

ACS SF Worked Example

Here is an example of how to access one estimate from one table for one area from the ACS summary file.

Question: How many occupied homes are lacking plumbing facilities in the, District of Columbia, in 2006?

1. Go to the ACS 2006 Summary File: Technical Documentation (Prototype) located on: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sf/tech_doc.htm
2. Go to Chapter 3 of the ACS 2006 Summary File: Technical Documentation, "Subject Locator" and under the contents click on the subject Plumbing Facilities.
3. Select table B25048 "Plumbing Facilities For Occupied Housing Units" and click on the table title. The following table shell should be found.

Table ID	Line Number	Stub	Estimate	Margin of Error
B25048		PLUMBING FACILITIES FOR OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS		
B25048		Universe: Occupied housing units		
B25048	1	Total:		
B25048	2	Complete plumbing facilities		
B25048	3	Lacking complete plumbing facilities		

4. The estimate that will answer the question is located in table B25048 "Plumbing Facilities For Occupied Housing Units" line 3.
5. Next go to Chapter 5 of the ACS 2006 Summary File: Technical Documentation, "List of Detailed Tables" and search for B25048 "Plumbing Facilities For Occupied Housing Units" in the list of tables. The following table shell should be found.
 - o File ID: "ACSSF"
 - o Table ID: "B25048"
 - o Sequence Number: "0128"
 - o Start Position: "66"
 - o Title: "PLUMBING FACILITIES FOR OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS"
 - o Number of Cells: "3 CELLS"
6. Go to the ACS FTP site on <ftp://www2.census.gov/acs2006/summaryfile>.
7. Select the DistrictofColumbia directory.

8. Select the following zip file: dc0000128.2006-1yr.zip
9. Unzip the file
10. Open the following file: dc0000128e.2006-1yr
11. See a partial sample of record 1 for the file dc0000128e.2006-1yr. Select Position 66 (in bold below) in this line represents line 1 (value 250456) of table B25048 and position 68 (in bold below), which represents line 3 of table B25048, which has a value of 437.

Sample Record

“ACSSF,2006e1,dc,000,0129,0000001,250456,114586,,
 5693,**250456**,249851,**605**,”

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ACSSF	2006e1		dc	000	0129	0000001	250456	114586

..... continue through the record row to

65	66	67	68
5693	250456	249851	605

Note: These records are comma delimited. Each record starts with and is separated by the file ID "ACSSF".

Answer: There are 605 occupied homes that are lacking plumbing facilities in the, District of Columbia, in 2006.

Now, to get the Margin of Error for this estimate, open the file dc0000128m.2006-1yr and follow the procedure described in step 11 above. You should get +/- 357 as the Margin of Error for this estimate.