.	0 - Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a regulatory requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>
	Number of Uses at State/National Level – Programmatic *	<p>Number of uses at the national level is defined as the number of occasions a Federal agency cited that this variable satisfied the requirement for the states and the nation.</p> <p>Programmatic is defined as “the data are needed for program planning, implementation, or evaluation and there is no explicit mandatory or required requirement.”</p>	5 - Federal agencies cited 10 or more occasions that this variable satisfied a programmatic requirement.	0: Federal agencies cited no occasions that this variable satisfied a programmatic requirement.	<p>5: High (x+), 3: Moderate (x-x), 1: Low (x-x) 0: None (0)</p> <p>(will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)</p>

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Values	Value Criteria	Description	Best Possible	Worst Possible	Scale
Benefit	County-Level Interquartile Range in Values	One “value of interest” will be chosen for each variable (for example percentage of population with high school diploma or percentage of population who are Hispanic) and the inner quartile range of the geographic distribution throughout counties (based on 5-year estimates) will be calculated.	5 – The county-level interquartile range in values is xx or above.	1 – The county-level interquartile range in values is xx or lower.	5: High, 3: Moderate, 1: Low (will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)
	Used to Select Frame for a Federal Survey	This variable is used to select the sampling frame for a Federal survey.	5 – This variable is used to select sampling frame for another survey	0 - This variable is not used to select sampling frame for another survey	5: Yes, 0: No
	Other Data Sources Exist *	Substitute or alternative information on this variable is currently available or could be obtained with minimal effort from another data source.	5 – There are no other data sources that provide data for this variable at the required geographic level.	0 – There is at least one data source that provides data for this variable at the required geographic level and this data source is free from limitations for use for the intended purpose.	5: None, 3: Yes, with many limitations, 1: Yes, with few limitations, 0: Yes, with no limitations
	Median County-Level Coefficients of Variation	One “value of interest” will be chosen for each variable (for example population with a high school diploma or Hispanic population) and the coefficient of variation at the 5-year county-level will be calculated. The median value of all county-level coefficients of variation will be scored.	5: - The median county-level coefficient of variation is xx or below.	1 – The median county-level coefficient of variation is xx or higher.	5: Low, 3: Moderate, 1: High (will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)

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Cost	Interviewer Survey – Cognitive Burden Score	<p>This score is comprised of a “yes” response to any or all of the following questions about this variable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondents find it confusing - Requires probing - Respondents have to retrieve information to answer 	1 – Interviewers reported “yes” on this variable less than 20 percent of the time.	5 – Interviewers reported “yes” on this variable more than 60 percent of the time.	1: Low (<20%), 3: Moderate (20% - 60%), 5: High (>60%)
	Interviewer Survey – Sensitivity Score	<p>This score is comprised of a “yes” response to any or all of the following questions about this variable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondent was reluctant to answer - Interviewer was uncomfortable asking 	1 - Interviewers reported “yes” on this variable less than 20 percent of the time.	5 - Interviewers reported “yes” on this variable more than 60 percent of the time.	1: Low (<20%), 3: Moderate (20% - 60%), 5: High (>60%)
	Interviewer Survey – Overall Difficulty Score	<p>This score is comprised of responses to any or all of the following questions about this variable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ranked 4 or 5 on overall difficulty - Voted in top three difficult questions 	1 – Interviewers reported these questions as overall most difficult less than 20 percent of the time.	5 – Interviewers reported this variable as overall most difficult more than 60 percent of the time.	1: Low (<20%), 3: Moderate (20% - 60%), 5: High (>60%)

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Cost	Number of Complaints to Census Bureau HQ	This variable is comprised of counting the number of complaints on this variable (from the onset of the ACS) that have been received at call centers and via letters to the Census Bureau or program directors.	1 – No complaints have been received about this variable.	5 - Ranked as one of top three questions for number of complaints received.	0: None, 3: Low, 5: High (top 3)
	Median Seconds to Answer	The median value for the time (in seconds) used by respondents to provide information for variable.	1 – Respondents provide the information for this variable in xx seconds or less.	5 – Respondents provide the information for this variable in xx seconds or more.	1: Low, 3: Moderate, 5: High (will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)
	Median County-Level Item Response Rate	The mid-point of values of the 5-year county-level estimates for the rate at which responses were received for this question/variable.	1- The median county-level item response rate is xx% or greater.	5 - The median county-level item response rate is less than xx%.	1: Low (< xx%), 3: Moderate (xx% to xx%), 5: High (xx% +) (will produce data and find natural breaks for 3 groups within the data)