

American Community Survey Update

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29 May 2006

Topics to be Covered

- Overview of the census and the American Community Survey (ACS)
- Population estimates and the ACS
- The future and research plans

Overview of the Decennial Census

The decennial census does two things:

- Count the population
- Describe characteristics

1940: first long form sample

2010 reengineering and the ACS

American Community Survey

Replaces 2010 long form with large continuous demographic survey

- 3 million addresses each year—15 million addresses over 5 years
- Decennial census long form reached 17 million addresses in 2000

Annual and multi-year estimates

American Community Survey Benefits

- Detailed data for small areas and groups every year
- Better decision-making capabilities for
 - Federal programs
 - State and local programs
 - Private sector

Annual and Multi-Year Estimates: Release Schedule for the ACS Data Products

Type of Data	Population Size of Area	Data for the Previous Year Released in the Summer of:							
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010+
Annual estimates	250,000+	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Annual estimates	65,000+				→	→	→	→	→
3-year averages	20,000+						→	→	→
5-year averages	Census Tract and Block Group								→

Intercensal Population Estimates

Yearly estimates

- Population size for states, counties, and places (cities and towns)
- Basic characteristics – age, sex, race, and Hispanic Origin

Cohort-Component Methodology

Support funding allocation at federal, state, and local levels and provide survey controls

Population Estimates and the ACS: Working Together

- Intercensal population estimates provide ACS survey controls
- The ACS is used to measure most aspects of international migration
- The ACS provides updated information about housing vacancy rates and occupancy patterns

Components of International Migration

- Legal immigration to the United States
- Emigration of the foreign-born
- Temporary migration
- Net residual foreign-born population
- Net movement between the United States and Puerto Rico
- Emigration of native citizens

ACS and International Migration

- The ACS is now used to measure the first four components
- Using the ACS to measure the net flow between the United States and Puerto Rico is a planned improvement

Other Planned Enhancements Based on Three ACS Questions

- Residence 1 year ago for the foreign-born population
- Year of entry to the United States for the foreign-born population
- Place of birth and citizenship

For More Information

American Community Survey Office

1-888-346-9682

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www.census.gov/acs/www

ACS Alert

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Special/Alerts.htm>

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U.S. Census Bureau

Washington, DC 20233