

2006 American Community Survey: Overview of Data Products

The U.S. Census Bureau will begin to release 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) data based on its second year of full implementation nationwide in August 2007. This year's data release marks the first time that group quarters (such as prisons, college dorms, military barracks and nursing homes) are included in the data products. These products are available for the nation, all states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and every congressional district, as well as for all counties, places and metropolitan areas with populations of 65,000 or more. In total, the 2006 data products will be produced for more than 7,000 geographic areas.

The following provides a description of each of the types of data products. All of the data products except Narrative Profiles include sampling errors displayed as margins of error.

Detailed Tables – Approximately 1,200 different tables that contain basic distributions of characteristics. These tables provide the most detailed data and are the basis for other ACS products. Included are tables iterated for nine race and Hispanic origin universes and tables that show imputation (allocation) rates for selected variables. Many of the 2006 detailed tables will include the combination of the housing unit and group quarters population – the total population – for the first time.

Data Profiles – Detailed tables that provide summaries by social, economic and housing characteristics. There is a new ACS demographic and housing units profile that should be used if official estimates from the Population Estimates Program are not available.

Narrative Profiles – Data profile information presented in a user-friendly, text-and-graphic format that put various topics into words for the general user.

Geographic Ranking Tables (state rankings) – More than 80 different tables that compare indicators for the U.S., all states, and the District of Columbia. Ranking tables also can be viewed as charts that show the estimate as a point and the upper and lower bounds of the confidence interval as “wings” or “arms” extending to either side of the estimate. These tables and charts are also available as Adobe PDF files.

Thematic Maps – Display geographic variation in map format from the geographic ranking tables.

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

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

Selected Population Profiles – Data profiles for over 200 different population groups and for major groups quarters types. A new profile will be provided for the group quarters population.

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

These products are available on American FactFinder (AFF). Users can access AFF from the Census Bureau's home page, <<http://www.census.gov>> or from the AFF link on the ACS home page <www.census.gov/acs/www/>. Users can view and download each data product.