

How We Came to Live Together: Households Formed by Migration from Different Origins

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BACKGROUND

Analyses on movers using the American Community Survey (ACS) are largely done at the person level, and treat the act of domestic migration as an individual event. Movers are treated as individual actors weighing the costs and benefits of moving (Massey 1988). Some research, often driven by work on families and economic hardship (Ruggles 1987) focuses on moves at the household level, as though the household itself is discrete. Recent research has also looked at nonfamily migration (Mykyta and Macartney 2011) as well as competing decisions to move by multiple people in both family and non-family households (Steele, et al. 2013).

The decision to migrate does not operate just on the individual or the household level; but both. The result is that people move for different reasons and at different times, and result in households that can consist of a combination of individuals that have or have not moved in the last year.

This analysis specifically addresses what we know about the characteristics of households that not only have both movers and nonmovers, but may have multiple movers that consolidated into a household from different geographic origins.

METHODS

Using the 2008-2012 5-Year ACS, the universe for this analysis included only domestic movers in the U.S., not Puerto Rico or Group Quarters. From this, four main household types were defined:

- Whole-Move Household** – All household members moved in the last year
- Partial-Move Household** – At least one member of the household moved in the last year, but not all
- Same-Origin Household** – A household where all movers came from the same place.
- Multi-Origin Household** – A household with at least two movers who moved from different places.

The origin location for each mover was compared with the origins of all other within household movers. If the Census place-level was the same, movers were defined as having the same origin. Some households had multiple movers from multiple different places. These are defined as **Multi-Origin Households**. Characteristics associated with movers in partial move households and multi-origin households are presented.

QUICK FACTS

114,741,436



16%



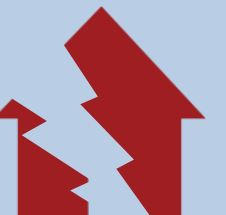
75%



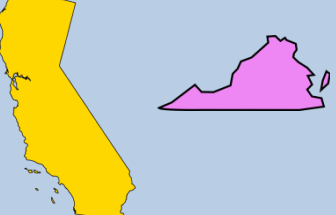
37%



29%



10%



Total U.S. Households in universe, 2012

Percent of U.S. households that have domestic **movers**.

Percent of households where movers are **living with others**.

Percent of households with movers, that are **nonfamily households**.

Percent of households that have both movers and nonmovers, or **partial-move households**.

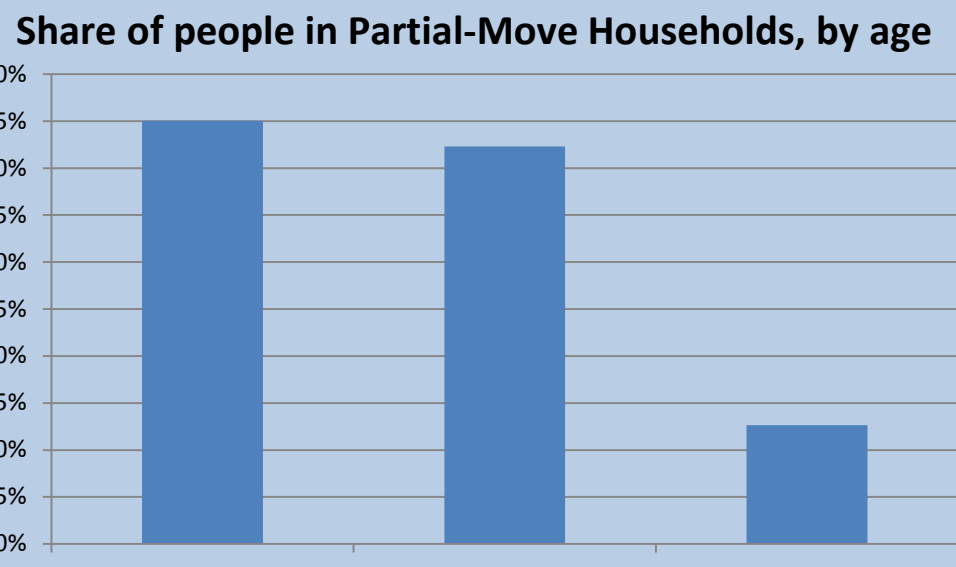
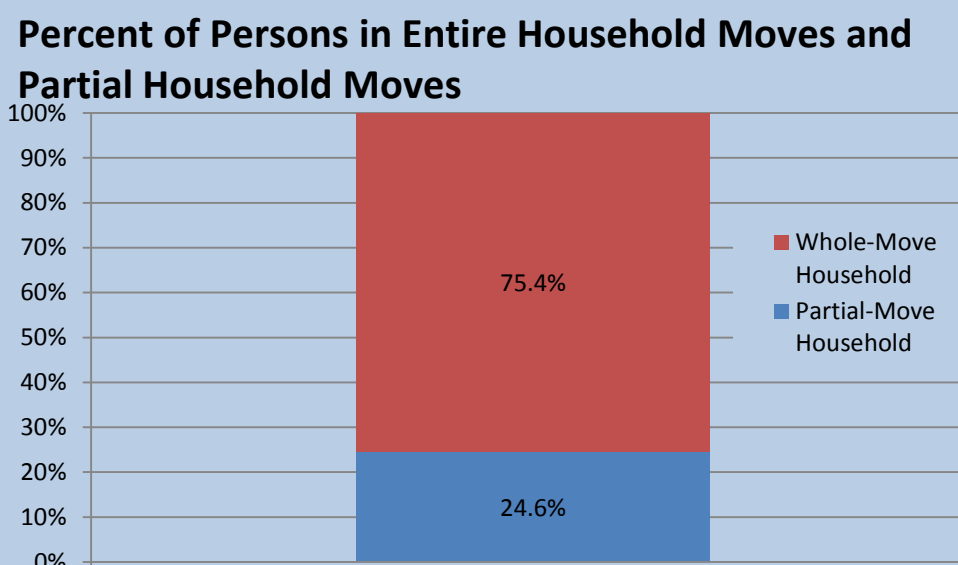
Percent of households with movers that came from **different origins**.

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH PARTIAL-MOVE HOUSEHOLDS?



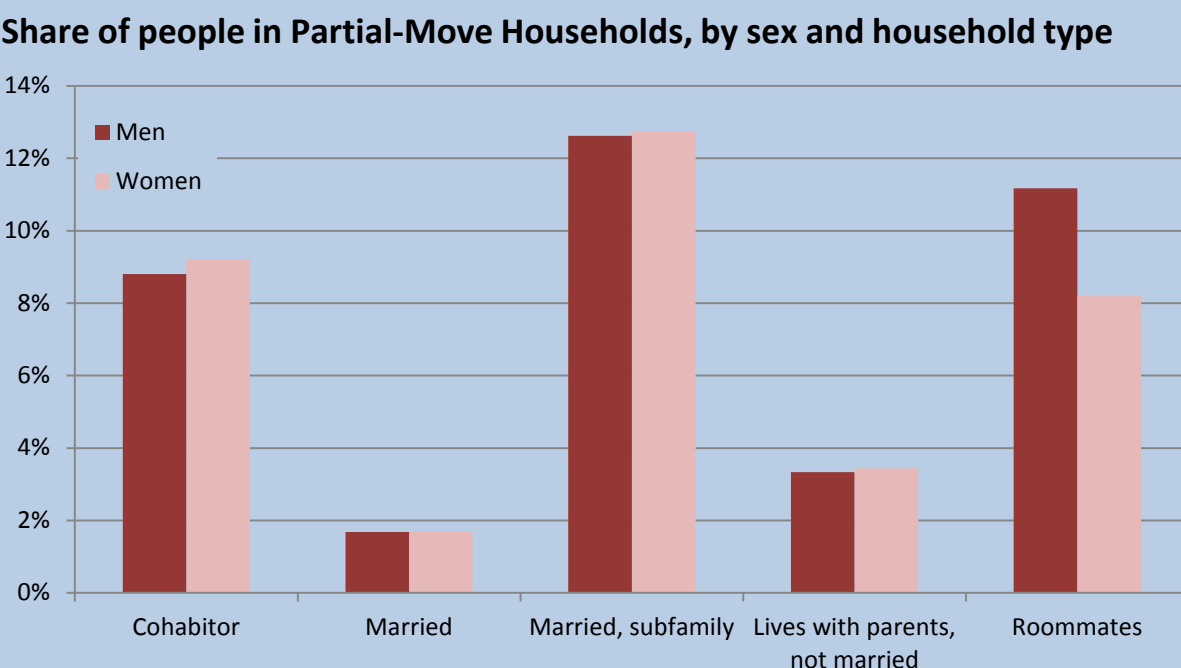
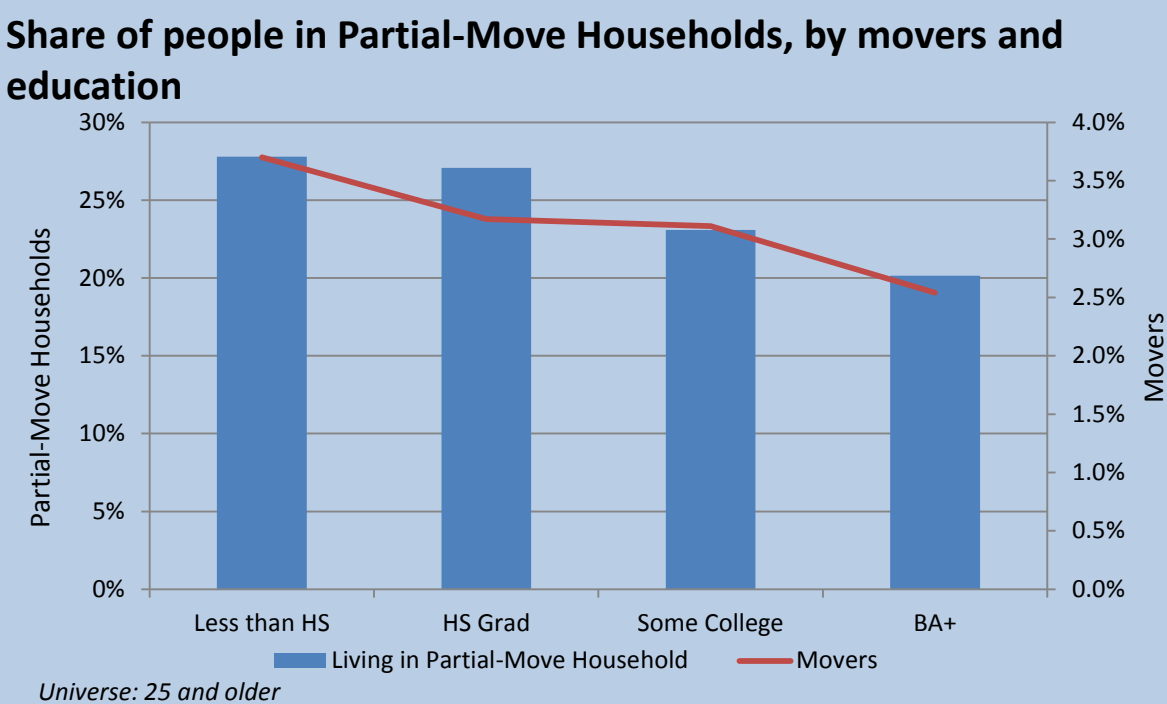
10,053,548 people live in *Partial-Move Households* and 30,818,481 people live in *Whole-Move Households*.

24.6% of movers live in households with non-movers.



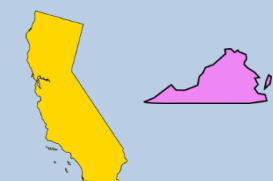
People under the age of 25 make up about 45% of those living in a partial-move household. This is about 4.5 million people.

For those aged 25 and older, as education increases, the likelihood of being a mover and living in a partial-move household decreases.

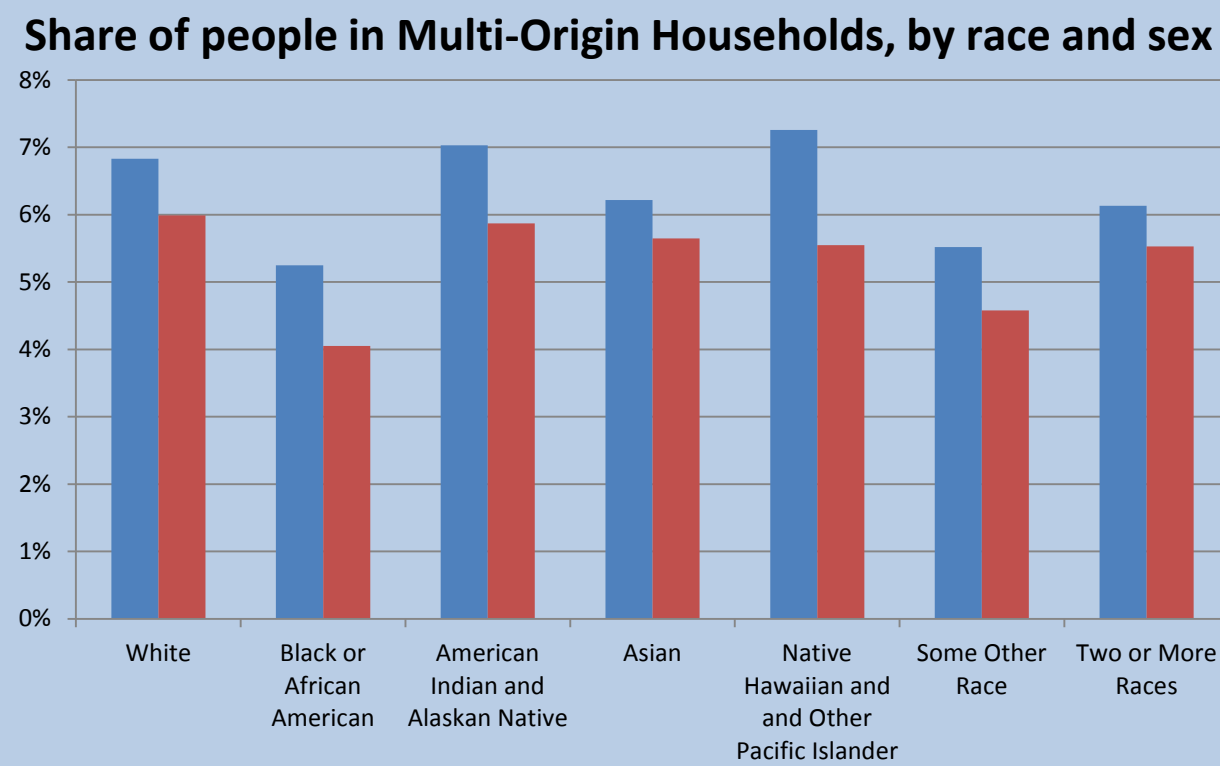


Married people living in a subfamily, are most likely to live in partial-move households. Women are less likely than men to live with roommates.

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MOVERS IN MULTI-ORIGIN HOUSEHOLDS?

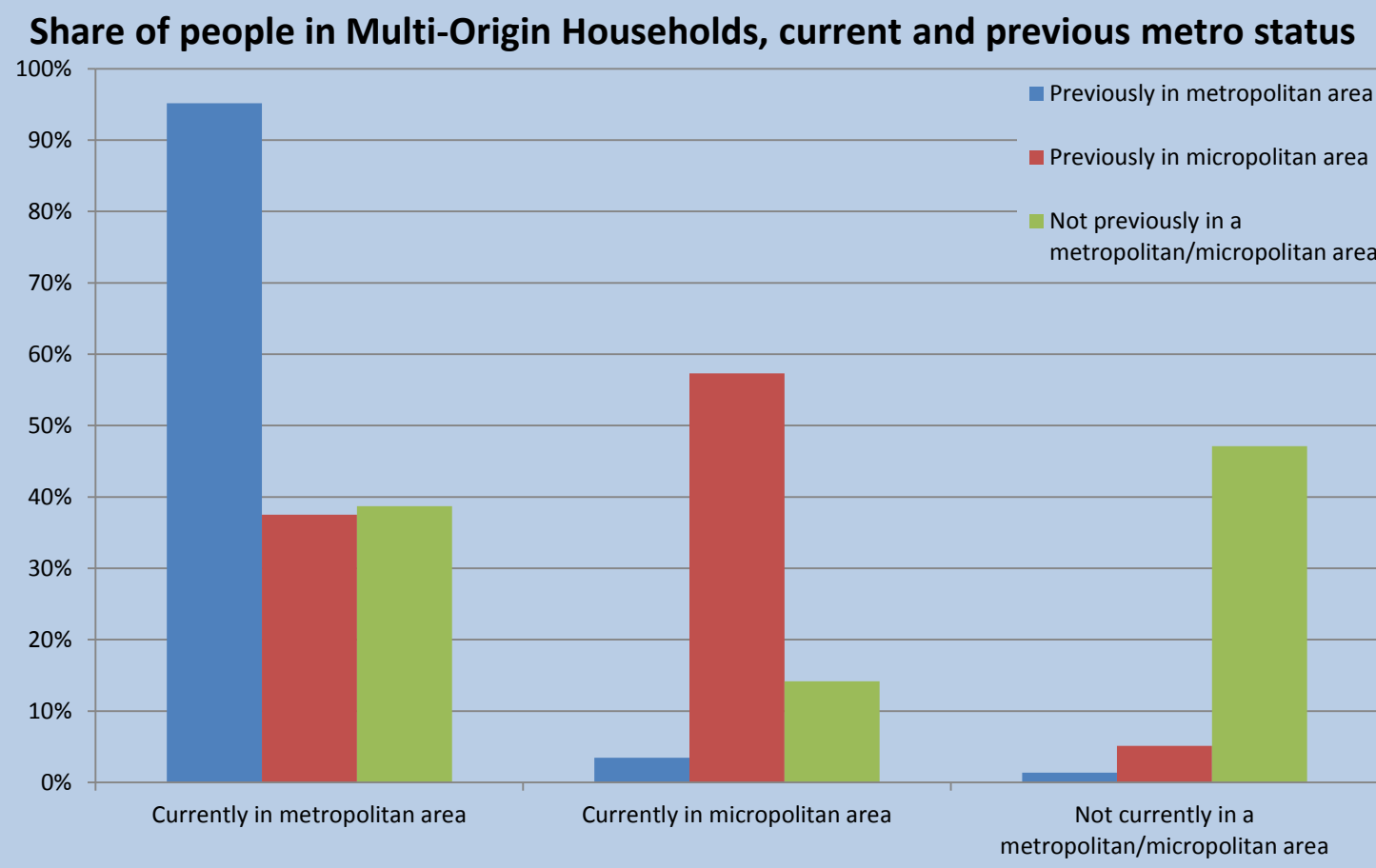
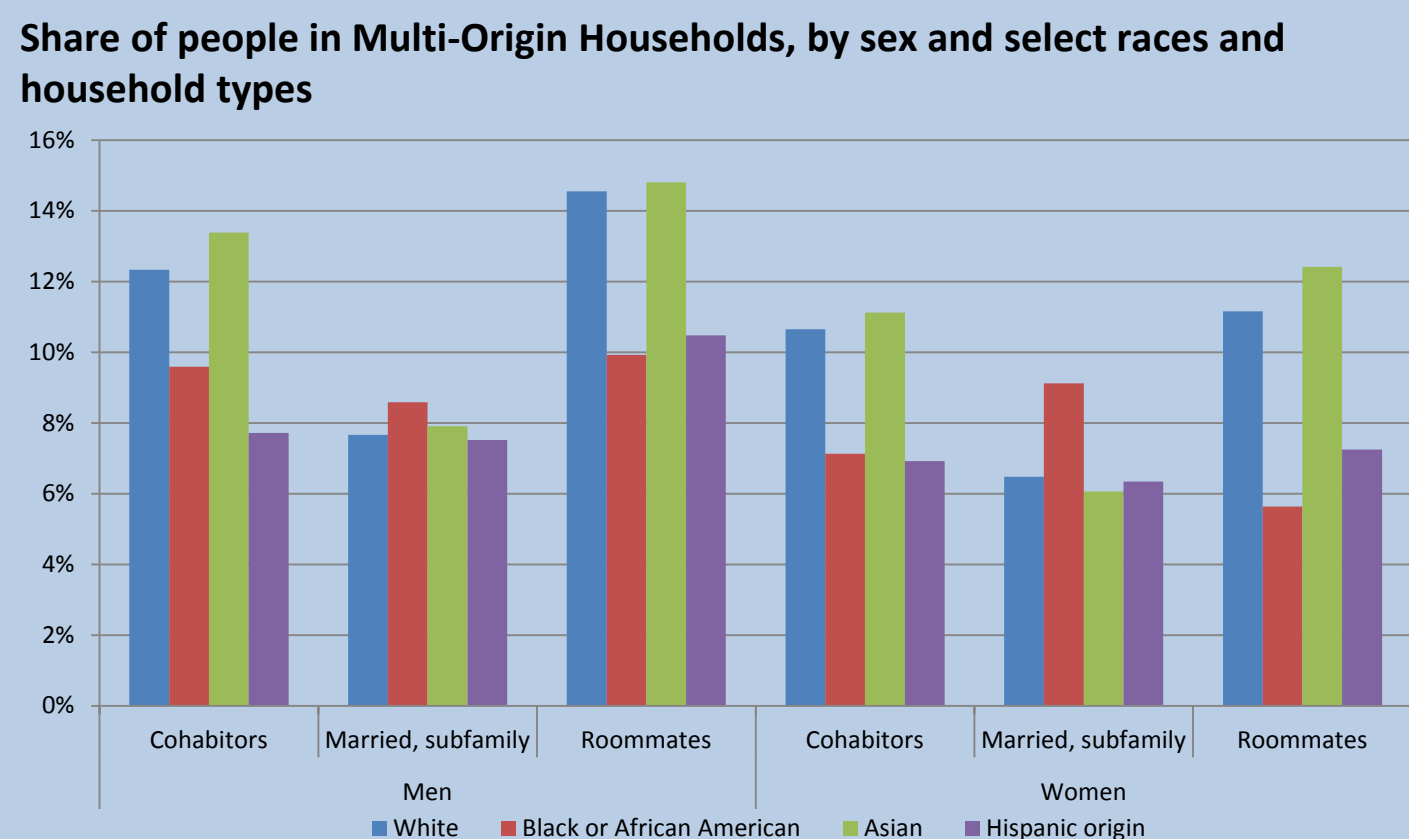


1,963,716 people live in *Multi-Origin Households*. 38,415,959 people live *Same-Origin Households*.



Women are less likely to live in households with movers who came from different origins, and Black women are the least likely of any race to live in these households.

Whites and Asians are most likely to be cohabitators or roommates, while Black women are most likely to be married and live with another family in households with movers from different origins compared to other women.



Most people who moved and live in a household with people from different origins live in and came from a metro area. More than one-third of people previously living in a micro or non-metro/non-micro area moved to a metro.

CONCLUSION

This research shows that 29 percent of households with movers had both movers and non-movers in the household. Almost one-quarter of movers lived in households with non-movers. People under 25 were the most likely to live in Partial-Move Households. Education also seems to play a role in predicting Partial vs. Entire Household Moves, as people with more education were less likely to live in Partial-Move Households, and they were least likely to be a mover. People who were married and part of a subfamily were the most likely to live in a household with movers and non-movers.

Furthermore, households with movers who came from different places the year prior made up 16 percent of households that had at least two movers. Black women were least likely to live in a household with movers from different origins, while Whites and Asians were the most likely to be cohabitators and roommates. We also found that most people who moved remained in a metro area. However, more than a third of people who lived in a micro or non-metro/non-micro area moved to a metro area.

This research provides the foundation to answer additional questions the authors will pursue. In the future we plan to measure distance moved to understand people who moved into *Partial-Move Households* and *Multi-Origin Households*. We also plan to analyze households that are especially likely to consolidate, like *roommate* and *married, subfamily* households.

Massey, D. S. (1988). Economic Development and International Migration in Comparative Perspective. *Population and Development Review*, 14(3), 383.
Mykyta, L. and Macartney, S. (2011). The Effects of Recession on Household Composition: "Doubling Up" and Economic Well-Being. *SEHSD Working Paper Number 2011-4*. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.
Ruggles, S. (1987). *Prolonged connections: The rise of the extended family in nineteenth-century England and America*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.
Steele, F., Clarke, P., & Washbrook, E. (2013). Modeling Household Decisions Using Longitudinal Data from Household Panel Surveys, with Applications to Residential Mobility. *Sociological Methodology*, 43(1), 220-271.

Questions?
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For more information on the ACS, see www.census.gov/acs