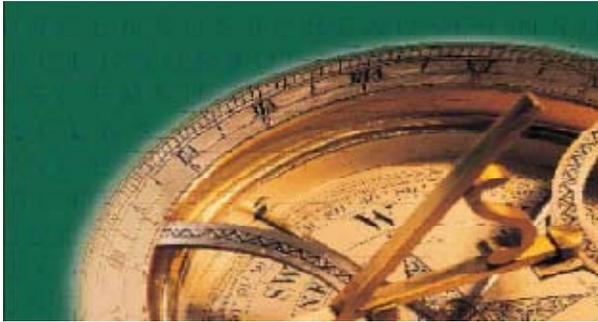


The ACS Compass Products: Handbooks



The Census Bureau recognizes that users of the American Community Survey (ACS) data have varied backgrounds, educations, and experiences. They require different kinds of explanations and guidance to understand the ACS data products. To address this diversity, the Census Bureau worked closely with a group of experts to develop a series of handbooks, each of which is designed to instruct and provide guidance to a particular audience.

The audiences that we chose are not expected to cover every type of data user, but they cover major stakeholder groups familiar to the Census Bureau.

What “Congress Needs to Know” can help congressional staff use ACS data to respond to constituent inquiries, draft floor and press statements, conduct legislative research, understand funding formulas, compare data from the ACS with other federal statistics, and interpret ACS data.

You may access the ACS Compass Products handbooks at:

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/handbook_def.html

Other handbooks in the series include:

- General Data Users*
- Media*
- Federal Agencies*
- Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Data Users*
- Business Community*
- Congress*
- Researchers
- Users of Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives
- High School Teachers*
- State and Local Governments*
- Users of Data for Rural Areas
- Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) Data Users*

An “*” indicates the handbook is currently available.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us by email at acso.users.support@census.gov.

The ACS Compass Products: Presentations



The ACS Compass Products presentations provide important information on various aspects of the American Community Survey (ACS). They were developed for two main purposes: (1) for individuals to learn more about the ACS and (2) to provide a wide audience with the tools needed to conduct training on the ACS. Each presentation consists of approximately 35 slides and the accompanying speakers' notes.

You may access the ACS Compass Products presentations at:
<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/presentations.html>>

“An Overview of the American Community Survey” presents the basics of the ACS program and Web site. It includes information on content, survey methodology, and data products.

“Things that May Affect the Estimates from the American Community Survey” presents a discussion of sampling error and other things that affect the ACS estimates, such as nonsampling error and population controls.

“Understanding Multi-year Estimates from the American Community Survey” details the definition, use, and interpretation of multi-year estimates.

“Data Products from the American Community Survey” presents an overview of the ACS data products, including examples of each product.

“Geographic Areas and Concepts for the American Community Survey” gives an overview of the types of geographic areas for which data are available from the ACS.

“Introduction to the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File from the American Community Survey” provides an explanation of the PUMS file, the available geographies, and how to access these data.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us by email at acso.users.support@census.gov.