The American Community Survey:
What's New

1. Data for Areas with Populations of 20,000 or More

For the first time since the 2000 Census, areas with populations as small as 20,000 will have data on the full range of American Community Survey topics — everything from ancestry to veteran status. The new data will be in the form of three-year estimates for areas with populations of 20,000 or more, based on data collected from 2005 to 2007. More populous areas (populations of 65,000 or more) will have both the new three-year estimates and one-year estimates. Both forms of estimates will be updated every year. The first set of three-year estimates are scheduled for release in December 2008.

2. New "Country of Birth" Profiles

In addition to profiles iterated by race, ethnicity and ancestry, a new "country of birth" data product will allow users to examine the characteristics of the foreign-born population in the U.S. The new profiles are part of the planned Sept. 23, 2008, release of one-year estimates and will also be included in the three-year estimates release in December.

3. New Migration Tables

Forty-two new detailed tables are available this year that provide data on "geographic mobility for residence one year ago." These are similar to the current ACS tables on geographic mobility for current residence, but instead of using the current location of the respondent they use the location of the respondent one year ago. The distinction allows for estimates based on out-migration. These new tables show the characteristics of persons who left a specified geographic area in the past year, as well as the characteristics of those who stayed in that area.

4. More Areas Included in Selected Population Profiles

The population threshold for areas with access to Selected Population Profiles has been lowered from 1 million to 500,000 (including all congressional districts). If a particular race/ethnicity/ancestry or country of birth group has a population of at least 65,000 in an area with an overall population of 500,000, that group will be included in the one-year data profiles for that area. With this change, the number of special population profiles for one-year estimates will nearly double — from

(more)

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about 11,000 to 22,000 profiles. There will be nearly 40,000 separate three-year profiles released in December 2008. The three-year estimates produce profiles for special populations as small as 20,000 in areas of 500,000 or more.

5. "Comparison Profiles" to See Change At-A-Glance

Comparison profiles (formerly known as multiyear profiles) are back for the first time since the 2004 data release. This product allows users to see two single years of data for a particular area side-by-side. An asterisk indicates whether each year's data are significantly different from the current year.

Additional American Community Survey Data Products:

Detailed Tables
More than 1,200 different tables that contain basic distributions of characteristics.

Data Profiles
Summary profiles of a geographic area for social, economic, housing and demographic data.

Narrative Profiles
A narrative version of the data profiles.

Ranking Tables
Approximately 80 different tables ranking the 50 states and the District of Columbia (available for one-year data only).

Thematic Maps
Display geographic variation in map format from the geographic ranking tables (available fall 2008).

Geographic Comparison Tables
More than 80 single-variable tables comparing key indicators for states and other geographies.

Subject Tables
Approximately 50 tables that highlight a particular subject of interest.

Selected Population Profiles
Data profiles for more than 200 different population groups.

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File
Computerized files containing record-level data that can be used to create custom analyses.

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For more information, visit the American Community Survey Web page at <http://www.census.gov/acs>.

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