

**PART D**

**THE HOUSING VACANCY SURVEY**

**April 2015**

# Part D, Chapter 1

## General Description – Housing Vacancy Survey

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## PART D, CHAPTER 1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION - HOUSING VACANCY SURVEY

The Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS) is a regular part of the CPS. Each month, the U.S. Census Bureau collects additional information on certain sample units identified as vacant housing units in the CPS. The results are used to estimate the trend in housing vacancies, provide information on the characteristics of vacant units currently on the market, and to determine the relationship between the supply and demand for housing. Data for the HVS are obtained from some CPS questions and special HVS items. The CPS contains the information needed for all vacant, seasonal and nonseasonal housing units. The HVS items ask specific questions about the housing unit in sample.

### 1.A HOW TO IDENTIFY HVS

HVS questions come up for cases that have a Type B outcome code:

- 225 - Type B, Temporarily Occupied with persons with Usual Residence Elsewhere (URE)  
(Selected by the instrument)
- 226 - Type B, Vacant Regular  
(Selected by you)
- 227 - Type B, Vacant Household Furniture Storage  
(Selected by you)

If the unit is available for year-round use AND the type of living quarters is housing unit.

You may complete the HVS case by telephone without making a personal visit to the sample unit only if all three of the following conditions exist:

#### Conditions Necessary for Completing an HVS Case by Telephone:

1. The unit was determined to be a Type B noninterview in the preceding month.
2. The unit is a substantial distance from your home, and you are not planning to return to the area for other interviews.
3. You have the name and telephone number of a reliable respondent (owner, rental agent, knowledgeable neighbor, or local merchant) and a telephone interview is acceptable with that person. (Which you collected at the BCNAME and BCNUM screens the previous month.)

If one or more of the above conditions is not met, you **must** make a personal visit to the sample unit. Interview the landlord, owner, agent or, if none of these are available, a knowledgeable neighbor. If you cannot find any of these, you may complete the HVS by observation as a last resort.

**Figure D1. BCNAME Screen**

Current Population Survey - Ver 2.20 Tobacco ver 1.40

Forms Answer Navigate Options Help

CPS ADDR FAQ Chg Resp ROS OPTOUT F9 Exit/F10

- Enter name of contact person
- Press ENTER for None or Same

NAME:

Enter a text of at most 42 characters

Name of contact person

contact person's title

contact phone number

by observation

00000073 BCNAME 1:34:51 PM 10-3-2006 5 490/740

## 1.B COMPLETING HVS ITEMS

Use the same care in completing the HVS items (questions) that you do for the regular CPS questions. They are as important to CPS as the questions for occupied units.