FTS US DEPT OF COMMERCE

Moderator: Pamela Klein
November 13, 2008
1:00 pm CT

Coordinator: At this time the conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect. Thank you. You may begin.

Cheryl Chambers: Good afternoon and welcome to the third in a series of four U.S. Census Bureau sponsored Webinar sessions. This series has been developed through a cooperative effort between the Census Bureau and the Federal Inter-Agency Limited English Proficiency or LEP Workgroup Census Committee.

The main purpose of this series is for individuals addressing LEP issues to gain a better understanding of the data they may need to use in planning services for the LEP population.

The topic of today's session is Geographic Areas and Concepts for the American Community Survey. Last week we presented and Data Products Available from the American Community Survey. Next week we will present the final session on Language Data Available from the American Community Survey.

Participants are strongly encouraged to participate in all four sessions, as each session builds upon information presented in a previous session. The last session will take place on Thursday, November 20 at 2:00 pm Eastern standard time.

There are a few things to go over before we begin today's session. We are working on having an email address created and will provide you with that shortly.

In the meantime, please use the contact information provided at the end of the presentation. We ask that you put your telephone on mute so that we can minimize the amount of background noises. If you do not have a mute button on your phone, pressing star 6 in (unintelligible) microphone during your participation in this Webinar.

It is suggested that you adjust your screen saver settings to 90 minutes so that it does not activate as you are watching the presentation. We ask that you hold your questions until the end.

If you have a question during the session, you can submit it by using the Q&A tab at the top of the screen. We will answer all questions at the end of the presentation. Unless there are any questions that you have right now, let us begin.

This presentation is designed to give data users a quick overview of the kinds of geographic areas that are or will be used to present data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

The primary goal of today's session is to familiarize data users with basic geographic area concepts, especially for those geographic areas most likely to be used or encountered by data users.

Today's session will cover basic Census Bureau geographic area concepts and criteria. We will concentrate on geographic areas for which American Community Survey data are available, and the concept and definition issues you should be aware of when using American Community Survey data.

We will also provide general background information about the Census Bureau's geographic database, as well as the boundary and annexation survey which is the (unintelligible) program through which we obtain updates to boundaries from legal and administrative entities such as cities and towns.

We will refer to census track and block groups as the building blocks of census geography. However, this presentation will not cover concept, criteria and issues relating to small geographic areas such as a block group, census track and zip code tabulation areas among others.

American Community Survey data will not be available for these geographic areas until the release of the five year period estimate planned for 2010. Therefore this presentation will cover the geographies and concepts that are relevant currently available data.

When we get closer to releasing the five year estimate, we will offer additional information on small area geography.

For those who need data for these small geographic areas, you should use data from Census 2000. This presentation also does not address various geographic

products, but this map state file and geographic area codes that are available from the Census Bureau.

Census geographic areas can be divided into two types - legal class administrative and statistics.

Legal class administrative (unintelligible) have legally described boundaries, and they provide governmental services or may be used to administer programs.

The difference between legal and administrative areas is that administrative areas generally do not have elected officials and are created solely to administer elections for other government functions.

The physical geographic areas are defined primarily for data tabulation and presentation purposes. They may relate to other kinds of geographic concepts. For instance, census graphs in urban and suburban areas can be thought of as roughly similar to neighborhood.

Census designated places represent unincorporated places that are known locally and may be defined by name in the landscape through signs, business names and so forth, but do not have legally defined boundaries.

The physical areas may be defined to represent geographic concept such as urbanization or metropolitanization. Urban areas and metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas respectively are representations of discernable patterns on the landscape, such as urbanization, and less physicals processes, such as social and economic interaction between an urban center and its surrounding region.

Examples of legal and administrative entities include the nation, state, counties, minor civil divisions, corporated places, congressional districts, school districts, voting districts and zip code tabulation areas.

Examples of the physical areas include regions and divisions, census county divisions, census designated places, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, urban and rural areas, census track, lock proof and public use micro data area.

Some legal and administrative areas have statistical counterparts. For instance, census county divisions are the statistical equivalent of minor civil division. But both types refer to generally as county subdivision.

CDPs are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. Both are referred to generically as places in Census Bureau product.

The table on this drive shows five types of geographic areas for which American Community Survey data are currently available. For example, the fourth line down shows that there are a total of 952 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas in the United States.

53.6% of those areas received one-year estimates from the 2007 American Community Survey. When the 2005 through 2007 American Community Survey three-year estimates are released in December, data will be available for 96.8% of the 952 metropolitan and micropolitan (unintelligible) physical areas in the United States.

In addition, data are available for geographic components such as the urban and rural portions of a safe.

This diagram depicts the geographic hierarchy as a series of nesting relationships based on the legal, administrative (unintelligible) physical relationships of the entities. For example, a line joining the lower level entity place, and the higher level entity state, means that a place cannot cross a state boundary.

Census Bureau geographers often refer to nesting relationships between geographic areas. By this we mean that one type of geographic area will be located within another geographic area. The central axis in this diagram represents those geographic areas in which there is a clear set of hierarchical relationships. That is lot group, aggregate to track, track to counties, counties to state, divisions encompass group to state and so on.

Another way to look at this is a block group will never cross a track boundary. A track will never cross a county boundary. Counties never cross state boundaries. And as a result of these logical nesting relationships, a block group will never be in two or more counties or states.

Also (out of sight) of the central axis are geographic areas that do not nest neatly within all levels of the geographic hierarchy. For instance, a place boundary may split a block group, a track or a county, but will never cross state boundaries. An urban area or metropolitan area may cross all of the geographic area boundaries except nations.

We can define urban areas and metropolitan areas that cross from one state to another, or from one region to another. For instance, the El Paso, Texas, New Mexico urbanized area is in both the South and the West regions. However we would never define an urban that crosses from the U.S. to either Canada or Mexico.

For instance, a vast urban area exists that encompasses (Theodet Juarez) in Mexico and the El Paso area. But the Census Bureau only defines and produces data for the portion in the U.S. just as Mexico only defines and produces data for the portion in the state of Chihuahua.

At this time I would like to pause for just a minute and ask everyone, particularly if you joined us late, to please put your phones on mute. And if you do not have a mute button, pressing star 6 could alleviate the problem.

And at the Q&A session, if you would like to press star 6 again, that will take your phone off of mute. Thank you.

The Census Bureau tabulates and presents data for two types of county subdivisions - minor civil divisions or MCDs and census county divisions or CCD. States contain either MCDs or CCDs but never a mix of MCD and CCD.

An MCD is the primary governmental or administrative of a county or a statistically equivalent entity in many states, and statistically equivalent entities.

An MCD is created to govern or administer an area rather than a specific population. Examples of MCDs include towns, townships and district. The American Community Survey produces data for MCDs in 28 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

A CCD is a statistical subdivision of a county, delineated by the Census Bureau in cooperation with state and local government officials for data presentation purposes.

If a state does not have MCD's, typically CCDs will be defined for that state. A CCD usually represents one or more communities, trading centers or in some instances major land users.

CCDs are designed to be stable from census to census and correspond to more obvious physical boundaries.

MCD and CCD distinctions are important because a wider range of Census Bureau data are available for governmentally active MCD. Less state are available for non-functioning MCD.

It is also important to realize that one-year estimates from the American Community Survey are not available for CCDs as only a small percentage have populations of 65,000 or more.

On this map, MCDs exist in the states shaded either purple or lavender. States shaded dark purple such as Pennsylvania, are considered strong MCD states. The MCDs in these states have actively functioning government such as towns, townships or cities or Burroughs.

These types of MCDs receive the fullest range of data through the Census Bureau. The states shaded a lighter public color, such as Indiana, can also contain MCDs with active government.

However, the MCDs in these states do not necessarily provide as many services and functions as provided by the strong MCD.

Man: No ma'am. I think (unintelligible).

Woman: These types of MCDs (should) be data from the decennial census, population estimates and the American Community Survey. The states shaded lavender, such as West Virginia, contain nonfunctioning MCDs such as election districts or election precincts.

These types of MCDs only receive data from the decennial census and the American Community Survey.

The states with crosshatching contain a mix of functioning and nonfunctioning MCD. The states shaded green, such as Texas, contain CCDs which receive data from the decennial census and the American Community Survey.

The Census Bureau tabulates and presents data for two kinds of places - incorporated places and census designated places or CDP. Incorporated places are recognized legally according to laws of their respective states and generally have active functioning government providing a variety of services for their residents.

CDPs on the other hand, represent unincorporated communities, specifically do not have a legally specified boundary. The Census Bureau works with local and (diviable) officials to identify CDPs and their boundaries for use in presenting Census Bureau data.

Two examples of CDPs are Columbia, Maryland and Paradise, Nevada. Columbia, Maryland is a large planned community located approximately halfway between Baltimore and Washington. According to the Census 2000 and ATS data, it is the second most populous place in Maryland after Baltimore City.

Paradise CDP is located in Clark County, Nevada and contains most of the hotels and casinos along the Vegas strip as well as the airport. Paradise CDP is separate from Las Vegas city.

The graphic above illustrates an example of the places concept. Salem County in New Jersey has a mix of CDPs and incorporated places. Chatham and Woodstown are two of the incorporated places in Salem County, while Carneys Point and Pennsville are two of the CDPs...

Woman: Good morning.

Cheryl Chambers: ...in Salem County.

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Cheryl Chambers: It is important to note that not all unincorporated communities are defined as CDPs.

((Crosstalk))

Woman: Thank you maybe (unintelligible).

Cheryl Chambers: (Unintelligible) Ana County in New (unintelligible). The map on the screen highlights two communities in (Donia Anta) County, (Ala) County - La Mesa on the left side of the map and (Vato) on the right side of the map.

The (Vato) community is defined as a CDP, however the La Mesa community is not defined as a CDP.

The Census Bureau defines two kinds of urban areas - urbanized areas and urban clusters. Urbanized areas have 50,000 or more people and urban clusters have at least 2500 people, but less than 50,000 people. Both areas are defined primarily on the basis on population density at the census block and block group levels.

Starting with the core area with a density of at least 1000 people per square mile, urban classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be a metropolitan or non-metropolitan area.

Urban areas are defined following each census. Census 2000 urban area boundaries are currently used to present American Community Survey data. Because of this, urban areas do not reflect any urbanization that has occurred since Census 2000. These areas will be redefined following the 2010 Census.

Rural areas are defined as all territory not within an urban area. Rural classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be a metropolitan or non-metropolitan area.

Based on the Census Bureau's Urban Rule Classification, 51% of the rural population in the United States resided within metropolitan statistical areas. Geographic entities such as places, counties, metropolitan statistical areas, etcetera, are often split between urban and rural territory, and the population and housing units they contain are then classified as part urban and part rural.

This map detects urbanized areas and urban clusters in central Tennessee with the Nashville-Davidson urbanized area at the center. The boundaries of the Nashville-Davidson urbanized area cross several county boundaries. However, no one county is entirely contained within the urbanized area.

Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are geographic entities defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating and publishing Federal statistics. They are collectively referred to as core based statistical areas or CBSA.

A metropolitan statistical area contains a core urban area with 50,000 or more population. And a micropolitan statistical area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population.

Each metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area consists of one or more counties and includes the counties containing the core urban area. It also includes any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration with an urban core.

The degree of social and economic integration is measured by commuting to work pattern.

The largest city in each metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area is designated as a principal city. Additional cities qualify if specified requirements are met concerning population size and employment. CDPs can be principal cities.

The title of each metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area consists of the name of up to three of the principal cities and the name of the state into which the metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area extends.

Titles of metropolitan divisions are also typically based on principal city names, but in certain cases consist of county names.

This map shows several of the concepts that we have been discussing. Two metropolitan statistical areas are shown - the Harrisonburg, Virginia area and the Charlottesville, Virginia area.

The Harrisonburg, Virginia area comprises one county, Rockingham County and the independent city of Harrisonburg, which is a county equivalent. The Harrisonburg, Virginia urbanized area encompasses much of Harrisonburg city and some of the surrounding area.

The Charlottesville, Virginia area differs in that it encompasses four counties - Greene, Albemarle, Fluvanna and Nelson, and the independent city of Charlottesville. This map also shows the Staunton-Waynesboro micropolitan statistical area which encompasses Augusta County and the independent cities of Staunton and Waynesboro.

The Staunton urban cluster and the Waynesboro urban cluster are largely made up of their respective cities and adjacent areas.

Public use micro data areas or PUMAs are special non-overlapping areas that partition a state. Drawn by state governments during Census 2000, each PUMA was designed to have a population of at least 100,000 and cannot cross a state line.

PUMAs are the geographic entities for which the Census Bureau provides specifically, excuse me. PUMAs are the geographic entities for which the Census Bureau provides specially selected extract of raw data from a sample of American Community Survey records.

All personal identifying information, such as name and address, have been removed from these records. The (abstract) files are referred to as public use micro data samples or PUMS file.

We briefly discussed the PUMS during the Webinar that focused on data products on the American Community Survey.

The American Community Survey also uses PUMAs to present summary data. Because each PUMA has a population of at least 100,000, annual estimates are available for each PUMA. This is a value for data users interested in data for sub-state areas, particularly in the predominantly rural areas that otherwise would have to wait until five year period estimates are available.

Take West Virginia for example. That has 55 counties. Only seven of these 55 counties are large enough to receive estimates from the 2007 American Community Survey. However, because West Virginia is partitioned into 12 PUMAs, each of these areas will receive 2007 American Community Survey estimates.

You can access maps of the PUMAs from the Geography Division's Web page under Map and Mapping Resources. You can also access the geographical equivalency files for PUMAs under the documentation column of the American Community Survey's PUMS download page on American Facts Finder.

On September 23, the Census Bureau released one-year American Community Survey data for over 6500 geographic areas. In December, the Census Bureau will release three-year American Community Survey data for more than 13,500 geographic areas.

For many types of geographic areas, the release of three-year estimates allows a much larger number of areas to receive estimates. For example, 520 places are available for one-year data while 2081 places are available for three-year data.

The large number of geographies receiving data can make it difficult to find out if the geographies that you are interested in are available.

The 2007 Data Product Details page contains a pool that allows you to use the geographies available by state. Using the dropdown menu at the top left of the page, you can select a state that you are interested in. It will produce the list of geographic areas that are public for that state.

The image on this slide shows the results and list of available geographies for 2007 one-year data from the American Community Survey for the state of Wyoming. Wyoming is the least populous state in the United States, so only a few geographies are available.

When the 2005 to 2007 American Community Survey data are released in December, more geographies will be available in Wyoming as well as other states.

Also, as shown in the image on the slide, once the total list has been produced, you can further modify the list by selecting only the geographic area types that interest you by clicking the appropriate boxes on the right side of the screen.

The Census Bureau needs to account for geographic boundary changes that may occur for areas public in the multi-year estimates. The Census Bureau

will use the boundaries as of January 1 (unintelligible) of the period to produce (unintelligible).

These boundary changes are (unintelligible) for the boundary and annexation survey, a voluntary survey conducted by the Census Bureau. Boundaries of other statistical areas, including urbanized areas, public use micro data areas, census track and block group will be updated every decade in conjunction with the decennial census.

For example, in 2008, the Census Bureau tabulated one-year estimates for 2007 and three-year estimates based on data from 2005, 2006 and 2007. These estimates were tabulated using the boundaries that were in effect on January 1, 2007.

Looking at this slide, the area outlined in blue shows the boundaries for Amarillo City, Texas that were in effect on January 1, 2007. The estimates published in 2008 will reflect these boundaries. However Amarillo City annexed some territory in both 2005 and 2006 as noted by the orange and red portions of the map respect.

The 2005 and 2006 one-year estimates were public using the 2005 and 2006 boundaries respectively. The 2007 and the 2005 through 2007 three-year estimates will be public using the 2007 boundaries.

Please note that the American Community Survey will not update the 2005 and 2006 one-year estimates using the January 1, 2007 boundaries.

The Census Bureau has established procedures and programs to identify changes in legal boundaries and to record when and where they occur. The

Census Bureau conducts a boundary and annexation survey or BAS annually to collect information about selective legally defined geographic areas.

The BAS is used to update information about the legal boundaries and names of all governmental units in the United States. The Census Bureau uses the boundary information collective in the BAS to tabulate data for various censuses and surveys such as the American Community Survey.

Beginning in 2008, all federally recognized American Indian areas, counties and county equivalents, incorporated places and MCDs will be surveyed. This survey includes approximately 40,000 entities and will be conducted each year to provide the geographic support needed for the American Community Survey.

The number of entities included in the BAS in a particular year may vary after 2010 depending on funding and the needs of the Census Bureau in fulfilling the requirement its censuses and its survey.

The master address file or MAF is the Census Bureau's official inventory of known living quarters and selected non-residential units in the United States. The file contains mailing and location address information, geocodes, and other attribute information about each living quarter.

The Census Bureau continues to update the MAF using the United States Postal Service Delivery Sequence files and various automated computer assisted clerical and field operations.

The sample for the American Community Survey is drawn from the MAF. The MAF is a confidential file protected by Title 13 and is not accessible to the public.

The MAF type or database is the Census Bureau's geographic database. It links the MAF with the Census Bureau's topologically integrated geographic encoding and referencing, or TIGER system, creating a (difficle) database containing addresses, a wide variety of landscape features such as roads, rivers and railroad, and boundaries for geographic areas.

All geographic products are derived from the MAF TIGER database. Indeed MAF TIGER provides the underpinning for most demographic and geographic products.

The MAF TIGER database provides a resource for the production of MAF data tabulation and the automated assignment of addresses to geographic locations in a process known as Geocoding.

The MAF TIGER database maintains the relationship between housing units, landscape features and geographic areas. It is important to remember that regardless of the capabilities of the MAF TIGER database, no Census Bureau data, including those from American Community Survey, are released that would allow the identification of an individual's household.

This presentation gave you an overview of the geographic areas and concepts for the American Community Survey. More information about language use and English speaking ability data available from the American Community Survey will be available in another Webinar.

The American Community Survey staff has developed the ACS alert, which is an email newsletter giving data users the latest news about the survey. You can subscribe to the newsletter by contacting the American Community Survey staff or read past editions of the ACS Alert on the Internet at

www.census.gov/acs/www/special/alert.htm. I actually am going to read that again even though it is on the slide.

To find past edition of the ACS Alert on the Internet, check at www.census.gov/acs/www/special/alert.htm.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or need further information. If you have questions that are not answered by the Web site, please call 1-800-923-8282. If you have questions about geographic areas, you can call the Geographic Standards and Criteria branch at 301-763-3056.

At this time, we will begin our question and answer session. We will first answer the questions that were submitted via the Internet during the presentation. If you have additional questions, you can either submit them using the Q&A tab or unmute your telephone and ask when prompted.

If you used star 6 to mute your phone, pressing star 6 again will unmute the microphone.

We have experts from the Census Bureau in the room to help answer questions. If we cannot answer your questions immediately, we will consult the appropriate staff and provide answers at a later date.

We would like to introduce, or have the Bureau staff introduce themselves. They will be participating in the question and answer portion of this Webinar.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: (Cynthia Hollingsworth), Data Analysis and User Education Branch.

Cheryl Chambers: This is (Cheryl Chambers) your narrator from the Communication
Management and Support Branch.

Pamela Klein: (Pamela Klein), Data Analysis and User Education Branch.

Mike Ratcliff: (Mike Ratcliff), Geographic Standards and Criteria Branch.

Matt Zimolzak: (Matt Zimolzak), ACS Geography Staff.

Deb Griffin: (Deb Griffin), American Community Survey Office.

Hyon Shin: (Hyon Shin), Education and Social Stratification Branch.

Susan Schechter: (Susan Schechter), Chief of the American Community Survey Office.

Anna Owen: (Anna Owen), Data Analysis and User Education Branch.

Enid Santana: (Enid Santana), Data Analysis and User Education Branch.

Cheryl Chambers: Thank you everybody. At this time we will take the first question.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay, and the first question is can you go over again the difference
between an urban area and a metropolitan area?

Mike Ratcliff: An urban area is - you think about it as the built up area of the city and its
suburbs. If you can imagine flying over the (unintelligible) suburbs,
everything you would see from the plane would be what is included in an
urban area defined by the Census Bureau.

A metropolitan is a larger area that includes the county that the urban area is in and reflects kind of a larger commuting area, an area where commuters would come from or an area where business and recreation and other sources of activities (unintelligible), also just around that urban area at the center.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay, next question. Do government entities have access to the MAF or portions of the MAF?

Matt Zimolzak: No.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay. Next question. Can you repeat where we can get the geographic equivalent of the PUMAs?

Pamela Klein: The maps can be found on the Geography Divisions Web page. If you go to www.census.gov, in the middle portion of the page you will see a large - it will say in large red letters, I believe, geography. To the right of that it will say map. And if you click on that, you will be able to get to the PUMA map that the Geography Division has.

If you would like the equivalency files which are a text version, it is a hierarchical file, you can get them from the American Facts Finder by selecting American Community Survey data. In the upper right hand corner of the page, you will see a box that says Other Resources. Under there it will say Public Use Micro Data Sample. Click on the PUMS and you will see it in the right hand column under - it says, I believe this column is called Documentation. It is PUMS equivalent to geographic equivalency files.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay. Next question or a couple of questions. Could you also describe super PUMA areas, the language specific data? Some states only have collapsed ACS tables for PUMA areas as well as counties.

The next question. Are data routinely tabulated and published for super PUMA areas or must users download the raw PUM data and tabulate it themselves?

Mike Ratcliff: To answer the first part - I will answer the first part of what super PUMAs are. These are groupings of PUMAs. The super PUMAs are defined for the 1% public use micro data sample files in the decennial census, and they have a minimum population of 400,000 people. So they are the - the PUMAs, which have a population of 100,000 or more nest within the super PUMAs.

Hyon Shin: For the language specific data that are being requested, anything that is not available through American Facts Finder, with regardless of what the geography is, you only have the class version available on American Facts Finder, then the only other course you would have is to download the PUMS and do it themselves, tabulate themselves, request a special tabulation and that is pretty much it.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay. We do not have the appropriate people in the room to answer that second question about the are they routinely tabulated the super PUMA areas. We do not think...

Woman: No.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: ...we think the answer is no but we will confirm that and get back to you.

Next question. If the Bureau had geographic database available to the public, specifically can you determine what streets are included or not included in urbanized clusters?

Matt Zimolzak: The Census Bureau provides an extract of the TIGER database called a TIGER line file and that includes all of the - or includes most of the geographic information that is in the TIGER database. Streets are included in the TIGER line file, so using a geographic information system you would be able to map all - and identify all the streets that are within an urbanized area.

Pamela Klein: Going back to the question about the master address file being available to other government agencies, the answer to that is no. And that is due to Title 13 restrictions.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Thank you. Next question. Are the BAS reports published on a yearly basis and/or are they available on the Census Web site?

Mike Ratcliff: Not quite sure what you mean by BAS reports, but we do provide information about geographic change on the Census Bureau's Web site. Right now, the only location that provides geographic change notes is through the Population Estimates Program files that you can get to from the Bureau's main page in the section for People, and then you will see Estimates.

And then on their Web - on the Population Estimates Program site, your geographic change notes. But those only describe changes in relationship between geographic areas. We do not - currently we do not have any information about the amount of planned area annexed by these cities or (unintelligible) case may be.

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Man: (Unintelligible) saying.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Next question. How much would it be for special tabulation costs?

Susan Schechter: This is Susan Schechter the Chief of the American Community Survey Office. We do have a - some information about requesting system tabs on our Web site on the home page for the ACS. And it depends on the nature of the tabulation, how much work would be involved.

I would encourage you to go ahead and look on our Web site. And if you would like to talk with someone about it, the Web site will direct you how to contact us and we can certainly discuss it. We do a lot of custom tabulations for other federal agencies.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Are there any other questions? Okay, I have one more.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay, the next question.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: On slide 15, what is meant by surrounding counties with heavy commuting patterns? How is heavy commuting defined by the Bureau?

Mike Ratcliff: This is (Mike Ratcliff) from Geography Division and heavy commuting - when we are defining metropolitan areas, we use a commuting threshold of 25%. So what is meant by that is once the county that con - or counties that contains the urban area - the urbanized area as I said before, of a metropolitan area.

Once the counties are defined, they are then classified as central counties, and then we look at the commuting patterns from surrounding outlying counties to confirm that they qualify for inclusion.

We look at the - well a county qualifies if it has - if at least 25% of the workers who live in that county commute to the central county, or if at least 25% of the jobs in that county are filled by workers who commute out from the central county.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Next question. Is limited English proficiency data going to be available on the ACS?

Hyon Shin: This is (Hyon Shin) and currently we personally - the Census Bureau does not define limited English proficiency. What we define are people who speak a language other than English at home, and then we also look at their English speaking ability on top of that.

And the way we characterize somebody who says they spoke English less than very well. So of the question asked how well do you speak English, there is some very well, well, not well and not at all.

So those who speak English less than very well, are considered to have some difficulty with English. So, those data are currently available through ACS through American Fact Finder and the one-year estimates.

Data for small counties - there are smaller geographic areas are available from Census 2000. And the same three questions that capture language use and English speaking ability have been available from the 1980 Census, the '90 Census, Census 2000 and then every year on the ACS.

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Hyon Shin: And next week is when we are going to be doing the - based on the subject specific Webinar which will deal specifically with language use and the English speaking ability. So tune in.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Next question. I want to know if the boundary activity for active incorporated places reports are going to be available on a yearly basis online?

Matt Zimolzak: This is (Matt Zimolzak) of the ACS Geography Staff. Currently the Geography Division is developing a product for reporting boundary changes for incorporated places relative to annexations and de-annexations.

     This is currently available through the BAS home page. I do not have the html in front of me but we will get back to you on that. And 2007 data is available, and my understanding is is that this will be a yearly available product for incorporated places.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: (This) final questions? Well at this time, we would like to thank you for your participation in this third of four Webinar sessions.

     The fourth and final session is scheduled for Thursday, November 20 at 2:00 pm Eastern standard time. The title of next Thursday's session is Language Data from the American Community Survey.

     We look forward to meeting with you then. If you have any questions regardless of (unintelligible), please contact (Anna Medina) at telephone number 202-353-3936 or via email at Anna A-N-N-A dot Medina M-E-D-I-N-A at usdoj.gov.

     Thank you again.

Woman: Thank you.

END