

FTS-US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Moderator: Ms. Pamela Klein
October 30, 2008
1:00 pm CT**

Coordinator: And this is the operator. I'd like to remind all parties at this point today's conference is now being recorded. If anyone has any objections you may disconnect at this time. You may begin.

Cheryl Chambers: Good afternoon. Welcome to the first in the series of four US 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 used to use in planning services for the LEP population.

The topic of today's session is an overview of the American Community Survey.

In the upcoming weeks we will present three additional sessions on Census Bureau geography, American Community Survey data products and language data from the American Community Survey.

Participants are strongly encouraged to participate in all four sessions as each session builds upon information presented in previous sessions.

These sessions will take place on the next three Thursdays November 6, November 13 and November 20 at 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

There are a few things to go over before we begin today's session.

We ask that you put your telephones on mute so that we can minimize the amount of background noise. If you do not have a mute button on your phone, pressing star 6 should mute it during your participation in this live meeting session.

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 selecting the Q&A tab at the top left portion 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's begin.

Have you ever thought about how or why new roads, schools, after school programs or hospitals are placed in communities? What makes communities attractive to new businesses or tourists, why there's no automated teller

machines or ATMs or video store on a street corner? The answers often lie in the numbers, numbers that reflect what our communities look like, how our communities have changed and how those changes impact our daily lives.

Most importantly, the numbers reflect how our communities are meeting the needs created by these changes.

Traditionally these numbers have been collected during the census every ten years. Those numbers play a critical role for state and local communities in determining their fair share of Federal money for schools, roads, senior citizen centers and other services.

Question?

In today's world our communities can change very quickly. Between the Decennial Censuses, local governments, organizations and businesses need timely data to assess and plan for local needs.

Costly mistakes can result when planners do not have current data on which to base their decision. This is one of the reasons why the US Census Bureau has moved to a whole new way of gathering data to help answer those questions.

Rather than taking a snapshot of a community once every ten years, the American Community Survey provides a dynamic and much timelier moving picture of the nation every year.

This presentation will give you an overview of the American Community Survey. We will answer the question what is the American Community Survey and then move on to discuss the content, methodology and data product.

We will wrap up with a brief summary of how the American Community Survey is different from Census 2000.

The American Community Survey sometimes refer to as the ACS is a nationwide survey that collects essentially the same information on people and housing that was collected on the long form questionnaire used in Census 2000.

The American Community Survey is a continuous survey in which each month a sample of housing unit addresses receives a questionnaire. About 3 million addresses are surveyed each year.

The American Community Survey is a critical element in the Census Bureau's new approach to future censuses.

Two forms were used during Census 2000. The short form asks several questions on the most basic demographic and housing topics. These questions ask about age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, the number of people living in the housing unit and if the housing unit was owned or rented by the resident.

The long form collected the same information as the short form but it also asks questions on additional topics.

Thirty-two questions were asked of each resident of the housing units on such topics as marital status, education, language spoken at home, employment, occupation and others.

Twenty-one questions were asked about the housing unit itself. So only one resident of that housing unit was asked to provide information on such topics

as plumbing and kitchen facilities, type and cost of utilities, value of the property and others.

Only a sample of the total US population received the long form. The data from the long form are called sample data. The basic data collected on both the short and long forms are called 100% data since these questions were asked for 100% of the US population.

The upcoming 2010 census will include only one form sent to the entire US population. That form will ask only questions similar to those contained in previous census short form.

The 2010 census will provide a basic count of the US population collecting only the most basic demographic and housing information.

Detailed demographic economic and housing (data) will be collected as part of the Decennial Census.

The data that were collected from the long form sample are now produced from the American Community Survey.

The American Community Survey collects data from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

The American Community Survey does not collect data from the other US Territories such as Guam and the US Virgin Islands.

The 2010 Decennial Census will continue to collect long form type data for these areas. The questions that are asked on the 2010 Census are also asked on

the American Community Survey questionnaire.

The contents collected by the American Community Survey can be grouped into four main types of characteristics -- social, economic, housing and demographic.

Let's take a closer look at the type of information each of these categories contains.

Social characteristics include topics such as education, marital status, fertility, grandparent caregivers, veterans, disability status, place of birth, citizenship, year of entry, language spoken at home, ancestry and tribal affiliations.

Economic characteristics include such topics as income, benefits, employment status, occupation, industry, commuting to work and place of work.

Data on the economic characteristics of a population are collected to assess the well being of individuals and households.

Housing characteristics include topics such as tenure, occupancy and structure, housing values, taxes and insurance, utilities and mortgage or monthly rent.

The housing data give us a measure of the housing stock of (unintelligible).

Woman: (Evan), take out the dog please.

Cheryl Chambers: We also collect basic demographic characteristics such as age, sex, race and Hispanic origin. This is the same information that will be collected by Census 2010.

Several changes were made to the American Community Survey questionnaire in 2008. Three new questions were added and one question was deleted.

The three new questions are on health insurance coverage, veterans service connected disability and marital history. These new data will begin to be available during the data release in 2009.

The deleted question measures the time and the main reason for staying at the samples address.

These data were used for internal research purposes and the data were not published in the data product. Changes were also made to some of the demographic questions so that they are consistent with the questions that will be on the 2010 Census questionnaire.

About three million addresses are selected for the American Community Survey sample every year. The American Community Survey data collection operation uses three modes that take place over a three month. -- mail, telephone and personal visit.

For most housing units, the first phase of data collection includes a questionnaire mailed to the sample address or the household to complete and return by mail.

If no response by mail is received the Census Bureau follows-up with a computer assisted telephone interviewing or CATI if a telephone number is available for the address.

If the Census Bureau is unable to reach an occupant of the unit using CATI or if the household refuses to participate, the address may be selected for computer assisted personal interviewing or CAPI.

At any point in this process defeat of a completed questionnaire form from the sample address results in the address being removed from the data selection workload.

Data for the American Community Survey are selected continuously throughout the year. Interviews conducted between January 1 and December 31 of a given year are aggregated to produce annual estimates for calendar years.

For example, interviews conducted between January 1 and December 31 of this year are aggregated to produce estimates for 2008.

Interview and residents rules define the target population for a survey. These rules therefore identify the units and the people eligible for inclusion in the survey.

The sample and frame reflects this choice universe as do the instructions on the forms and in the procedures used by survey interviews during follow-up.

The American Community Survey collects data from all persons without regard to their legal status or citizenship.

Woman: I'm in.

Cheryl Chambers: In 2005, the target population was limited to the housing unit population of the US and Puerto Rico. For the first time in 2006 and for every year

thereafter the American Community Survey has included the resident population in both housing units and in quarters.

The American Community Survey residents rules were established to collect data from people who are currently living at the selected address.

For inclusion in the survey, these rules require that at the same time the questionnaire is completed the respondent is living or staying at the housing unit address for more than two months.

At this point I want to stop for just a second and ask that all of our participants please ensure that your telephone is on the mute button so that we can all listen in on the information that's being presented about each of the slides.

Group quarters are places where people live or stay that are normally owned and managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include facility or medical care as well as other types of assistance. And residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services.

The group quarters population is divided into two categories, the institutional group quarters population and the non institutional group quarters population.

The institutional group quarters population includes residents under formally authorized supervised care. Examples of these facilities include skilled nursing facilities, adult correctional facilities and psychiatric hospitals.

The non-institutional group quarters population includes residents of college and university housing, military barracks and group homes.

American Community Survey period estimates describe the average characteristics of a population or housing over a specified period of time.

In the case of American Community Survey one year estimate the period is the calendar year.

For example, the 2007 American Community Survey data describe the population and characteristics of an area from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 not for any specific day within the year.

The American Community Survey collects survey information continuously nearly every day of the year and then aggregates the results over a specific period of time - one year, three years or five years.

The data selection is spread evenly across the entire period represented so as not to over represent any particular month or year within the period.

This slide shows the data products release schedule for 2006 through 2013. All American Community Survey data are published based on population thresholds.

One year estimates from the American Community Survey are published for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more including counties or county equivalents, all congressional districts, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Two thousand seven American Community Survey one year estimates were release in September 2008. Data will be available for areas with estimated population of 20,000 or greater in December 2008.

These three year estimates will be produced with data collected from the 2005, 2006 and 2007 American Community Survey.

The Census Bureau plans to release data for all areas including those with estimated populations of less than 20,000 by the end of 2010.

For small areas with populations less than 20,000 it will take five years to accumulate a large enough sample to produce estimates with accuracy similar to the Decennial Census.

These five year estimates will be produced from the data collected from the 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 American Community Survey.

Once published for the first time, all American Community Survey data products are refreshed annually.

The American Community Survey data products are similar to those produced from the Decennial Census long form.

Like the decennial sample data products, the American Community Survey products show the characteristics of the country's population and housing.

These products include four broad types of products -- profiles, tables, schematic maps and public use micro data sample or PUM files.

There are multiple types of profiles and tables -- data profiles, narrative profiles, comparison profiles, selected population profiles, detailed tables, subject tables, ranking tables and geographic comparison tables.

All of the data products are available on the Census Bureau's American Fact

Finder. The data products will be explored in-depth in a later Webinar.

The American Community Survey Web site has a lot of information about the programs, it's data products and evaluation of the data.

The next several slides will present some valuable resources for learning more about the American Community Survey. We will look at the ACS main page, the 2007 data project details, subject definitions, guidance on comparing 2007 data to other data sources, the ACS design and methodology report and the ACS Compass Product.

The upcoming slide shows static images of the American Community Survey Web site taken in late September 2008. As the Web site is continually updated, these images may differ slightly from what is currently on the active Web site.

At the bottom of each of the upcoming slides there are active hyperlinks that will take you to the page on the Web site that the slide refers to.

The American Community Survey main page has links to valuable information. Currently one of those links is the 2007 ACS data release. It is accessible under the highlight section on the main American Community Survey Web page www.census.gov/acs/www.

The highlight section changes periodically. So the most recent American Community Survey happenings are highlighted.

You can always access information on the latest data or data released by clicking on access data in the top menu bar or by directly typing in the Web address www.census.gov/acs/www.products.

The 2007 ACS data release page includes links for four ways to access American Community Survey data. They are the American Fact Finder, the File Transfer Protocol or FTP site, the public use micro Data sample or PUMs file and request for custom tabulation.

It also contains data user tools and tips as well as important documentation. This page is where you can access much of the information you may need when using American Community Survey data.

In the image on this slide, arrows highlight hyperlinks to 2007 data product details and comparing ACS data both located under the data user Tools and Tips column.

Under the documentation column, arrows highlight hyperlinks to subject definitions, errata, user notes and the ACS design and methodology report. We will now briefly explore each of these resources.

The 2007 data product details contains table shelves and their ID numbers, maps, geographic areas and more. At the top left of the page you can use the drop down menu to select the state you're interested in and it will produce a list of geographic areas that are published for that state.

There will be a similar tool for the three year estimates that will be released in December 2008.

The box in the middle of the page allows you to look at table shelf by topic. These table shelves do not contain any data. However, they are a useful mechanism for seeing the data that are offered and the format those - of those data before going to American Fact Finder to begin your data retrieval.

At the bottom of the page you'll find some downloadable files that contain detailed documentation on the data files. One of these files allows users to see if your 2007 American Community Survey produced a table that is comparable to a table produced from the Census 2000 summary file three.

Another file lists all of the samples that are new, have been deleted or have been modified since the release of the previous new data.

Also on this page is a document that provides instructions for applying statistical testing to American Community Survey data so that you can test to see whether changes in the data are statistically valid.

Each of these files will open in a new window and can be saved on your computer.

The image on this slide shows the table crosswalk that is found by clicking on the links titled Census 2000 Summary File 3 Detailed Tables with Comparable ACS Tables.

The crosswalk offers information about the table's title, ID number and the subject area for both the Census 2000 summary file three and the 2007 American Community Survey.

It also contains information on how the 2007 American Community Survey and Census 2000 summary file three tables correspond to one another.

This is available is a downloadable Excel file from the data products details page.

The Census Bureau provides guidance to users that want to compare 2007 American Community Survey data with data from other sources. Guidance is needed before drawing conclusions because in some instances comparisons could be misleading due to differences in questions or methods.

When comparing 2007 ACS data to 2006 ACS Data, users should be aware that substantial changes in the ACS group quarters estimates can affect estimates for the total population characteristics.

This is especially true for areas where either the group quarters population is a substantial proportion of the total population or where the group quarters population may have very different characteristics to the total population as a whole.

When comparing 2007 American Community Survey data to Census 2000 data, the user should keep in mind the differences that exist between the 2007 ACS and Census 2000.

As noted earlier, these include differences in residence rules, universes and reference periods.

For example, 2007 ACS uses a two month residence rule defined as anyone living for more than two months in the sample unit when the unit is interviewed whereas Census 2000 used a usual residence rule defined as the place where a person lives or stays most of the time.

We encourage you to review the guidance on our Web site which provides useful information for every variable.

The image on this slide shows the page on the ACS Web site that provides

general guidance and item specific guidance. Examples that demonstrate how the user would navigate through the Web site to get guidance on a specific item of interest are also provided.

For all comparisons of different time periods users should take into consideration that geographic boundaries for the area of interest may have changed.

This screen shot shows the beginning of the items specific guidance. The item is listed in the left column. Guidance on comparing the 2007 ACS to Census 2000 is in the middle column. And guidance on comparing the 2007 ACS to the 2006 ACS is in the right column.

Each cell in the middle and right columns offer a More Info link that will offer explanations of the Census Bureau's recommendation.

In the middle column comparing the 2007 American Community Survey to Census 2000 there's also a table crosswalk link that will take you to the same crosswalk that we just discussed.

The user notes section provides important information about the data by specific year. For example, the first note listed on the screen references the modification made in 2007 ACS weighting methodology for Orleans and St. Bernard parishes in Louisiana. It states the following.

The review of the 2007 operational data discovered evidence that suggest a high incidence of misclassification of uninhabitable units as vacant units.

The effective of misclassification was almost entirely removed through a modification in the weighting methodology for Orleans and Saint Bernard

parishes.

The effect of the waiting adjustment was to down weight units that have a 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.

This modification was also made to the 2006 ACS weighting methodology.

The errata notes page will provide users with information on any updates made to the data due to detected error.

For example, the errata notes 46 which is the first entry on the screen references subject table S2101 and based table B210002 for years prior to 2007 period of military service.

The errata note states the following. Due to an editing error veterans period of service or VPS was being incorrectly assigned for some individuals.

The majority of the errors misclassified some people who reported only serving during the Vietnam era as having served in the category Gulf War and Vietnam era.

The remainder of the errors misclassified some people who reported only serving between the Vietnam era and Gulf War as having served in the category Gulf War. These errors have been resolved with the 2007 tabulation.

The subject definitions document is a glossary of all American Community Survey managers.

In the 2007 version definitions of a quality measure describing American Community Survey data have been added.

Versions from the 2002 through 2007 American Community Survey are available.

The subject definitions document includes explanations of the measure. For example, the partial definition of the language spoken at home and ability to speak English measure that is shown on this slide tells us that the questions are only asked of people aged five years and older. The full definition provides other important information about this measure.

The ACS design and methodology paper describes the basic design of the American Community Survey and details the full set of methods and procedures that are currently in place. An updated version of the paper is forthcoming and should be available before the end of 2008. This report can be accessed from the 2007 data release table.

The geography notes section provides a brief explanation of Census Bureau geographic terms. Geography notes are located on this How to Use the Data Web page. The yellow toolbar that sits just below the American Community Survey banner is accessible from all pages on the American Community Survey Web site.

Click on How to Use the Data which is the fourth tab from the right. The image on this slide shows the How to Use the Data page. The link to geographic notes is located in the right-hand column.

The geography notes provide an overview of the types of geographic areas

that are presented in American Community Survey data product. At the bottom of the page are printable PDFs for the current year and past years of the American Community Survey.

In recognition that users of American Community Survey data have varied backgrounds, educations and experiences the Census Bureau has developed a series of educational handbooks designed to instruct and provide guidance to particular audiences.

The audiences that are covered by these handbooks represent some of the major stakeholder groups familiar to the Census Bureau. These products called the ACS Compass Product also include a series of presentation slides on important American Community Surveys topics and an e-learning component.

Now that we have explored the American Community Survey program and products let's wrap-up by answering the question how was the American Community Survey different from Census 2000?

As mentioned earlier, the American Community Survey asks many of the same questions and produces many of the same basic statistics as the sample data from Census 2000.

American Community Survey data will be produced for geographies as large as the nation and the smallest block group.

Five year estimates will be produced for the same broad set of geographic areas that receive sample data from the Census 2000 including census tracts and block groups.

As opposed to the Decennial Census which produced data once every ten years, the American Community Survey will provide a continuous stream of updated information to state and local areas.

Updated data from the American Community Survey will be released every year. Updated data has been available since 2005 for areas with populations of 55,000 or more.

Data in the form of three year estimates will be available for areas with populations with 20,000 or more in December 2008.

American Community Survey estimates provide information about the characteristics of population and housing for areas over a specified period of time.

The American Community Survey single year and multiyear estimates contrast with point and time estimates such as those from the decennial long form samples which are designed to measure characteristics of a certain date or narrow time period.

For example, Census 2000 was designed to measure the characteristics of population and housing in the United States based upon data collected around April 1, 2000. And thus its data reflects a narrower timeframe than American Community Survey data.

In Census 2000 approximately 17% of the housing units received a long form. Statistics from the sample were produced for a broad set of geographic areas including the nation, all state, counties, census tracts and (block) groups.

Five years of American Community Survey data are needed to produce

estimates comparable to the estimates produced from the Census 2000 long form.

A benefit that users will gain from the American Community Survey is the more timely issuance of the data and the greater frequency with which the data are released.

Also it produces information for small areas including tract and block groups which will be updated every year instead of once every decade.

The sample sizes for the five year ACS estimates will be smaller than the sample sizes were for Census 2000. This will result in a reduction in the reliability of the estimates.

This presentation gave you an overview of the American Community Survey program and products. The American Community Survey staff has developed the ACS alert which is an e-mail 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.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or need further information. You can contact the ACS staff by sending an email to cmo.acs@census.gov or calling 1-800-923-8282 if you have questions that are not answered by the Web site.

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 through the Internet or unmute your telephone and ask when prompted.

((Crosstalk)).

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay it seems to be the questions are the same as they're coming in which are will a copy of the PowerPoint be made available for the Webinar or to the Webinars? And the answer is yes.

Cheryl Chambers: And the second one is can we obtain a presentation via email?

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Can we obtain the presentation via email?

The answer is yes. However let me note that we will be posting these presentations to the Web site within the next month or two. But if you would like the presentation sooner than that feel free to contact us by calling 1-800-923-8282 or by sending us an email requesting a copy of the Webinar.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Are there any other questions?

((Crosstalk)).

Cynthia Hollingsworth: The question is - it's a small screen so I'm going to try my best to read it. You mentioned that the ACS because it uses smaller sample sizes won't have an accurate - won't have accurate data as a census -- I'm assuming census 2000 -- regarding language data.

Will we be able to estimate language at the census or block - census block group level for specific languages? For example not...

Cheryl: Not general grouping.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: ...not general group of indo-European Asian Pacific Islander languages.

This will be discussed in the fourth Webinar on the language ability to speak English which is scheduled for November 20.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Are there any more questions?

Cynthia Hollingsworth: And another question, can you give an example of the releases of data and population size?

Can you elaborate a little bit on that question the person who typed that?

Cynthia Hollingsworth: You can unmute your phone and elaborate by voice if you prefer.

Woman: Sure. I'm in Iowa and we have very small rural counties, probably less than 20,000 and then the larger metropolitan areas.

And my question is I guess if a county is less than 20,000 it would obviously be included in the five year...

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Correct.

Woman: ...plan right? But if our areas like say five counties ever aggravated - or aggregated sorry, to be, you know, more than the numbers to be included in the three year or the one year or would it just be the whole state?

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Are you talking about the types of geographic areas in which we

release data or are you asking if you were - if you wanted to aggregate the county's to reach a threshold above 20,000 would you give three your data for them?

Woman: Yes. I guess I'm really asking both questions.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: So for the different types of geographic areas again, if their population is below 20,000 you would have to wait for 5 year estimate. In order to aggregate you could use the PUMs data but that's PUMA level which does cover some counties but it's for population of 100,000 or more.

Woman: Okay. So to use the PUMs data, I'd need to aggregate enough of these smaller areas to reach that population level?

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Well it's at the PUMA level already. So...

Woman: Okay.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: And it's for populations roughly of 100,000 or more. So if you were trying to create your own areas, aggregate you're own areas to reach a certain threshold you would not be able to do that if the data weren't released already.

Woman: Okay. Thank you.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: You're welcome.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Is that one?

Are CATI and CAPI methods of collecting ACS data translated or

administered by bilingual staff or through interpreters? And the answer is yes.
I'm sorry yes, both.

Woman: Can you give more information on that?

Debbie Griffin: Yes, the CATI call centers have staff who can do telephone interviews in about ten different languages. So they'd make outgoing calls. And if they determine that they need someone to conduct the interview in that language then they transfer the call to someone who can do that, conduct the interview in that language. The personal visit interviews which are done out of our regional offices have a lot of bilingual interviewers.

And they over the years of the ACS have learned where they need to have certain language skills and they hire people to be able to conduct those interviews when they have a language need that's not covered by interviewers that they have on staff.

They have resources to be able to identify interpreters who will be able work with them to be able to conduct the interview in that - in those additional languages.

So both of those efforts are being made in order to ensure that we can get complete interviews from people who speak languages other than English.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Another question, could you describe when the ACS Compass product will be released? And can you discuss the topics the Compass products cover? Will any focus on immigration or LEP status?

Debbie Griffin: Well the ACS Compass products are a set of materials that will explain to users how to understand and use ACS data. They're targeted at certain topics

like immigration or LEP status. They're targeted for different audiences like general data users or (teachers) or Congress or state and local governments. They include a variety of information, some of which we've heard about today.

But right now none of them are topic specific to cover the sorts of things that you mentioned. Those probably are things better served by something like these Webinars.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: And two of the handbooks have been released already. They are available on our Web site. And that's the handbook for the general data users and the business community.

Next question. Will the recording be available for reviewing the presentation? If yes when and the site. Thanks.

We are working out the logistics of having this recording put on our Web site as well. So currently we can't provide you with a date right now. But once the logistics have been worked out and we know for sure we can do that it will be placed on a Web site.

Next question. Is it possible to determine how many persons were contacted in a particular area, town, et cetera in an ACS product?

So sample size I'm assuming you're asking about and the answer is yes.

Sorry. Yes, that's available in one of the - in our detailed tables (unintelligible) table number. Yes, the B98 Series.

Debbie Griffin: Yes, if you go to the detail table with those data products, what they call

Detail Tables and you click on that, then you can do a search and you'll be able to find a number of different tables that describes quality related measures on the ACS.

So that would include things like response rates and item non-response rates. And it includes information on sample size. And so that would allow you to know what, as you say, how many persons were interviewed in order to produce the statistics that are in these data products.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: We serve - oh, next question. We serve over 28 language groups. They a range from Bosnian and Spanish large groups to smaller groups of mid-Eastern, African, Russian and minimal age Asian language groups. What language group data are accessible in the ACS?

This will also be covered in the fourth Webinar on language that is scheduled to done on November 20.

The next question, what are the ten languages and how are the other languages included if needed for interview?

Debbie Griffin: Okay that affects me I think. And I was giving that a ballpark of about ten, the CATI call centers. We have that information. I don't know it off the top of my head. I think I can see who's asking me that. And so I can send it to you or you can contact me. This is (Debbie Griffin) directly.

We have documentation of which languages are supported in our call centers and which languages are supported in our regional offices that we can certainly make available to people who request that.

We could also see if there's a way in a future Webinar that we could share that

information if people think that would be useful.

Woman: Thank you (Debbie).

Debbie Griffin: You're welcome.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Next question. On Fact Finder Web site, is it possible to test the significance of a year to year change, for example, in a total foreign born population in one specific geography?

There isn't a testing tool if you're asking. However, one of the data products called the Comparison Profile new this year will allow you for a certain characteristic. It's actually the same characteristics that are in the data profiles. I don't have a number of those characteristics.

Woman: That would be a foreign born population.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: But foreign born population is definitely one of them. And it will give you the result of a statistical significant test between the 2006 ACS data and the 2007 ACS data.

So if you go into Fact Finder and you look up Comparison Profile you can find that information.

And we will also cover that in the Data Products Webinar which is scheduled November 13.

Woman: And so could you say that again, whereabouts on the Web site?

Cynthia Hollingsworth: If you go to American Fact Finder and look up ACS data - and

again, we'll go through this in detail. But on the right-hand side you should see comparison profiles one of the data products listed. And you would go through that and select your geography of interest. And foreign born is definitely one of the characteristics shown.

Next question. Yes, please share that information about the ten languages with all the participants as well as how other languages covered, i.e., do you use a telephone interpreter or a contract - or contact an interpreter. Thanks.

Will do. You can do that.

Next question.

Woman: Can you describe (unintelligible).

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay. Next question.

I believe it's can you describe the four Webinars in detail??

Yes. Definitely.

So the first Webinar which was the overview giving you the basics of the ACS, the program and the data products.

The second Webinar will be on census geography in terms of how we define the geographic areas and how the data product would be available for those geographies in terms of ACS.

The third Webinar are - is on the data products themselves where we'll go into detail of this list of data products that you saw in the overview.

And the last Webinar is specific to the data Products that are available for language and ability to speak English.

And that's the final Webinar with the schedule for November 20.

Statement, please provide us with a email address to send the request for today's slide.

((Crosstalk)).

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Well the person who typed in that they tried to use the CMO address. Can you give us more detail over the telephone?

Woman: It's the CMO address. And I've got the following message back. You have reached the US Census Bureau. Thank you for your inquiry.

We have implemented a new knowledge based question and answer center. Please use the following link to search for answers or submit questions about the American Community Survey.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Okay, we'll send an email out to this group for the corrected email address. We apologize for that.

Woman: That's okay. Thank you very much.

Cheryl Chambers: You're welcome. Are there any other questions?

If not, at this time we really would like to thank everyone for participating in this first of four Webinars. The second session is scheduled for next Thursday,

November 6 at 2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

The title of the session is geographic areas and concepts for the American Community Survey. And we look forward to meeting with you then.

And if you have any questions regarding the Webinar series you can contact (Anna) or (Anna) -- I'm not sure the pronunciation -- Medina at telephone number 202-353-3936 or via email at anna.medina, M-E-D-I-N-A@usdoj.gov.

There is one other question so if you want to hold on so we can read the question and provide the answer.

Cynthia Hollingsworth: Can we get the future PowerPoint presentations in advance of the sessions so that we can take notes with them?

The answer is these presentations will be sent out usually about two days in advance of each of the Webinars as we are still finalizing these presentations.

Any other questions?

Got disconnected. Can you repeat the answer about the slides? I'm assuming that was just the same one about can you get the presentations in advance?

As we're still finalizing these presentations we send them out, each of these presentations about two days prior to each Webinar. So for next Thursday's Webinar you would get the presentation around Tuesday evening.

But again, we are still working on these presentations. So we hope to get them out at least two days in advance.

We've got another - where having a little bit of technical difficulty trying to read these questions.

Does the Census Bureau respond to specific data requests by stakeholders, i.e., if we needed data for a geographic area regarding a certain language could we ask the Census Bureau to help or to provide the results?

That's a custom tabulation if it doesn't exist already. And as (Cheryl) went over early in the presentation, there is a link off of the ACS Web site regarding request a custom tabulation. And you should go to that link for more information.

And oh of course, for help finding data you can always contact us and we'll refer you to the appropriate person.

And the question, did anyone have sound? It sounds like some technical difficulties. Sounds like they did.

((Crosstalk)).

(Maria), it sounds like it came from (Maria). If you're still having problems please contact (Anna Medina) and she can help you.

Yes people - you are hearing us, correct? Oh. Are you going to discuss the importance of margin of errors in a future presentation? For example, how can you calculate a margin of error for an estimate of a share of foreign born?

We can certainly look into that. Again, these Webinars that we are presenting, you should have been sent out a survey regarding these Webinars. And we

look for information and feedback. So if this is something that you feel strongly that should be in a presentation, we can work on that.

Off the top of my head I have to think - can't think if we covered that in the data products but I'm not sure. But it's something that could be put in.

Yes. Okay. I think that's it for those questions. Again, thank you for your time and we'll talk to you next week.

Woman: Thank you.

Woman: Thanks. Bye.

Woman: Bye-bye.

Woman: Bye.

Woman: Thanks.

Woman: Do I need to hold on?

Woman: They can hear.

Man: All right. Well let's hang up. Okay. So anyway (Beth) it's a surprisingly long answer to your question...

(Beth): Okay.

Man: ...about LEP, who does what and who is the contact person.

The issue is that LEP here involves three sets of issues. What happens when we get an LED related claim? What are our responsibilities to meet DOJ requirements to report about...

END