

2006 American Community Survey User Notes

Modification Made in 2006 ACS Weighting Methodology for Orange County, CA

The review of the 2006 ACS tabulations revealed large discrepancies between the final 2006 ACS estimate of total population and the 2006 intercensal population estimates for a set of places in Orange County, CA. These same areas showed a similar pattern of differences in the 2005 ACS tabulated estimates. An additional adjustment to the weights was introduced in the weighting for Orange County to remove the source of the discrepancy. The adjustment was aimed at forcing the weighted distribution of housing units in the ACS sample to match the distribution of housing units on our sampling frame. The weighting adjustment was applied at the census tract level. As a result, it has eliminated most of the large discrepancies originally found for places in Orange County.

Modification Made in 2006 ACS Weighting Methodology for Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, LA

The review of the 2006 operational data discovered evidence that suggests a high incidence of misclassification of uninhabitable units as vacant units. The effect of misclassification was almost entirely removed through a modification in the weighting methodology for Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes. The effect of the weighting adjustment was to down-weight units that had the vacancy status of “Other Vacant”. This modification resulted in more consistent and accurate ACS estimates of the number of vacant units and “persons per household” in these two parishes.

Modification Made in 2006 ACS Weighting Methodology—Family Equalization

As a result of our continuous effort to improve the quality of the estimates the 2006 weighting methodology was modified in order to ensure total consistency between the estimates of householders, households, and occupied housing units. This has not been the case prior to 2006. With this data release, the estimates of occupied housing units, households, and householders will all be equal. In addition, the modification also reduces the differences between estimates of spouses and married-couple households and between the estimates of unmarried partners and unmarried-partner households. See the [Changes to the Estimation \(pdf\)](#) for detailed information regarding which tables are most affected and the impact on the estimates had this methodology been applied in 2005.

Sub-state Estimates of Group Quarters Population

The weighting for the group quarters population is controlled at the state level. For that reason, users should expect that the ACS estimate for the group quarters population to be consistent with the Population Estimates Program only at the state level. For sub-state areas, the ACS estimate will typically be different from the Population Estimates Program due to sampling variability. Like estimates of total population, data users who require an estimate of the group quarters population at the county level should use the official estimates from the Population Estimates Program.