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 2005?

1. Go to the ACS 2005 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 2005 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 2005 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: "0129"
   o Start Position: "32"
   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/acs/summaryfile.

7. Select the DistrictOfColumbia directory.

8. Select the following zip file: dc0000129.2005-1yr.zip

9. Unzip the file

10. Open the following file: dc0000129e.2005-1yr

11. See a partial sample of record 1 for the file dc0000129e.2005-1yr. Select Position 32 (in bold below) in this line represents line 1 (value 248213) of table B25048 and position 34 (in bold below), which represents line 3 of table B25048, which has a value of 437.

Sample Record

"ACSSF,2005e1,dc,000,0129,0000001,248213,105518,16377,2528,8051,5798,89141,14383,53276,21482,142695,76082,24848,37940,13294,66613,29027,31368,6218,218961,136252,82709,277775,275136,2639,**248213**,247776,**437**"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ACSSF	2005e1	dc	000	129	1	248213	105518	16377	2528
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
8051	5798	89141	14383	53276	21482	142695	76082	24848	37940
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
13294	66613	29027	31368	6218	218961	136252	82709	277775	275136
31	**32**	**33**	**34**						
2639	**248213**	247776	**437**						

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

Answer: There are 437 occupied homes that are lacking plumbing facilities in the, District of Columbia, in 2005.

Now, to get the Margin of Error for this estimate, open the file dc0000129m.2005-1yr and follow the procedure described in step 11 above. You should get +/- 244 as the Margin of Error for this estimate.