

## **American Housing Survey**

### **Sample Case History File: 2015 and beyond**

Last Updated: 8/27/2019

**Please direct any questions regarding this file to the American Housing Survey Branch at**

**1-888-518-7365 or [ahsn@census.gov](mailto:ahsn@census.gov)**

## Introduction

The American Housing Survey (AHS) is a longitudinal survey conducted in odd-numbered years. Beginning in 2015, the AHS began a new longitudinal panel and selected a new sample of housing units. The prior sample of the AHS was longitudinal from 1985 to 2013. Though the survey visits the same housing units each cycle, units may be removed or added for various reasons throughout the survey process.

The intent of the National Sample Case History File (also known as the “Where Did They Go” file) is to track *all* cases that were interviewed beginning in 2015<sup>1</sup> and provide basic information on the interview status.

## Overview

During data collection, cases are categorized as completed interviews or non-interviews. Non-interviews are classified into three groups – type A, B, and C. Types A and B include respondent refusals or abandoned houses with extensive damage that expose them to the elements. Type A and B cases will be interviewed in the subsequent surveys because they are valid housing units. Type C non-interviews represent units that were completely demolished or permanently removed from the housing stock in some way. Type C cases will not be interviewed in subsequent AHS data collection periods. This document will refer to completed interviews, type As, and type Bs collectively as “eligible units” and type Cs as “non-eligible units”.

As of 2017, the file has 147,127 cases. This is the total number of unique cases that were sampled beginning in 2015. This is a “flattened” file, meaning there is one record for each sample case that was interviewed, which can be uniquely identified by the CONTROL variable. This file contains a variable for each year with the Weight (PWT), Non-Interview Code (NOINT), Interview Status (INTSTATUS), TENURE, year the case became a non-interview (YEARMC), 2013 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definition of Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) code (OMB13CBSA), and year the case was introduced to the sample (YRINTRO) variables.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Sample Case History File for survey years 1985 to 2013 can be found at <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/tech-documentation/help-guides/national-sample-case-history.html>

## Data Dictionary

### CONTROL

Control number

*Description:* This is the unique identifier for each record on the file and can be used to merge this file with the AHS Public Use File.

*Type:* Character

### PWTXX

Pure weight, or the inverse of the probability of selection

*Values:*

Missing – Case was not on the file in this year

N – Case was not in sample this year, returning type C

1:9999.9999 – 1-9,999.9999

*Description:*

PWT is the product of base weight, weighting control factors, and sample adjustment factor. The last two digits of the variable name correspond to the last two digits of the year to which it refers. For example, PWT15 represents the PWT value from 2015.

*Type:* Numeric

## **NOINTXX**

Reason for non-interview

*Values:*

- Missing - Case was not on the file in this year
- N – Not applicable, Interviewed case
- 1 – Type A - No one home
- 2 – Type A – Temporarily absent
- 3 – Type A – Refusal
- 4 – Type A – Unable to locate
- 5 – Type A – Language problem
- 6 – Type A – Other, occupied
- 10 – Type B – Permit granted, construction not started
- 11 – Type B – Under construction, not ready
- 12 – Type B – Permanent or temporary business or commercial storage
- 13 – Type B – Unoccupied site for mobile home or tent
- 14 – Type B – Other unit including nonstaff, or converted to institutional unit
- 15 – Type B – Occupancy prohibited
- 16 – Type B – Interior exposed to the elements
- 17 – Type B – Not classified above, structure type is not boat, RV, tent, cave, or railroad car
- 18 – Type B – Not classified above, structure type is boat, RV, tent, cave, or railroad car
- 30 – Type C – Demolished or disaster loss
- 31 – Type C – House or mobile home moved
- 32 – Type C – Unit eliminated in structural conversion
- 33 – Type C – Merged, not in current sample
- 36 – Type C – Permit abandoned
- 37 – Type C – Not classified above
- 42 – Type C – Unit does not exist or unit is out of scope
- 43 – Type C – Unable to locate sample address

*Description:*

This code provides the reason a case was a non-interview. The last two digits of the variable name correspond to the last two digits of the year to which it refers. For example, NOINT15 represents the NOINT value from 2015.

*Type:* Numeric

## **OMB13CBSA**

2013 OMB CBSA code

*Values:*

12060 – Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA  
12580 – Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD  
13820 – Birmingham-Hoover, AL  
14460 – Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH  
16980 – Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI  
17140 – Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN  
17460 – Cleveland-Elyria, OH  
19100 – Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX  
19740 – Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO  
19820 – Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI  
26420 – Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX  
28140 – Kansas City, MO-KS  
29820 – Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV  
31080 – Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA  
32820 – Memphis, TN-MS-AR  
33100 – Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL  
33340 – Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI  
33460 – Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI  
35380 – New Orleans-Metairie, LA  
35620 – New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA  
36420 – Oklahoma City, OK  
37980 – Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD

38060 – Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ  
38300 – Pittsburgh, PA  
38900 – Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA  
39580 – Raleigh, NC  
40060 – Richmond, VA  
40140 – Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA  
40380 – Rochester, NY  
41700 – San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX  
41860 – San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA  
41940 – San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA  
42660 – Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA  
45300 – Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL  
47900 – Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV  
99998 – All other metropolitan areas  
99999 – Not in a metropolitan area

*Description:*

These values adhere to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions for Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs). More information on these can be found at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html>. OMB13CBSA codes are only produced for cases in the 15 largest metropolitan areas (on the National microdata) and cases on the Metropolitan microdata files.

*Type:* Character

**INTSTATUSXX**

Interview status

*Values:*

Missing – Case was not on the file in this year

- 1 – Occupied interview
- 2 – URE (Usual Residence Elsewhere) interview
- 3 – Vacant interview
- 4 – Non-interview

*Description:*

This code provides the interview status of a case for a given year. The last two digits of the variable name correspond to the last two digits of the year to which it refers. For example, INTSTATUS15 represents the INTSTATUS value shown on the 2015 Public Use File.

*Type:* Character

**TENUREXX**

Owner or renter status of unit

*Values:*

- Missing – Case was not on the file in this year
- N – Not applicable
- 1 – Owned or being bought by someone in your household
- 2 – Rented
- 3 – Occupied without a payment of rent

*Description:*

This code provides the owner or renter status of the case for a given year. The last two digits of the variable name correspond to the last two digits of the year to which it refers. For example, TENURE15 represents the TENURE value shown on the 2015 Public Use File.

*Type:* Character

**YEARMC**

Year made Type C

*Values:*

Missing – Case was not made a type C  
2015:20XX – 2015 – 20XX

*Description:*

This refers to the year the case was made an ineligible unit (a type C). If the case becomes an eligible unit and later becomes an ineligible unit again, the first year it was shown on the PUF as an ineligible unit is shown.

*Type:* Character

**YRINTRO**

Year introduced

*Values:*

2015:20XX – 2015 – 20XX

*Description:*

This refers to the year the case was first introduced to the sample. If the case moved in and out of sample, the first year the case is on a PUF is shown.

*Type:* Character

**SAMPLETYPE** (Available 2017 and later)

Sample designation

*Values:*

- 1 – Integrated National Longitudinal Sample
- 2 – First Wave of Next 20 Metros
- 3 – Second Wave of Next 20 Metros

*Description:*

This indicates the sample designation to which a case belongs. “Integrated National Longitudinal Sample” includes cases that are interviewed by design in every interview year. This includes national sample cases and top 15 (static) metro sample cases. The “First Wave” of metro areas includes the 10 dynamic metro areas that were first interviewed in 2015, and will include additional metro areas as they are added in later interview years. The “Second Wave” of metro areas includes the 10 dynamic metro areas that were first interviewed in 2017, and will include additional metro areas as they are added in later interview years.

*Type:* Character